



# The GAZETTE

**The official newsletter produced by the Town of Starksboro**

**AUGUST 2015**

## **STARSBORO PROPERTY TAX BILLS**

Are you looking for your Property Tax Bill? Because the Mt Abraham budget did not get approved until June 9th, the State was legally not able to begin to determine the education tax rate until July 9th. When the Education Tax Rate comes in from the State, the Selectboard can set a property tax rate. The next Selectboard meeting is July 28th. If they have all the numbers they will set a tax rate at that meeting. Next, the Town Listers will begin their process. The Listers are scheduled to work on August 4th. The tax bills should hopefully be mailed by the 6th of August. Remember that tax payments are optional until November 2nd. There is not penalty if you do not pay the August 1st payment. If you have any questions, please call the Town Office at 453-2639

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## **SPECIAL TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT MEETING**

The legal voters of the Starksboro Town School District in the County of Addison and State of Vermont are hereby notified and warned to meet at the Robinson School multipurpose room within said Starksboro on **Tuesday, the fourth day of August, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.** to discuss and transact the following business viz:

Article 1: Shall the voters of the Starksboro Town School District vote to have the Robinson Elementary School’s budget voted on by Australian ballot beginning in March 2016. Last day to register to vote in time for this meeting is July 29<sup>th</sup>.

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# WORSHIP SERVICES

## The FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF STARKSBORO:

[www.Starksborobaptistchurch.org](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month
- 2:00 p.m. Share-on, community food distribution

Starksboro Senior Meal, served at 11:30 monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:mtgazette@earthlink.net)

Youth ministries information and contact Roberta McKinney, [Kidsrme7316@gmail.com](mailto:Kidsrme7316@gmail.com), 802.922.1766.

**JERUSALEM GATHERING**: a congregation in the Episcopal tradition that has services on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## REAPPRAISAL

The reappraisal is ongoing, as each property is visited throughout town. Again, the new appraisals will not be given out until completion next year. This year's tax bills will not reflect the new appraisals.

Life's Helpers Inc. is having a benefit **Craft Fair / Flea Market** on Saturday, August 8th, at the Hinesburg Fire Dept. from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. We are still seeking vendors for this event. If you would like more information or a contract call Penny: 802-434-6053 or Phyllis: 802-434-2559.

**Thank yous....**to those responsible for putting up the flag poles and flags throughout Starksboro Village – Pete Bissonette, Peg Casey, and Cheryl Estey.

Also, to Mark Whitcomb and Tom Estey for preparing the base for the monuments that will soon be moved from the old town office.

**Bonebuilders Exercise Classes:** Every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30am 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

## **FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM SCHOOLHOUSE:**

Here are a few more JSH memories from Cookie Norris Jennings for you to enjoy:

During morning recess, the younger kids got to stay outside longer while Mrs. Wyman worked with the older classes. Funny, one of my memories is walking into the school and seeing Mrs. Wyman redoing her bun. I had always thought she had short hair while it was actually to her waist! Big day was when she actually did get her hair cut and curled. The end of year School/Community picnics at Lake Dunmore. Drinking orange soda then roller skating in circles definitely leaves a memory! Jumping rope on the big steps out front. The state book wagon arriving to replenish our books. We each got to go and choose 1 or 2. I remember a lot of book reports. I graduated from 8th grade with 2 other kids.

THANK YOU Cookie for these fun memories of your years at the Jerusalem Schoolhouse! More memories to come next month...stay tuned!

## Planning Commission seeks comments on draft Unified Zoning Bylaws

The Planning Commission has been working to develop a draft unified Zoning Bylaw for several years and they are now available for review. This very comprehensive unified document will, if adopted, guide land development in Starksboro for years to come. The changes are significant and the Board is eager to hear comments and input from Starksboro residents. Vermont State Law provides for a specific process for both the Town Plan and Zoning Bylaw adoption. Before finalizing the proposed Bylaw and beginning the adoption process, the PC is first seeking public comments. The formal adoption process would likely start later this fall. The draft Bylaws are available on the Town's website and a hard copy can be obtained at the Town Office.

Highlights of the draft Bylaws include;

- "Development" standards which are specific to access, site engineering and design considerations related to roads, driveways, parking and service areas, outdoor lighting, landscaping/screening and signs.
- "Performance" standards specific to noise, dust, odors and air pollution, light, glare and reflection, vibration, traffic, junk and refuse, bulk storage and fuel stations.
- "Resource Protection" standards which seek to limit development impacts as they relate to erosion and stormwater concerns, conservation of riparian buffers and wetlands, manage development on steep slopes and commercial extraction of earth resources which includes water extraction.
- "Specific Use" standards which seek to further guide specific types of development like accessory dwellings, temporary dwellings and accessory structures, home based and on-farm businesses, B & B and inns, home or commercial daycare facilities, mobile home parks, self-storage facilities and telecommunications and antennas.
- Changes to the existing zoning districts

The Board set aside their June, July and August meetings to hear from Starksboro citizens. The next and likely final meeting will be held August 20<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:00 PM at the Town Office. Residents are encouraged to provide their comments on the draft Bylaws at that time. Additionally, comments can be submitted in writing directly to the Town Office, attn. Dave Wetmore, ZA. Still further, Planning Commission members encourage folks to contact them directly with their questions or comments. The Planning Commission and the Zoning Administrator welcomes and encourages all public comments on the draft Bylaws. Thank-you in advance for your participation.

