



The GAZETTE



The official newsletter produced by the Town of Starksboro

DECEMBER 2016

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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STARKSBORO MEETING HOUSE CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The annual Starksboro Village Meeting House Christmas Candlelight service will be held on Thursday, December 22, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. Rev. John Burbank leads the program of lessons and carols. The sanctuary is lit by many candles and the 1884 mirrored oil lamp chandelier. This non-denominational service has been held for at least 50 years and is a Christmas tradition for many area residents.

The Meeting House was built in 1838-40 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Special Christmas cookies, other treats, and hot cider will be served after the program. Everyone is welcome. Please join us.

The Meeting House is located in the center of Starksboro Village on VT Route 116, just north of the Town offices. Parking is available to the rear in the town center parking area or at the First Baptist Church, where the memory tree program begins at 7:00 pm.

TOWN MEETING INFORMATION:

It's time to think about Town Meeting again. Town Meeting will be on Sat, March 4th at 9:00 am at the Robinson Elementary School. The following dates are upcoming deadlines for filing petitions.

Jan 19 – Last day to file petitions signed by 5% of the registered voters for Articles to be included on the Warning for Town Meeting.

Jan 26 – Warning will be posted by now

Jan 30 – Last day to file nominating petitions for Town Offices, with 14 signatures required. All signatures must be on the voter checklist.

If your organization is requesting appropriation from the town, please submit to the Selectboard no later than December 20th. Along with your letter of request, please include a one page report for the town report. Email to starksboro@madriver.com.

HOLIDAY PROJECT: Contributions are now being collected for the Annual Holiday Project, which helps ensure that children have a nice Christmas. Families are selected through the school system. Donations may be made to "Holiday Project" P.O. Box 91, Starksboro, Vermont 05487.

WORSHIP SERVICES

The FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF STARKSBORO:

www.Starksborobaptistchurch.org

The First Baptist Church of Starksboro, 2806 VT Route 116., P.O. Box 12, Pastor Larry Detweiler – 802-989-2679 (cell) or revdets@gmail.com. Church phone 453-5577, (pastor home) 802-434-6715.

Sunday Morning Schedule:

10:00 a.m. Chat, Chew and Renew adult small group bible study and fellowship
11:00 a.m. Worship weekly with communion on 1st Sunday of every month
2:30 p.m. Share-on, a community food re-distribution program

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

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.

"FOOD FOR ALL - SHARE ON..."

Greetings Starksboro friends and neighbors,

Join us each Sunday for our community food (re)-distribution program we call Share On. The program is held at the Starksboro First Baptist Church – the doors open at 2:30 PM. Come "shop" for free fresh organic produce, dairy, meat, and bread. Trader Joe's and the gardens of New Community Project are our main contributors. The amount and variety of food items change weekly. Please join the many local families that benefit from this blessing. For more information contact Pete: pantosketcham@newcommunityproject.org.

Zoning Corner:

Town Plan amendment/update process

The planning process to update the Town Plan has begun. As discussed at many of the recent meetings hosted by the Selectboard, Starksboro's Town Plan expired in October. The information gathering process will take place over the next several months. During that time residents will be asked to help assess existing conditions and develop a clear vision of where and what the community wants to maintain, evolve and transform. The Planning Commission has outlined a strategy to accomplish this work with the goal of having a draft prepared for fall 2017. The 2016/17 Town budget anticipated updates to the Town Plan by including funds to support this effort. Additionally, Starksboro submitted a "Municipal Planning Grant" to help facilitate this work. This was completed and submitted on October 31st. The following steps identify the Board's plan of work.

