



The GAZETTE

The official newsletter produced by the Town of Starksboro

FEBRUARY 2016

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TOWN MEETING NEWS	p 1-2
SELECTBOARD NEWS	p 2
HOMESTEAD DECLARATON	p 2
RABIES CLINIC, March 19	p 3
HUNTER SAFETY	p 3
WORSHIP SERVICES	p 3
BONEBUILDERS CLASSES <i>Tues & Thurs at 8:30 am</i>	p 4
TAI CHI CLASSES <i>Thursdays at 9:30 am</i>	p 4
TWEEN SCENE	p 4
FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM SCHOOLHOUSE	p 4
LIBRARY NEWS	p 5
ADVERTISEMENTS	p 6
CONTACT / INFO PAGE	p 7

TOWN MEETING NEWS

TOWN MEETING will be held on **Saturday, February 27th** at 9:00 a.m. at the **Robinson Elementary School**. The Town and Robinson School budgets, plus other Articles included on the Warning, are discussed and voted on here. You must be in attendance to vote on these Articles. *This year a specific time of 11:00 am will be set for the School District Meeting.*

AUSTRALIAN BALLOT VOTING will be held on **March 1, 2016** at the Robinson Elementary School. Polls are open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. We vote on the Hannaford Career Center budget, Town and School District Officers, and the Mt. Abe budget on this day. There will also be a ballot for the **Presidential Primary** as well. Voters may also vote by Absentee Ballot if they are not able to get to the polls.

VOTE TABULATOR: Starksboro now has their first ever vote tabulator. Voters can expect to see this on March 1st. We will be using the tabulator for the Presidential Primary ballot only. This will give us a good trial run before the Primary & General Elections in August & November. Any ballot being fed into the tabulator **MUST NOT BE FOLDED!** Ballots need to be flat so that it gets sorted into the correct

bin. There will be signage in all the voting booths, etc. so that everyone knows how to do this.

ABSENTEE BALLOT VOTING: Voters who wish to vote absentee can request a ballot up until February 29th. Ballots can be mailed, picked up at the office, or the voter can vote right at the office. Also, for those voters who are in need of assistance, a couple of Justices can bring the ballots to your home and assist you. Ballots should be available by February 10th.

VOTER REGISTRATIONS: The last day to register to vote in time for Town Meeting is Wednesday, February 24, 2016, by 5:00 p.m. Registration forms can be picked up at the office or mailed to you. Or, you can register online at the online voter registration page: <http://olvr.sec.state.vt.us>.

SELECT BOARD NEWS

Town Meeting Articles

Land Sale: The Select Board has been in discussions with Kerry Kurt, the owner of the Horse and Rebel Farm, about selling about 14 acres of land from the Town gravel pit to the farm. This is a portion of the land Starksboro acquired over 20 years ago from the Vermont Land Trust along with the Cota Recreation Field, land along Lewis Creek, the gravel pit and Fire House the Colton property was dissolved. The plot considered for sale is surrounded on three sides by the farm and is subject to restrictions imposed by the sale/purchase agreement the Town made with the Land Trust when acquiring the property. Development rights were conserved as part of the agreement and if the Town chooses to sell a portion of it, it can be sold only to the owners of the farm. The available gravel has been extracted and the land reclaimed.

The Select Board has received a petition requesting that the proposed sale be put to a vote, so it will be warned as such for Town Meeting.

Select Board composition: There will also be a warned article asking the voters of Starksboro whether the Select Board should be enlarged to five members. If voted affirmatively, this would go into effect the following year.

FILING HOMESTEAD DECLARATION HS 122: The State of Vermont web site is currently unavailable for filing your Homestead Declaration HS 122 online. From the message it seems that the new programming will be in place in February some time. The deadline for filing your Homestead is still April 15. If you file for an extension on your Federal Income Tax remember, there is no extension on the Homestead Declaration. The penalty from the State is very high, so please do not make this mistake. If you have NO INCOME you still need to file your homestead declaration and the HS 144 income statement for the State. Please call Celine 453-2639 if you have any questions, or need help filing your paperwork.

