



The GAZETTE

The official newsletter produced by the Town of Starksboro

APRIL 2016

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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DOG LICENSES DUE APRIL 1ST

A reminder to license your dog(s) on or before April 1st. This is mandated by the State of Vermont. Fees are \$9.00 if they are spayed or neutered, and \$13.00 if they are not. A valid rabies certificate is required.



FREE MONEY – If you own a home, and are living in it on April 1, it is STATE LAW that you declare your Homestead on tax form HS 122, by April 18th. <https://secure.vermont.gov/hd/index> There is no extension for this filing date, if you late file, there will be a penalty. If you file an extension on your Federal Taxes, there is no extension on your Homestead Declaration. The Property Tax Adjustment, HS 122 section B is based on your income. If you earn less than \$137,500, you may be entitled to some financial help from the State of Vermont on the education tax portion of your property tax bill. Make sure to double check with your tax preparer to see if they filed your Homestead Declaration. Not all preparers file for you, but in the end it is the homeowner's responsibility. Homestead needs to be declared every year. Even if you do not file a Federal Tax Return, or Vermont Tax return, you still have to declare by April 18!

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!"

contact Roberta: kidsrme7316@gmail.com

FOOD DRIVE / RUMMAGE SALE / RAFFLE

Please bring a non-perishable food item to the Hinesburg Fire Department on Saturday, April 30th, from 9 am – 3 pm. This event will benefit the Hinesburg Fire Department and Food Shelf. Come check out all the wonderful bargains we have, and don't forget to check out the raffle.

This event is hosted by Life's Helpers Inc.

FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM SCHOOLHOUSE: It's that time of year again to start preparing for the annual Flea Market at the Jerusalem Schoolhouse! Mark your calendars...June 3rd and 4th are the sale dates. We are again looking for donations, so while you are doing your spring cleaning, please consider donating your "treasures" to the schoolhouse sale. Drop off days and times will be: Thursday, June 2nd from 4:00-7:00pm and Friday, June 3rd from 9:00 until noon. Sale days and times will be: Friday, June 3rd from noon - 5:00pm and Saturday, June 4th from 8:00am - 3:00pm. If you are interested in volunteering for a few hours either during drop off times or during sale hours, please let us know. Our hope is to use the proceeds from the flea market to do some interior painting as well as sand and refinish the wood floors this summer. Call 453-4573 with questions or for more information.

Another Jerusalem Schoolhouse memory for your enjoyment:

Route 17 was a narrow dirt road in the mid 1950s. It passed directly in front of the Jerusalem School between the school steps and the cemetery fence as it does today; only it is now called Jerusalem Road. The paved Route 17 that passes the Jerusalem Corners Store did not exist, nor did the store or any of the houses along the current roadway behind the school. The autumn I was in first grade, (no preschool or kindergarten back then), I walked alone the half mile to school. The only routine traffic on the road each weekday were the milk truck (stopping at each farm to pick up the cans of milk to take to the creamery in Starksboro village), and the mailman. And if it was Wednesday, Donald Brown would be delivering groceries from the Lincoln General Store from his dusty dark blue station wagon. Of course the other daily traveler was Mrs. Lucy Wyman who drove her little black Falcon up the mountain from the farm she and her husband, Nobe, owned north of the village (Mitch Kelly's farm today). And Betty Norris picked up kids who lived further away in her International Travelall but those kids arrived at school just moments before the bell rang. Gary and Greg Orvis also walked to school from the west as did I. They were not in the least concerned about a skinny, shy, six year old who was terrified of their grandfather's huge dogs. I had been bitten on the face earlier that year by Donna and Denny Corriveau's collie (they lived where Ploofs live today near the Jim Dwire Road). Our family lived in the house where Peter and Vera Ryersbach now live. The only houses between home and school were Aunt Alice and Uncle Bill Orvis right next door (no house there now); Roger and Gladys Orvis' house (David, Tracey, Marah and Jeb Orvis live there now) and Walter Orvis' farm (where John Kamencik lives today). The dogs were always running loose and challenged anyone they didn't know who walked along the road. Most days I would run as fast as I could past the barn and house, sometimes I would pick up small stones to throw at them if they got too close, I talked with my Dad about it and he said "not to pay them any mind" and they wouldn't bother me.