1. **Assess existing conditions-** Encourage citizen participation and engage community organizations to review, analyze and assess Starksboro's existing conditions, current regulations and policies.
 - a. Assess the existing Plans accuracy and relevance to Starksboro today. Examine what we know and what we need to know about our community.
 - b. Review and update of the existing Plans content regarding land use and community character including history, population, housing, economic development, education, community utilities, facilities and services, recreational opportunities, transportation system, energy, natural resources.
2. **Developing a shared balanced vision-** After a thorough examination of Starksboro's existing conditions, the Planning Commission anticipates using a community survey and other information to develop a shared balanced vision for Starksboro's future.
3. **Identify community goals and objectives-** Using specific topic related working groups made up of interested citizens and Town officials, the goal will be to;
 - a. Review and assess the 2011 Plans existing goals, objectives and policies as they relate to the shared community vision.
 - b. Develop new goals and objectives that will seek to outline a path to achieve the shared community vision.
 - c. Identify priority actions that the community will focus on over the next few years.
4. **Assemble draft Plan-** Review and prepare for adoption process

Vermont Law requires public participation and the Planning Commission recognizes that developing a Town Plan is a process, not an event. Starksboro citizens are asked to participate in the updates to the Town Plan by;

1. Review and offer comments on the existing 2011Town Plan. The Plan is available on the Towns website (starksborovt.org) under "documents" or contact the Town and we will get you a copy. Residents are invited to submit written comments or attend Planning Commission meetings. Meetings are always open to the public and are held on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM.
2. Participate in the Town wide survey in January or February and/or any other community assessment or event that is focused on the Plans update. The information gathered will guide and direct the Commissions remaining efforts. The survey will be distributed in the Gazette, available around Town and possibly on the website. Residents will be reminded of the survey on Front Porch Forum and via the Towns website.
3. Please consider volunteering to participate on a working group. Based on the information gathered from residents and other sources, the Planning Commission anticipates that the working groups, community organizations, staff and consultant will assist the Commission to draft the updates to the Plan.

This is your opportunity to express your thoughts and vision for Starksboro's future, but you must participate to do that. If you have questions, please contact one of the Planning Commission members or Dave Wetmore at the Town Office. Thank-you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

Dennis Casey, Chair
Jeff Keeney

Norm Cota
Kelly Norris

Dan Harris
Dan Nugent

Hugh Johnson

FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM SCHOOLHOUSE:

Many THANKS to everyone that supported the Annual Hunter/Early Bird Breakfasts at the schoolhouse in November. ALL PROCEEDS HAVE GONE INTO THE RENOVATION FUND FOR THE SCHOOLHOUSE.....THANK YOU ALL FOR THE CONTINUED SUPPORT.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-A-LONG PARTY: Sunday, December 18, 2016....2:00-4:00pm. Come and have fun visiting with neighbors, eating holiday goodies and singing carols. SANTA will arrive at 2:45 pm so be sure to bring your kids and grandkids in time for his arrival! Open to all...join us at the Jerusalem Schoolhouse for some holiday cheer! Questions? Call 453-4573

MORE SCHOOLHOUSE MEMORIES: Betty Stokes Norris shared a whole bunch of memories she has of growing up in South Starksboro and attending the Jerusalem Schoolhouse. Enjoy!

Both Betty and her mother started their life during the month of February on the Stokes Farm on Route 17 a ways up from where the Jerusalem Store is now. Betty's mother was born on Feb. 13th and Betty was a leap year baby -- born on Feb. 29, 1932. They were even born in the very same bed!

Betty began school in the fall of 1940 when she was 8 years old. Prior to that, her parents and grandparents wouldn't let her attend...they said her legs were too short to walk through all the snow in winter! Some mornings she was fortunate enough to catch a ride on Russell Young's milk wagon. If she timed it right, she could jump on and wiggle between the warm milk cans. She remembers that it was important to get to school on time. The school day was from 9:00am until 4:00pm.

Back then, when she was a little girl, the schoolhouse seemed like a big place to Betty...years later she wonders why it seems so much smaller!

Her first grade teacher was Susan Gedman. In 2nd grade she had a male teacher for part of the year and when she started 3rd grade Agnes Orvis began teaching. She remembers that Mrs. Orvis moved her to the 4th grade right away because she knew Betty could do the work...guess she was one smart cookie! Mrs. Orvis was the only other teacher at the JSH while Betty was there (through 8th grade).

