

# TOWN OF RIGA

## NEWSLETTER

### Riga Town Board Members

**BRAD O'BROCTA, SUPERVISOR,      KEN KUTER, DEPUTY SUPERVISOR**  
**JAMES FODGE, COUNCIL MEMBER**  
**DEREK HARNSBERGER, COUNCIL MEMBER**  
**DEBORAH CAMPANELLA, COUNCIL MEMBER (EDITOR)**

### Supervisor's Report

Greetings from all of us at the Riga Town Hall! 2024 has been another busy year for us. Our departments have been busy providing many different services that make our town a great place to live. I want to thank each and every town employee for their dedication and hard work. Their efforts are truly appreciated!

Hopefully, residents have noticed the new inclusive playground that was recently installed at Sanford Road Park. The playground will be open for use in the spring of 2025, as we finish groundwork/seeding around the playground. Please refrain from using it while there is fencing around the playground.

We are happy to report the Monroe County Legislature has approved our application for funding our Gilman Road sidewalk extension project. The approved grant provides funding in excess of \$310,000 towards the project. We will be entering into an intermunicipal agreement with the County as part of the grant process. We look forward to starting this project in the spring of 2025.

The 2025 Town Budget was adopted at our November 13<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting. **The Town of Riga will once again have a 0% tax rate for 2025.**

Below are some of the highlights from the 2025 Budget:

The Town has budgeted a 10% increase for health care costs in 2025. As has been the case for many years now, health care costs continue to rise significantly.

The contribution for NYS Retirement is projected to increase slightly for 2025.

Salary increases for 2025 will be 4% for Town employees. Higher minimum wage rates

continue to drive labor costs higher.

There is a 2% increase in 2025 fire protection costs for our residents in the town outside the village.

The Newman Riga Library, Senior Citizens of Riga (SCOR), and Riga Cemetery will receive funding for 2025 to help offset their operating costs.

Our town-wide operating budget increased by 4%. In addition to that, the Town Board has also approved two capital improvement accounts for the Gilman Road sidewalk project and major road work planned for two town roads in the amount of \$864,000. These capital improvements will benefit our community for many years to come.

The use of private contractors for mowing and cleaning services continue to provide savings to the Town.

For the town outside the village, 2025 revenues are expected to exceed expenditures, therefore **no taxes** will be placed on either the town wide budget or the town outside the village budget for 2025.

Hopefully we'll see you all at the annual Churchville Village Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm at the Village Hall on Buffalo Road.

On behalf of our entire Town Board, we want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and joyous New Year!

As always, if you have any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to contact myself or any other Town Board member.

**Submitted by:**  
**Brad O'Brocta,**  
**Town Supervisor**



Dec./Jan./Feb.  
 Riga  
 Winter 2024  
 Issue

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# Harvey C. Noone Post #954

Your Harvey C. Noone American Legion Post 954 continues to serve the community. We held a community event on October 18th in conjunction with our Chamber of Commerce by hosting the Beatles Tribute Band, "8 Days a Week". We also honored our Veterans. We celebrated Veterans Day by conducting a ceremony complete with rifle squad and Taps buglers (provided by the High School) followed by hosting the Chamber's Veterans Day luncheon.

We are still participating at the VA Hospital at Batavia with playing Bingo for the Veterans residing there. If you would like to participate then call the Legion at 585-293-1364 (you don't have to be a Legion member to participate). We meet on Weds. At 12:45pm and carpool to Batavia every third month. It is a lot of fun and

We are continuing to hold community events, and our new event is

Karaoke every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month conducted by a professional Karaoke entertainer. We will be having our annual Christmas Party on 13 December, Friday for our Legion Family.

Wreaths Across America will be celebrated on December 14th at the Riga Cemetery (11:00am) and at the Creekside and St Vincent Cemetery (12:00pm). You will be able to present wreaths on a Veteran's grave. Hot chocolate, warm drinks and warm up place will be available along with Active-Duty members present to honor around fallen Veterans. Please come and support our Veterans.

Last, we are celebrating the classic Army vs Navy Football (facility open at 2:00pm, gametime is 3:00pm) on December 14th. It is open to the Legion family, Veterans, and their guests who reside in the Churchville – Chili area. Come down to cheer your team and have fun – dress up for

your favorite service.

