

The GAZETTE

The official newsletter produced by the Town of Starksboro

OCTOBER 2017

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2017 TAX BILLS

PROPERTY TAX BILL NEWS:

By now you have all gotten a property tax bill. If not, please call or email the Town Office 453-2639. Please make sure you open the bill and look at it to make sure things are correct. The Town's tax rate is up .01 from last year. The largest increase is from the School tax. The major reason for this is the State not funding as much for the school. That means that each and every property owner has to pay more.

If you got a letter from the State that you are getting a property tax rebate, make sure it is showing on your bill and that it is correct. It is *not* common, but the State can put the wrong adjustment on the bill. If it is not yours, the State will eventually figure it out. That means your bill will change, so make sure it is right.

Installment payments are optional; the taxes are due in full by November 1, 2017. There will be no additional hours for the collection of taxes. Post marks will not be accepted as an on time payment. Please plan accordingly. 5:00 PM that is the deadline for on time payments. After November 1, there is a delinquent tax collector fee and interest added.

If you live in Starksboro, not just own land, you should declare homestead. **That is the law.** By filing homestead, if your income makes you eligible, you could receive a rebate on the education portion of your tax. This is all explained in the insert with your tax bill. Filing homestead should be done by April 15 each year. If you file an income tax extension, it does not mean you can extend your Homestead filing. The State has established that since the Residential tax rate is higher than the nonresidential rate the penalty for late filing your homestead is 8% of the education tax. If you have questions about your rebate, contact the State at www.myVTax.vermont.gov.

Mt. Abe Bond Vote Info:

There will be a bond vote on Thursday, November 2, 2017 at the Robinson Elementary School multipurpose room. Polls will be open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. Voters may choose to vote early and request a ballot be sent to you or you may vote at the office or pick up a ballot and vote at home. Ballots should be ready in October, and can be requested up until November 1st by 5:00 p.m. Those residents who are not already registered to vote and wish to do so, may register to vote at the town office or online at <https://olvr.sec.state.vt.us> up to November 2nd. The Town Clerk highly suggests that residents not wait until the last minute to register to vote to ensure a smooth voting experience. If you have questions about voting or are not sure whether or not you are on the voter checklist, please call the town office – 453-2639.

STARKSBORO MEETING HOUSE ANNUAL HAM DINNER ON OCTOBER 21

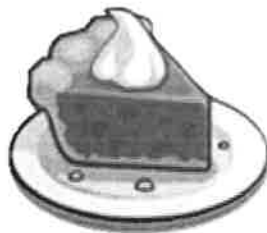
The annual ham dinner of the Starksboro Village Meeting House Society will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2017, starting at 5:00 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 2806 VT Route 116, in Starksboro village. The menu features delicious baked ham, mashed potatoes, winter squash, coleslaw, homemade baked beans, rolls, a variety of homemade pies baked by some of Starksboro's best pie makers, and beverages.

Tickets for this tasty event, which has been held for over 50 years, are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children under 12. Family ticket of \$25 for two adults and two children, with additional children at \$3.00 each. Reservations are not necessary but if you'd like to reserve seats, call 453-5227 or 453- 2079 for a seating at 5:00 or 5:45. Take-outs can be accommodated.

Check out the small silent auction. The Meeting House also will be selling Starksboro woven coverlets, t-shirts, sweatshirts, and *Bertha's Book*, the town history.

Please consider coming to support this event and enjoy a great home-cooked meal with your neighbors. Find out more about our recent grant from the Walter Cerf Community fund to do much needed work in the sanctuary, and see what other projects we hope to do. The Meeting House would very much appreciate your support.

Visit www.starksboromeetinghouse.org.



Saturday, October, 28th Harvest Supper in Starksboro, beginning at 5:30 pm.

The menu for Starksboro's Annual Harvest Supper features fresh roasted turkey from Stonewood Farm served with stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, roasted root vegetables, cranberry sauce, butternut squash soup and bread from Otter Creek Bakery. Dessert: gluten free apple crisp; Pies apple, berry, and pumpkin. Cider from Boyer's Orchard and coffee roasted for friends from Vermont Coffee Company.

Tickets sold at the door of the multi-purpose room of Robinson School from 5:30-6:45. Family ticket for two adults and two children is \$25; adult ticket \$10, children 12 years and younger \$5. Take outs can be accommodated. Supervised activities available for children from 6-7 at the playground.

The Harvest Supper is hosted by the Starksboro Conservation Commission. All proceeds benefit Four Winds. Support grade K-4 natural science programming at Robinson and enjoy a great Harvest Supper, Saturday, October, 28th beginning at 5:30 pm, Robinson School, 41 Parsonage Road, Starksboro, VT.