Like all kids, Betty loved recess. They played a game called "Anti I Over" where there were 2 teams of 3-4 kids. One team would stand on each side of the old shed. Taking turns, they would throw a ball up and over the shed -- the other team would try to catch it. She said the rules are a little fuzzy having not played it for many years! A favorite winter game was Fox & Geese. Betty recalls that the boys rarely chose her to be on their team. They would choose even the skinniest, scrawniest boys before they would choose her.

Betty remembers that about when she was in 4th grade, Zita Heffernan started cooking lunch at school for the students. Kids would bring food from home to help with the meals.

Betty sometimes peeled potatoes and carrots at home and would bring them to school with her, being mindful to not let them freeze during the cold winter months! Mrs. Heffernan always said she couldn't smell very well...so the students or teacher would have to let her know if they smelled something burning!

Thank you, Betty, for sharing all these memories. Be sure to check out the January 2017 Gazette to read more of Betty's remembrances.

Starksboro Public Library
Monthly News for December

Hours: Mon. 10-6, Thurs. 10-5, Sat. 9-2; open during school vacation.
Catherine Goldsmith, Librarian -- 453-3732 -- starksboropl@comcast.net

The Library will be closed on Christmas Eve day, Saturday, December 24, 2016
but open on New Years Eve, December 31.

Annual Artisan Fair at the Library! Saturday, December 10, 10:00-2. The Artisan Craft Fair will showcase over a dozen talented members of our community with an amazing array of handcrafted one-of-a-kind items. Hand-painted silk scarves, pottery, quilts, art prints, ornaments, note cards, hand-crafted soap, jewelry, calendars, herbal products, homemade dog treats, books - and more! Find the perfect gift for someone on your list or discover accessories to brighten your home or wardrobe. Delicious soups, warm beverages, cookies, and other treats will also be on sale. A portion of the craft sales and 100% of food sales will benefit the Starksboro Public Library.

Family Art Workshop Saturday, December 17, 10:30-12:00

Families are invited to gather at the Starksboro Library for a winter read aloud and family art making and seasonal goodies. We will make several varieties of tree ornaments – by “upcycling” and reusing old CDs and DVDs. We’ll have materials available for all ages to have fun creating together.

Just some of the new materials in the library:

Books: *Fancy Nancy at the Museum* and *Fancy Nancy; Pajama Day* by Jane O’Connor; *The Marriage of Opposites* by Alice Hoffman (author of *The Dovekeepers*), *Apprentice in Death* by J.D. Robb, *Two by Two* by Nicholas Sparks, “*Moon Bear*” by Bill Lewis (YA), and *Like Pickle Juice on a Cookie* by Julie Sternberg. Featured book: *The Breaks of the Game* by David Halberstam – called the “*best sports book ever*”.

Audio Books on CD: *Butter did it: A Gastronomic Tale of Love and Murder* by Phyllis Richman, *Sag Harbor* by Wallace Stegner, and *Secrets of Midwives* by Sally Hepworth.

Book Group: Wednesday, December 28 at 7pm.

***Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande.** This acclaimed physician/author takes on the topic of quality of life at the end-of-life and how the medical profession could do better. Join us for a thoughtful discussion just in time for the new year.

Preschool Story Time: alternates between Monday and Thursday, depending on the week. Any children and their adults are very welcome to join in our singing, dancing and reading fun time. This month, join us on **Mondays, December 5** and **Thursdays, December 1 and 15** at 11am.

Knit/Fiber Arts meets this month on **Saturday, December 3rd at 10:00 a.m.** Enjoy visiting with others as you work on your holiday projects: knitting, quilting, rug-hooking, cross-stitch, etc. There is usually an experienced knitter in residence to answer questions or offer advice.

RSVP Bone Builders: **Every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30-6:30** at the library. Enjoy this supportive group while you keep your bones strong and healthy at any age. We have all the equipment you need and trained leaders. Start anytime, the group is ongoing and SO encouraging!

STARSBORO MEMORY TREE ILLUMINATION CEREMONY

Annually a Memory Tree illumination ceremony is held at 7 pm on the eve of the winter solstice, December 22nd. The Memory Tree program celebrates, and honors our community's residents and their loved ones. The illumination ceremony includes music, reading of honorees names and the lighting of the trees on the front lawn of the First Baptist church at 2806 VT Route 116.