I was still terrified twice each day. Mrs. Wyman noticed that I did not want to walk home after school. I explained my fears. She negotiated a plan with Arletta Sorrel who was in eighth grade and rode a bicycle to school every day. Arletta agreed to let me ride on her bike with her but only the short stretch of road the dogs claimed as their own. For the rest of the autumn she waited for me before the farm each morning and again after school. I would climb on her bike with her, she would pedal quickly past the danger zone, then stop. I would

climb down and continue my walk. By the time the snow began falling in late October and she put her bike away for the winter, I had overcome my fears and walked to and from school without canine issues.

Thank you to Kathy Farr Bushey for submitting this schoolhouse memory for us. Kathy has many, many memories of her years learning at the Jerusalem School. Next month's memory will be from a woman who was a member of the Ladies Home Circle for a very long time. Be sure to check it out!

Starksboro Public Library

Monthly News for April 2016

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

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

LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE – Saturday, April 2

Join us Saturday, April 2nd (10 till 1), for an open house at the library. Get your library card and find out what's new. The new card will allow you not only to search our catalog, but borrow over 200K different items from the other Catamount Library System libraries and keep track of your reading history. Bring your tablet and we'll help you get set up to borrow free e-book and electronic audio books from ListenUp Vermont.

School Vacation at your public library – SPRING HAS SPRUNG!:

Hang a flower on the tree or a worm in the dirt for each book you check out! We've got new books coming in all the time including *Asterix the Gaul*, the latest *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and the "I Survived" series. Kids five and up can get their own library card and have their name posted on our "congratulations" street sign.

An Herbal Approach to Seeking Balance Amid Stress:

(being offered again due to foul weather in January)

Call Library for date

An overview of the role of herbs in dealing with stress: herb categories, specific herbs, and which ones can be grown in our Vermont gardens. We can all use this workshop! Session taught by Margi Gregory of Spring Mountain Herbs on Ireland Road in Starksboro.

Mother/Daughter Book Group: Thursday April 7 at 7pm

This great group of 12 and 13 year-olds share book discussion time with their mothers. This month, we expect some laughs as the group discusses "Angus, thongs, and full-frontal snogging"; a light look at the teen years set in England. Call the library for a copy of the book if you would like to join the fun.

New information available in the library or at home with your new library card! Starksboro has partnered with other Vermont libraries to get low cost access to a huge database of research-based information. These are full-length, professionally written articles from magazines, journals and books displayed without advertising and without giving your email address to potential marketers. Although accessed through the Internet, these are not web sites. The collection of topics is almost unlimited. Here is a tiny sample: *Chilton Automobile Repair*, **Small Business database** with lots of sample business plans, *Mayo Clinic Proceedings*, *Farmers Weekly*. Come in to the library for Gale login and navigation help.

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 **Mondays, April 11th and 25th and Thursday, April 7th at 11am.**

Knit/Fiber Arts meets this month on **Saturdays, April 9th and 23th at 10:00 a.m.** Enjoy visiting with others as you work on your projects: knitting, quilting, rug-hooking, cross-stitch, etc.

ADVERTISEMENTS

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

STARKSBORO 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

April 2016

Robinson School Budget for 2016-2017

In This Issue:

- Budget 2016-2017* *pg 1*
- Act 46 Update* *pg 1*
- Phones & Weather* *pg 2*
- Solar Power Update* *pg 2*

The Robinson Board would like to thank the voters of the Town of Starksboro for supporting the 2016-2017 proposed budget at our Town Meeting on February 27. We hope that the information we provided was useful to understanding the goals, considerations and tax impact of that budget. If you have any suggestions for the future about the kinds of information about proposed budgets that you'd like the board to provide, please don't hesitate to contact any one of us.

ANESU Act 46 Study Committee - Update

Act 46 (also known as the school district consolidation law) was passed by the legislature during the 2015 legislative session. Beginning in October, 2015 the ANESU Act 46 Study Committee was formed and has been meeting regularly (usually twice a month). Starksboro's representatives on this committee are Nancy Cornell, Caleb Elder and Herb Olson. The committee's meetings are open to the public, and minutes can be found on the ANESU website: <http://www.anesu.org/school-boards/act-46-study-committee>

This Committee is charged with the task of:

- studying the benefits and challenges of complying with Act 46;
- contracting with outside person to support the work of the committee within the established budget (through a grant). This may include but is not limited to: process facilitation, data analysis, facilitation of committee discussions, legal counsel and community forum support;
- considering whether there is a benefit to our communities to invite other districts as advisable members of the committee;
- engaging the communities with at least one public forum held in each of the participating necessary towns to hear community hopes and concerns prior to the committee making a recommendation;
- making a determination as to whether the formation of a union dis

(Continued on next page)

School Board Members

Chair

Louis duPont 453-5538

Vice Chair

Nancy Cornell 453-2681

Clerk

Caleb Elder 434-4805

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Robinson Principal

Edorah Frazer 453-2949

Interim Superintendent

Armando Vilaseca 453-3657

Scoop Editor

Karen Wheeler 453-6943

(Act 46 continued)

strict or an alternate structure is advisable and should be taken to the voters.

