

# Village of Richmond Newsletter



### Special points of interest:

- Christmas of Yesteryear event is held December 5th & 6th
- Village Hall will be closed on Nov. 26, Dec. 25 & Jan. 1
- Next Water /Sewer Billing Cycle is late January
- Citizens police academy starts March 9, 2010

## President's Letter

One of Richmond's greatest assets are the residents who volunteer to make our community a better place. Individuals for example, who sit on committees and boards, maintain our village gardens and place labels on mailings have made volunteerism the backbone of our Village. The residents who volunteer work tirelessly and ask for nothing in return but the satisfaction of knowing they have given something back to the place they reside. Volunteerism is one of the unique aspects of this village that makes it what it is today. There are so many aspects of volunteering. Volunteering is a way to meet neighbors and make new friends. It can help you develop leadership skills and expand your awareness of social issues. For students and young adults, volunteering

provides an avenue to explore potential careers, build a resume, gain experience and learn how to interact with people.

With so many talented and skilled people in our Village, I am asking you to consider devoting some time to making our community the best it can be. Your time commitment could be short or long term, your entire family could work together on a project, that is up to you. Working together, we can accomplish a great deal. The success of this Village rests on the shoulders of each one of us. If every resident offered a little of their time, think of all that we could achieve!

As always, I encourage residents to attend Village board meetings. Village Board meet-

ings are held every first and third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

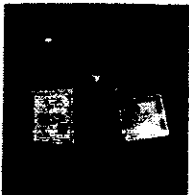
At each meeting there is always time for residents to speak to the Board on any issue or concern they may have. If it is not possible for residents to attend board meetings, they can contact the Village Hall at 815-678-4040 to make an personal appointment with me.

I believe it is important for all of us to concentrate on the economic stability of our village. We all need to support our local businesses whenever possible. Our future as a viable community depends, in part, on a thriving local business district.

Yours Truly,

*Lucas Olson*

## In Appreciation



Officer Dominick Bellino was honored at the full village board meeting on October 2nd,

2009 for his quick actions in saving the life of a Richmond resident Craig Deering.

Mr. Deering experienced a potentially fatal heart rhythm at Skoopers Ice Cream shop while

attending a bicycle safety scouting event presented by the police department. Officer Bellino administered CPR along with Officer Ciro Ce-trangolo. Mr. Deering was very grateful for the life saving actions of the officers and Skoopers proprietor Carolyn Janus who initially responded and called 911.

Ms. Janus, was honored with a Distinguished Citizens Award

and Officers Bellino and Ce-trangolo were honored with Distinguished Duty Awards by Police Chief Fryksdale. Officer Bellino also received a Life Saving Award from Fire Chief Rick Gallas.



Richmond Garden Club was recognized for their efforts in beautifying Richmond. Their fundraising efforts provided

funds that purchased flowers for the planters along Rt.12 downtown and the Rt. 12 bridge.

Gin Miller, Ken & Carol Runyard and Ginene Nagel were recognized for their efforts with the Village-wide Gardening Program. They planted and maintained 10 planters, 3 large flower beds on Broadway, Bennett Park, Gazebo Park and 5 municipal parking lot flower beds.



## Fall Leaf Pickup

Veolia has contracted with the village to provide leaf pickup. Have your leaves piled at the roadside by 8am on your scheduled date.

- October 26 East side of Rt. 12
- November 2 West side of Rt. 12
- November 9 East side of Rt. 12
- November 16 West side of Rt. 12

### Thank You Very Much

*A special thank you to the members of the Citizens Police Academy for their assistance directing traffic at the Cruise Night Events.*

## Adopt A Flower Garden Program

New for 2010 is the village "Adopt a Flower Garden Program" which is part of our ongoing community beautification efforts. In 2009, a small group of 6 volunteers planted and maintained 10 potted planters, 3 large parkway flower beds on Broadway, flower beds at Bennett Park, Stevens Gazebo Park, and 5 municipal parking lot flower beds.

They are actively searching for volunteer gardeners consisting of individuals, groups and or organizations that design, plant and care for the gardens throughout the growing season. Their hope is to add plantings and maintain the 4 welcome signs and the 2 Village Hall flower beds. For information please call Village Hall.