The suggested minimum donation per light bulb for an honoree is \$3.00. Larger donations are welcomed as all proceeds benefit the Starksboro Volunteer Fire Department.

Please use the format provided to submit the name(s) of individual(s) whom you wish to remember or honor by purchasing a bulb for the memory trees in their name. Return your completed form and donation to the Starksboro Town Office by Thursday, December 22nd or bring the form with you to the free meal and tree lighting ceremony. The name of each individual being honored and remembered will be read aloud.

A free meal of soup, bread and cheese will be served from 5:45-6:45 p.m. in the community room of the church prior to the tree lighting ceremony. All are welcome.

2016 MEMORY TREE

A BENEFIT FOR THE
STARSBORO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Contributor's Name: (print) _____
PRINT below the names of individual(s) you wish to remember and honor

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Total enclosed \$ _____ Suggested minimum donation per honoree is \$3.00. Make checks payable to the **Starksboro Volunteer Fire Department**. Donations are tax deductible.

Return donations to:
Memory Tree
% Starksboro Town Office
P.O. Box 91
Starksboro, VT 05487

For information call
Town Clerk,
Cheryl Estey
802.453.2639

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**. **Anything not received by the 15th will not be included in the Gazette.**

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

(Hours - Mon & Wed 9-4; Thu 1:30 – 4:30)

Del. Tax Collector: Amy McCormick-Tues & Thurs @ 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

Tony Porter – 989-5096

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 @ 4:30 pm at 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

Saturday – 7:30 – 11:00

Closed each day 11:30 – 12:30

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:

Heather Ragsdale – 453-6485

CONSTABLES:

1st Constable – George Wyckoff – 732-598-5824

FIRE WARDENS: Please call ahead for burn permits.

Tom Estey-453-4511, 453-2319, or Tony Porter-989-5096

PLANNING COMMISSION:

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 new Town Garage,

3904 Vt Route 116. Trash fees: \$4.50/bag. Recycling – by donation

HUB TEEN CENTER & SKATEPARK:

www.bristolskatepark.com

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

STARSBORO VILLAGE WATER COOPERATIVE: 453-5200

Meetings: 3rd Wed of March, June, Sept and Dec at 7:30 pm

at the Starksboro Public Library

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 on the 2nd & 3rd Wednesdays.
For the winter months the Food Shelf will be closed when the schools are closed.



The Scoop

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

December 2016

SCHOOL DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION

In This Issue:

Act 46—Next Steps *pg 1*

Budget Planning *pg 2*

The Act 46 school district consolidation proposal passed in all five ANESU towns. The voting tallies were as follows:

Starksboro	430 yes	408 no
Bristol	1105 yes	550 no
Lincoln	391 yes	357 no
Monkton	785 yes	355 no
New Haven	668 yes	338 no

The next step is the Town Clerks will certify the vote and the Secretary of Education and Secretary of State will legally form the new unified supervisory district.

Our existing local boards, (for Robinson Elementary School, and for Bristol, Lincoln, Monkton, and Beeman Elementary schools, as well as Mt. Abraham Union Middle & High School), will continue to operate with full authority until July 1, 2018. The newly elected 13-member Unified Union board, will begin meeting in January 2017 and will assume full authority on July 1, 2018. That board will consist of 2 members from Starksboro (Caleb Elder and Jodi Bachand); 2 members from Lincoln (Rebecca Otey and Barry Olson) , 2 members from Monkton (Jennifer Stanley and Dawn Griswold); 2 members from New Haven (Sara LaPerle and Andrew Morton); and 5 members from Bristol (Krista Siringo, Allison Sturtevant with 3 additional members to be determined).

With the passage of this school district consolidation, it is vitally important for residents of the five towns who care about our schools to step up and engage with the new unified board, beginning when it first convenes. The bottom line is that we all care about quality PreK-12 education in our communities. Our continued involvement with our schools is absolutely essential to the success and effectiveness of our schools and our communities.

