

TOWN OF RIGA

NEWSLETTER

Riga Town Board Members

BRAD O'BROCTA, SUPERVISOR

JAMES FODGE, COUNCIL MEMBER, KEN KUTER, COUNCIL MEMBER

DEREK HARNSBERGER, COUNCIL MEMBER

DEBORAH CAMPANELLA, COUNCIL MEMBER (EDITOR)

Supervisor's Report

Over the past several months we have received many complaints about "peddlers" coming to our residents' doors attempting to sell their service or products. In an effort to protect our residents, especially our seniors, the Town Board is considering legislation to regulate peddler activity within the Town outside the Village. This legislation would require companies that want to go "door-to-door" selling their product or service to obtain a permit from the Town prior to any activity. It would limit the time that peddling can occur, so folks won't be bothered at inappropriate hours, as well as let the Town know who is in our community going door-to-door.

The Town Board will soon begin working on the 2026 Town Budget. We will continue to meet with department heads and other parties that provide services for the town to review their budget requests. As always, every budget line is reviewed to ensure budget requests appropriately meet the needs of our residents. We look forward to producing another Town Budget that is both fiscally responsible and provides the services our community needs.

The Town Highway Department recently installed a bench at Sanford Road Park in honor of Hedda Cavin, a Riga resident whose estate generously donated \$50,000 to the Town of Riga's Recreation Department. The funds were used to help purchase the new playground equipment currently at Sanford Road Park. We are blessed to have so many Riga residents

who are willing to give back to our community in innumerable ways. Our volunteer organizations here in Riga are second to none! They sponsor and help provide the numerous events we have throughout the year. Their dedication to our community is what helps make Riga a special place to live.

Earlier this summer, the Monroe County American Legion honored Riga resident Colonel (Ret.) Kenneth Juergens, Commander of Harvey C. Noone Post 954 with the Legionnaire of the Year Award during its annual convention. Ken was recognized for his exceptional leadership in transforming Post 954 into the fastest-growing American Legion Post in Monroe County. Thank you, Ken, for your tireless dedication to veterans everywhere!

The Summer Concert Series at the Village Gazebo has once again been a huge success. Attendance at our concerts has been incredible! Thanks goes out to Dave Thomas, our Recreation Department Director, for organizing an event that our residents truly enjoy. As we begin to look towards next summer, please let us know of any bands that you may have heard that would be a nice fit for our concert series for next year.

Finally, we here at the Town of Riga and have said goodbye to several retiring Town employees over the past few months. I'd like to take a moment to thank each of them for the invaluable service they have provided to our community over the years. Shelley Kasper retired from her position as Assistant to the Assessor.

Sep./Oct./Nov.
Riga
Fall 2025
Issue

CHURCHVILLE FIRE DEPT. & SUPERVISOR REPORT	2
RIGA HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS	3
HISTORIANS ARTICLE	4 & 5
RIGA CEMETERY	5
RECYCLING & AMERICAN LEGION & LIONS	6
Library & Hunting	7
RECREATION NEWS & CHURCH NEWS	8
RECREATION PROGRAMS	9
ASSESSOR NEWS	10
COMMUNITY EVENTS & SCOR	11
RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE	12



Churchville Fire Department

Hello Neighbors! We hope you had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the coming season!

First, we want to thank all the donors who participated in the spring blood drive. Your support helped us surpass our projected goals and the blood products will be used in many situation. The next drive is scheduled for September 10th. Signs will be posted.

Thank you for your support of our fund raisers, the Spring 200 Club and the Sportsman Raffle. They were both well attended and very successful. The Fall 200 Club is scheduled for October.

Our Fire Prevention Open House is scheduled for Saturday, October 11th, from 10 am –1 pm, at 24 Washington Street. There will be many displays, handouts and demonstrations. RG&E will be reviewing gas and electric issues, the NY State Police will have their rollover simulator on site, there will be hands only CPR demonstrations and the children will enjoy the bounce house and kids' size "turn out gear".

Our recently delivered pumper 423 should be fully outfitted by that time and will be available for review. Stop by and review the

new truck and check out the Open House. The firefighters usually visit Fairbanks Rd and Churchville Elementary Schools in the week prior to open house, so bring the children for a closer view!

The 2025 Turkey Raffle will be held Friday, November 7th at 7 pm at the Fire Station. You can win turkeys or other meat products, there



is a cash prize drawing for \$300 (7 additional prized) and refreshments will be available. Cash prize tickets will be available in advance from firefighters or at the raffle on November 7th.

School has started, or will be in session soon. Please be mindful of children at stops, observe safety with regards to stopped school buses and the increased traffic around the schools.

