

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

**Dec./Jan./Feb.
Riga
Winter 2025-2026
Issue**

The Town of Riga has established a Do-Not-Knock Registry for *Town outside the Village residents* who do not wish solicitors, peddlers, or hawkers to come to their homes for the purpose of selling. It cannot prohibit the distribution of leaflets, pamphlets, or other literature such as noncommercial political, or religious material distributed in a lawful manner, or persons under the age of 18 years who are selling goods for the benefit of nonprofit or charitable organizations.



How to Sign Up

You can email the Town Clerk directly at townclerk@townofriga.org or you can call the Town Clerk's Office at 585-293-3880 x 121 or x 122 and ask to have your address added to the Do-Not-Knock Registry. The solicitors receive a list of addresses they are prohibited from approaching.

What should I do if a solicitor knocks on my door after I sign up for the Do Not Knock Registry?

Call the Town Clerk at 585-293-3880 x 121 or x 122 to report the incident and include as many details about the solicitation as possible.



The 2026 Town Budget was adopted at our November 11th Town Board meeting. **The Town of Riga will once again have a 0% tax rate for 2026.**

Below are some of the highlights from the 2026 Budget:

1. Our town-wide operating Budget decreased by 8.4% year over year. The decrease is mainly due to not having to fund 2 major road reconstruction projects that were completed in 2025. The Town Board has also provided funding for the purchase of a new 10-wheel dump truck.
2. The Town has budgeted for a 9% increase for health care insurance costs in 2026.
3. Contributions for NYS Retirement are projected to increase modestly for 2026.
4. Salary increases for 2026 will generally be 4% for part-time and full-time town employees. Higher minimum wage rates and persistent inflation continue to drive labor costs higher.
5. There is a 1.4% overall increase in the 2026 fire protection levy for our residents in the town outside the village.
6. Funding for the Newman Riga Library, Senior Citizens of Riga (SCOR), and Riga Cemetery will receive funding for 2026 to help offset their operating costs.
7. The use of private contractors for mowing and cleaning Town offices continue to provide savings to the Town.

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Supervisor's Report (CONTINUES)

8. For the Town outside the Village, 2026 revenues are expected to exceed expenditures, therefore **no taxes** will be placed on either the Townwide Budget or the Town outside the Village budget for 2026.

The Churchville Riga Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a **Small Business Saturday & Winter Walkabout on Saturday, December 6**, in the Village. A parade and caroling will begin at 3:15 PM, with the **Christmas Tree lighting** and a visit from **Santa** to follow immediately after. We hope to see everyone come out and enjoy the festivities and visit our local businesses in the Village!



On behalf of our entire Town Board and Town employees, we want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy 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



★ ★

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 13, 2025

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

★ KEEP MOVING FORWARD ★

★ ★



Curbside Bulk Service—Town of Riga

In addition to your WM regular garbage/recycling service day. WM will collect up to 6 bulk items/week. You must call and be scheduled at least 2 business days in advance of your scheduled bulk service day. Riga's Bulk Service Day is **WEDNESDAY'S**.

What is a bulk Item?

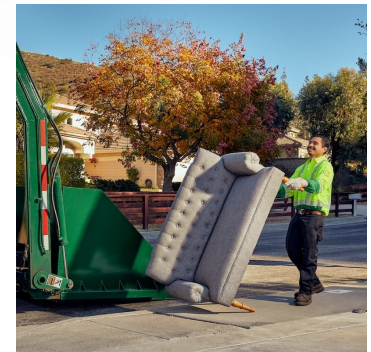
- Bulk items typically include, but are not limited to, the following:
- > Furniture (tables, chairs, dressers, couches/sofas, and cabinets)
 - > Mattresses, bed frames, box springs, grill (no propane tanks)
 - > Plumbing fixtures, wood bundles, carpet, exercise equipment
 - > Other items too large to fit in your car

Bulk Item Collection Guidelines:

- > Carpet must be cut, rolled, and tied in lengths no greater than 4 ft. and weigh no more than 50 lbs.
- > No electronic or hazardous waste
- > No batteries, car parts
- > Appliances with Freon are accepted (fees apply)

How to Schedule Bulk Item Pickups:

- > Must call **1-800-972-4545** from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm, Monday—Friday



Additional Questions? Visit wm.com/support to start a chat with our virtual assistant



RIGA HIGHWAY HAPPENINGS

Now that it is that time of year again, all of us at the Highway Dept would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Holiday Season. The first of the year will soon be approaching and winter will be in full swing. We need to remember when traveling to give ourselves extra time to get to our destinations.