RABIES CLINIC: March 19, 2016 – Starksboro Town Office – 9:00 am to 11:00 am. \$15 per animal – Dogs & Cats welcome – Bring most current rabies certificate for a 3 year expiration date, otherwise it will be only good for 1 year. Dr. Randy Ross, Vet

HUNTER SAFETY CLASS: The office gets lots of calls from folks looking for a Hunter Safety Class. The Bristol Rec Department sponsors one each year. This year the dates are 4/4, 6, 9, 11 & 13. The instructor is Fred Schroeder. This takes place at Holley Hall in Bristol from 6 – 9 pm. You must be at least 10 years old. To register, go to: <http://www.registered.com/events/view/64883>. Min/Max: 10/30

WORSHIP SERVICES

The FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF STARKSBORO:

www.Starksborobaptistchurch.org

The First Baptist Church of Starksboro, 2806 VT Route 116. Church phone 453.5577. Pastor Larry Detweiler, 802.434.6715 (home), 802.989.2679 (cell) or revdets@gmail.com.

Sunday Schedule:

- 10:00 a.m. Chat, Chew and Renew, adult bible study and fellowship group meets
- 11:00 a.m. Sunday's Cool youth bible study and fellowship group meets (grades K-6)
- 11:00 a.m. Worship service with communion on 1st Sunday of every month
- 2:30 p.m. Share-on, community food distribution

Starksboro Senior Meal, served at 11:30 monthly on the 4th Thursday, January-October. Meal held in the Community Room of the Church, 2806 VT 116. Donations to defray costs are gladly accepted. Senior meal information and contact Brenda Boutin, 453-6354 or mtgazette@earthlink.net

Youth ministries information and contact Roberta McKinney, Kidsrme7316@gmail.com, 802.922.1766.

JERUSALEM GATHERING: a congregation in the Episcopal tradition that has services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 9:30 am. We meet in the Jerusalem Schoolhouse, 397 Jerusalem Rd, in South Starksboro. Everyone is welcome. Contact: Vickie Backus - 434-6488.

SOUTH STARKSBORO FRIENDS MEETING: Singing every Sunday at 9 am, meeting for worship at 9:30 am at the Meeting House located at 430 Dan Sargent Rd. Call 453-4927 for details.

Bonebuilders Exercise Classes: Every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30 am at the Jerusalem Schoolhouse in South Starksboro. This class is to help prevent osteoporosis. Questions? Call Susan at 453-5537.

Tai Chi Class: Every Thursday at 9:30 am at the Jerusalem Schoolhouse. This class is for those that already know Tai Chi for Arthritis 1 & 2. Questions? Call Vera at 453-3597.

TWEEN SCENE: "Tween Scene is the thing that brings them together for fun & games & lots of laughter. Once you have attended these 2nd Friday of the school calendar months you won't miss one hereafter. From 6 pm-9 pm, 5th graders, 6th graders & 7th graders on thru, Will find themselves at SFBC, knowing they're safe, there's food and it's the best youth To-Do!"

See you Friday, February 12th...think chocolate!
contact Roberta: kidsrme7316@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM SCHOOLHOUSE: Not too much happening at the schoolhouse this month...although Bonebuilders is continuing on every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30am. All are welcome to join us for this great exercise program! Please keep in mind (if you are thinking of coming) that there is no water at the schoolhouse for the next few months which means no bathroom facilities...but we do have heat!

Our Schoolhouse memory this month is from Suzanne Orvis..."One of the many memories of my years at Jerusalem School (1961-1968) is how a typical day of school began. Neighbors and friends, Kathy, Maxine and Terry Farr would pick me up on their way to accompany them on the 1/2 mile walk to the Jerusalem School. We would be carrying our tin lunch boxes and my dog, Sport, would join us on the walk. Once at school and settled into our desks, Mrs. Wyman would lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the Lord's Prayer. After, she would turn on her small portable record player (she called it the Victrola) and play God Bless America and we would all sing along. I can still hear how the record would crackle as it played. No woofers or tweeters in those days! After, we would spend a few minutes discussing "current events", which didn't mean much to the kids in the lower grade, but I do remember the 7th and 8th graders participating in the discussion. As I look back, I believe Mrs. Wyman was probably very informed in the politics of the day. I also remember her occasionally using a ruler to slap fingers as a last resort for poor behavior by students. A lessor and more common punishment would be not being allowed to go outside for recess. It was effective as we all loved playing outside and no one wanted to be stuck inside with the teacher. At the end of the day, Sport would be waiting outside the schoolhouse to walk back home with me and the Farr kids. The walk home would give us the opportunity to eat or dispose of anything left in our lunchboxes as our mothers expected us to eat all that they had prepared for us for the day."

