

The GAZETTE



The official newsletter produced by the Town of Starksboro

JULY 2018

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NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

Property Taxes: We hope to have the Property Tax Bills mailed by the end of July or beginning of August. All taxes are due in full by November 1st. At this time the Legislature has not approved a State Budget, so no education rate has been set. The Town needs to wait for the rate to be set before the bills can be sent out. Please remember that it is not too late to file your Homestead Declaration. In some situations people who have no income or fixed income can see a huge benefit.

AUGUST PRIMARY ELECTION

A primary election shall be held on the 2nd Tuesday in August in each even numbered year for the nomination of candidates of major political parties for all offices to be voted for at the succeeding general election, except candidates for president and vice president of the United States, their electors, and justices of the peace. The Primary Election will be held on Tuesday, August 14th, 2018 at the Robinson Elementary School. Polls will be open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. We will be using the tabulator for this vote. Primary ballots will be available by June 29th for those who would like to vote early. You may request an early ballot by: 1) picking one up at the town office, 2) calling the office to have one mailed to you (453-2639), or, 3) voting at the town office during regular office hours. If you are physically unable to get out of your house, you can have two Justices of the Peace bring the ballot to you. You can also vote from your car on the day of the Election if it is difficult for you to get out of the car and go into the school. Just drive up to the curb near the entrance of the school in the rear of the building, send someone in to request help with voting, and we will send a couple of people out to help you.

Early ballots may be requested up until 5:00 pm on Mon, August 13th, the day before the election.

WORSHIP SERVICES

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF STARKSBORO:

www.Starksborobaptistchurch.org

2806 VT Route 116 and P.O. Box 12, Starksboro, VT 05487

Pastor Larry Detweiler – 802-989-2679 or revdets@gmail.com. Church phone 453-5577

Sunday 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. Food For All – Share - On a New Community Project food re-distribution program
NCP information contact Pete 434-2333

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. Starksboro Senior Meal program information contact Brenda Boutin, 453-6354, or 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.

Selectboard News

The following is a summary of recent meetings. You can find the complete, official minutes of each meeting on the Town website: www.starksborovt.org (submitted by: Rebecca Elder, Selectboard Assistant)

- **Road report:** The new pickup has arrived. The road crew is working on summer maintenance and improvements to Class 3 roads. Tom has applied for 2 grants to help with run-off and storm management work.
- **Jerusalem Schoolhouse Committee:** The board has established a charge for the J-school Committee. After a request for interested people on FPF, the board has appointed committee members. See past minutes for details.
- **Technology and IT:** The board has continued to explore options for IT support to anticipate future needs in the Town Clerk's office for computers/hardware/software and in service to the town in general, particularly with regard to online security and protection of town information. Two local IT companies have been interviewed. Conversation continues. Website improvements include a new calendar for town meetings and events.
- **Building/Maintenance updates:** Painting on various town buildings will happen over the summer. The Town Clerk's office will get a new porch to replace the existing back porch/entrance and the roof over the vault will

be replaced. The Post Office building is slated for insulation and other routine maintenance. A new replacement 40-yd recycling container has been ordered.

- **Land swap with school district:** Legal work is nearly complete and a closing will likely happen in July.
- **Tax sale:** The town is holding a tax sale on June 27 at 11 am. Details available online and via the Town Clerk's office.
- **Town appointments:** The board has filled most of the town appointed positions for 2018-19 and thanks all who have expressed interest in serving in any capacity. There is a newly formed Energy Committee and the J-School Committee. Any future vacancies will be posted and the board always welcomes new people to become involved in the community.
- **Town Plan:** The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the draft Town Plan on 6/12. Once they have reviewed public comments and incorporated any necessary changes, they will present a draft to the Selectboard. Another public hearing will be held in late summer by the SB prior to final adoption.

➤ **Next meeting: July 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Office**

Zoning Administrator's Update

I'd like to thank everyone from the community who has welcomed me into this position. Dave Wetmore served the town for 15 years and I feel fortunate to have followed such a dedicated employee. The zoning office has been quite busy over the last 6 months with 22 zoning permits issued and 5 subdivisions approved/pending approval in 2018.