We are seeking new members as firefighters or medical providers. We furnish the training, provide the necessary gear and you get the chance to meet new people and possibly train for a new career. 14-18 year olds can join our RAM category. Where they receive training and can operate on certain types of calls and assist at CVFD functions.

Come by the firehouse Monday nights around 7 pm to meet with a member or pick up an application. We state this specific time as they are scheduled times when members will be at the station. The membership has been fairly busy in the first 6-months of 2025. There were 188 fires, medical events or calls for assistance with a combined 876 member responses totaling over 600 manhours. With just 51 members, these figures indicate a lot of input from some dedicated individuals. What is not indicated in these figures is the time involved in event planning, committee meetings, clean up following emergency calls, filing required reports and day to day necessities of running a corporation.

There are many ways someone can assist the CVFD and serve their community. You will find it to be a rewarding experience, you will meet new people and learn new skills. Stop by the station, speak to us and see if it is of interest to you.

Hope you have an enjoyable and safe holiday season!

Submitted By:
Forrest R. Skelton,
Secretary



Supervisor's Report

Steve Darrow and Jeff Flagler both retired from the Highway Department. Dave Thomas retired from his position as our Recreation Director. These folks served the Town for many years and truly made a difference for both our community and to all of us

colleagues. We will miss that unique "something" each brought with them that made our days a bit brighter every day.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact myself or any other Town Board member.

Congratulations
on your retirement

Submitted by:
Brad O'Brocta,
Town
Supervisor





RIGA HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS

Following the wet and rainy spring that we have had summer sure has been a wonderful welcome. Your Highway Department has been extremely busy over the summer months with all the roadwork process we have accomplished. There have been a lot of changes in the Highway Department with recent retirements and employees taking a different career path. I would like to take a moment to congratulate Jeff Flagler and Steve Darrow on their retirement after many years of dedicated service to the Town of Riga.



We have several new faces here at the Highway Department. If you happen to see them out on the road, please make them feel welcomed. I am thankful for the dedicated crew who go above and beyond to make our Town a great place to live and work.



Town & County Road Work Accomplished Chili Avenue Extension was in place recycled and paved with new shoulders

installed. North Johnson Road was Cold Dense recycled with a pug mill and will be stone and oiled later in the Summer followed by fog sealing, with both recycled in place, and paving planned for late summer. We will then put down new shoulders with recycled millings from other roads and parking lots. Sheridan, South Sanford and the Town's end of Bovee road were all stone and oiled, and will be fog sealed to keep the water out of the roads come winter season. This year we used our CHIPS funding from New York State to recycle and pave Green Road. We will also be installing new shoulders. We are doing a small job for the Monroe County Parks at the golf course. We will be stone and oiling the parking lot for all of the golf carts. Palmer road was a big project we did for the County. We have addressed drainage issues and cleaned out several ditches. We true and leveled the entire road then stone and oiled with a fog seal coming in late Summer then the shoulders will be done. We will also be doing the same thing with the County end of Bovee road.

Fall Brush Pickup

We will be doing our fall brush pick up the week of October 6th. Please have your brush out to the roadside before that date. We will only 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. Please stack branches with but end towards the road in orderly



piles. Do not cut it into short lengths. Please do not drag entire trees to the roadside, limbs must be removed and not exceed fifteen feet. Construction materials, boulders, concrete, railroad ties, pallets, will not be picked up with brush. We cannot accept tree stumps, leaves, or grass clippings. If you have materials other than brush to be picked up, please call a disposal company (Waste Management, Suburban Disposal, or Casella) 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 discussing benefits of brush piles. You can always bring brush to the highway department all year long. We have a dump site here that you can drop off located next to our wood chip pile.

The purpose of the Riga Highway Department is to provide efficient roadways for transportation for our residents and users of our Town's roadways. We continually seek to improve service to our residents in a cost-effective manner within budget. I would like to take a moment and thank the residents and the travelers that commute every day through the Town for respecting and exercising caution through the work zones. The flaggers are trying to keep you and us safe. If you notice road conditions that need attention, please call the Highway Office 293-2530.

Submitted by:
Scott Flagler,
Highway
Superintendent





Situated on a parcel of land at #9 East Buffalo St., just east of Churchville's only traffic signal (Originally installed 100 years ago in 1925), is a two-story brick building once obscured by the growth of twisted ivy vines and now having been recently renovated is bringing back life to a historic village structure once known as the "Village Hall." If those brick walls could talk, it would take us back in time to 1893 when Grover Cleveland was elected the 24th President of the United States, the first World's Fair was held in Chicago, and the horse drawn carriages were just starting to share the dirt and gravel roads of the village with the automobile.