Remember, if you are a **veteran, son/daughter, grandson/granddaughter of a veteran**, check out your legion on Thursday (6:00pm) or Friday nights (7:00pm) and learn more about the Legion Family and consider joining the fastest growing legion in the County.

### Reminder:

Euchre every third Thursday of the month

Bingo every 1st Thursday of the month

Trivia every second Thursday of the month

Karaoke (NEW) every first Friday of the month.

For God and Country.

**Submitted by:**  
**Ken Juergens,**  
**Post 954**  
**Commander**



## Town Clerk/Tax Collector



The 2025 Town & County tax bills will be in the mail by January 1st.

I will be collecting from the beginning of January to the end of May.

### Full Payment instructions:

**Jan. 1–Feb. 10:** Pay the total amount of tax bill to Kimberly Pape, Tax Collector

### Interest Schedule

February 11-28	1.5 %
March 1-31	3 %
April 1-30	4.5 %
May 1-31	6 %

The first installment **must** be paid by February 10<sup>th</sup>. If first installment is not paid by February 10,

total bill plus interest is due.

**Jan.1–Feb 10:** Pay 1<sup>st</sup> installment to Kimberly Pape, Tax Collector. Any payment on or before February 10th is interest free.

**Feb.11-Feb. 29:** 2<sup>nd</sup> installment due with 1 ½%

**Mar. 1–Mar. 31:** 3<sup>rd</sup> installment due with 3% interest. If 2<sup>nd</sup> installment was not paid by Feb. 28, both the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> installments are due with 3% interest.

**Apr. 1-Apr. 30:** 4<sup>th</sup> installment due with 4.5% interest.

If prior installments are not paid by respective due dates, all installments shall be paid as one unit with 4.5% interest.

Office hours during tax time are 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday,

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Wednesday 9:00 to 5:00 pm.



If you recently paid your mortgage off and your taxes used to be paid through escrow, please contact me at 585-293-3880 x 122 to be sure your bill is mailed to the correct address.

**Submitted by:**  
**Kimberly Pape,**  
**Town Clerk/Tax**  
**Collector**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**





## The Sounds of Silence



If you ever had trouble sleeping on a hot and humid summer night your first reaction might be to turn on the ceiling fan, open the bedroom window and hope that you get some relief. But, by opening the window you are now introduced to the sounds of silence - nature's second shifters. The daytime singing of birds is replaced by crickets chirping, cicadas making a high-pitched chirping sound, croaking frogs and peepers, and a dog barking in the distance. Then every so often, and it seems more so than often, you hear the passing of a railroad train as its steel wheels scrape along the rails nearing the village limits. This is nothing new because trains have been traveling through the township for the past 187 years ever since the Tonawanda railroad was constructed in 1837.

As a train approaches a railroad crossing the engineer on the lead engine lets you know he is coming by blasting the train's horn or in the earlier days the steam locomotives used a steam whistle. This warning has a distinctive pattern and is known to work except in extraordinary circumstances such as an unfortunate incident described in an 1874 Batavia newspaper article as follows: "Wednesday evening about nine o'clock an accident of a serious character occurred at Churchville, on the crossing of the Central railroad. It appears that an old man named Rider was driving over the track in a wagon, when the locomotive of a freight train struck the vehicle, which was instantly demolished. Mr. Rider was thrown out so violently as to injure him quite severely, not fatally, however. The horse cleared himself from the wreck and enjoyed a lively run away. We

understand that Mr. Rider is quite deaf, and did not hear the approaching train." In the early days of railroading, railroad crossing accidents were quite common until 1888 when the first flagman was positioned on the railroad crossing on South Main Street in the village. In 1926 an experiment to install the first flashing railroad signal at the Burnt Mills Road was undertaken by the Village Board. It was a complete success, and the village Board voted to install flashing signals at its two other crossings, the South Main St. crossing and the West Buffalo St. crossing, eliminating the railroad flagman altogether.

Without getting into too much detail, and I am no expert in this field, I quote the following from the Federal Railroad Administration that "In accordance with a statutory mandate, FRA issued regulations which took effect in 2005 that require locomotive horns be sounded in advance of all public highway-rail crossings. Under the Federal regulation, locomotive engineers must sound train horns for a minimum of 15 seconds, and a maximum of 20 seconds, in advance of all public grade crossings. Train horns must be sounded in a standardized pattern. The pattern must be repeated or prolonged until the lead locomotive or lead cab car occupies the grade crossing."