As of now we have installed all of our 5 miles of snow fence to assist us in keeping the roads clear in the many drifting zones through out the Town. This time of year we implement our shift work that will allow us to be staffed or have a dispatcher on duty around the clock. This allows us to monitor road conditions and watch the weather radar. If weather conditions start to deteriorate the dispatcher can call in the proper staff needed for that event. If you notice a condition that needs attention in the town please call the Highway Department office at 293-2530 or the Dispatch phone at 281-3438.

Town and County Roadwork

As we come to the end of 2025, I am happy to report that we have completed all the planned projects that we had set for the year. We took on a lot of extra County work this year to get the roads through our town as safe as possible for the passing motorists. In addition, we have resurfaced the basketball court at our Sanford Road Park and installed the charging station next to the Lodge. The pickleball court at Buffalo Road park was painted and relined.

**END
ROAD WORK**

Winter Snow Plowing

As the winter snow season is upon us rest assured our equipment and personnel are ready to go when the need arises to keep the roads safe and clear for the commuting public. A typical one-time plow/truck run will take approximately 3 hours, depending upon the amount of snow that has fallen, how heavy the snow is, and how we treat the roads. Please be patient. It may seem like the plow never came down the road. It did, but it just takes time. The Highway Department maintains 150 lane miles of road in the winter season. We always start with the highly traveled state roads first then County and Town roads next.



I would like our community to be aware that 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 is often thankless work. Complaints and frustration can be common when snow is frequent. As we monitor how we provide service, listen to residents and our highway employees, we look to make changes for improvement where possible. While our goal is to make sure no one is inconvenienced due to winter weather, it is simply not always possible. Our staff will continue to work diligently to make our roads safe.

Winter Reminders

Just some winter reminders.

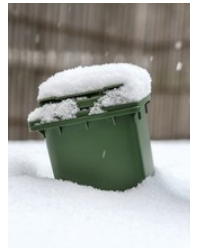
* Please do not plow snow across the roadways. Keep snow on your property and in an area that doesn't obstruct your view or that of other drivers

* 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 is damaged beyond repair by Town snow plowing equipment.



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



If you ever have questions, concerns, or don't 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



A COMMUNITY GATHERS TO CELEBRATE THE NEW CHURCHVILLE VILLAGE HALL

In 1893, the Village of Churchville constructed a new building to serve as both its village hall and the Fire Department's quarters. That summer, excavation began on the long-destroyed site of a building that fell victim to the great fire of 1882. Using only hand tools, workers removed dirt and stone to expose the basement. Local field rocks formed the foundation of the two-story building; lumber was sourced from nearby sawmills and bricks were probably purchased from the McIntosh Road Brick yard.

Although no reason was ever documented for the delay, the project's completion, initially set for September 1893, was not completed until two months later in November. Possibly, the widespread economic disruption of the Panic of 1893, which hampered the availability and delivery of essential goods, and a severe storm that struck western New York causing extensive damage throughout the township just weeks before the scheduled completion were reasons for the delay.

The Progressive Batavia newspaper covered the details of the storm that hit Churchville on Tuesday, August 29th as follows: "The most severe wind and rain-storm that has been seen in this vicinity for a number of years started Monday night about 9 o'clock. The rain came down in torrents and the wind blew a perfect hurricane, blowing down trees, telegraph wires, crops and everything that came in its way. A large tree on J. L. Randall's lawn on Buffalo Street (just east of the new village hall) was blown across the street onto the telegraph wires, breaking of a telegraph pole, all the cross arms and