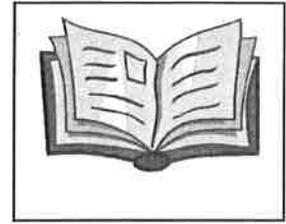
Thank you Suzanne for sharing these memories with us...Suzanne has lived in many places over the years but she always has felt that South Starksboro/Jerusalem is "home". If anyone that attended the Jerusalem Schoolhouse during their elementary years has a memory they would like to share, please contact Nancy Orvis at 453-4573.

Starksboro Public Library

Monthly News for February 2016

Hours: Mon. 10-6, Thurs. 10-5, Sat. 9-1

Catherine Goldsmith, Librarian, 453-3732 - starksboropl@comcast.net



The Library will be OPEN Monday, February 15th even though it is President's Day.

The "Other" Mount Meru and Mount Kilimanjaro: High Hopes in Tanzania by Cecilia Elwert **Thursday, February 11**

Join Cecilia as she takes you through her nineteen day trek to 15,000-foot Mount Meru, second highest mountain in Tanzania, and the warm up trek to 19,340-foot Mount Kilimanjaro- yes, glaciers on the roof of Africa! While her focus will be on the two peaks, she will take side safari trips to Ngorongoro Crater and Tarangire National Parks and highlight time among the locals: planting trees on property soon to host housing for retired porters, trekking with a rifle ranger in Arusha National park, singing and hiking with school children, and learning much about Tanzania from their outstanding guide, Yusuf.

Book Group: Wednesday, February 17th, 7pm

This month the book group will read and discuss "Nine parts of desire; the world of Islamic women" by Geraldine Brooks (her first book). Having spent six years covering the Middle East for the Wall Street Journal, Brooks presents an exploration of the daily life of Muslim women and the often contradictory forces that shape their lives. We have several of Brooks' other books in the library collection.

New books in the library! Among the Ten Thousand Things, *Pierpont, Julia*; Are You My Mother?, *Bechdel, Alison*; Avenue of Mysteries, *Irving, John*; Dear Mr. You, *Parker, Mary-Louise*; Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Old School, *Kinney, Jeff*; Haunted Season: A Max Tudor Mystery, *Malliet, G. M.*; Knight of the Seven Kingdoms, *Martin, George R. R.*; Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter ;Secret Chord, *Brooks, Geraldine*; *Star Wars: Absolutely Everything You Need to know*; Tricky Twenty-Two, *Evanovich, Janet*. More requests? Let us know!

Preschool Story Time: alternates between Monday and Thursday, depending on the week and following the school schedule. Any children and their adults are very welcome to join in our singing, dancing and reading fun time. This month, join us on **Monday, February 1st and Thursdays, February 11th and 25th at 11am.**

Knit/Fiber Arts meets this month on **Saturdays, February 13th and 27th at 10:00 a.m.** Enjoy visiting with others as you work on your projects: knitting, quilting, rug-hooking, cross-stitch, etc

CARD EXPIRED! YIKES! Don't panic. Your card is not really expiring. If you see this message, just let us know so we can make sure we have current contact information for you.

RSVP Bone Builders: **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-6:30** at the library. Friendly group! All ages. Prevents and Reverses Osteoporosis • Improves Balance • Enhances Energy and Well-Being!

ADVERTISEMENTS

Dennis Casey

Firewood for Sale – 373-4403 or 453-4054

Snowplowing available – 373-4403 or 355-0085

**Think beautiful and Vermont different gifts; handmade locally.
Now available at Art on Main, 25 Main St, Bristol**

Jude Bryant – Pottery

Ellen Spring – Scarves, unusual children's tees, felted pins

Cynthia Kling – Prints & cards of Starksboro and Little
People Ornaments

Also by appointment or when open at our studios.

The GAZETTE is published monthly and mailed to all Starksboro residents. Articles and advertisements must be submitted by the 15th of each month to the Town Clerk. If the 15th falls on Fri, Sat, or Sun, than it is due the following Monday by noon.