Remember earlier in this article I mentioned that the blasting of the horns had a distinctive pattern and now we know that the FRA requires a standardized pattern. After several hours of listening to the sounds of the locomotives it occurred to me that there was a pattern consisting of a series of two long blasts followed by a short blast then another long blast. This occurred about 98% of the time.

Well, my curiosity got the best of me, and I had to find out the history behind that locomotive signal. When I began my search, I quickly found out that there was no good explanation. One of the first stories I came across was that in the early 1800's whenever England's Queen Victoria rode in a steam ship the captain would use the morse code equivalent of Q ([long-long-short-long](#)) to warn other ships to give way to the Queen. Then there was the reasoning that the morse code equivalent of Q stood for quarantine as in quarantine the crossing. But both explanations' the experts tend to discounter.

What I did find is that by 1938 the Association of American railroads adapted the [long-long-short-long](#) signal for railroad crossings. But again, there is no explanation for the history behind using the long-long-short-long signal.

Therefore, the next time you are outdoors, stopped at a railroad crossing or listening to the evening sounds, try to distinguish the long-long-short-long signal of the passing locomotive and then make sure you wave to the Queen.

Not to get off track, but when you listen to the signal it may appear slightly different each time, especially in the duration of the long-long-short-long blast. This is because each train has different engineers, and the air horn is activated manually by the engineer.

**Submitted by:  
Ron Belczak,  
Town  
Historian**



## RIGA HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS

As we look forward to the holidays and the start of another new year, winter season is now in full swing. In the last many weeks your Highway Department has put up 5 miles of snow fence in problematic drifting areas, readied plowing-salting equipment for the winter ahead, and remains vigilant around the clock. We are reviewing weather forecasts and various weather radar to be ready for the next weather event. The advent of weather radar has become a useful tool to know when and where snow is or will be falling. Around the clock shifts will begin as soon as forecasts dictate. As weather permits, removal of hazardous, dead and declining trees and trimming of branches hanging over Town roads is one of the activities we are involved in. If you notice a condition that needs attention in the Town please call the Highway Department office at 293-2530.

**Winter Readiness**— We continually maintain Town equipment throughout the seasons. Please remember we also need to be diligent with our personal vehicles. Check your tread on tires, tire pressure, antifreeze, wipers, belts, hoses, and lights on your vehicles. We know variable conditions are likely in this region where we live. Good tread depth is required for starting as well as stopping. All season tires are adequate for winter, but good aggressive winter snow tires will always be superior in traction for starting, stopping and holding the road. Proper footwear with good tread is also a good idea as icy spots may be encountered on walkways, driveways, and parking areas.

**In every case whether walking or driving, please slow down.**

Please be aware with snow removal there are real people performing a real service, often under unrelenting conditions, during all hours of the day and night, including being away from families on holidays. Snow plowing/salting can be long, tiring, and often thankless work. Complaints and frustration can be common when snow is frequent.

Please remember to keep your headlights on, even when it is snowing lightly, and even after sunrise. Your vehicle is much more visible to other drivers and plow operators. While our goal is to make sure no one is inconvenienced due to winter weather, it's simply not always possible. Our staff will continue to work diligently to make our roads as safe as possible.

Your Highway Department maintains 150 lane miles of road in the winter. Highest attention is given to highly traveled state highways, secondly county roads, lastly our town roads. Each of our 5 plow routes, drivers and trucks need at least 3 hours to complete the assigned route of 35 to 40 miles with an average 2 to 4-inches of snow. When heavy snow is falling and winds are blowing, plow route completion times will be extended. Travel is slower as visibility is impaired and multiple passes are needed to clear intersections. One of our frustrations is when snow begins falling after 4 or 5 AM when normal call in time for a snow event is 3AM. It is impossible to cover the whole town for work and school traffic by

7 or 8 AM when routes begin at 5 to 6AM. Our goal is to provide safe passable roads, but timing and variables of temperature, wind, rate of precipitation, lake effect, often make each snow or ice event somewhat unique.

### Winter Reminders.

\* Please do not plow snow across the roadways. Keep snow on your property and in an area that does not obstruct your view or that of other drivers.

\* Periodically check your mailbox for rotted posts especially coming into the winter season.