Following its settlement in 1806 and official incorporation in 1852, the Village of Churchville relied on various village sites, such as the cobblestone schoolhouse, private homes, and local merchants' shops, to host its meetings and elections. In 1867, the village office was set up on South Main Street in the back room of the meat market and provision store of H. W. Hand, who was the village clerk. It was also the first time that village records reveal the cost of services provided by a Village Clerk and the renting of office space at a total cost of \$15.00 annually. By 1871, the village offices moved to a room at the back of the Ball, Stone & Co. store on South Main Street costing the village \$52.00 annually. Tragically, both stores were destroyed in a devastating fire in June 1882.

The decade spanning from 1882 to

THE VILLAGE HALL

1892 brought new demands on the Village Board of Trustees. The 1882 establishment of the fire dept, under the village board's control, necessitated securing space for the ever-growing department. The village lock-up (jail), whose location seemed to change often, needed a more permanent and secure facility. Thus, in 1892, led by Village President (a title that would change to Mayor in 1928) and fire dept. member, George O. P. Turner, and the Village Board, it was determined that acquiring a single location for a village hall was the best course of action.

At the March 1892 Charter Election, the voters of the Village of Churchville approved a resolution to appropriate \$2,400.00 for the construction of a village hall by a marginal vote of thirty-nine yes, twenty-seven no, and six blank ballots. The blueprint for the new Village Hall was to include meeting rooms for the Village Board of Trustees, the fire dept., and other community groups. It would also provide a location for the village lock-up and house the numerous hand-drawn apparatuses (one 1880 Hook & Ladder wagon, one 1888 Hose cart and one 1882 Rumsey Hand Pumper) of the Churchville Fire Dept.. The era of hand-drawn fire apparatus in Churchville ended in 1926, after 44 years, with the purchase of a used 1913 Thomas Flyer motorized fire truck from the Albion, N.Y. Fire Department, sized perfectly to fit in the village hall.

The site for the new village hall on East Buffalo Street was selected in June of 1892 and purchased for \$380.00 from village merchant, banker and Civil War veteran Albert A. Tupper. On Sept. 5th, 1892, village contractor Henry J. Snyder presented specifications for the building and bids for its construction were placed in the local newspapers. At the Sept. 12th, 1892, Board of Trustees meeting, three contractors submitted their bids but were rejected for high cost. Another bid was released and on Sept. 19th, 1892, Chas D. Snyder, one of two contractors who submitted a

bid, was awarded the contract for \$1,998.00. But on Sept. 22nd, 1892, the contract was voided. The reason for canceling the contract is unclear since the Village records do not state any cause. Then on April 12th, 1893, Henry J. Snyder again presented plans for the Village Hall to the Village Board. His design included space on the first floor with a set of double entry doors for the fire department apparatus and three jail cells to house prisoners. The second floor was divided into three meeting rooms. The south half of the building was for the fire dept. while the north half was divided into two rooms. One for the Village trustees and the other for the various Village committees. Interestingly, if you look at the original floor plans, they are a mirror image of what was constructed. Somewhere along the line the plans were changed.

Finally, on May 1st, 1893, after reviewing the bids of two contractors, the Village Board of Trustees awarded the contract, for the new Village Hall, to Joel Snow, a local builder and three times mayor of Churchville, accepting his bid of \$1,965.00. Thus, construction began and was completed on November 24th, 1893, just two months over the scheduled completion date of September 1893.

Commenting on the new Village Hall, the locally subscribed 1893 Progressive Batavian newspaper reported as follows: "No Village of the size of Churchville in Western New York will have a better one (Village Hall), and the taxpayers deserve great praise for their liberality."

One feature of the building that was removed in the 2024 building restoration, due to its extreme dilapidated condition, was the bell tower that housed the fire dept. bell. Prior to the installation of the firehouse bell the





THE VILLAGE HALL (CONTINUES)

Methodist Church bell was used to sound the alarm of fire. Then in 1897 the Village Fathers recognized the value of a dedicated alarm system that could be activated at the fire hall rather than running down the street to ring the Methodist Church bell.

The conception of a firehouse bell was conceived at the May 3rd, 1897, Village Board meeting. Trustee Samuel Widger, local wagon maker and fire dept. member, made a motion that a fire bell be purchased for the engine house and not to exceed \$150.00. The motion was seconded by Lawrence Flint and carried by the entire Board. The casting of the bell was awarded to the Meneely Bell Company of Troy New York the same company that made the second Liberty Bell and to this day that bell still hangs in Independence Hall marking the hours with its chimes. In 1930, after 33 years, the Churchville Fire Dept. bell was retired and

replaced by an electric siren that was mounted on the top front edge of the Village Hall. In later years, the telephone operator, whose office was located just down the street from the village hall, could activate the electric siren when an emergency telephone call was received. Around the early 1970's the fire dept. bell was taken down from the village hall tower and relocated to the Churchville firehall that was once located at #25 East Buffalo Street. In 2009, a new Churchville firehall was erected at #24 Washington St., and the bell was moved and positioned honorably in front of the new facility where it still rests today.