## Village Board Actions

Ordinances enacted:

- 2009-1, The change to the Municipal Code, Chapter 1, § 1.06, *Debts to the Village* to require full payment of any monies owed to the village prior to permits, licenses, or other approval issuance.
- 2009-3, The establishment of the Richmond Zoning Commission for the purpose of preparing a report and new zoning regulations for the Richmond Unified Development Ordinance.
- 2009-4, Amending a Conditional Use Permit (Ordinance 2008-3) to Operate a Business Selling Alcohol and Food for consumption at Olive Black Martini Bar, to include an outdoor patio.
- 2009-5, Amending Ordinance 2006-26, to extend the deadline for construction and operation of a Self-Storage Facility at 11317 Burlington Road from December 31, 2011 to December 31, 2014.
- 2009-6, Approving a Unified Development Ordinance to update development regulations and repeal the following Municipal Code Chapters: Zoning Regulations (ch. 33), Land Subdivisions (ch. 32), Sign Regulations (ch. 29), and Exterior Lighting Standards (ch. 17).
- 2009-7, Amending the *PLAN COMMISSION* Chapter 31 § 31.00(a) membership, appointment, and term of office.
- 2009-8, Establishing Prevailing Wages as required by the state for contracted labor
- 2009-9, Establishing a Wastewater Debt Service Surcharge of \$15.00 per quarter.

## 2010 Census

The United States Census Bureau does a complete count of the entire population every ten years. The Census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution. It requires a headcount every ten years of everyone residing in all fifty states.

The 2010 Census forms will be mailed to each resident in March of 2010. It is very important that the Census be

accurate. Please cooperate with the Census employees in Richmond to help make Richmond Village count.

The Census data directly affects where more than \$400 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to municipalities for neighborhood improvements, new roads, public health services, education funding and services for the elderly.

# United States Census 2010

Federal Law protects the personal information you share during the Census. Census workers are required to wear identification when in the field. If someone approaches your home and cannot provide identification or is suspicious, call 9-1-1 immediately.

## Garbage and Recycling

The Village of Richmond is contracted with Veolia Environmental Services. Garbage is picked up on Fridays and recycling is scheduled to be picked up every other Friday. The schedule is posted on our website which is [www.richmond-il.com](http://www.richmond-il.com). If you should have any questions, please contact Village Hall.

## Yard Waste Drop Off

During the 2009 growing season, over 320 cubic yards of grass, leaves and other yard waste were received at the drop-off site behind Village Hall. Use of the drop-off program has increased by about 50% in each of the last two years. While curbside pick-up using paper bags is still available, more and more residents like the option of not buying bags and getting rid of their yard waste immediately. When using the drop-off site, please remember that plastic bags, lumber, rocks and other garbage are not accepted. Be sure to chop large branches to 6 foot lengths.

## Police Chief Corner



Now that our brief summer has concluded and school is back in session, we ask that all motorists exercise caution in and around our school zones. With winter around the corner and daylight savings upon us, darkness falls earlier and our roadways will become slick with rain, ice and snow. Please keep cognizant of weather and early darkness while driving.

With early darkness, the de-

partment encourages the use of timers on lights and televisions or radios to make your home appear occupied. Bring in newspapers and packages, shovel snow and make your home appear lived in.

Crime is often an "opportunity" and thieves target homes that appear dark and unkempt. Of course lock your doors and if you are vacationing please let us know.

The Richmond Police Department will conduct a FREE crime prevention survey of your home or business and offer you tips on how to address crime prevention.

## Wise Water Users

Ever wonder how many gallons of water you used on your garden, or how much your teenager just used on one of those "long" showers?

Well, now you can find out quickly using a Meter Monitor available through the Village! The Meter Monitor is a battery operated device slightly larger than a deck of cards that can magnetically mount on your refrigerator. It works in similar fashion to your cars trip odometer and can be set for a specific period of time or an event to track the amount of water you've used.

The Village is now in the second year of a

three year program to update meter reading throughout the Village which provides enhanced remote reading. One of the benefits of the new update is the Meter Monitor device capability. It is a great tool to help you monitor and reduce water use in your household. The Village has "loaner" units available at no charge for up to a 14 day period or you can purchase a Monitor, at cost, for \$96 from the Village.

Interested? Please call ahead, at 815-678-4040, to check availability and set a programming appointment.