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 - New Community Project's food re-distribution

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.

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,

Please join New Community Project (NCP) each Sunday for our community food (re)-distribution program also known as Share On. The program is held at the Starksboro First Baptist Church – the doors open 2:30 PM.

Come "shop" for free fresh organic produce, dairy, meat, and bread. Trader Joe's and the gardens of NCP 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 at 434-2333 or pantosketcham@newcommunityproject.org.

FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM SCHOOLHOUSE: Time to mark your calendars for the HUNTERS BREAKFASTS that will be at the schoolhouse on Nov. 11, 18 & 25th. The "ALL YOU CARE TO EAT" buffet breakfast will be served from 7:00-10:00am each Saturday morning...menu to include: Sausage, Eggs, Homefries, Bread pudding, Pancakes, Bacon, Home baked goods, Coffee, Tea and Juice. This is always a fun time for community members to come together to enjoy good company while eating a hearty breakfast. Hope to see you there!

Anyone interested in using the Jerusalem Schoolhouse for an event should contact Edie Sears (President of the Ladies Home Circle) for availability at 453-3183. Thank you.

This month we have asked a couple more local residents to share why they chose to move to South Starksboro, what makes them stay here and what they love most about our community. We are pleased to have thoughts from Jody Higgs and Julie Sopher. These two lovely ladies own homes on Jim Dwire Road...read on and enjoy their thoughts...

JODY HIGGS: "My cousin brought me up to South Starksboro to show me a piece of land that was for sale and I immediately fell head over heels in love with it. It was late summer of 1996, the woods were lush, the forest floor was covered in ferns...the land was full of interest, wonderfully quiet and beautiful beyond description. How could I live anywhere else??!! I stay here for these same reasons...the beauty, the quiet, the wilderness, the big, dark night sky. In addition to all of that, I also happened to move into an awesome neighborhood. Thanks to Nancy and Greg Orvis, we have a tight knit little community that gathers regularly and looks out for one another. I feel very lucky to live here."

JULIE SOPHER: "We moved here for one simple reason -- it was love at first sight! We had been looking for property (with our daughter, son-in-law and our three grandchildren) that could accommodate both our families and be so beautiful that we would never want to leave. Joe and I love farm houses and Melissa and David wanted to design and build their next home -- it was perfect!

The first time we visited the property it was the middle of January. Three to four feet of fresh, pure white, glistening snow covered everything - it was perfect! It wasn't difficult to imagine the other seasons and feel quite certain they would be equally perfect as well.

We have lived in many nice areas over the years; however, none compare to South Starksboro. For example, neighbors stopped to introduce themselves and welcome us to the neighborhood even before we moved in. People still stop to say hello and ask how things are going. Everyone is so friendly and kind as well as respectful and gracious. It is reminiscent of an earlier time, not too very long ago, that most of us still remember fondly.

This wonderful area offers so much for children to experience while growing up in our safe neighborhood. And, an unexpected treat that we love hearing, are the stories, many first hand, that our generous and interesting, multi-generational neighbors are so willing to share!

All these experiences, and many more, are priceless to us, as is the ever changing, never ending beauty Mother Nature bestowed on South Starksboro.

For our family - it is perfect!"

Thank you Jody and Julie for sharing with us. If any of you would like to share what brought you to South Starksboro, why you stay, and what you love most about this community, please email your thoughts to Nancy Orvis at: norvis1113@gmail.com and you will see it in a future issue of the gazette.

Save the date- October 5, 2017

Community Planning Workshop- October 5, 2017 at Robinson School

The Starksboro Planning Commission will be hosting a community workshop on Thursday, October 5 at 7 p.m. at the Robinson School to discuss planning for renewable energy.

The Planning Commission is currently updating Starksboro's Town Plan in order to meet new state requirements related to energy planning, flood resilience and forest conservation. This spring 221 Starksboro residents responded to the Planning Commission's community survey, which included a section on energy use. The October 5 workshop will build upon that feedback and ask participants more detailed questions about the appropriate scale and location for renewable energy facilities in Starksboro.

The current Town Plan promotes the use and development of local renewable energy sources provided that projects minimize their negative environmental impacts. Since Starksboro's plan was last revised, Vermont has established a goal of generating 90% of the energy used in the state from renewable sources by 2050. Meeting this goal will require a very different approach in how energy is generated, distributed and used.