The village continued to use the building as a village hall until 1989 when all village operations, seeking to expand, moved to #20 South Main Street. The fire department had earlier vacated the village hall in 1948 and moved into a garage at #25 East Buffalo Street. Since 1989 the village retained ownership but leased the building to such businesses as a

bakery, State Police substation, pizza shop, dance studio and deli. Finally, in 1999, the village sold the building to a local businessperson ending 106 years of service to the community.

Now, fast forward to 2024 and once again the "Old Village Hall" was sold. Congratulations to the new owner, Patricia Hammerl, and her new store called "Spoonful of Sugar Sweets." As Historian I thank-you for all the hard work and love you put into renovating the "Old Village Hall." I encourage everyone to pay the store a visit and if luck is on your side and conditions align you might just faintly hear the ringing of the fire house bell and the thundering footsteps of the volunteer firemen as they flung open the buildings large double doors and push the hand-drawn apparatus out onto the village streets chasing that orange-red glow in the sky. *Next article – "A Community Gathers to Celebrate the New Churchville Village Hall."*

Submitted by:
Ron Belczak, Town Historian



RIGA CEMETERY NEWS

The NYS Division of Cemeteries approved our request to fund the repair of our 11 remaining dangerous/tilting monuments at the Riga cemetery. Our repair contractor crew arrived early on Thursday, July 10, and started their work of removing the tagged monuments and any existing foundation and dirt that would hold the new foundations. They finished that work by noon and the concrete truck arrived. By the end of Thursday they had poured all the concrete foundations and placed the leveled monument bases on the wet concrete. On early Friday morning they returned and remounted the rest of the monuments on their bases and spread topsoil and grass seed around the monument bases. By noon on Friday they completed their work by sealing all joints on each repaired monument with their stone sealer.

Next, we contacted our other contractor who will repair our smaller, fallen, and tilting monument and we identified 7 monuments that will be repaired this year. We will fund these repairs ourselves. Work is planned to start in August.

We held our annual meeting of plot owners and welcomed 4 new Board members. The American Legion placed US flags around headstones of our veterans for Memorial Day.

Our volunteers continue to support the cemetery. We have turned on the water for our flowers and trees. Sue and Ken Kuter have been weeding and watering the new arborvitae in front of our bottom soil collection area. They also added mulch to the berm flower bed. Bonnie Loser has been weeding and planting Lobelia and Zinnia at the Veterans Walk.

She also planted Salvia around our new trees and at the Berm. Thanks also to Scott Flagler, Highway Superintendent, and his crew for keeping up with the mowing of the cemetery grounds and removing bottom soil. Others who would like to help keeping the cemetery in good shape for their relatives or friends can give me a call.

This year the National Wreaths Across America Day, where we honor our veterans, will be held at the Riga Cemetery on Saturday, Dec. 13, 2025.

Submitted by:
John Loser,
President
538-2951





Leave the Leaves !

If you haven't already, soon you'll be headed to the yard, armed with rakes, bags and leaf blowers to clean up leaves and debris and get your yard ready for winter. Did you know that the leaves that can cause such aggravation and extra work in the fall can be a great natural resource?

Leave the leaves and reap the benefits by skipping raking and bagging by chopping — or mow-mulching the leaves with your mower.

Without using the bag attachment, chop leaves with a lawnmower and leave the pieces on the lawn. These small fragments will decompose over the winter months and break down into natural mulch. This natural fertilizer feeds your lawn, any other plants and trees in your yard and provides needed nutrients to the soil. Let's not forget — this method is much easier on your back!

Research from Cornell University has indicated that leaving the leaves on your lawn may even result in fewer dandelions in the spring.

Additionally, consider placing a

layer of leaves in your garden, flower beds, or anywhere else that could use a little extra mulch. This will also protect your garden from various types of winter damage.

Don't forget to top-dress with compost before winter — available free to Monroe County residents anytime the ecopark is open. Bring your own containers and a shovel!

Submitted by:

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



Harvey C. Noone American Legion Post 954 – Fall Happenings!

The Harvey C. Noone American Legion Post 954 is proud to share some exciting updates and accomplishments that continue our mission of serving veterans and strengthening our community.