several of the wires as well as mixing all the wires badly. The tree completely blocked the street. John Kate's and Mr. Crawford, of the village, were hired to chop the tree up and remove it from the street. The top part of the tree was lodged against the wires about twelve feet from the ground, and Mr. Crawford climbed up to chop it away to let it down. In doing this he had to climb up over the wires. While chopping on the limb it broke very unexpectedly and fell to the ground. The wires caught Mr. Crawford and threw him up still higher and he fell back about fifteen feet to the ground. He struck among the limbs and branches. He was carried to his home close by and Dr. Van Horn called. Upon examination it was found that one of the bones of his wrist and two of his ribs were broken, and his right hip badly smashed. Mr. Crawford is 73 years old, and the chances are against his recovery."

Anticipating the Village Hall's late fall completion, the fire department members, longing for warmer weather, decided to commemorate its construction early. For the fourth time in Churchville history, the fire department sponsored what was called a 'Firemen's Inspection and Field Day.' The event was advertised, weeks in advance in the local newspaper as follows: "The firemen's inspection and field day, to be held on the 15th of this month, promises to be something grand. There will be five visiting fire departments represented and at least two bands. There will be a match game of ball between the Spring Creeks (Munford's) and some crack nine of Rochester, also various other games. The grand parade will start at 1 o'clock

sharp." Another article stated: "The firemen are making great preparations for their field day Friday of this week. They expect a large crowd and are making preparations for the same. They will have a large tent erected for dancing in the evening. The tent will be erected near the center of the village."

FIRST ANNUAL FIREMEN'S FIELD DAY

Churchville's inaugural Fireman's Inspection and Field Day unfolded on Friday, September 15th, 1893, with a full day of festivities as chronicled by the Progressive Batavia newspaper as follows: "The firemen's field day held last Friday was a decided success in every particular. The visiting firemen commenced to arrive about 10 a.m.. The Bergen firemen turned out about sixty strong, accompanied by the Bergen cornet band; the Spencerport department turned out thirty-five, accompanied by the Spencerport Board of Trustees, and the Mumford department came about thirty strong, with the Clifton cornet band. Dinner was served at Scott's Hall (Scott's Hall was once located directly across the street from the new village hall and was demolished in 2007) from 12 o'clock until 2, when the parade was formed on North Main Street, with the right resting on Buffalo Street.



The column started promptly at 2:30 p.m., led by the Marshal of the day, G. K. Scott, mounted, followed by the speaker of the day. Rev J. Henderson, the Churchville Board of Trustees and

Continues on Page 5 →



A COMMUNITY GATHERS TO CELEBRATE THE NEW CHURCHVILLE VILLAGE HALL

the Spencerport Board of Trustees, in carriages, the Clifton Correction band, the Spencerport Fire Department and the Mumford Fire Department. The second division was led by the assistant Marshal L. Flint, mounted followed by the Bergen cornet band, the Bergen hose company, the Bergen engine, and engine company. Next came the Churchville fire department, with hook and ladder wagon. The column presented a very fine appearance and was much admired by the large number of people who had gathered to witness it. The line of march covered the principal streets of the city and closed at the new fire department building, where an excellent address of welcome was given by Rev J. Henderson, Pastor of the Presbyterian church. The column was then broken, and the next in order was the foot race between Fred Savage and James

Garrigan, which resulted in a victory for Savage.

A game of ball followed between the Spring Creeks of Mumford and the Hudson's of Rochester, which resulted in a victory of 5 to 6 for the Spring Creeks. Owing to the darkness the game was called after the end of the seventh inning. After supper came the firemen's ball under a large tent located near the center of the village, which was kept up until the small hours of the morning and was well patronized by the visitors. Receipts from the dance are \$62.80. Total receipts from all sources \$165.00 - net to the department \$32.00. Taking it all in, it was a day which will be longed remembered in Churchville. Our firemen deserve great credit for the elegant manner in which they entertained their visitors. They wish to express hearty thanks to the many friends who aided them, especially to the ladies who presided over the refreshments in

the dining hall."

For many years, the firemen's celebrations were a beloved tradition, but a violent thunderstorm in the 1950s devastated the carnival grounds, spelling the end for future Firemen's inspection and field days.