During just the past five years, there has been a significant increase in the number of renewable energy facilities in the state. This rapid change has led to concerns about the impacts and appropriate siting of renewable energy projects. Last year, the Vermont legislature adopted Act 174 that offers towns an opportunity to have more influence over the type, scale and location of renewable energy facilities through energy planning.

If Starksboro residents want a more stronger voice in the state's regulatory process for permitting renewable energy projects, the town plan will have to meet certain requirements. One of those requirements is that the plan be specific about where renewable energy projects are appropriate and where they are not (this can vary based on the type and scale of the project). The goal of the workshop on October 5 is to answer that question and to help the Planning Commission shape the town's policy with regard to siting renewable energy facilities in Starksboro.

Personal note from Dave Wetmore, ZA

It is with significant reservation that I informed the Selectboard that I have accepted a new position for the Town of Middlebury. My last official day will be October 5th. This will allow me to assist the Planning Commission with the Energy Planning workshop noted above. I have thoroughly enjoyed serving Starksboro for 15+years and I will greatly miss the friendships that I have developed. I want to thank all whom have made my employment so enjoyable. Starksboro is a wonderful community and I hope that the Planning Commission and Selectboard will soon find someone who will recognize just how special it is.

Starksboro Public Library
Monthly News for October 2017

Hours: Mon. 10-6, Thurs. 10-5, Sat. 9-2 (open on Columbus Day, 10/9))
Catherine Goldsmith, Librarian, 453-3732 - starksboropl@comcast.net

Painting in Acrylics: Saturday, October 14; 10am – noon

Cynthia Guild Kling leads these “make and take” art sessions. No experience needed – Cynthia will guide all through making an original painting in one session. Materials provided by the library. Suitable for ages 12 and up. Treat yourself to a morning of creativity; 10am – noon.

Adult Book Group: Wednesday, October 18th, 7pm – *Hillbilly Elegy*.

Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance is our title for this month. An interview in *The American Conservative* (July 2016) propelled this book to the top of best seller lists and nationwide conversations. A "raw, emotional portrait of growing up in and eventually out of a poor rural community riddled by drug addiction and instability." (Brookings Institute report).

Preschool Story Time: “A book is a special friend”

The Starksboro Preschool visits the library every week, alternately between Monday and Thursday and following the public school schedule. Anyone is welcome to join in our singing, dancing and reading fun time.

New Books in the Library:

Picture Books: *Cat’s Pajamas – Thatcher Hurd. **Chapter Books:** The Misadventures of Max Crumbly – Rachel Renee Russell (author of Dork Diaries) **Graphic Novels:** Prince Valiant Vol 1 and 2 - Hal Foster. Don’t miss these amazing reprints of the classic adventure comic strips! Adults will love these too.*

Adults: *The Crossing – Michael Connelly; Amanda Wakes Up – Alisyn Camerota; The Survivor – Vince Flynn; Eleanor Oliphant is completely fine – Gail Honeyman; The Last Mile - David Baldacci. Into the Water – Paula Hawkins; The Essex Serpent – Sarah Perry; Glass Houses - Louise Penny; Lincoln in the Bardo – George Saunders.*

Non-fiction: *Nurtureshock: new thinking about children – Po Bronson; The Undoing Project – Michael Lewis; Rosemary Gladstar’s Herbal Recipes for Vibrant Health; When Parents Part (audiobook) – Penelope Leach; Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat - Samin Nosrat; Memory’s Last Breath - Gerda Saunders.*

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!

Notice of New Food Shelf Hours:

Effective October 1, 2017, the Food Shelf will only be open on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The hours will be extended, however – 9:30 am to 6:30 pm.

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, then 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) – 453-2768

Del. Tax Collector: Amy McCormick-Tues & Thurs @ 453-2639

starksborotaxes@gmail.com

Listers – 453-2778

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

Keegan Tierney – 777-9431

Koran Cousino – 453-4352

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

Jodi Bachand – 434-5336

Supervisory Board – Nancy Cornell, Louis Dupont, Caleb Elder

LIBRARY: 453-3732 or starksboropl@comcast.net

Open Mon 10-6; Thurs 10-5, Sat 9-2, Sun 1-4

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

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 at the new Town Garage-

3904 Vt Route 116. Trash fees: \$5/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



TOWN OF STARKSBORO
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ART SHOW AND SALE

October 7th, 10 – 2

At the Starksboro village meeting house

Vera Ryersbach and Cynthia Kling

Come and see our diverse and interesting art work!!


Info: 453-5227




90 Mechanicsville Road
Hinesburg, Vermont 05461

802-482-PEDI (7334)

ElementNailSalonVT@gmail.com

 /ElementSalonVT

 Element-Nail-Salon-Hinesburg