## Citizens Police Academy

**Our next academy will be March 9<sup>th</sup> through April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 on Tuesdays 6:30PM-8:30PM**

Applications are available on the village website and at the police department, this class is starting to fill and I suggest you get an application in as soon as possible.

Our Richmond Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association has grown and I am very proud of each member who has participated in our various events, such as Cruise Nights, logging over 300+ hours of volunteer time this year alone. They also assisted with the Richmond Days Parade and festival, the Trail of History at Glacial Park as well as attending training sessions by various guest speakers.



## 3rd Annual Clark Griswold House Decorating Contest

**Show us your stuff residents....We are giving you permission to Go wild, Go crazy, Go Traditional, but Light 'em Up!**

Get out all of those strings of Christmas lights and go light up your home.

Challenge last year's winner, be as creative as you want and remember ...What Would Clark Griswold Do?

Winners will receive Gift Certificate from Van's Supermarket:

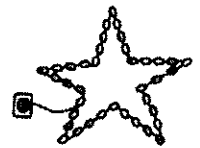
1st Place: \$150 Gift Certificate

2nd Place: \$100 Gift Certificate

3rd Place: \$50 Gift Certificate

Sign up is Easy and Free

For info call Skoopers at 678-4124



## Breakfast With Santa

Join Santa and his helpers for a special Pancake Breakfast in Memorial Hall

Sunday December 6th

Sponsored by the Richmond Fire Department

Only \$5.00 per person

## Christmas of Yesteryear: December 5-6, 2009

### Santa Claus is coming to town...

Get into the holiday spirit and join us for a weekend downtown. Each day in Memorial Hall, enjoy a fresh bake good from the Lion's Club bake sale, Crafts for the kids and don't forget to hand Santa & his elves your wish list.

Take a stroll through the local

shops and help solve the "Hidden Treasures of Christmas" game to win a prize. Throughout the weekend enjoy a ride on a wagon around town with your family and stop by the Community Church Bazaar and luncheon on Broadway.

Your children can write a letter to Santa and drop it off at the North

Pole Express Mailbox in front of Skoopers on Main St.

Annual tree lighting ceremony will start at 4pm on Saturday. Santa will be arriving in an antique fire truck and the fire department will place the star while carolers sing Christmas carols. At 5pm watch a performance by Miss Katie's dance Studio in Memorial Hall.

## Water Main Breaks

If you notice a large amount of standing water (more than can be accounted for by thawing snow) or water bubbling up from the ground, there is a good chance you have located a water main break. Generally, water mains are on the same side as are hydrants. As the ground freezes and thaws, the potential for a pipe to break increases. The sooner these breaks are reported, the sooner the Department of Public Works can repair them.

The Department of Public Works maintains a crew to respond to emergency situations 24 hours a day. If you suspect a water main break, please notify the Village immediately at (815) 678-4040.



## Clearing Winter Roads

This winter season is already shaping up to have a higher than normal amount of snow and ice. Last year cities across the Midwest, including Richmond, saw a jump in the price of road salt from \$45 a ton to \$145 a ton. To compensate, we mixed 50/50 sand and salt for snow and ice control on the roads. The combination proved to work well and as an added benefit, it contributed less salt to our nearby lakes and streams. While this season's salt prices are half of last years price, we will continue to mix our salt with sand in an effort to keep costs down.

You may also notice a new medium size black and white plow truck around town. This truck replaces the larger 1984 International in an effort to "right size" the vehicle to residential roads. The truck was purchased used at one third the cost of an exact replacement of the old International. With four wheel drive and a more accurate salt spreader, we are confident that the new truck will be very effective.

Snow control operations typically begin after two inches of snow or at the beginning of icing conditions. During overnight snow events, the crew will hit the streets around 3AM in order to have the roads cleared by 6AM. If you see icy patches or other problems please do not hesitate to contact the Village Hall.

## Newsletter Showcase: Not-For-Profits

### THE KIWANIS CLUB OF RICHMOND-SPRING GROVE

Since 2002, the club holds the goal of doing works of compassion, service, and charity for children in need in the Richmond and Spring Grove communities, and around the world. The 16 members undertake a variety of philanthropic endeavors focusing on Public Action to Deliver Shelter, Home of the Sparrow (a battered women's shelter), and the Community Food Pantry. A sponsorship at Thelen Park provided a scoreboard and other amenities for area youth. Past support impacted Camp Monarch, ConKerr (an ongoing work supplying pillowcases for children), and food drives.