"Do I need a zoning permit for . . . ?"

Thank you to all those who call the office or stop in to ask if a zoning permit is needed for projects at home. I appreciate the inquiries and am here to help everyone in town get the appropriate permits needed and assist in the process. All forms and applications are available on the town's website: www.starksborovt.org/resources/zoning
The complete text of the Land Use Regulations ("Bylaws") is also available online for your reference.

A few reminders:

Zoning Permits – once an application is complete and fees paid, the zoning office has 30 days to act on a permit, though I try to issue them sooner. Once issued, there is a 15-day public posting period *before* construction/development can begin.

Subdivisions and DRB hearings – once an application is complete and fees paid, a hearing will be scheduled and a public warning must be posted for 15 days *prior* to the hearing. After the final hearing, the DRB has 45 days to finalize a decision.

Do keep these requirements in mind as you plan for improvements or construction on your property. Please don't hesitate to call, email, or stop by the office with questions or concerns.

Please note the zoning office will be closed the week of July 30. For the month of August, office hours will be Tuesdays and Wednesday 8:30 – 3 and by appointment. Hours will return to T/W/Th in September.

Rebecca Elder, ZA
rebecca@starksborovt.org

Planning Commission & Town Plan Update

On June 12, the Planning Commission held a public hearing to receive input on the draft Town Plan that has been underway for the last 18 months. The PC is now reviewing and incorporating comments received and preparing a final draft to submit to the Selectboard.

The next steps include the Selectboard's review of the draft Plan and a second public hearing to receive comments before a final Town Plan is approved and adopted.

Please watch for an announcement of the next public hearing date in late summer. Thank you for your interest in the Town Plan!

Starksboro Energy Corner: Vermont Utilities are Helping Customers Drive Green

The transportation sector contributes nearly half of Vermont's greenhouse gas emissions. Electric vehicles (EVs) and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) offer opportunities to reduce carbon emissions, and the technology has continued to improve with better range and cold weather performance. An electric vehicle (EV) can save you up to \$1,200 per year in maintenance and the cost of charging an EV is like paying just \$1.50 per gallon of gas. You may also be eligible for a federal tax credit up to a \$7,500 when filing your 2018 taxes. Owning an EV means you never have to rely on gas or get oil changes again. Drive Electric Vermont has all the information you need on EV's. www.driveelectricvt.com

Vermont Utilities Green Mountain Power and Vermont Electric Coop are making it easier to make the switch to an EV with discounts and incentives.

GMP customers:

1. **Freedom Nissan of South Burlington announced the 2nd year of a partnership** to offer GMP customers a \$3000 discount off MSRP when they purchase the new the Nissan Leaf (EV). Interested? Just bring your GMP statement and this code (Certification Code "B66059") to the South Burlington dealership to receive discounts off the retail price of a 2018 Leaf. The new Leaf EV, has range of up to a 150-miles.
2. **Alderman's Chevrolet in Rutland is offering GMP customers discounts on Chevy EV's.** Alderman's is offering General Motors employee pricing to GMP customers, and that can be combined with other dealer incentives to save you thousands on a new Bolt (EV) or Volt (PHEV). The all-electric Chevy Bolt has a range of up to 238 miles, among the longest ranges in its class. All you have to do is bring your GMP bill to Alderman's.

EV Charger: If you purchase an EV, GMP will provide you with a free fast charger (a Level-2 charger) a \$600 value. With the fast charger, you can fully charge your car in just a few hours. It also helps drive down costs for everyone, because as part of the program, GMP can dial down your charger's usage during peak demand on the grid, when power can be priciest.

Learn more by contacting GMP Kelly Stubbins at (802) 747-6878 / www.greenmountainpower.com.

VEC customers:

1. **VEC is offering the following bill credits for the purchase or lease of new or used EV or PHEV:**

	<u>Purchase</u>	<u>Lease</u>
Plug-in hybrid	\$250	\$50/year
Fully electric	\$500	\$100/year

2. **2018 Nissan LEAF (EV):** \$3,000 discount for VEC members. Print and bring the VEC flyer, along with a copy of your electric bill to the local Nissan dealer. Offer expires July 2, 2018.