Dennis Casey, Chair

Norm Cota, V. Chair,

Jason Barnard

Dan Harris

Hugh Johnson, Clerk

Kelly Norris

Daniel Nugent

Dave Wetmore, ZA

Mark your calendar for **Vacation Bible School & Adventure Camp**. A week of (free) activities are available for kids ages K-6<sup>th</sup>. Tweens & Teens are invited to spend a week (or any portion of) their summer having fun and gaining valuable experience as volunteers. Snacks and lunch included for all participants. This VBS/Camp is one of Starksboro's biggest kid & community volunteer events. It's pure fun, it's free and inspiring. Registration forms will be available soon. Please consider being a part of our annual summer program where folks gather together to "make a difference" here in Starksboro. Crafters, Entertainers and caring folks are invited to sign up for a 1-2 hr block between 1 pm – 3 pm, to share their skills and talents any afternoon. VBS runs 9 – noon, Adventure Camp from noon – 5 pm, August 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

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**“SUNDAY’S COOL”**: If you are looking for an opportunity for your children to learn great stories from the Bible, then come join us at “Sunday’s Cool”. Our program starts at 11:00 a.m. with up-beat music, crafts and lively conversation. As we learn healthy and helpful principles that can be applied to our lives today, we do so by engaging in dramatic play, music, memorization, reading and interactive instruction. Lunch is served around noon, then it’s activity time, which may include cooperative games, outdoor recreation and relevant videos. Occasionally we venture out to enjoy a seasonal fieldtrip. Kids of all ages are invited and encouraged to be part of something “Cool” happening on Sunday’s at First Baptist Church of Starksboro.

Contact Roberta: Kidsrme7316@gmail.com.

# Starksboro Public Library

**Hours: Mondays 10-6, Thursdays 10-5, and Saturdays 9-1**

Catherine Goldsmith – (new!) Librarian -- 453-3732 -- [starksboropl@comcast.net](mailto:starksboropl@comcast.net) --  
[starksborolibrary.wordpress.com](http://starksborolibrary.wordpress.com)

**Summer fun for Kids:** This summer's theme is "Every Hero has a Story". The library will hold a Reading Celebration on **Monday, August 3 at 10:30am**. Decorate superhero cupcakes, decorate masks and enjoy other library fun.

**Story Time for Infants & Toddlers:** **Thursdays, August 6th and 20th at 10:30.**

**Knit/Fiber Arts** will meet once this month on **Saturday, August 15th, at 10:00 a.m.** All crafters welcomed!

**Museum and Park Passes: FREE passes & discount cards for summer day trips:**

**State Park Pass:** This pass provides free entry into any Vermont State Park day areas for up to 8 people in one vehicle. Day use areas are generally open from 10 a.m. to sunset.

**Historic Site Pass:** This pass, provided by Vermont's Historic Sites and the Department of Libraries, gives free entry to Vermont State Historic Sites for one family or groups of up to 8 people.

**ECHO:** This pass provides reduced admission of \$4 per person for up to 4 people at the ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center in Burlington. Some special exhibits require an additional admission fee. ECHO is open daily, year-round.

Current exhibit: *Smokey Bear & Woodsy Owl: Home Sweet Home*

*Any member of the Starksboro Public Library who is 18 or older and is in good standing can check out these passes. The State Park Pass requires a \$10 returnable deposit. Reserve by phone!*

**Passport to Libraries:** Why not combine your museum or park visit with a visit to a new library? This program encourages exploring as many unique Vermont libraries as you can over the summer: visit the most libraries, get your passport stamped and win a prize!

**Reception with Cynthia Guild Kling – Saturday, August 22, 1-3pm:**

The library's new art show is fifteen oil paintings portraying the many beautiful farms of Starksboro.

**Preschool Story Time & Adult Book Group** will take a break until September – look for dates in September newsletter

**Bone Builders:** **Tuesdays and Thursdays** from **5:30-6:30**. Continues through the summer. We have all the equipment you need at the library and trained leaders. You will be glad you did!

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

COMMUNITY EMAIL GROUP: [WWW.FRONTPORCHFORUM.COM](http://WWW.FRONTPORCHFORUM.COM)

TOWN WEBSITE: [www.starksborovt.org](http://www.starksborovt.org)

**TOWN OFFICE:** 453-2639

Open Mon – Thu 8:30 – 4:30

**Town Clerk:** Cheryl Estey [starksboro@madriver.com](mailto:starksboro@madriver.com)

**Treasurer:** Celine Coon [starksborotowntreasurer@gmavt.net](mailto:starksborotowntreasurer@gmavt.net)

**Zoning Administrator:** Dave Wetmore [starksborozoning@gmavt.net](mailto: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](mailto:starksborotaxes@gmail.com)

#### SELECT BOARD

Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at 5:30 pm at Robinson Library.

