



The GAZETTE

The official newsletter produced by the Town of Starksboro

DECEMBER 2015

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**TOWN OFFICE CLOSED FOR
CHRISTMAS, Dec 23-27th &
Dec 31st for New Year's**

WORSHIP SERVICES p 2

BONEBUILDERS CLASSES p 2
Tues & Thurs at 8:30 am

TAI CHI CLASSES p 2
Thursdays at 9:30 am

CHRISTMAS CAROLING, p 2
Dec 23rd @ 4 pm

TWEEN SCENE – Dec 11, 6-9 p 3

FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM
SCHOOLHOUSE p 3
Caroling Party, Dec 13, 2-4

MEETING HOUSE CANDLE-
LIGHT SERVICE p 3
Dec 22 at 7:30 pm

HOLIDAY PROJECT p 4

LIBRARY NEWS p 5

ADVERTISEMENTS p 6

CONTACT / INFO PAGE p 7

INSERTS: Notice to Poultry
Owners; Memory Tree form;
the Scoop

STARSBORO FOOD SHELF NEWS

The Starksboro Food Shelf is totally dependent on donations. The primary donors for the Christmas meals rotate the Food Shelves that they give to year to year. Our year was last year so we are not getting the substantial donations this year that we need to provide Christmas dinners. Therefore, there will not be Christmas dinners from the Starksboro Food Shelf this year.

The Food Shelf will be closing early on 12/23/15 and on 12/30/15 at 1:00 PM. So if you need to come, come before 1:00 PM on those days.

Have a very Merry Christmas!

TOWN REPORT AND TOWN APPROPRIATIONS

A reminder that submissions for the Town Report are due by the end of December. If your organization usually asks for town appropriation, a letter of request is due to the Selectboard before the end of December. They also need a one page write up and budget report for inclusion in the town report.

Candidates for office should be thinking about getting their petitions going as well. Thirteen signatures are needed. Due by January 25th.

Petitions to be included on this year's Warning are due to the Selectboard no later than January 14th. Sixty-five signatures are required for these.

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
- 2:00 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 8:30am 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.

5th Annual Community Christmas Caroling & Birthday Party: We'll be wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with our 5th Annual Community Christmas Caroling and Birthday Party for Jesus. Gather at Brookside trailer park on December 23rd @ 4 pm. We'll load up the BIG red wagon and spread Christmas cheer as we sing your favorite carols and pass out treats along the way. Then we re-group at Starksboro First Baptist Church by 5 pm to celebrate the Christ in Christmas' birthday. As always there will be festive food, a birthday cake fit for a King, and presents for the kiddos. Free and fun for all! Contact Roberta: kidsrme7316@gmail.com.

Tween Scene: Tween Scene celebrates the Christmas season; you won't want to miss it for ANY reason! There'll be Hot Chocolate, candy canes, games, pizza and more. We sing, we're silly making a mess on the floor. Friday, December 11th from 6-9, just drop off your kids; they'll have a good time! Contact Roberta: kidsrme7316@gmail.com.

Bible Time & Breakfast Sunday's Cool is on the move. We will be gathering at the Parsonage on Parsonage Rd every Sunday from 11:00 am – noon. Stories, singing, crafts & drama are designed with you in mind. Bible stories come to life in ways that are easy for everyone to learn. Breakfast buffet served at 10:30. See you Sunday! Contact Roberta: kidsrme7316@gmail.com.



STARKSBORO MEETING HOUSE CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The annual Starksboro Village Meeting House Christmas Candlelight service will be held on Tuesday, December 22, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. Rev. John Burbank will lead the program of lessons and carols, also featuring other special music. 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, located in the center of Starksboro Village, has parking available in the rear in the town center parking area or at the First Baptist Church, where the memory tree program begins at 7:00 p.m.

FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM SCHOOLHOUSE: By now the Hunter/Early Bird Breakfasts are past...thank you to all that supported this fundraiser by donating something and/or coming to eat at the breakfasts. As always, it is fun to open up the schoolhouse to the community and enjoy good food and conversation with friends. HUGE THANKS to Barb Farr, Norma Corse, Erin Bent, Pat Atkins and Barbara Weightman for pitching in and helping at one or more of the breakfasts. Bear Cobble Sugarworks, Leon Stokes Sugarworks and Greg Orvis donated some mighty fine maple syrup made right here in South Starksboro...thank you! All proceeds from the breakfasts went into the schoolhouse renovation fund.