Learn more by contacting VEC at 1-800-832-2667 or support@vermontelectric.coop

Starksboro resident Susan Thompson shares her experience owning an EV and living on Mason Hill N.:

"I leased a Chevy Bolt (full electric) in September. It's a great car and right now has the longest range other than the Tesla. It's marketed at a range of 238 miles, but I recently charged up to 317 miles on a warm day. I charge at home on a 120v, 3 prong plug, and at a charging station at my office so I haven't had any problems keeping it charged. I commute to Burlington daily and have plenty of miles left at the end of the day. I just took a trip to CT and only had to charge once in Brattleboro. The Bolt did well in the snow getting up Big Hollow road.

The EV market is transforming at a rapid rate and there are charging stations everywhere. There are smart phone apps that map out charging stations for you along your route. I see the shift to EV's as a personal culture shift as you need to do some planning. It's a culture shift that goes along with understanding the impact of fossil fuel consumption."

FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM SCHOOLHOUSE: Still quiet "up south"...sometime this summer or fall we plan to have an evening presentation at the Jerusalem Schoolhouse with Nate Shepard along with his lovely wife, Chris, sharing about their adventures as they spent nearly a year on the road driving to Brazil. Stay tuned in the August gazette for a date and time. It will be something you won't want to miss!

We have a wonderful story to share this month by Eric and Ellen Hanson who live on Harlow Drive in South Starksboro...read on and discover why they moved to this neck of the woods, why they stay and what they love most about our community.

THANK YOU Eric and Ellen...you are a wonderful part of this rural community!

Our Home in Jerusalem

Eric & Ellen Hanson

We bought our first house in Huntington Center in 1986. After new sills, new chimney, new roof, new well, and a new septic system, it slowly dawned on us that maybe classic old farmhouse living wasn't really all that we imagined. So, after six years of old farmhouse bliss, we embarked on a house hunting tour with some of our key desires being quiet (we lived on a main road in Huntington), low(er) maintenance, and a nice neighborhood. We found all of these characteristics in our current home in Jerusalem. Ellen and I moved here in February 1992, when Ellen was 7 months pregnant with our first of two (incredibly wonderful) children and have been here ever since. Being a mountain lover, I had always been drawn to the dramatic ridgeline that extends between Appalachian Gap and Lincoln Gap. Ellen, an ocean and coast lover, thankfully came along for the ride. We both feel that the beauty here is astounding. It doesn't hurt that we live below Mt. Ellen! It has been a wonderful place for us to raise our children, both of whom have grown up with a keen appreciation of the outdoors and the natural environment, but perhaps not so much appreciation for livestock due to our somewhat rocky experiences trying to maintain a small herd of sheep. Done with that.

Although we've put plenty of work into our current home, it hasn't been of the "well, we better do this now or the house will crumble" variety, but more of the "this is so worth it" variety. We've come to learn that no neighborhood, or anyplace, is perfect (witness the withering windstorms we all sometimes endure), but really feel that Jerusalem is a truly unique place with good people who all live here for reasons that we all have in common, as well as unique, personal reasons. It is good to live in a place where the people, from those with generational histories here to newer arrivals like us, have roots in where they live.

Starksboro Public Library
Monthly News for March 2018

Hours: Mon. 10-6, Thurs. 10-5, Sat. 9-2

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

LIBRARIES ROCK!!!

What is a summer reading program?

A chance for kids to choose their own reading. We can help find just the right book to match their interests.

Kids set a reading goal for the summer and earn different small prizes each week by coming to the library to get new books. Week of July 9 - popsicles!

If they meet their goal – they get a book of their choice to keep at the end of the summer.

We will have drop-in activities at the library during the summer. Help your child maintain the gains they made in school this year! Research shows that reading as few as 6 books over the summer will maintain their reading level.

We have all the Dorothy Canfield Fisher award nominee books!

Make SEPTEMBER more fun for kids, too!