COMMUNITY EMAIL GROUP: WWW.FRONTPORCHFORUM.COM
TOWN WEBSITE: www.starksborovt.org

TOWN OFFICE: 453-2639

Open Mon – Thu 8:30 – 4:30

Town Clerk: Cheryl Estey starksboro@madriver.com

Treasurer: Celine Coon starksborotowntreasurer@gmavt.net

Zoning Administrator: Dave Wetmore starksborozoning@gmavt.net
(office hours - Mon & Wed 9-4; Thu 1:00 – 4:30)

Del. Tax Collector: Amy McCormick-Tues & Wed @ 453-2639
starksborotaxes@gmail.com

SELECT BOARD

Meetings 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 5:30 at Town Office.

Please call at least one week in advance to get on the agenda.

Susan Jefferies – 453-3611

Peter Marsh – 453-3478

Mathew Norris – 453-3273

SCHOOL BOARD

3rd Wednesday at 5:30 pm at Robinson Library.

Louis DuPont – 453-5538

Nancy Cornell – 453-2681

Caleb Elder – 434-4805

Mt. Abe: Meetings 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 at Mt. Abe Library.

Bonita Bedard – 453-4305

Jodi Bachand – 434-5336

Supervisory Board – Nancy Cornell, Louis Dupont, Caleb Elder

LIBRARY: 453-3732

Open Mon 10-6; Thurs 10-5, Sat 9-1

Library Board meetings 2nd Monday @ 7 pm at Library

STARSBORO VILLAGE WATER COOPERATIVE: 453-5200

Meetings 3rd Wed. of March, June, Sept, and Dec at 7:30 pm
at the Starksboro Public Library

REPRESENTATIVES

Fred Baser – 453-4391

David Sharpe – 453-2754 / dsharpe@leg.state.vt.us

NEW POST OFFICE HOURS:

Mon – Fri 7:30 – 11:30; 12:30 – 2:30

Closed each day 11:30 – 12:30

Saturday – 7:30 – 11:00

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:

Wayne Marcelle – 233-9534

CONSTABLES:

2nd Constable – George Wyckoff – 989-4538

FIRE WARDENS: Please call ahead for burn permits

Tom Estey – 453-4511 or Tony Porter – 989-5096

PLANNING COMMISSION: 453-4054

Meetings 1st and 3rd Thursdays at the Town Office

Development Review Board meetings 2nd & 4th Thursdays

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: Matt Witten (434-3236 or

mwitten@gmavt.net) or Jan McCleery (453-3755 or

mccleery@norwich.edu). Meetings: 4th Monday @ 7 pm at the
Starksboro Public Library

HEALTH OFFICER: Peter Ryersbach – 453-3597

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR: Charlene Phelps

453-3461

RECYCLING: 1ST & 3RD Saturdays from 8-11 am at Town Garage,

1686 VT Route 116. Trash fees: \$4.50/bag. Recycling fees by quantity.

HUB TEEN CENTER & SKATEPARK:

www.bristolskatepark.com

Ryan Krushenick – 453-3678 / thehub@gmavt.net

SENATORS

Claire Ayer – 545-2142 / cayer@leg.state.vt.us

Chris Bray – 453-3444 / cbray@leg.state.vt.us

Food Shelf Hours: 10:30 am – 6:00 pm every Wednesday,
(except the first Wednesday of each month).



The Scoop

Produced by the School Board to help keep
Starksboro residents informed of news
relating to Robinson Elementary School

February 2016

Robinson School Proposed Budget for 2016-2017

In This Issue:

- Budget** pg 1
- Facility** pg 2
- Meetings** pg 2

At the December 16, 2015 Robinson School Board Meeting, Interim Superintendent Armando Vilaseca and Principal Edorah Frazer presented a preliminary draft budget for fiscal year 2016-2017. At the time of this writing (mid-January, 2016), it appears that, at Starksboro's Town Meeting (Saturday February 27, 2016), we will be proposing a budget to the voters that is somewhat less than the current year. Our goal is to present a proposed budget that enables us to meet the needs of Robinson students and to stay under the Allowable Growth cap imposed by Act 46. This will be a challenge, since health insurance costs are projected to increase by 7.9%. At this time, we are not anticipating any decreases or increases in Robinson staff. Please note that, while it is clear that the legislature is likely to make some changes to the Allowable Growth provisions of Act 46, it does not appear that these changes will be finalized before we are required to warn a budget figure for Town Meeting.