We are hosting a **CAROLING PARTY** on Sunday, December 13th from 2-4 pm at the Jerusalem Schoolhouse. There will be cookies, hot chocolate, hot mulled cider, caroling and a visit from SANTA. Come for the festivities ~~ be sure to bring the little ones in time for Santa's arrival at 2:45! We haven't received word yet from the North Pole as to how he will arrive...it could be by firetruck, horse, bicycle or "shank's mare"...but he WILL arrive to hear what the children are hoping to get on Christmas morning! All are invited to come for a fun afternoon with our Starksboro neighbors. The schoolhouse is located on Jerusalem Road in South Starksboro (behind the Jerusalem Store). Questions? Call 453-4573

ANOTHER JERUSALEM SCHOOLHOUSE MEMORY from Linda Orvis Barnard: "I will always remember the Christmas programs we put on for our parents, grandparents and other community members. Mrs. Wyman (Lucy) would start right after Thanksgiving and we would practice almost daily when we were done with our other studies. The program included a play, songs, and poems. Lucy would stand in the doorway of the kitchen onto the stage and without fail one of us would forget our lines so she would have to prompt us. I remember at one of the Christmas programs my grandmother, Helen Orvis, played the piano and my cousin, Earlene, and I sang "Silver Bells". Very special especially having our grandmother be the pianist. Santa Claus would always pay a visit. We always had a big Christmas tree decorated with the handmade ornaments we had made."

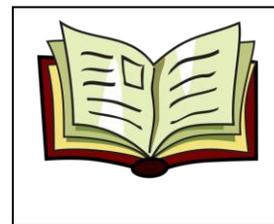
Thank you Linda for sharing another fond memory of yours from your schoolhouse days. I'm sure that memory will make us all think of Christmas programs that we were a part of during our elementary school years.



HOLIDAY PROJECT 2015

Again this year, the Holiday Project will be helping Starksboro families in providing a memorable Christmas for the kids. This project is mostly coordinated through the school, with help from the Starksboro Fire Auxiliary and the town office. As in the past, this project wouldn't exist without the generous donations from the people in this community. We are seeking monetary donations again this year to help in our efforts to make the Holiday Project a success. Donations can be mailed to: Starksboro Town Office, P.O. Box 91, Starksboro, Vt 05487, or dropped off at the town office. Checks can be made payable to: Starksboro Holiday Project. The generosity of this community is truly amazing, and we hope you will consider a donation to help us with this worthy project.

Happy Holidays to all!



Starksboro Public Library
Monthly News for December

Hours: Mon. 10-6, Thurs. 10-5, Sat. 9-1; open during school vacation.
Catherine Goldsmith, Librarian -- 453-3732 -- starksboropl@comcast.net

The Library will close early - 3pm - on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24, 2015.

Annual Artisan Fair at the Library! Saturday, December 12, 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 - 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 19, 10:30-12:00 – Miriam Block.

Families are invited to gather at the Starksboro Library for a read aloud of *The Steadfast Tin Soldier* followed by family art making and seasonal goodies. Hans Christian Andersen wrote over 150 fairy tales such as *The Emperor's New Clothes*, *The Ugly Duckling*, and the *Little Mermaid*. Did you know he was also an artist? Andersen was a master at cutting and transforming paper into fantastic imagery. Hearing *The Steadfast Tin Soldier* and looking at Andersen's imaginative paper cuttings will inspire us to cut out our own unique imagery from paper. This family art-making opportunity will be led by Starksboro teaching artist Miriam Block.

New books in the library! *Japanese Lover by Isabel Allende, Furiously Happy by Jenny Lawson, In the Unlikely Event by Judy Blume, Night Sister by Jennifer McMahon, Suspended Worlds; Historic Theater Scenery in Northern New England, The Martian by Andy Weir and The sword of summer (YA) by Riordan, Rick, Finders Keepers by Stephen King and more.*

Book Group: Thursday, December 3 at 7pm. This month the book group is reading "The lost painting" by Jonathan Harr. Harr tells the true story of a lost Caravaggio found through clues discovered in a dusty archive. The group will meet at Linda Barnard's home with a holiday cookie swap. Call the library for more information and directions.