We try our best to avoid hitting mailboxes but sometimes the heavy snow and slush being thrown from the wing will damage or knock over posts and mailboxes. We are not responsible for repairs of mailboxes that are already in poor condition or in the right of way of the highway. We will repair to functional state or replace with a standard size mailbox if yours has been damaged beyond repair by the town's snow plowing equipment.

\* When placing your garbage bins outside during a snowstorm, please make sure they are off the road.



***If you ever have any questions, concerns, or do not understand why things are done the way they are please feel free to contact me at the office 293-2530, or my cell at 733-3808. I hope you have a safe and healthy winter season.***

**Submitted by:  
Scott Flagler, Highway  
Superintendent**





# Newman Riga Library



## Fine Elimination - Starting January 1, 2025

We are pleased to announce we will be joining many other libraries in the Monroe County Library system in eliminating overdue fines on **our** materials. Outstanding fines on Newman Riga Library materials will be forgiven except for items that have been marked as LOST. Many factors were considered while making this decision such as the recent automatic renewal of library materials, increased usage of Overdrive for digital books (no overdue fines), and the barrier to using the library that fines can cause. We want to ensure that everyone in our community can have equal access to library materials, regardless of their financial situation.

## **Does this mean I don't ever have to return my borrowed items?**

No, after your items are overdue for so long, they go to LOST status where your account will be charged the full replacement fee and a processing fee for each item. In most cases, this will push your account into a BLOCKED status where you won't be able to check out anything else until you return the items or pay for them. We continue to use a collection agency to manage patron accounts above \$35 and there is a \$20 fee added to your account.

## **Why do I still have overdue fines on my account?**

Although we will not be charging fines on Newman Riga Library items, other Monroe County libraries still have overdue fines on their items. If you check out another library's item, and keep it until it is overdue, you are still responsible for those fines.

## Preschool Storytime Winter 2025 Session

Join Ms. Jenna for preschool storytime, Thursdays at 10:30 a.m., featuring stories, songs, rhymes and FUN! This story time is aimed at ages 3 to 5 with a caregiver but all ages and families are welcome. Registration is not required but please check [newmanrigalibrary.org](http://newmanrigalibrary.org) or the library's Facebook page for any changes.

Session Dates:  
February 6, 13, 20, 27  
March 6, 13, 20, 27



## Adult Coloring with Brenda – 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month 6-7:30

Take time out from your daily routine and let your creative side shine at our Adult Coloring Program. Bring your own project/supplies or we have supplies here for beginners. No registration is required. Please check our

Program/Events calendar on our website to verify dates.

## Take Your Child to the Library Day

Saturday, February 1 2025 is Take Your Child to the Library Day! Newman Riga Library will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring your child in to check out the library's offerings and get a library card!

## 2024 Holiday Closing Information

The library will be closed December 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Winter Hours:

M/W/F: 11am – 5pm  
T/TH: 11am – 8pm  
SA: 10am – 2pm



## 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**



## **Give a Toy this Christmas!**

Your help is needed.

The Town has a collection box in our lobby for donations of new unwrapped toys suitable for children ages 1-13. The American Legion is working with toys-for-tots to help less fortunate families during the Holiday Season.

Toys need not be expensive.

If you have any questions please call the Town Clerk.



## NEWS FROM THE ASSESSORS OFFICE

It's that time of year again!

**ALL EXEMPTION APPLICATIONS must be filed with me** by Taxable Status Date, MARCH 1, 2025.

For NEW Enhanced STAR exemption applicants, you will need to apply with the Assessor in the first year of the exemption to verify your eligibility, and then you'll be enrolled into the IVP (Income Verification Program) with New York State Department of Taxation and Finance.

To be eligible for this increased exemption from school taxes, you must be a resident homeowner **who will be at least 65 in 2025 (born by December 31, 1960)**, and whose **income is no** more than \$107,300 on your 2023 tax return that was filed last April. If you are currently receiving Basic STAR and meet these criteria, you should contact me to see if you may be eligible for this increased exemption from school taxes.

For EXISTING Enhanced STAR exemption applicants, you do not need to do anything. You have already completed the one-time mandatory registration for the Income Verification Program with the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. They will

determine if you meet the qualifications for the exemption and will contact you directly by mail (they will never call you) if they have questions or need additional information.