We are honored to announce that Post 954 was recently awarded a **\$68,000 grant** from **New York State's Veterans' Nonprofit Capital Program**. These funds will go toward the installation of an **indoor elevator**, improving accessibility for our disabled veterans and all members of the public who use our facility.

In addition, we are partnering with the **Town of Riga** and **Monroe County** to **replace our main entrance steps and handicap ramp**. Special thanks to **Ken**

Kuter for leading the effort on behalf of the Town and to **Debbie Campanella** for her ongoing support. These projects ensure our Legion home remains welcoming and accessible to all.

After our summer break, our **first meeting will be held on September 25**, where we'll be planning our upcoming **Veterans Day Luncheon** and organizing our annual **Veterans Raffle**. Tickets are **\$10 each**, with **\$3,000 in prizes** to be won. Tickets can be purchased at the **Legion Hall, Town of Riga offices, and Village of Churchville offices**.

We also continue to support veterans at the **Batavia VA Hospital**, bringing joy and connection to those who have given so much for our country.

We are proud to share that **Post 954 was once again ranked the #1 Legion Post in Monroe County** and across the **7th District**, which includes multiple counties, for **membership growth**. In recognition of his leadership, **Commander Ken Juergens** was honored as **Legionnaire of the Year** for both Monroe County and the 7th District. We invite you to stop by the Legion on **Thursday and Friday nights**—join us for **karaoke, euchre, bingo, or trivia**, meet your neighbors, and thank a veteran.

For God and Country,



Submitted by:

Ken Juergens, Commander
Harvey C. Noone American
Legion Post 954

The Medical Loan Closet

Churchville Lions Club



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 BY EMAIL AT CHURCHVILLELIONS364@GMAIL.COM

THE LOAN CLOSET IS LOCATED NEXT TO THE RIGA HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BUILDING ON BUFFALO ROAD.



Newman Riga Library

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Changes to Account Notifications

At the end of the year, phone notifications for library transactions (items coming due, overdue messages or holds arriving) will be going away. The good news is that there are options available to receive these messages through e-mail and/or text message notifications. If you haven't already opted into these features, you can do so by logging into your library account through our website or by stopping in the library. If you are unable to utilize either of these options, you will still be able to monitor your account online. Please call the library if you need assistance in transitioning to the other options.

Preschool Storytime Fall 2025 Session

Children ages 3 – 5 yrs. Are invited to join Ms. Jenna for Preschool Storytime! The Fall Session will start on **Thursday, October 2 at 10:30 a.m.** There will be stories, songs, rhymes and fun! Registration is not required but please check newmanrigalibrary.org or the library's Facebook page for any changes.



Session Dates:

October: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
November: 6, 13, 20

2025 Community Art Show

Community members, including adults, elementary (K-4), middle school (5-8), and high school (9-12) students are invited to create artwork that celebrates Churchville. The theme "Do Everything (in Churchville)" recognizes Churchville's famous historic figure, Frances Willard. Do Everything" was a motto that she adopted as leader of the WCTU.

Create paintings, drawings, or photos that represent this motto here in Churchville.

Artwork Categories:

1. Painting - (oil, acrylic, water color)
2. Photography
3. Other (drawing and other media)

Submission Details:

Deadline for artwork submissions is September 12, 2025. Drop art off at the library any time between September 8th and September 12th during normal library hours. All art should be matted and ready to be displayed. Artists of all ages may submit up to 2 original entries.

Display and Reception:

Artwork will be on display September 15 – October 3 during normal library hours
Community and Awards Reception Friday, October 3, 2025 from

Award Categories:

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place for each adult category

People's Choice Award (for overall show in both adult and student categories)

Entrance Fees:

Entry fee: \$20 non-refundable (cash) per entry, up to 2 entries, for individuals 18 and older

No fee for elementary, middle, and high school students

Future Programming

Many of our programs pop up after the newsletter has been published. Please follow us on Facebook or check the Programs/Events tab on our website for programs as they are added.

Fall Hours:

M/W/F: 11am – 5pm

T/TH: 11am – 8pm

SA: 10am – 2pm (Starting on September 6th)

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



Town Clerk

Anglers, hunters and trappers may use a mobile app to display an electronic copy of their license. The **HuntFishNY** app is available for download through the Apple App or Google Play stores and is completely FREE.

HuntFishNY is the official New York State Department of Environmental Conservation mobile app. This is a simple way to display your licenses and privileges. You can find more information on the DEC website www.dec.ny.gov.