Louis DuPont – 453-5538

Nancy Cornell – 453-2681

Koran Cousino – 453-4352

**Mt. Abe:** Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 6:30 at Mt. Abe Library.

Bonita Bedard – 453-4305

Jodi Bachand – 434-5336

**LIBRARY:** 453-3732

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

Library Board meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday @ 7 pm at Library

**STARSBORO VILLAGE WATER COOPERATIVE:** 453-5200

Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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:**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays at the Town Office

Development Review Board meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION:** Matt Witten (434-3236 or

[mwitten@gmavt.net](mailto:mwitten@gmavt.net)) or Jan McCleery (453-3755 or

[mccleery@norwich.edu](mailto:mccleery@norwich.edu)). Meetings: 4<sup>th</sup> Monday @ 7 pm at the  
Starksboro Public Library

**HEALTH OFFICER:** Peter Ryersbach – 453-3597

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:** Charlene Phelps

453-3461

**RECYCLING:** 1<sup>ST</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> 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](http://www.bristolskatepark.com)

Ryan Krushenick – 453-3678 / [thehub@gmavt.net](mailto:thehub@gmavt.net)

**SENATORS**

Claire Ayer – 545-2142 / [cayer@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:cayer@leg.state.vt.us)

Chris Bray – 453-3444 / [cbray@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:cbray@leg.state.vt.us)

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

TOWN OF STARKSBORO  
P.O. BOX 91  
STARKSBORO, VERMONT 05487

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# ***The Scoop***

**August, 2015**

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

## **Upcoming Special Town School District Meeting**

At the June 24, 2015 Robinson Elementary School Board meeting, the board received a petition requesting a change from the current Town Meeting format for voting on the Robinson School budget, to an Australian ballot format. The petition read: "Shall the Town of Starksboro vote to have the elementary Robinson School's budget voted on by Australian ballot?"

Once the Robinson Board received the petition, which had been certified by the Starksboro Town Clerk, we followed Vermont Statute (17 VSA 2643), which indicated that we needed to warn a Special Meeting within 15 days, and to hold the meeting no fewer than 30 and no more than 40 days after the warning was posted. The Starksboro Special Town School District Meeting will take place on Tuesday August 4, 2015 at 7:00 PM in the Robinson Multipurpose Room.

The petitioners raise an important question for our town – one that the town has considered several times in the past. Voting by Australian ballot, (as we do for elected officials, and for the Mt. Abraham school budget) means that registered voters would vote on the Robinson School Budget by secret paper ballot at the polls (which are typically open from 7AM to 7PM) on Vermont's Town Meeting Day – the first Tuesday in March. Voters would also have the option to vote, in advance, by absentee ballot. Those who favor Australian ballot believe that it is the fairest approach because it enables all registered voters to have equal opportunity to vote, including those who have to work, or are out of town on whatever day and time are chosen by Starksboro to hold its Town Meeting.

Those who believe that we should continue to vote on the Robinson School budget on the floor of Town Meeting also have strong concerns about fairness. It was that concern that led the town, 20 years ago, to move its Town Meeting from Vermont's Town Meeting day (a Tuesday) to a Saturday,

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in the belief that more voters would be able to attend. Proponents of voting on Starksboro’s elementary school budget “on the floor” maintain that this approach enables citizens to consider, question and understand the varied perspectives and points of view of their neighbors. They also believe that it enables voters to make corrections and adjustments (up or down) to the bottom line of the budget that is being presented by the elected School Board. They maintain that voting during Town Meeting gives citizens more information, and more choices than just “yes” or “no”.

All aspects of this question are important for our town to consider. We hope you will plan to attend the meeting on **Tuesday August 4, 2015, at 7:00 PM in the Robinson Multipurpose Room**, so that we can engage each other in discussion and come to a decision.

***Thank You Dennis Hysko!***

After serving for 8 years on the Robinson Elementary School Board, Dennis Hysko will be stepping down at the end of July. Dennis and Carol Hysko are in the process of selling their home on Russell Young Road and have recently bought a house in Bristol. Besides being on the RSB for all these years, Dennis has been an active volunteer on both the Starksboro Fire Department and the Bristol Rescue. Thank you, Dennis, for the very generous contribution of your time and attention to our school and our community. Your insight and humor will be missed!

School Board Members  
 Louis Dupont 453-5538  
 Nancy Cornell 453-2681  
 Koran Cousino 453-4352

Robinson Principal  
 Edorah Frazer 453-2949

Superintendent  
 David Adams 453-3657

Want to know what your School Board does?  
 To view a complete set of minutes over the past several years, and agendas for upcoming board meetings, go to:  
<http://www.anesu.org/school-boards/starksboro-agendas-and-minutes>