Low Income Senior Citizen exemption renewals were mailed in September. You must be 65 before the end of 2025 and meet the income requirement, which includes Social Security, including Medicare. The State, and County, have set the maximum income to **\$58,399.99**, Town and Village have set the maximum income to **\$44,399.99**, and the school **\$37,399.99** to be eligible for any percent of this exemption. The school district maximum is different in each of the three districts in Riga.

STAR check program. Basic STAR has a maximum income requirement of \$250,000. New Basic and Enhanced STAR applicants (not those that are receiving an exemption already) who qualify for STAR will need to register with the New York State Tax Department ([www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov)) or call (518) 457-2036 instead of applying with the assessor. If you qualify, you will receive a STAR credit in the form of a check, rather

than receiving a property tax exemption directly on your school tax bill.

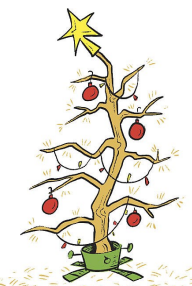
Agricultural, Clergy, Non-Profit, and Disabled with Limited Income renewal applications were sent out in September.

If you have questions, and I can be of assistance, please give me a call at the town hall at 293-3880 ext. 126 or my assistant Shelley Kasper at ext. 137.

### 2025 Reassessment

As of this newsletter, I have almost completed the values for the 2025 reassessment. As you are all aware of what homes are selling for, the numbers are coming in much higher than current assessments. I am increasing ALL lands values (residential and farmland), as those have remained unchanged for many years. I will be sending out impact notices sometime in February. These will look different than the regular Change of Assessment Notices, but they are required by NYS since our equalization rate has dropped to below 85%.

**Submitted by:  
Lori Frongetta,  
Assessor**



## O CHRISTMAS TREE – THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER, WHAT DO I DO WITH THEE?

The holidays will soon be a memory – and the beautiful tree that was admired by many now needs to be taken down and removed from your home.

How can Monroe County residents properly dispose of real – and artificial – holiday trees?

### Real trees:

Some municipalities offer a free tree collection or recycling program to turn that green into compost or mulch.

Check with your Town or Village or visit <https://www.monroecounty.gov/desktop-environmentalrecycling> for tree recycling disposal programs near you. Additionally,

Monroe County/WM ecopark will accept real trees outside near the compost area during normal hours of operation.

If you have space in your yard, consider using the tree as a brush pile for birds or rabbits. Not only will it provide them extra shelter during the cold winter months, but the brush provides excellent bird and critter watching!

*Continues on next page*

Goat farms may accept trees as the needles contain vitamin C, which can be a tasty snack.

**Artificial trees - with or without electronics:**

Artificial trees are accepted at the Monroe County / WM ecopark during all collections, no appointment necessary – in the electronics area.

Also accepted are any holiday decorations that include electronics, including string lights. Details and operating hours for

the ecopark can be found at [www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark](http://www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark)

**PRO TIP:** Regardless of the method of tree disposal you choose - **REMEMBER TO REMOVE ALL LIGHTS, DECORATIONS, TINSEL, etc.**

It is a violation of New York State law to place electronics in the recycling bin or the trash. A list of alternative collection sites for electronic devices throughout Monroe

County can be found here: <https://www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark-electronics> .

Happy 2025!

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



The Ecopark now has a dedicated area accepting NYS returnable beverage containers to help support local charities. Visit Ecopark at 10 Avion Dr. Rochester, NY 14624 on Wednesdays 1:00pm-6:30pm and Saturdays 7:30am-1:00pm

Ecopark website

<https://www.monroecounty.gov/ecopark>

## RIGA CEMETERY NEWS

We have received full payment from NYS for the repair of 15 dangerous monuments and have completed the repair of our 10 fallen monuments, which we funded. We are restarting the process to identify and repair more monuments that we expect to repair in 2025.

This year the National Wreaths Across America Day, wherein we honor our Veterans, will be held at the Riga Cemetery on Saturday, December 14, 2024 at 11 am. If you would like to sponsor a wreath to be laid at a veteran's grave you can order one at <https://wreathscrossamerica.org/ny0303p> or purchase one at the Village or Town offices or at the Churchville library.

NYS has approved our Rules and Regulations and Service List so

that we can offer Modified Green Burials in our new Green Burial Section. In that section we will have burials that are green below the ground surface (buried in a biodegradable container with no chemicals in the body), yet viewed as a standard burial above the surface (mowed grass with a flat marker or monument less than 25 inches high). Information is available at the Town website.