Doe Management Permits Deadline: October 1 each year

Second Round of DMP's starts: November 1st each year

SAFE HUNTING

Submitted by:

Kimberly Pape, Town Clerk

GOODBYE

RECREATION NEWS

As we head into the fall season, a huge "thank you" to everyone that came out to support Riga Recreation this summer! Additional kudos to Dave Childs, Summer Camp Director and his counselor staff for providing a fun and exciting camp experience for well over 100 youngsters that attended our 7 week program. We could not have accomplished this without the Churchville Elementary custodial staff (Mark, Asst, Counselor Gladys, & Barry) that allowed us to keep camp at CES for the entire day!

Our "first class" pickleball courts at McNeely Park continue to see action 7 days a week. The Riga Highway Dept. was able to get these courts repainted after 6 years of use. The Highway Dept. also is in the process of repaving the basketball court at Sanford Road Park as after 15 years of usage they were beginning to show a lot of wear.

Riga's Recreation's popular Gazebo Concert Music Series has been well attended and the weather has been very cooperative (as of this writing!). Thanks to the following bands for making this summer most memorable: Don Newcomb, Feedback, True Tones, Get Off My Lawn, Midnight

Storm and Blue Sky (that played host, once again, to our annual "Relay for Life/Luminaria" celebration that honors and memorializes those that have struggled with this dreaded disease.

Thanks also to the Scottsville Athletic Association for admitting our CYA Baseball/Softball teams into their program as the CYA organization took a pause for the 2025 season and hopefully, will return in 2026.

Finally, after entering my 18th year as the Town of Riga's Recreation Supervisor (my second career) I have decided that it is time to pass this wonderful position on to someone else. That someone is Summer Camp Director, David Childs. He is a very hard working gentleman and I know he will continue managing this Department seamlessly. As I leave, I could not do so without recognizing the many hundreds of folks and organizations that I have come in contact with. This has made it extremely difficult to leave after these wonderful 18 year. Here goes... all former and current Town of Riga Office Staff & Administration, the Riga Highway Department (past and current), the Village of Churchville Office Staff (past and current), SCOR, the Harvey C. Noone American Legion Post #945, the

Riga Newman Library Staff, the Churchville Chili Central School District, the Churchville Elementary School Administration & custodial Staff, the CCCSD Operations & Maintenance Department (especially Ms. Teresa Gol, who made all my Facility Use Requests a most positive process....Thank You), the Monroe County Churchville Parks Foremen (Forrest Skelton & Bob Ehrmentraut), Churchville Youth Assn. (CYA) Todd, Shawn, Mike, Churchville Soccer Club (CSC) Steve, Dave, Jamie, Christina, the Churchville Lion's Club (Al, Jim, Marty, Fairy Godmother), Doug Eisele (Photographer Extraordinaire), all the instructors that have provided leadership in our programs, the many bands that performed at our Village Gazebo Concerts, the Churchville Fire Dept. & Fire Police, all the Summer Camp directors (Penny, Brian, Dave) and staff (past and present), and finally, all those that have participated in our programs over the years. I sincerely hope that I have not left anyone out. If I have, I am so sorry. Please keep on making recreation a part of your lives.

Submitted By:
Dave Thomas,
Recreation Supervisor



CHURCH NEWS

293-2070

First Congregational Church of Riga -
7057 Chili Riga Center Rd

Rigachurch7057@gmail.com

Contact@riga-church.org

www.rigachurch.org

Follow on Facebook Riga Church
9/13 Turkey Dinner. Drive Thru
Only \$15.00 3pm-7pm (or sold out)

9/27 Men's Ministry Apple picking Meet
@Church 9am

9/30 Women's Ministry 6:30pm @ Fellowship Hall

10/1,10/8,10/15,10/22,10/29 Bible Study @ 7pm in the Fellowship Hall

10/3 & 10/4 Fall Rummage Sale
10/3 3-7pm Preview-\$5 entry
10/4 10am-2pm

Donations will be accepted
starting 9/17

Please call 293-2070 to set up time

10/18 Men's Ministry
Pumpkin Patch Meet @ church 9am

10/25 Children Ministry
Hallelujah Hoedown

10/28 Women's Ministry @6:30 Fellowship Hall

11/5, 11/12, 11/19 Bible Study 7pm Fellowship Hall

11/7 (12-6pm)-11/8 (9am- 4pm) Fall Craft Sale

11/8 Food Truck Rodeo 10am-4pm

11/15 Men's Ministry 9am
Fellowship Hall

11/18 Women's Ministry 6:30pm

Union Congregational United Church of Christ - 14 N. Main St., Churchville
September

Sept. 14 - Outdoor Worship Service-Pet Blessing 10AM (Bring your pet and join us!)
Sept. 20 - 2nd Annual Union UCC Health Fair 10-6PM (Join us for a fun and informative day. Food vendors, CPR and Narcan training.