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

Superintendent

Patrick Reen 453-3657

Scoop Editor

Evelyn Bushey 453-2949

The Scoop

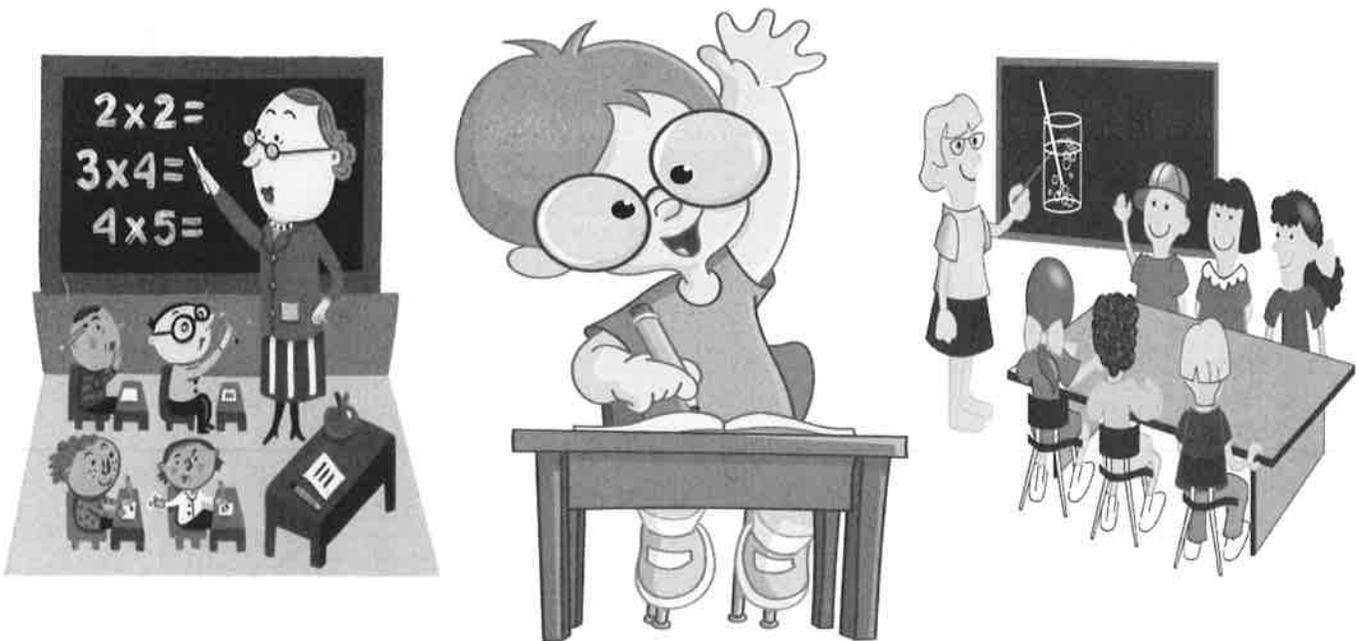
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Planning for the 2017-2018 Robinson School Budget

Please make note of the following upcoming opportunities to get information and provide input as we develop the Robinson School Budget for the 2017-2018 school year:

- ◆ Community Forum on 2017-2018 Budget Development. Wednesday, December 7, at 6:00PM at Bristol Elementary School. This is an opportunity for boards and community members to come together to hear from principals and central office staff about our elementary and middle/high school budgets. It will also be an opportunity for boards to hear from community members as they begin their work of developing a budget to bring before the voters in March. The Mt. Abraham forum will happen first (at 6:00PM) so everyone can attend. The elementary school forums, including a forum on the Robinson Budget will then happen immediately afterwards (at 7:00PM), in separate rooms.
- ◆ The Robinson School Board will be holding its regular meeting on Wednesday, December 21, in the Robinson Library, beginning at 5:30. At this meeting, the Board will be discussing the 2017-2018 Robinson School budget.

**** We need and welcome your input. Please join us for this important discussion. ****



Happy Holidays!

TOWN OF STARKSBORO
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STARKSBORO, VERMONT 05487

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ADVERTISEMENTS

**More cards and prints available at Art on Main
of Starksboro by artist Cynthia Guild Kling.
These are New post cards!**