Our volunteers continue to support the cemetery. Sue Kuter has been maintaining the new evergreens in front of our bottom soil collection area and Bonnie Loser has been weeding the driveway loop and removing the annual flowers. We have turned off the water for the cold weather. Thanks to Scott Flagler, Highway Superintendent, and the Highway Crew for keeping up with

the mowing of the cemetery grounds and removing bottom soil.

If you have any questions about the Riga Cemetery, those buried within, wish to donate, or want to help out, please feel free to contact me.

**Submitted by:  
John Loser,  
President 585-538-2951**



## RECREATION NEWS

This past fall Riga Recreation wrapped up its late summer programs in partnership with the CYA & Churchville Soccer organizations. The Pickleball Complex suffered a bit of fence/windscreen damage, but the Riga Highway crew was able to fix the problem. The courts closed a few days before the Nov.1st deadline we have used. Players are now asked to try and refrain from running into the fencing, to avoid this situation in the future.

The Riga Town Board approved funds to replace the 25 year old playground at Sanford Road Park. The Parkitects Company along with the Riga Highway Dept. have done a wonderful job installing a BRAND NEW playground to be opened in the Spring of 2025! Grading and reseeding of the area is taking place now. We are excited to see the final result come spring.

On Thursday, October 31st we held our annual Churchville Lion's/ Riga Recreation Halloween Parade. The weather was absolutely gorgeous. We had over 110 trick or treaters (dressed ghoulishly) along with their parents/grandparents, making our total parade well over 300. All followed the Churchville Fire Truck & Fairy Godmother (Lion Verna) up Fitch St. to North St. and down MainStreet to the Village of Churchville's parking lot & gazebo where the Lion's Club and the Union Congregational Church handed out "goodie bags" and apples.

This awesome event could not have taken place without the following individuals & organizations making the event so SPOOKY: Addison, Sue (filling bags), Jamie Alayna, and Doug Eisele....for awesome photographs of this event! Town of

Riga, Village of Churchville, Churchville Lions & LEO Clubs, Churchville FD & Fire Police, Union Congregational Church. Special "thanks" to Fairy Godmother (Verna) for leading the parade and organizing the distribution of the "goodie bags".

If you are in need of a Lodge Rental ....PLEASE call 293-3880 X121.

Finally as we head into 2025 we plan to

hold "WinterFest 2025" on Sunday, January 26th at Churchville Elementary come enjoy a FREE "Kid's Carnival and the Churchville Lion's "WORLD FAMOUS" Chicken BBQ!!!

**Submitted By:  
Dave Thomas,  
Recreation  
Supervisor**



## CHURCHVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

While the weather may seem to indicate otherwise, winter will soon arrive. We need to be ready for snow, possible slippery roads and colder temperatures. Prepare your car for those conditions, make sure your heating equipment is in proper working order and use caution when walking or driving in winter conditions. Be alert for children outside especially with longer periods of darkness and with school buses operating in low light or complete darkness.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the 2 Red Cross blood drives at the fire station this year. Your donations are a very important part of helping others in our community. We have had four fund raisers this year. Thank you for your support and generous donations. We will keep the community informed of events for 2025.

We are seeking new members as firefighters, EMS providers or R.A.M's (youth members age 14-18). Current membership has decreased by almost 40% since this author's joining and more than half of the current members have served more than 20 years. In fact, 12 members have 40 or more years of service! We could use some much younger individuals to carry the Department into the next decade. The number of volunteers has been declining across the U.S. for years. This has led to closing of some fire departments and consolidation of others. In many cases, the same companies that were responding as mutual aid now handle that part of the closed district as their responsibility. This likely increases response time while adding a burden to the responding company.

In some cases, consolidation achieved better use of resources, while combining manpower. In other cases, insufficient manpower or response resulting in the departments closing, with equipment being sold and coverage coming from surrounding areas. Several dozen mergers and closures have happened in New York in the past decade. Additionally volunteer ambulances are facing the same situation.

Stop in at the Fire Department any Monday around 7 pm and to talk to us about joining. Training will be provided. Your expenditure is your time. If you are interested, we can provide an application. We wish you a safe and joyous holiday season!