The committee is still exploring options and has not yet determined what direction to take. It is possible that the group will decide to bring a merger proposal to the voters in November, 2016, but it is not yet clear that this is what will happen. The committee did not choose to seek an accelerated merger because it was advised, by the executive director of the VSBA, and by the consultant it has hired, that there was not enough time to do the work needed before the accelerated merger deadline of July 1, 2016.

Keeping The Phones Working And The Weather Out!

The phone system we have relied on for a number of years at Robinson stopped working last month so we've had to install a new system on short notice. The new system, including all new wiring, was installed for \$3378.71. Our new lease is \$472.30/month. This includes an upgrade to our internet speed that should be a big help for both teachers and students.

This spring and summer, work will continue on the siding and trim in need of replacement in various places. Work will commence during the week of the April vacation, then continue after the summer break starts. The board is working to make sure that whatever trim and siding get put up will be primed and top coated this summer.

At our next board meeting on April 13th we expect to have bids for the replacement of the roof over the Multi-purpose Room. We have asked for both standing seam and asphalt bids to be prepared. The bids will include stripping the existing shingles and repairing any roof sheathing in need of replacement. ANESU Facilities Director Alden Harwood is obtaining the bids. At that meeting the Board is planning on choosing a contractor. The Multi-purpose Room currently has the asphalt shingle roof that was installed when the room was built in 1985.

Solar Power at Robinson School – Update

The initial 5-year term of the solar contract Robinson School, signed in 2010 for the solar installation on Parsonage Road, ended last October. When Robinson signed that contract in 2010, Robinson Elementary became the **first elementary school in the State of Vermont** to have 100% of its electric bill covered by solar generation. We should be proud that our community has been a leader in embracing locally-generated, clean energy!

Over this 5-year period Robinson has been receiving credit for between 110,000 kWh and 120,000 kWh per year from the 19 solar trackers installed on Parsonage road. Under this agreement, Robinson has received about \$4,800 more in GMP credit than it has paid AllEarth Services in PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) payments.

Due to the uncertainty surrounding possible school consolidation under Act 46, the Robinson Board requested that the contract be renewed on an annual basis for the time being. AllEarth has agreed to this annual renewal and they are actually going to lower the rate per kWh by about half a cent. Because GMP rates have gone up over the past 5 years, this rate reduction means Robinson expects to save about \$2,000 on electricity on the new PPA rate annually.

One interesting detail about the solar installation is that it has produced about 10% more than anticipated, which has resulted in outstanding credits on the Robinson bill than can be difficult to redeem. For this reason, we have decided to only purchase 85% of the energy produced at the site, with AllEarth Services selling the remaining 15% to another customer.

Robinson School Board ~ Upcoming Meetings
Wednesday, April 13, 2016—Robinson Library



Green Up's mission is to promote the stewardship of our state's natural landscape and waterways and the livability of our communities by involving people in Green Up Day and raising public awareness about the benefits of a litter-free environment.

GREEN UP DAY 2016– SATURDAY, MAY 7th

Dear Starksboro Residents,

This year marks our 46th year for Vermont's Green Up Day, a tradition begun in 1970, and an annual event representing the largest citizen's effort ever organized in Vermont. **Please help to continue this tradition May 7th in Starksboro. Also, congratulations to Charlotte Brace, Montpelier HS for this year's winning poster!**

This year **Green Up Bags and Gloves** will again be available at the following sites by Mid April:

- Starksboro Town Office.
- Starksboro Town Garage.
- Jerusalem Country Store.

Our town's **Green Up drop off site** is the **Town Garage**. All trash collected along **town roads** need to be dropped off at this location **between 8:00 AM and 3:00 PM on Saturday, May 7th**.

Important: Please do not leave your green up bags on town roads. They must be dropped off at the town garage. If you cannot drop your green up bags at the town garage, please contact Marcia Perry to arrange a pick up.

Trash collected along state roads will be collected by state trucks.

If you would like more information or if you would like to volunteer for a **particular** section of roadway, please contact: Marcia Perry, Green Up Coordinator
802-434-2462 or mjimperry@gmavt.net.