Finally, the new village building was ready for occupancy on Tuesday, November 24, 1893. Local newspapers reported that after a delay of more than two months, the building had been accepted by the Trustees in a party vote, with the firemen moving their engine, hook and ladder truck, and other effects into the new quarters that Tuesday evening.

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



RIGA CEMETERY NEWS

We completed the repair of 7 of our smaller, fallen, and tilting monuments at the Cemetery. Next year we will assess and repair a similar number of monuments.

US flags have been placed next to our Veterans' headstones to honor them on Veteran's Day and at the Wreaths Across America event, scheduled for Saturday, December 13, 2025. All are invited to attend at the Cemetery and to consider contributing to the event.

Our volunteers continue working to keep the cemetery in good shape. Sue Kuter, Ken Kuter, and

Scott Flagler, our Highway Superintendent, have secured fencing and posts to keep the deer from damaging our new arborvitae bushes in front of our bottom soil collection area (see pictures). Sue, Ken, and Bonnie Loser have been watering our flowers and shrubs around the Cemetery, keeping the weeds at bay, and moving the Waste Management totes out to the road.



Thank you to Scott Flagler and his crew for keeping up with the mowing of the cemetery grounds. Others who would like to help keep the cemetery in good shape for their relatives or friends can give me a call. The water at the cemetery has been turned off for the winter.

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





Town/County Tax Bill Collection

The **2026** 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 10th. If first installment is not paid by February 10, total bill plus interest is due.

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

Feb.11-Feb. 29: 2nd installment due with 1 ½% interest to Kimberly Pape, Tax Collector.

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

with 3% interest. Payment is made to Kimberly Pape, Tax Collector.

Apr. 1–Apr. 30: 4th 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.

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

Office hours are 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Wednesday 9:00 to 5:00 pm.



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

Join us at the Harvey C. Noone Post #954 for a fun-filled winter season! Our events are open to the public, so bring friends and family to enjoy the camaraderie and community spirit at our Post.

Buffalo Bills Game Days (Open House): Cheer on the Bills with us! Join our open house watch parties on **Dec 7, Dec 14, Dec 21, and Dec 28**. Enjoy the games, great company, and a welcoming atmosphere.

Trivia Nights: Test your knowledge at our Trivia Nights, held at **7:00 PM on Dec 11, Jan 8, and Feb 12**. Compete for prizes and bragging rights!

Karaoke Nights: Unleash your inner star at Karaoke, starting at

7:00 PM on Dec 12, Jan 9, and Feb 13. Sing your heart out in a fun, supportive setting.

Euchre Tournaments: Love cards? Join our Euchre games at **6:30 PM on Dec 18, Jan 15, and Feb 19**. All skill levels are welcome for a night of friendly competition.

Open House & Happy Hour: Stop by for our Open House and Happy Hour on **Dec 19** from **3:00–7:00 PM**. Enjoy drinks, snacks, and great conversation.

Wreaths Across America: Honor our veterans by joining us on **Dec 13 at 11:00am at Riga Cemetery and at 12:00 PM** for Creekside and St. Vincent Cemeteries. The public is invited to lay wreaths on veterans' graves in a heartfelt tribute.

Army vs. Navy Football Game: On **Dec 13 at 2:30 PM**, watch the Army vs. Navy game with us! Food and drinks available—wear your Army gear (or Navy, if you must!).

We look forward to seeing you at Post #954 for these exciting events!

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.



Phone Notifications Change

By the end of 2025, the system used to send notifications to patrons by phone will be going away.

Please contact the library to add an email or cell number (to receive text notices) to your account or log into your library account to change your settings with this information. Please call if you need assistance.



Gingerbread House Competition

Participate in the 2025 Community Gingerbread House Competition & Community Fund-raiser!

Build and decorate a gingerbread house from scratch or use a kit and be creative with your decorating. Drop off your gingerbread house during library hours beginning December 1-December 6. Houses will be on display for the community to enjoy through December 22. Community members will vote for their favorite house. The *People's Choice* award winners will receive a prize. Entry fee is \$5/house. All funds will go towards the prize for the event and future events like this. A limited number of gingerbread house kits will be available at the library for you to decorate at home and submit for the contest, courtesy of Chili-Paul Wegmans!