**Submitted by:  
Forrest Skelton**



# Dec.-Jan.-Feb. 2024-2025 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

## December

- 1) Scrapbooking with Anne, Saturday, Dec. 14..9:00-3:00pm Riga Town Hall
- 2) "SECRET SANTA" Holiday Decorating Contest, Wednesday, Dec. 11th.....Santa may come to your beautifully decorated home with a "goodie".....
- 3) Riga Rec "Cornhole Tournament" @ The Cobblestone Hall...Thurs. Dec.19th...6:30pm
- 4) Riga Rec's 3rd Annual "Build a Snow Sculpture" Contest.....Build your own and send picture to Recreation Office! Details in December!
- 5) Christmas Celebration Concert with the CCHS Vocals....Sat., Dec. 21st. 1:00-2:00pm at The Cobblestone Hall
- 6) Cardmaking with Nancy, Thurs., Dec.19th...6:00-8:00pm Riga Town Hall



## January

- 1) Scrapbooking with Anne, Saturday, Jan. 25th.....9:00am-3:00pm Riga Town Hal
- 2) Churchville Soccer Club Registration....www.churchvillesoccerclub.com
- 3) CYA Baseball/Softball Registration.....www.leaguelineup.com/cyabaseball
- 4) Town of Riga Lodge Rentals...call 293-3880 X121-122 for reservations
- 5) "WinterFest, 2025....Sunday, Jan. 26th Noon to 3pm.....Details to be announced early in January
- 6) Riga Rec "Cornhole Tournament" Thurs. Jan. 16th @ The Cobblestone Hall...6:30pm
- 7) Cardmaking with Nancy at Riga Town Hall...Jan.16th ....6:00-8:00pm
- 8) Chair Yoga with Jodi at Riga Town Hall...Jan.11 ....10-11am



## February

- 1) February Recess Program.....Event to be held at the Rose Garden.....Details will come out in 2025
- 2) Chair Yoga with Jodi at Riga Town Hall...Saturdays....Feb. 1-8-22....10-11am
- 3) CYA Baseball/Softball "Spring Training" Sessions.....TB
- 4) Riga Rec "Cornhole Tourney" @ The Cobblestone Hall, Thurs. Feb.13th, 6:30pm
- 5) Cardmaking with Nancy at Riga Town Hall...Feb. 20th....6:00-8:00pm



\*\*\* Additional Information and registration for our recreation programs can be found on: FaceBook, the Suburban News, Genesee Valley PennySaver, and the Town of Riga's website...www.townofriga.org

Facility Rentals: PLEASE CALL the Riga Town Clerk's Office at 585-293-3880 X 121 or 122 to reserve the Maher Lodge, the Buffalo Rd Lodge



For further information on programs call 293-3880 x 130

PLEASE LIKE Us on Facebook

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FaceBook, the Westside News, Genesee Valley PennySaver, and the Town of Riga's website...www.townofriga.com

For facility rentals please call the Riga Town Clerk's Office at 293-3880 x121 or x122

# SCOR NEWS



At the last SCOR luncheon a newbie (first timer) told me that he had a skilled rascal mouse that safely ate the peanut butter off a snap trap every time. Huh! Yes indeed the little critters will sneak in as the weather cools. Our clever tablemate had an inspiration. He took a cashew nut, rinsed off the salt, dried it and super glued it to the mouse trap. SNAP! went the trap almost as soon as he set it down. Now I enjoyed the story and am ready to employ this novel technique.

We need one another. Even casual chat will lift our moods. It makes us more connected. The Surgeon General warns that being lonely and blue will hurt our heart health, increase our risk for anxiety, depression, stroke and dementia as much as if we smoked daily. Join SCOR for \$1 per year, attend our eleven 2nd Tuesday monthly luncheons (we take August off). Bring a dish-to-pass or put \$3 on the table and note it on our sign in table sheet. Serve once a year on a Committee that sets up the

room. The Committee folk bring desserts. Serving as a Committee member gets us to meet with folks we may not know. Even that seemingly small interaction benefits increased socialization. Oh, we need folks to sign up for January's Committee. Do your heart a good turn.

December 10, 2024—  
**Christmas Banquet** at Red Fedele's Brook House  
 Sign up for the banquet and pay \$15 at our November 12 meeting. Choice of chicken french, roast prime rib, or roast salmon with salad, pasta, baked potato, decorated Christmas cookies for dessert, coffee and tea.