SEP.-OCT.-NOV. 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

September

- 1) Scrapbooking with Anne, Saturday Sept.13th Riga Town Hall,9-3pm
- 2) Riga Recreation "September" Cornhole Tournament at the Maher Lodge 836 South Sanford Road on September 18th @ 6:00pm 'til?
- 3) Pickleball @ Riga Pickleball Complex, Richard McNeely Park
- 4) Chair Yoga with Jodi @ Riga Multipurpose Room.. TBA
- 5) Cardmaking with Nancy, Thursday, Sept.18th, Riga Town Hall,6:30pm



October

- 1) Scrapbooking with Anne, Saturday, Oct.18th Riga Town Hall,9-3pm
- 2) Annual Halloween Parade with Lion's Club, Friday, Oct. 31st Meet at 6:00pm @ Churchville Commons and walk to Church Lodge at Churchville Park (or the Village Gazebo). TBA
- 3) Riga Recreation "October" Cornhole Tournament at the Maher Lodge, 836 South Sanford Road, Thursday, October 16th...6:00pm
- 4) Pickleball @ Riga Pickleball Complex, Richard McNeely Park.. Open Play anytime
- 5) Cardmaking with Nancy, Thursday, Oct.16th, Riga Town Hall,6:30pm
- 6) Chair Yoga with Jodi @ Riga Multipurpose Room...TBA



November

- 1) Scrapbooking with Anne, Saturday, Nov.15th, Riga Town Hall, 9-3pm
- 2) Riga Recreation "November" Cornhole Tournament at the Maher Lodge, 836 South Sanford Road, on November 20th, 6:00pm
- 3) Pickleball @ Riga Pickleball Complex, Richard McNeely Park... Open Play anytime..... Weather Permitting
- 4) Cardmaking with Nancy, Thurs. Nov. 20th @ the Riga Town Hall
- 5) Antique & Craft Show, Sunday, November 2nd... 8:00am-5:00pm @ the Churchville Elementary School * * Honoring Rita Kanaly!!!!
- 6) Chair Yoga with Jodi @ Riga Multipurpose Room....TBA



→ Church News Continues

healthy living recipes and food prep demonstrations. Churchville Fire Dept. will have a truck onsite for the kids and will conduct fire safety training. Program information for veterans will be available, along with addiction education and treatment services, elder care, emergency preparedness, etc., etc. There will be something for everyone, so don't miss it,

save the date!!)

November

Nov. 8 - Harvest Dinner 3PM till? (Our annual Roast Pork dinner with stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, butternut squash, homemade pies, and all the traditional dishes that our community knows and loves and has graciously supported in the past. We look forward to seeing everyone again this year!)

Please Note:

Union Church is interviewing for a part-time Choir/Music Director. Inquiries should be made to

unionucc@frontier.com.

Visit our Meditation Garden, Little Library, and 24/7 Outdoor Food Cupboard available for the use of the community.

Our Food Distribution Program continues monthly on the 4th Wednesday of each month from 4-5PM. It is supported by all of the churches in Riga (Union Church, Riga Congregational, United Methodist, St. Vincent's, Faith Chapel and Calvary Christian) as well as ANG Market, Upstate Dairy and Churchville Lions Club.



News From The Assessors Office

ENHANCED STAR EXEMPTIONS

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 2025-2026 school year, is **\$110,750**. Resident property owners, who are at least 65 by the end of 2025 (born on or before December 31, 1960), whose **2024 Federal Adjusted Gross Income** (minus any taxable IRA distribution) fits into this category, **MAY** be entitled to the exemption

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.

First time Enhanced STAR applicant (meaning you already have the Basic STAR, and you believe you're entitled to the Enhanced STAR) you **NO LONGER** need to file an Enhanced STAR application with the Assessor.

The 2025-2026 Enacted State Budget included several provisions to simplify the STAR program.

Homeowners will no longer be required to submit an application to the assessor if they had an ownership change of if they *aged into* the Enhanced STAR exemption. ORPTS will notify assessors of Basic STAR recipients who become eligible for Enhanced STAR (rather than requiring seniors to apply to their assessors)

New residents who wish to apply for the Basic or Enhanced STAR will need to apply online at www.tax.ny.gov/star or call (518)-457-2036

Residents who are delinquent with their NYS Taxes NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance will instruct me to remove your Basic or Enhanced STAR exemption.