Newman Riga Library

An Evening of Wine Education

Join us at 6:00 PM Saturday,

January 17th for an evening learning about wine from local wine expert Marty Zess. This event will take place at Wines by Design, located at 3392 Buffalo Rd, Rochester.

Tickets are \$20/person. Space is limited to 24 participants, so reserve your space quickly. This event is for community members 21+. All proceeds for this event will go to support future community engagement events.



Take Your Child to the Library Day

Saturday, February 7 2026 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! A take and make craft will be available all day.

Preschool Storytime Winter 2026 Session

Join Ms. Jenna for Preschool Storytime, Thursdays at 10:30 a.m., featuring stories, songs, rhymes and FUN! This storytime is geared for children ages 3 to 5 with a caregiver but all ages and families are welcome. Registration is not required but please check newmanrigalibrary.org or the



library's Facebook page for any changes.

Session Dates:

February 5, 12, 19, 26

March 5, 12, 19, 26

Adult Coloring with Brenda – 2nd Tuesday of each month 2:30-4

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.

2025 Holiday Closing Information

The library will be closed: December 24th, 25th, 31st and January 1st.

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



AARP
Tax-Aide™

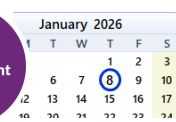
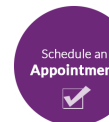
FREE
Tax Help

Town Clerk

Tax-aide volunteers will be available beginning the first week of February on WEDNESDAY'S to help complete your tax forms. You can start calling the Town Hall **January 8th** at 293-3884 ext. 121 or 122 to schedule your appointment.

This help is for all taxpayers with middle and low income; with special attention to those age 60 and older.

Submitted by:
Kimberly Pape,
Town Clerk



Recreation NEWS

As the weather turns colder, our plan is to store our pickleball and volleyball nets and secure our soccer goals for the winter season. We hope to re-open our courts and fields on April 1st, 2026.

Riga Recreation is excited to provide many family-oriented activities in the upcoming months. New for November, we are excited to host the 1st annual "Turkey Bowl" flag football event on the morning of November 26th. We have also expanded our Yoga classes to offer both gentle and chair yoga.

December will provide opportunities to ring in the holidays with caroling, a holiday decorating contest and a concert sponsored by the Churchville-Chili Varsity Vocals. In addition, we will have CYA youth baseball and softball

registration. To keep the kids active, Riga Rec plans to offer a "learn to" series for family fun. Learn to Ski and sledding programs partnering with Northampton Park, bowling at Rose Garden Bowl, basketball and soccer clinics to name a few.

January 2026, we hope to ring in the new year with a focus on personal improvement and activities the entire family can enjoy. New programs like our Winter Wellness Weekend and Examining the 19th Century through dance. Our hope is to host Winterfest 2026 complete with vendors, food, music, youth sports and summer camp registration, mobile gaming truck, a "pond hockey" tournament, chicken BBQ and so much more!

February, we plan to offer classes that lead to certification in babysitting, CPR and First Aid. Personal

growth courses in planning your next amazing vacation and buying or selling your next home with confidence. Winter recess programs at Rose Garden Bowl, Elevation Dance and Bright Raven Gymnastics to keep the winter blues away.

We will continue to offer our monthly cornhole tournaments, cardmaking, scrapbooking, yoga and lodge rentals. Would you like to teach a class, coach a team or just do something new? As always, we would love to hear from you! Riga Recreation website: www.townofriga.com email: rigarec@townofriga.org phone: (585) 293-0979x130 cell: (585) 752-3816.