### RICHMOND-SPRING GROVE ROTARY CLUB

In its 57th year, the 20-member coalition searches for ways to volunteer with projects including Big Brothers/Big Sisters, conferring six annual \$1,000 scholarships to high school students for college or technical vocations, assist grade school children (dictionaries were given to all area 3rd-graders), work with Rotary International on its Polio Eradication program, and support local food pantries. Thelen Park was gifted with a 30'x 40' playground, landscaping, and signage. Fundraisers and elbow grease mark their ethic to meet a community need anywhere.

### RICHMOND LIONS CLUB

Since 1975, the 24 members keep a motto: "We are a small club, but a very busy club." Buying hearing aids and glasses for school children, helping fund the Lions Of Illinois for medical research, and offering tools for literacy education are a few projects. Visibility at intersections on "Candy Day," where a 60/40 split of proceeds is made between national/local, dinners and breakfasts, and school candy bars sales efforts are a few fundraising arms dedicated to a specific project. They provide a \$1,500 scholarship to an R-B senior for college, donate to the local fire and rescue departments, and numerous local charities.

### ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

The church hosts Public Action to Deliver, Thursdays from Oct.1-Apr.30, in its Miller Hall, and sponsor the St. Vincent De Paul Society (an on-call interactive service for immediate needs) as a networking tool. Its "Youth Group" generates activities that are fun and beneficial to the community, the Altar and Rosary Society is the parish women's group helping with local charities, and chairs the Columbus Council #8366 (Knights of Columbus) for charitable works.

### RICHMOND GARDEN CLUB

Started in 1952, the 15-member group raises funds for the beautification of the historic downtown area, local schools, and the library district. Scholarships are given annually to high school students, along with donations to the Community Food Pantry, and at year's end, donates Christmas trees and wreaths to the schools. They supply spring flowers to residents of the town's senior citizen housing complex, and host a 2010 Spring Floral Design Show. Their volunteer efforts with colorful flower bed planters were rewarded with a "Certificate of Appreciation" by the Village Board of Richmond in October 2009.

### INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS BEN HUR LODGE #870

A fraternal organization originated in 18th century England, its charter's purpose is giving aid to those in need and pursuing projects that benefit mankind. The Richmond Lodge hosts a pancake breakfast (first Sunday each month) with proceeds going to the Community Food Pantry, youth programs offering scholarships for students, and the "Life's Choice" mentoring program for teens that supplies guidance with a listening ear, and overseeing community service positions in lieu of criminal records for young offenders. They have coordinated the annual Richmond Days festivities for two years.

## Richmond's Community Food Pantry: A Model of Service

It has been more than 19 years, since Ken and Char Kania began their involvement with Richmond's Community Food Pantry. Through times of lean supplies and fruitful bounty, they have witnessed firsthand what it means to be of service to those in need while maintaining a singular purpose.

"We simply wanted to do something for the community," said Char Kania, the pantry's director. "Just in the last three months, we've seen an increase in people needing assistance, due to job-related layoffs, home foreclosures, and the poor economy, in general."

The pantry currently provides supplies to 91 families, from the holdings kept in the basement of the Memorial Hall building. The Village of Richmond owns the structure, but donated the downstairs storage spaces and intake office to the pantry in 1993, following the construction of its new Village Hall and municipal offices.

"I'm down here every Monday to check and make sure the refrigerator supplies are good, check the five freezers with perishable goods, and make sure everything is safe and running properly," said Ken Kania. "I'm happy to stay behind the scenes, stocking shelves, sorting items, checking for expiration dates, and such."

**"We simply wanted to do something for the community."** Char Kania

Families requesting assistance, from the surrounding areas of Richmond and Spring Grove, complete an application after furnishing a referral letter from a church or the Mc Henry Health Department, and compile a list of essential items for their nutritional needs, as if shopping in a store.

However, the thought of asking for charity also carries an implied onus of embar-

assment, which the Kania's try to dissuade. "The majority of the pantry users are hard-working folks, who are suffering hard times, and it's difficult for them to even approach a food service like this," Char said. "A lot of families fall through the cracks because they're embarrassed. One can't be judgmental, as a person's given situation may be more difficult than another, as with terminally ill children."

