



**Richmond Community Alliance**  
Encouraging constructive community engagement and action

## **NEWSLETTER**

No. 19 June 23, 2024

### **Peaks**

#### ***Successful Summer Solstice Cookout Fundraiser***

Thanks to our supporters, we did it – we filled the tent! Last Thursday, June 20, Richmond Community Alliance hosted our first formal fundraiser at Alaina's Ale House. Interest in our organization has been growing, and we had nearly 60 members of the community come together for a fun evening of barbeque and good conversation. Guests included State Representative Megan Cotter, Town Council members Richard Nassaney and Samantha Wilcox, School Committee members Jessica Purcell and Karen Reynolds, and Richmond Democratic Town Committee Chair Chris Kona.



The evening raised over \$2,500. RCA will use the funds to support our efforts to share information with voters on issues and candidates during the upcoming November election cycle. As dinner wound down, RCA President Mark Reynolds shared more about our values and our mission to work together for a better Richmond through positive community engagement and action. He also underscored the importance of reliable information about and support for local Town Council and School Committee candidates as the election approaches. Attendees chatted with RCA steering committee members, sharing thoughts verbally and via table cards about what they feel is important when considering candidates for the upcoming election.

The evening closed out with a drawing for raffle baskets brimming with local treats and treasures donated by our steering committee members, and a memorable dessert auction conducted by Jeff Noble, which was a hoot and hit!

Anyone who couldn't make it can still support our cause by donating at:  
<https://donorbox.org/the-richmond-community-alliance>. Thank you!

### ***Town Council Meeting Quick Takes – June 18***

1. The Planning Board and Affordable Housing Committee have created a survey to obtain opinions about residential housing needs in Richmond. There was discussion concerning how to get the word out about the survey. Concerns were raised regarding reaching people who may not see the survey information on the Town website or through social media. The idea of including information on how to access the survey as an insert in tax bills received favorable feedback from councilors and the Town Administrator. Click to complete the [Housing Needs Survey](#). Read more about the survey below.
2. Bid of Graphics Unlimited of Putnam, CT for the electronic portion of the new Town Hall sign was accepted (\$15,386). The static sign and granite pillars have been ordered at a cost of \$3,600, per prior bid award. The Town Council has allocated \$25,000 in ARPA funds for the project.
3. Council approved temporarily hiring Philip Brodeur, Jr. as a full-time police dispatcher until October 31, 2024 to fill a temporary vacancy resulting from the deployment of a full-time dispatcher.
4. Council approved obtaining three benches in memory of Dick Millar ([obituary](#)), Pat DeBernardo ([obituary](#)) and Neil Place ([obituary](#)) for their service to Richmond. In 2021 the Town Council approved planting trees at Town Hall in memory of these long standing pillars of the town who all passed away in the spring of 2021. Because the trees had not been planted, Councilor Nassaney brought the issue back to the current council for approval of benches in their memory. There was discussion of having them made by students at Chariho Tech or through an Eagle Scout project.

### **Other Items of Note**

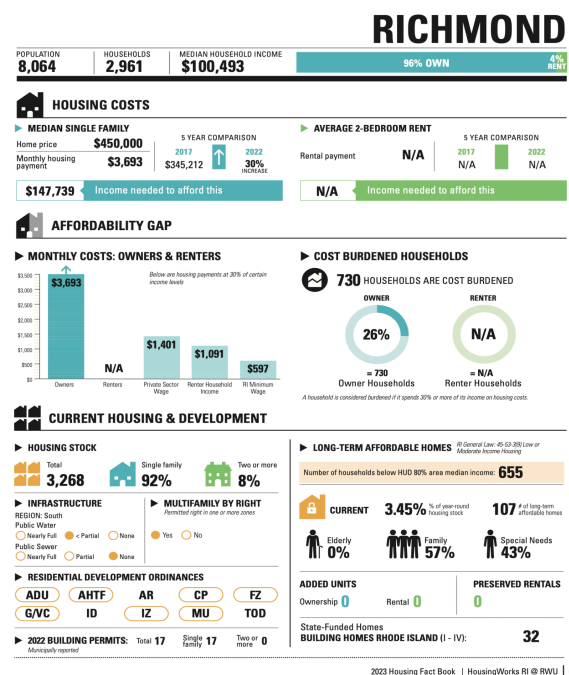
#### ***Richmond Housing Needs Survey***

*By Dan Madnick, Planning Board Vice Chair*

The Town of Richmond is conducting a housing needs survey to obtain public opinion about residential development throughout the community. The purpose of the survey is to provide a clearer understanding of housing needs throughout the community, which may influence future policy decisions. This could include changes to the town zoning ordinances and the

Comprehensive Community Plan. The survey is open to residents and non-residents. The impetus of the survey is to determine the type and variety of housing that is most needed in Richmond, which may or may not include low-to-moderate income affordable housing. To be clear, this is not just an affordable housing survey, and encompasses all housing needs within Richmond, including rental units. According to the HousingWorksRI Factbook 2023, Richmond has less than 5% of housing units available to renters and 92% of all homes in Richmond are single family.

Richmond is an ideal location for people to live for several reasons. Being along multiple major thoroughfares such as Routes 95 and 138 makes it convenient to Providence, Quonset Point, and Southeastern CT. These areas are currently experiencing significant growth and job opportunities. In order to support a vibrant economy and fill job openings, there must be enough available housing for workers. Richmond continues to be a community that draws people in due to the robust school system, rural character, and access to local beaches. Determining the housing needs of Richmond is a priority for the Planning Board and Affordable Housing Committee so that each can assist the Town Council in setting policy that will help achieve the town's housing goals. It is also important to obtain input from nonresidents who may have interest in choosing our community to call home, as those people are more likely to be searching for housing within our community. Additionally, our seniors may also be considering more affordable housing which will open opportunities for others seeking homes in Richmond. Click to complete the [Housing Needs Survey](#)



### ***Election Season Officially begins***

Next week those who want to run for office must file their declaration paperwork with the Town Clerk between Monday and Wednesday (June 24-26). Candidates will then need to collect the required number of signatures of Richmond registered voters between July 2 and July 12 to qualify to be on the election ballot. The Richmond Democratic Town Committee is having a signature collection event on Saturday, July 6 from 9am to noon at Nana Jules parking lot, 320 Kingstown Road (Route 138). If either party has more than five candidates for Town Council or more than two candidates for School Committee, there will be a primary on September 10, 2024. Election Day is November 5, 2024, and early voting begins on October 16, 2024.

Once it is known, after July 12, who has qualified for the election ballot, RCA will announce its candidate endorsements. RCA will continue to provide information on candidates and important issues throughout the summer and fall. We are also collecting information concerning residents who would be willing to host candidate campaign yard signs [click to sign up](#). Your information will be provided to candidates and they will contact you to ask if you would host their sign.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

July 2 – Town Council Meeting – 6 pm at Town Hall

July 9 – Planning Board Meeting – 6:30 pm at Town Hall

July 16 – School Committee – 7 pm at Chariho High School Library

July 16 – Town Council Meeting – 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](https://www.chariho.k12.ri.us/school_committee/meeting_schedule)

### **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](mailto:rca4richmond@gmail.com). We also welcome any tips or items of concern that you wish to bring to our attention.