Submitted By:
Dave Childs,
Recreation
Supervisor



CHURCH NEWS

First Congregational Church of Riga – 7057 Chili Riga Center Rd. 293-2070

Rigachurch7057@gmail.com
Contact@riga_church.org
www.rigachurch.org

Follow on Facebook Riga Church

12/3 Bible Study @6:30 Fellowship Hall

12/5 Women's Ministry 7 pm Fellowship Hall

12/13 Men's Ministry

12/24 Christmas Eve Service 7pm

1/17/2026 Men's Ministry

9am Fellowship Hall

1/27/2026 Women's Ministry 6:30pm Fellowship Hall

2/14/2026

3rd Annual Valentine's Dinner 6pm Fellowship Hall



2/21/2026 Men's Ministry 9am Fellowship Hall

2/24/2026 Women's Ministry 6:30pm Fellowship Hall

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

Drive Thru Harvest Dinner

- Nov. 8th, 4-6pm \$16 Dinner will include roast pork, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, butternut squash,

green beans, rolls & home-made pie.



Holiday Craft Fair

- Friday, Dec. 5th 1-7pm, Sat., Dec. 6th 11-4pm, and Sun., Dec. 7th 11-2pm. Come and find special holiday gifts for your family and friends from many local, talented vendors. Sewing, paintings, decorations, jewelry, baked goods, candy, there will be something for everyone on your holiday gift list.

Christmas Eve Service -

Dec. 24th at 11:00pm - We invite everyone in the

holiday Craft Fair

CHRISTMAS EVE

community to join us for a traditional Christmas Eve service. There is something about the 11:00 hour, candlelight, singing old hymns, sharing Christ's message of love and hope that brings back simpler times. Come alone, or with a group of friends or family. Start a new holiday tradition. We would love to see you there.

Food Pantry Date Change:

Please Note the dates will be adjusted for the Nov. and Dec. holidays. Food distribution will take place on the 3rd Wed., Nov. 19 and Dec. 17th. Distribution will go back to the 4th Wed. in Jan.



Food Pantry



DEC 2025 | JAN 2026 | FEB 2026

RIGA RECREATION PROGRAMS

DECEMBER 2025

- 1) Gentle Yoga w/ Deb – 6:30PM-7:30PM – Town Hall 12/2, 12/9, 12/16, 12/30
- 2) Chair Yoga w/ Deb – 9:30AM-10:30AM – Town Hall 12/5, 12/12, 12/19
- 3) CYA Baseball and Softball registration begins
- 4) Scrapbooking with Anne Saturday Dec 13th 9:00AM-3:00PM Town Hall
- 5) Cornhole Tournament Thursday Dec 18th 6:30PM Maher Lodge
- 6) A Very Varsity Christmas – A Cappella Christmas Carols (CC Varsity Vocals). Saturday Dec 20th 10AM Maher Lodge
- 7) “SECRET SANTA” Holiday Decorating Contest Saturday Dec 20th (evening) PRIZES!
- 8) Learn To Ski & Bowl – TBA
- 9) Holiday singing and Christmas caroling Saturday Dec 20th (evening)

Chair Yoga



JANUARY 2026

- 1) Examining the 19th Century through dance – TBA
- 2) Churchville Soccer Club registration – www.churchvillesoccerclub.com
- 3) Cardmaking with Nancy Thursday Jan 15th TBA
- 4) Cornhole Tournament Thursday Jan 15th 6:30PM Maher Lodge
- 5) Scrapbooking with Anne Saturday Jan 17th 9:00AM-3:00PM Town Hall
- 6) Gentle Yoga w/ Deb – 4:30PM-5:30PM – Town Hall 1/6, 1/20, 1/27
- 7) Chair Yoga w/ Deb – 9:30AM-10:30AM – Town Hall 1/2, 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30
- 8) WINTERFEST 2026 – weekend of January 24-25 – TBA



FEBRUARY 2026

- 1) Babysitting certification class Saturday Feb 7th 9:00AM-till Town Hall
- 2) Gentle Yoga w/ Deb – 4:30PM-5:30PM – Town Hall 2/3, 2/10
- 3) Chair Yoga w/ Deb – 9:30AM-10:30AM – Town Hall 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 2/27
- 4) Cornhole Tournament Thursday Feb 12th 6:30PM Maher Lodge
- 5) Cardmaking with Nancy Thursday Feb 19th
- 6) Scrapbooking with Anne Saturday Feb 21st 9:00AM-3:00PM Town Hall
- 7) Winter break events – Rose Garden Bowl, Elevation Dance and Bright Raven Gymnastics TBA



TAX EXEMPTION

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, 2026.