LIMITED INCOME SENIOR EXEMPTION CHANGES (This is NOT STAR)

As of the 2024 Calendar year, there have been some changes to the Limited Income Senior Exemption income calculations. NYS has tried to restructure the income calculations to be more like

the **STAR** exemption, but of course with exceptions:

- Your New York State tax return is no longer required or needed – just the Federal tax return. However, if your full Social Security is not shown on the tax return, then your Social Security 1099 form will be required. This is also the case with non-taxable interest and IRA distributions, as well as income from a deceased spouse.
- If you do not file a tax return, there will be a new Income Worksheet that needs to be filled out.
- There is a limitation on losses: \$3,000 net loss per Schedule C, D, E, F \$3,000 net loss per "any other separate category"
Provided – "the Aggregate amount of ALL losses shall not exceed \$15,000".

The "Mandate" Calculations from Form 1040

FAGI (Federal Adjusted Gross Income)	Line 11
+ Tax-exempt interest and dividends	+Line 2a
- Any Taxable IRA Distributions	-Line 4b
+ Social Security <u>not included in AGI</u>	+(Line 6a – 6b)
Limiting Losses	SEE Lines 7&8
	= INCOME

Now with all that information comes the fact that the amount of the exemption you will receive is based on what income level each taxing jurisdiction (County, Town, School, and Village) has adopted. Not all taxing jurisdictions have the same levels. So, you may receive 50% for County, 30% for Village and 10% for School (depending on what School District you're in because all the School Districts have different levels).

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

Submitted by:
Lori Frongetta,
Assessor



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

September

- 1 Town Hall closed for Labor Day
15 RED Cross Blood Drive—Town Hall 1-6 pm



October

- 13 Town Hall closed for Columbus Day
15 RED Cross Blood Drive—Town Hall 1-6 pm
31 Halloween Parade at 6 pm—Churchville Commons Church Lodge



an



November

- 7 Turkey Raffle at Churchville Fire Department 7 pm
10 RED Cross Blood Drive—Town Hall 1-6 pm
11 Town Hall closed for Veterans Day
27 & 28 Town Hall closed for Thanksgiving Holiday



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.

S.C.O.R. News

Senior Citizens of Riga luncheons are always on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Yours truly flubbed the date in one Newsletter. A member turned up on Wednesday! Shame on me. Our fall meetings are as follows: September 9, October 14, and November 11. Surely these are the 2nd Tuesdays. These three meetings are at the Legion Hall on Buffalo Rd just east of the Riga Town Hall and across the road from the Riga Highway Department. Doors open at 11:30; and the meeting starts at noon. A special seasonal familiar song is chosen by Dolores and Frank Perry. Frank plays a wicked harmonica and the SCOR singers front the room to encouraged you all to join in. Our rationale is this, singing elevates mood faster than any other intervention.

We collect our \$1 per year dues starting in September. Also bring some money to buy raffle

tickets. The profits go to Care and Share and fund the scholarships SCOR awards.

The first group called to the buffet table, after a blessing is offered, are those who need assistance. This change is newish. Second are the committee who have set up and decorated the room. Next is the Officer's Table. All the rest are called by table number in random order. It's determined by an unbiased, scientific random number generator. We promise no favoritism in table calling.

Besides a nice meal we love to talk, chat, visit with our tablemates. That is part of our reason for being. Loneliness hurts our health as badly as smoking heavily. That's according to the Surgeon General. At times folks are so happily engaged visiting that they do not hear their table number called. That little lapse is charming.

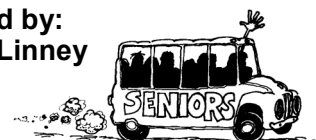
September 9th is our Pizza Party.

Choices are 2 slices of pizza either pepperoni, veggie, or a possible 3rd choice. Green salad and a variety of bottled salad dressings are offered.

October 14 offers a Half o' Sub Sandwich. A new healthy choice of tuna, joins the older ones of turkey, roast beef or ham. November 11 is our Turkey Dinner. Members should bring an appropriate side dish sufficient for 6 to 8 people. Bring \$15 per person to pay for our December sit down Christmas Banquet.

All members are expected to serve on the Committee once per year. Sign up sheets will be set out. Don't know what to do? We have a "Chore List" posted on our double-door steel storage cabinet in the store room. Please think about becoming a SCOR officer.

Submitted by:
Verna W Linney



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

Ken Kuter, 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 Tuesday of the Month at 6:30 pm. Workshops as needed.

CONSERVATION BOARD: 4th Mondays. 7 pm

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. 7 pm

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



**American
Red Cross**



**RIGA TOWN HALL BLOOD DRIVE
6460 BUFFALO ROAD-COMMUNITY ROOM**

**Monday, September 15th, 2025
Wednesday, October 15th, 2025
Monday, November 10th, 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