



Richmond Community Alliance
Encouraging constructive community engagement and action

NEWSLETTER

No. 24 November 17, 2024

Editor's Note: At Richmond Community Alliance's first post-election meeting on November 14, Mark Reynolds resigned as Chair. Jim Palmisciano and Dan Madnick resigned from the Steering Committee. Jeff Noble was named the new Chair of RCA, Joyce Flanagan will remain Treasurer and Jaime Marland will remain on the Steering Committee.

Peaks

2024 Election Recap

All of the Richmond candidates endorsed by RCA won election to their offices. Endorsed candidates Samantha Wilcox, Mark Reynolds, Jim Palmiscano and Dan Madnick were elected to Town Council. They will be joined by Jeffrey Dinsmore. Jessica Purcell and Karen Reynolds were both re-elected as Richmond members of the Chariho School Committee.

Megan Cotter was re-elected as Richmond's representative in the General Assembly (District 39). She won in Richmond and overall in the district.

Town Council TOWN OF RICHMOND

5 to elect

Candidate	Total votes	Pct
DEM Samantha R. Wilcox (DEM)	2533	12.6%
DEM Mark T. Reynolds (DEM)	2240	11.1%
DEM James Palmisciano (DEM)	2228	11.1%
DEM Daniel E. Madnick (DEM)	2045	10.2%
REP Jeffrey L. Dinsmore (REP)	1989	9.9%
REP Michael A. Colasante (REP)	1910	9.5%
REP Nell Carpenter (REP)	1877	9.3%
REP Roger St. Onge (REP)	1787	8.9%
Ind Mark H. Trimmer (Ind)	1766	8.8%
REP Thomas J. Marron (REP)	1735	8.6%
Write-in	28	0.1%

Chariho School Committee Town of Richmond

2 to elect

Candidate	Total votes	Pct
DEM Jessica M. Purcell (DEM)	2344	26.8%
DEM Karen J. Reynolds (DEM)	2159	24.7%
REP Louise D. Dinsmore (REP)	2132	24.4%
REP Clay Johnson (REP)	2113	24.1%
Write-in	7	0.1%

Valleys

2024 Election Recap

Steve Moffit, candidate for RI State Senate (District 34), ran a good campaign but unfortunately came up short. Elaine Morgan was re-elected.

Michael Colasante finished 79 votes behind Jeffrey Dinsmore for the fifth and final seat on the Town Council, but still requested a recount of ballots. Because the difference was more than 50 votes, the Board of Elections ruled that he was only eligible for a re-read of the memory devices from the voting machines. After the re-read on Friday, November 15, there was no change in the vote totals, so Dinsmore was elected as the fifth member of the Town Council. Interestingly in July, after the filing deadline had passed, Colasante successfully urged the Richmond Board of Canvassers to add Dinsmore to the slate of Republican candidates for Town Council. It's unclear why he would now try to displace Dinsmore from being on the Town Council and ignore the will of the voters.

Other Items of Note

\$15 Million School Bond Passes

Voters approved a \$15 million bond to finance improvements, furnishings, repairs, landscaping and equipment replacements at the Chariho Regional School District's Switch Road Campus. The anticipated major projects are a new roof for Chariho Tech, enclosing breezeways at the high school, replacing middle school skylights, middle school HVAC, campus electrical and energy management update, and emergency generator needs. These bonds will not be issued unless the District is awarded State aid at a reimbursement rate of at least 61% of debt service for those expenditures that are eligible for reimbursement. The actual reimbursement rate is expected to be at least 65%. Chariho estimates that construction and renovations will begin in 2024 and will be completed in approximately 2029.

Upcoming Meetings

November 18 – Planning Board – 6:30 pm at Town Hall

November 19 – Town Council – 6 pm at Town Hall

November 19 – School Committee – 7 pm at Chariho High School Library

December 3 – Town Council 6 pm at Town Hall, includes swearing in of Town Council and School Committee members

December 10 – Planning Board – 6:30 pm at Town Hall

December 17 – Town Council - 6 pm at Town Hall

Town Council and Planning Board agendas: <https://clerkshq.com/richmond-ri>

School Committee agendas: https://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/school_committee/meeting_schedule

Community Calendar

November 23 – Racers for RICAN Toy Drive – 10am-1pm, 805 Alton Carolina Rd (Route 91 & 112). Fill a racecar with unopened toys, meet the drivers, and get autographs! Also accepting non-perishable food items and new clothing.

December 6 – Tree Lighting at Town Hall – 5 pm

It's the most wonderful time of the year! This year's annual town tree lighting will include a special visit from Santa (come ready for photos and bring your letters for his mailbox!). There will be performances by the CHS and Richmond Elementary School choruses and Simply Enchanted, along with arts and crafts stations and wares from many local businesses and organizations. Attendees can enjoy food trucks and hot chocolate (Alaina's Guac 'n Roll, Haven Brothers, La Guaguita Del Sabor, Iggy's, NY System, Rise and Grind) at picnic tables and around fire pits. Chariho FFA will be selling wreaths and the Scouts will be selling popcorn. The community is invited to bring toy donations for Matthew's Wish and canned food donations for RICAN. Anyone who donates canned food will be entered to win a special holiday wreath. The evening will include a gingerbread contest, where three winners will receive local gift cards, and the Richmond Historical Society will decorate and open the Bell School House for the evening. There will be fun for all ages!

December 7 – Hope Valley Wyoming Fire Dept Bazaar – 10am-3pm, 996 Main Street Hope Valley.

Future Ideas

We would like to spotlight local businesses, people, and points of interest in our area in future newsletters. If you have an idea for a person/place to feature, or an event to include on the community calendar, feel free to email us at rca4richmond@gmail.com. We also welcome any tips or items of concern that you wish to bring to our attention.