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 7** and **Thursday, December 17** at 11am.

Knit/Fiber Arts meets this month on **Saturday, December 6th 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: **Tuesdays and Thursdays 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!

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

and

at the Starksboro Library Bazaar – December 12, 10 – 2:

Jude Bryant – Pottery

Ellen Spring – Scarves, unusual children's tees, and 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).

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

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage Paid
Starksboro, Vt
Permit No. 3

CARRIER ROUTE PRESORT
POSTAL CUSTOMER

A notice to all poultry owners, including backyard hobbyists and commercial producers.

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets is encouraging poultry owners, producers and enthusiasts to prepare for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), which is expected to impact the East Coast in the fall of this year or the spring of 2016.

The disease is most commonly spread to domestic poultry by infected waterfowl, through direct contact or contact with droppings, during migration periods. Therefore, the entire Northeast, including Vermont, is preparing for the possibility that an outbreak of HPAI could affect our region this fall or during the spring of 2016. While the HPAI outbreak has not yet been identified in Vermont, poultry producers and poultry owners should be familiar with the disease, how it is spread, and preparedness. All poultry owners, whether they are backyard hobbyists or commercial producers, should evaluate their farms for risk factors that could contribute to avian influenza occurring on their farms.

All poultry owners, regardless of size and business structure, should engage in the following disease preparedness measures:

Obtain a federal premises identification number by calling the State Veterinarian's Office at (802) 828-2421. A unique farm identifier will aid regulatory officials in providing information to owners pre-outbreak and assisting owners with disease control and business continuity during a disease response.

Complete the Producer Preparedness: Biosecurity Audit Form and return to VAAFM – when there is an outbreak, this information will be needed in order for farms in a disease control area to be able to continue movement on and off their farm.

This form is accessible on the VAAFM website: http://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal_health

Keep poultry away from wild birds, particularly waterfowl and shorebirds, and remove wild bird attractants from poultry housing areas.

If poultry are housed indoors, don't let wild birds (or their fecal material) into barns.

Clean and disinfect all equipment prior to entry into a barn or poultry housing area.

Use barn-specific boots and coveralls and consider using boot baths/washes.

Do not bring disease home with you – if you exhibit your poultry at fairs or swaps, do not share cages or equipment with other poultry owners.

Familiarize yourself with signs of illness in your birds and call the State Veterinarian's Office if you see nasal discharge, difficulty breathing, lethargy, discolored wattles or combs, a drop in egg production, or sudden death.

If you are a commercial poultry or egg producer you should take additional proactive steps. Email me at: pryersbach@gmail.com and I will send you that additional information to you.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention considers the risk to people from these HPAI H5 infections to be low. No human cases from these HPAI H5 viruses have been detected in the United States or internationally. Influenza in poultry does not constitute a food safety risk.

Peter Ryersbach, Starksboro Health Officer
453-3597

STARSBORO MEMORY TREE ILLUMINATION CEREMONY

Annually a Memory Tree illumination is held at 7 pm on the eve of the winter solstice, Tuesday, December 22nd. The illumination ceremony includes music, reading of honorees names and the lighting of the “memory” trees in front of the Baptist church at 2806 VT Route 116.

The Memory Tree program celebrates, and honors our community’s residents and their loved ones. The suggested minimum donation per light bulb for the memory tree is \$3.00. Larger donations are gladly accepted 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 with your donation to the Starksboro Town Office by Thursday, December 17th or bring the form with you to the tree lighting ceremony on Tuesday, December 22nd. The name of each individual being honored and remembered will be read aloud.

A meal of soup, bread and cheese is served from 6:00-6:45 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the church prior to the tree lighting ceremony. All are welcome at this free meal.

2015 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 **\$3.00** per bulb. Make checks payable to the **Starksboro Volunteer Fire Department.** Donations are tax deductible.

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

For info call the SVFD chaplain
Pastor Larry Detweiler,
802.434.6715 or
Cheryl Estey at the Town office
802.453.2639