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Owl Diaries by Rebecca Elliot

Ranger in Time series by Kate Messner

The Lipstick Laws by Amy Holder

Zombie in Love by Kelly DiPucchio

Grace for President by Kelly DiPucchio

Monster Trucks by Anika Denise

Who Would Win? Wolverine vs. Tasmanian Devil

THE GAZETTE is published monthly and mailed to all Starksboro residents. Articles and advertisements must be submitted by the **20th of each month** to the Town Clerk. If the 20th falls on Fri, Sat, or Sun, than it is due the following Monday **by NOON**. **Anything not received by the 20th 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 starksborovt@madrivert.com, 453-2639

Treasurer: Celine Coon starksborovttreasurer@qnavt.net

Zoning Administrator: Rebecca Elder rebecca@starksborovt.org

Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs mornings 453-2768

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

starksborotaxes@gmail.com

Listers – 453-2778 Tues/Thurs 9 – 3pm starksborolisters@gmail.com

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:

Heather Ragsdale – 453-6485

ROAD FOREMAN: Tom Estey – 453-2319

FIRE WARDENS: Please call ahead for burn permits.

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

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.

Peter Marsh – pmarsh@starksborovt.org 453-3478

Tony Porter – tporter@starksborovt.org 989-5096

Keegan Tierney – ktierney@starksborovt.org 777-9431

Koran Cousino – kcousino@starksborovt.org 453-4352

Eric Cota – ecota@starksborovt.org 373-9763

HEALTH OFFICER: Peter Ryersbach – 453-3597

SCHOOL BOARD

Every other month at 5:30 pm at Mt. Abe

Louis DuPont – 453-5538

Nancy Cornell – 453-2681

Caleb Elder – 434-4805

ENERGY COMMITTEE: Digger Faesy – 434-4254

Pete Antos-Ketcham, Jeff Dunham, Richard Faesy, Phil Mosenthal, Megan Nedzinski

Mt. Abe: Meetings 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 at Mt. Abe Library

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

Library Board Meetings 2nd Monday @4:30 pm at Library.

REPRESENTATIVES

Fred Baser – 453-4391

SENATORS

Claire Ayer – 545-2142 / cayer@leg.state.vt.us

Chris Bray – 453-3444 / cbray@leg.state.vt.us

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Meetings 1st and 3rd Thursdays at the Town Office

Development Review Board meetings 2nd & 4th Thursdays

CONSERVATION COMMISSION:

Meetings: 4th Monday @7 pm at the Starksboro Public Library

Chair, Jan McCleery – 453.3755 or mccleery@norwich.edu

STARSBORO'S ENERGY COMMITTEE: Meetings on the 1st Monday

of each month, 5:30 – 7:30, Starksboro Town Office

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR: Charlene Phelps

363-4276

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@gnavt.net

STARSBORO VILLAGE WATER COOPERATIVE: 453-4034

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

at the Starksboro Public Library

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

Notice of New Food Shelf Hours:

The Food Shelf is now open on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The hours are 9:30 - 6:30.



**Free, Nutritious
Lunches - for
all kids 18 and
under!**



**Games,
Crafts, &
More!**



Rural Fun Delivery

**A Starskboro Summer Program
In Partnership with MJCC and MAUSD**

**Hillside, Brookside, and Lazy Brook
June 25th-August 10th (no delivery July 4th)
Monday through Friday**



What is RFD?

This summer the Rural Fun Delivery (RFD) program is celebrating its fifth anniversary! In partnership with Mary Johnson Children's Center (MJCC) and the Mount Abraham Union School District (MAUSD) Food Service Cooperative, RFD has provided free nutritious meals, engaging activities, and a safe and welcoming space for kids to be kids to youth ages 18 and under in underserved communities in Starksboro, Vermont. This summer, RFD is excited to continue the tradition of daily activities and lunches, as well as weekly afternoon activities for all ages, including group art projects, storytime, and classic outdoor summer games.



Schedule 2018

Free Weekday Programming and Lunches
June 25th-August 10th, except July 4th

Brookside at 11:20

with special activities on Wednesdays at 1:45

Lazy Brook at 12:10

with special activities on Thursdays at 1:30

Hillside at 12:50

followed by special activities on Tuesdays at
1:30



Questions?

Contact Us

Physical Address

Mary Johnson Children's
Center
81 Water Street
Middlebury, VT 05753
(802) 398-2037



Website

ruralfundelivery.org

Facebook

RFDVT