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)

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 2026 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 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.

Board of Assessment Review

A sincere thank you to William "Bill" Maysick and Bert Maggio for serving the Town of Riga as members of the Board of Assessment Review. Bill served from 2008-2025, and Bert served from 2017-2025.

Both were active participants and decided it was time to move on. We preferred they not go, but wish them the best, and thank them for their service.

We have appointed one new member, Robert "Bob" Ottley, but we are still looking for another new member.

As some of you already know, in 1990 Bob served on the Conservation Board, was elected to the Town Board as a Councilman in 1998 and became Supervisor in 2010. In 2015, he retired from the Town of Riga.

Bob has now decided to serve the Town in another capacity as a Board of Assessment Review

member. We believe with all of his experience with the Town he will be a wonderful asset to the Board of Assessment Review. Welcome Bob!!!

The Board of Assessment Review meets on Grievance Day, the fourth Tuesday in May of each year. The next Grievance Day is May 26, 2026. As with most positions on various boards, training is required. For the Board of Assessment Review, the training takes place approximately midway through the month of April or 1st part of May.

The Town Board authorized a \$60 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). They are also required to take an Oath of Office.

Please submit a 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 you have questions, and we can be of assistance, please give me a call at the town hall at 293-3880 ext. 126 or my assistant Brittany Parker at ext. 137.

Submitted by:
Lori Frongetta, Assessor



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

December

- 13 Wreaths Across America— Riga Cemetery at 11 am & Creekside Cemetery at noon
 15 RED Cross Blood Drive—Town Hall 1-6 pm
 25&26 Town Hall closed for Christmas Holiday

January

- 1 Town Hall closed for New Years Day
 13 RED Cross Blood Drive—Town Hall 1-6 pm

February

- 16 Town Hall closed for Presidents Day
 17 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.

S.C.O.R. News

Isolation is toxic. Conversation and social interaction light up our brains like fireworks. When we talk and socialize, neurons in language, memory, motor and emotion areas in the brain all fire off and interact. Social connection protects the brain better than kale, omega-3's, crossword puzzles, or rigorous exercise. Those things do us good, but much less, way less. So have a good time because every conversation is a workout. A mind in company stays pliant.

The Senior Citizens of Riga-SCOR- will have its **Christmas** sit-down dinner at Red Fedele's Brook House on **December 9**. Doors open at 11:30. This lovely holiday meal in a beautiful setting is a jolly event featuring a charming dessert of decorated Christmas cookies. The cost is \$15. A shout out to Fran DeNormand who loves planning our Christmas party.

On **January 8** SCOR meets back home at the Harvey Noone Legion Hall. We were unable to meet there for October and November related to two different causes. First was the October replacement of the outdoor stairs to the back entrance. Second the Legion's Veterans' Day Dinner November 11th at 11am. Recall "The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" as the wording for announcing the armistice for World War I. Armistice Day of my parents' time is Veterans' Day.

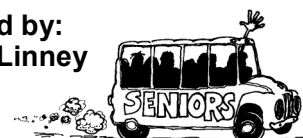
Now in January we get to use the new set of stairs. It looks like they have a wide run, the horizontal part, and a low rise, the vertical. (Why I am thrown back to thinking of high school math with X and Y axes, the run and the rise, the Cartesian Coordinates? But I digress.) For this **Snowman** themed luncheon we will serve Beef on Weck. Members will bring

appropriate sides or lay \$3 on the table instead.

On **February 10** is our **Sweethearts' Ball** at the Legion Hall featuring a spaghetti dinner. Lady and the Tramp's romantic spaghetti and meatballs is our inspiration. A professional dance master and member of SCOR, the excellent Rick Huff will teach us some 19th century social dances. Learn something. You do not have to master it. Every effort has our brain cells firing away making new connections.

SCOR needs someone knowledgeable about computer programs similar to Excel to keep our membership data. Please see Fran DeNormand.

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, December 15th, 2025
Tuesday, January 13th, 2026
Tuesday, February 17th, 2026**

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