There are unique life-affirming success stories from the pantry's annals including 130 children setting off for classes with donations of new school-packs last September, the families receiving winter clothing and food baskets for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

"About three years ago, we helped a young lady...she had three small children, held three jobs, and put herself through nursing school," said Char. "She called us to give an update, and was doing fine...with her first paycheck, she sent a donation."



Despite the tide of unfortunate circumstances, the Kania's stand in the breach and proffer support accompanied by kind words that are firmly rooted in a conviction: their efforts are entirely on a volunteer basis.

"It's truly remarkable, and they're greatly under-appreciated...you wonder who will carry the torch when they're gone," said Tom Van Daele, owner of Van's Supermarket. "We've been donating to the pantry, when we can, for about four years, to help our community. What the Kania's do exemplifies the best of what a person can be, and we're very lucky they're part of the town's fabric."

Contributions from local businesses and organizations encompass the sole means of

inventory accumulation, and sustenance for the pantry. In addition to Van's Supermarket, Thelen Sand and Gravel, and Scot Forge, along with numerous civic groups, try to come forward, as they can.

The Richmond Oddfellows Lodge 870 prepares a breakfast buffet, on the first Sunday of each month, to collect canned goods and funds for the pantry. The St. Joseph's Catholic Church Youth Group takes part in food collection drives for the same reason.



"We have schools and churches that give their time to help stock shelves, and Nancy Dittmar, who volunteers to shop and make direct client contacts," said Char. "But this is the closest that we have come to closing that we've ever been. The hard end of this is the children."

The impact of a failing economy has been counter-productive to the combined work and focus of these groups, who offer when possible. The prospect of closing the doors of the pantry has emerged as a palpable and potential reality.

"We don't have the cash to stock the shelves, and because of the economy, some families that once donated are now clients," said Ken.

Volunteering entails the use of one's skills and time to make a difference regarding a cause, or situation, and applies that virtue of caring through action. A reason for volunteering has now become an opportunity, as the result of the food pantry's dilemma. This can be your opportunity---to volunteer and benefit others, as only you can.

The Richmond Community Food Pantry  
P.O. Box 78  
Richmond, Illinois 60071

To Start Volunteering Is Easy.....Just Ask

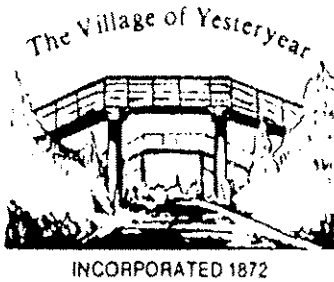
# Village of Richmond

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Richmond, Illinois  
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## Village Officials

### President

Lauri Olson

### Trustees

Dennis Bardy  
Charlotte Hollenbach  
Jeanne Doyle  
David Kielpinski  
Peter Koenig  
Karla Thomas

### Village Administrator

Tim Savage

### Village Clerk

Vanessa Everett

### Police Chief

John Fryksdale



## Useful Phone Numbers

|                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Richmond Village Hall         | 815-678-4040 |
| Commonwealth Edison           | 800-334-7661 |
| Richmond Police Dept.         | 815-678-2351 |
| J.U.L.I.E. (before you dig)   | 800-892-0123 |
| Richmond Food Pantry          | 815-678-4351 |
| Charter Communications        | 800-581-0081 |
| Richmond Post Office          | 815-678-3951 |
| County Animal Control         | 815-334-4470 |
| Richmond Grade School         | 815-678-4717 |
| Nippersink Middle School      | 815-678-7129 |
| NICOR                         | 888-642-6748 |
| Richmond Burton High School   | 815-678-4525 |
| Nippersink Library            | 815-678-4014 |
| Richmond Fire District        | 815-678-3672 |
| Drivers License Services      | 815-333-3109 |
| Richmond/Spring Grove Chamber | 815-678-7742 |
| McHenry County College        | 815-455-3700 |
| Richmond Township             | 815-678-0077 |
| Veolia Garbage Service        | 800-248-2373 |
| Verizon Telephone Service     | 800-483-4000 |
| Wonderwave Wireless Internet  | 815-653-7873 |