January 14, 2025—  
**The Snowman's Snow Ball**

We're gonna have a Ball at the Legion Hall. Doors open 11:30 Features Beef on Wick Bring appropriate side dish or pay \$3. Program will be our own resident Dance Master Rick Huff leading us in dancing the Virginia

Reel variation that lets all couples dance. Dancing warms up the room and cheers the heart.



February 11, 2025—  
**Sweethearts' Day**

Meet at the Legion Hall. Doors open at 11:30. Commemorating the Lady and the Tramp's "Bella Notte" meal, we are having Spaghetti and Meatballs. Bring an appropriate side or pay \$3.

Remember that it was a little daughter of St Valentine's jailer who asked, "Will you be my Valentine?" He taught the girl to read and write.

Ron Belzak is our program presenter. He's our expert on Riga/Churchville history. Just now the specific topic is Ron's to choose; genius thrives on spontaneity.

Submitted by:  
**Verna Linney**



REMEMBER



HONOR



TEACH



# WREATHS

— across —

# AMERICA

Girl Scout Troop 60487  
 and  
 Harvey C. Noone Legion Post 954 Family  
 cordially invite you  
 to

## National Wreaths Across America Day

### December 14, 2024

Riga Cemetery Ceremony at 11 am  
 followed by laying of wreaths  
 Parking will be in the loop, pull all the way in,  
 or park on the road

Creekside Cemetery Ceremony at 12 pm  
 followed by laying of wreaths  
 Parking will be in the Church Lodge Parking Lot,  
 with refreshments following in the Lodge.  
 Public is invited to attend and participate



# TOWN NEWS



**December**

- 10 SCOR—Christmas Banquet—Red Fedele’s Brook House
- 14 National Wreaths Across America Day  
-Riga Cemetery at 11 -Creekside Cemetery at Noon
- 16 Red Cross Blood Drive—Town Hall 1-6 pm
- 21 Christmas Celebration Concert with the CCHS Vocals—Cobblestone Hall
- 24 Town Office Closed For Christmas Holiday
- 25 Town Office Closed For Christmas Holiday

**January**

- 1 Town Office Closed for New Years Day
- 14 SCOR—lunch at Harvey Noone Legion Hall
- 14 Red Cross Blood Drive—Town Hall 1-6 pm
- 26 Riga WinterFest - Churchville Elementary School

**February**

- 11 SCOR—lunch at Harvey Noone Legion Hall



For further information regarding Riga Rec, Senior, Library and CYA programs, call 293-3880 X130, or refer to the Town’s web-site: [www.townofriga.org](http://www.townofriga.org). Contact sponsoring organizations for further information regarding their events. Submit your ideas and comments for further enhancements to the Editor.

# Happy Holidays

## CHURCH NOTICES

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



**December 7-9** A Craft Fair will be held Friday, December 7 from 1 – 7 pm, Saturday, December 8, from 11am – 4:00 pm, and Sunday, December 9, from 11 am – 2:00 pm. Included will be a raffle of a basket of goodies. We are soliciting vendors. Please call our church office . (585-293-1665) or Mary at 585-293-

1874 if you would like to sell your craft.

**Sunday, December 22**, a special Christmas Variety Program for children and adults will be part of our worship service this Sunday.

**Sunday, December 22**, Christmas worship service at 10:00 am . and Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 11:00 pm.

**Sunday, February 9**, a Dish-to-Pass Valentine Brunch will be held after our worship service . Bring a pink or red food or dish for this Brunch.

Do check our signboard at the front of the church for additional events

and activities. Visit our Meditation Garden and our Little Library which are available for the use of the community.

Our Food Distribution program supported by all the churches of Riga, (Riga Congregational, United Methodist, Union Congregational, Faith Chapel and Calvary Chapel as well as ANG Market, Upstate Dairy and Churchville Lions Club) continues monthly. however for **November and December** the distribution will be held on the **third Wednesday** of these months from 4-5 pm. Starting in January, the distribution will revert to the fourth Wednesdays.



## 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**

**Ken Kuter, Deputy Supervisor**

**James Fodge, 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](http://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  
Blood  
Drive**

**Save a Life. Give Blood**

**RIGA TOWN HALL BLOOD DRIVE**

**6460 BUFFALO ROAD-COMMUNITY ROOM**

**Monday, December 16th 2024**

**Tuesday, January 14th 2025**

**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](http://donatebloodnow.org)**