By the time you receive this February issue of *The Scoop*, the Robinson Board will have finalized the proposed budget at its regular board meeting on January 20, 2016. If you have questions about the budget, please plan to attend our February 24th Board meeting (please note this change of date from our usual third Wednesday) and/or attend Town Meeting. Please also feel free to call or email Louis duPont, Nancy Cornell, or Caleb Elder with any questions that you may have. At our February 24th meeting, and also at Town Meeting, we will be providing more detailed information about ways the proposed budget supports student learning, and about the tax impact of the budget. A full copy of the proposed budget for Robinson, and for the Addison Northeast Supervisory Union, will be available in the Starksboro Town Report.

Special thanks to Edorah Frazer, Armando Vilaseca, Assistant Superintendent Catrina DiNapoli, Business Manager Howard Mansfield, Special Education Director Susan Bruhl, and all the folks in the ANESU business office, for their help in developing a proposed FY '17 Robinson budget designed to provide Starksboro citizens with an excellent return on their investment.

School Board Members	
Chair	
Louis duPont	453-5538
Vice Chair	
Nancy Cornell	453-2681
Clerk	
Caleb Elder	434-4805

Robinson Principal	
Edorah Frazer	453-2949
Interim Superintendent	
Armando Vilaseca	453-3657
Scoop Editor	
Karen Wheeler	453-6943



Robinson School Facility Update

Despite many hours of volunteer work this past summer, the school building still has rotten or compromised siding and trim in a number of places. ANESU Facilities Director Alden Harwood has a contractor lined up to work on repairing exterior siding and trim during the April vacation week. Principal Edorah Frazer asked specifically to accomplish as much of the work as possible while school is out of session. The Board is hopeful that, after the repair work is accomplished this spring, a painting contractor can be engaged to work on the areas most in need of recoating.

At our January and February meetings we will also be developing a plan to replace the roof over the multi purpose room. Thanks to some assistance from interested townspeople, we have some additional bids to consider on top of one solicited by Alden. All of these bids are for a standing seam roof. As our current budget will not accommodate the entire cost for this work, we are looking at all available options.



Robinson School Board

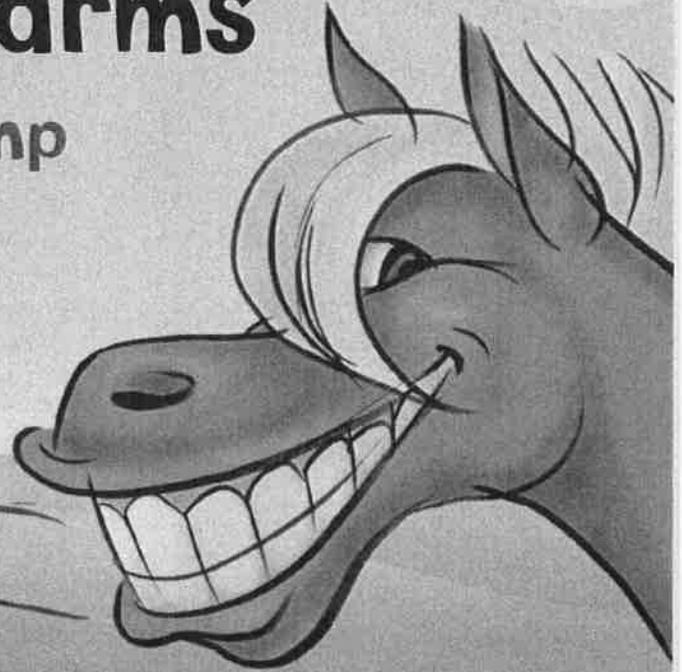
Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, February 24, 2016 ~ 5:30 PM - School Board Meeting @ Robinson Library

Saturday, February 27, 2016 ~ 9:00 AM - Annual School & Town Meetings @ Robinson Multi-Purpose Room

Unbound Grace at Sentinel Farms

Winter Vacation Camp
Unplugged
February 15th-19th



Work with horses
Hikes
Art Projects
Learn to Identify animal tracks
Games
Baking
Sledding (if there is snow)

8am to 3pm M-F Early drop off and late pick up available

\$250 for the week or \$60 per day
Healthy lunch and snacks provided

4118 VT Route 116, Starksboro, VT 05487



Scholarships available
unboundgrace.org

SENTINEL FARMS

Grass-Fed Beef
Grass Finished
Red Angus/Hereford Beef

Riding Academy
Unbound
Grace

Eat sentinel farms' beef to your heart's content!

(802) 377-1066
Kerry@UnboundGrace.Org Starksboro, Vermont

Contact Kerry Kurt RN, MDiv
(802) 377-1066