



The



# GAZETTE

The official newsletter produced by the Town of Starksboro

JUNE 2018

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## Hazardous Collection Day in Starksboro

Starksboro will host a Hazardous Collection site on Saturday, June 2 from 8:00 – noon at the new town garage. This is for **Starksboro, Lincoln, and Monkton residents only**. This is an opportunity to dispose of **Pesticides** (weed killers, insecticides, fertilizers, wood preservatives, rodent poisons); **Paints & Stains**; **Cleaning Products** (drain openers, oven cleaners, spot removers, metal or furniture polish); **Automotive Products** (gasoline, solvents, brake fluids, antifreeze, batteries); **Other** (fluorescent bulbs, batteries).

**NOT ACCEPTED:** Lab Chemicals, fireworks, explosives, ammunition, smoke detectors, radioactive waste, or medical waste.

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## GRIEVANCE DAY

The Starksboro Listers will be holding their annual Grievances on June 5<sup>th</sup>. If any property owner feels that their assessed value is not fair or that there is an error in it, and would like to set up an appointment to meet with the Listers, please call the office (453-2639). You must make an appointment and bring your grievance in writing. It would also be helpful to you to bring in some comparable properties.

## Selectboard News – May

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

- Town Clerk's report: Cheryl Estey gave an update from the clerk's office. She brought a range of topics to the Selectboard's attention including a statewide scam affecting Justices of the Peace, planning for the August 14<sup>th</sup> primary, building updates and office needs, flag pole repair request, and more. Please see the full minutes for details.
- Road Foreman's report: Tom reported regular maintenance is running behind due to weather conditions. New pickup truck approved at town meeting will arrive before the end of June. The other truck will arrive in late summer. Rock crushing will happen in September.
- The Selectboard made many of the reappointments to town positions. Some positions still need to be reappointed or filled. The board aims to have all appointments on the same annual schedule for 2019, unless timing is mandated by State statute.
- Jerusalem Schoolhouse: The board had an extensive discussion about the current committee and the need to formalize the structure. The board is interested in hearing from people who may wish to serve on the committee. See the 5/11 minutes for details.
- Conservation Commission: They currently have 4 active members and seek new interested members. Please contact us if you are would like to contribute in any way.
- Building & Maintenance Updates: Vault roof work to be done in the next few months; Post Office needs various repairs that are in process; insulating needed at Village Center building; porch repair will happen in June.
- Animal control update: An issue continues with a dog owner in South Starksboro. A second ticket with letter of violation is to be issued. The animal control officer has been working on an on-going cat population issue
- IT discussion at 5/15 meeting – Scott Bernoudy of Open Approach (an IT firm) gave a presentation to the board about computer and IT related recommendations and planning for the municipal office. His firm works with several municipalities as well as mid-size businesses to manage security and create comprehensive IT policies. He explained areas to be aware of and consider when planning for future computer purchases and making investments in all areas of IT related to the office. Towns in Vermont have been hit with breaches and all municipal offices are preparing and should upgrade security and practices.
- The board will meet with another IT company at the 6/5 meeting and will continue planning for IT and computer upgrades soon. At least two computers will need to be replaced this year.

### **Please join the Starksboro Planning Commission for a Public Hearing on the draft Town Plan Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.**

The PC has been hard at work for more than a year and a half on this draft. This was not a major rewrite or revision, but rather an update that brings our town's plan into compliance with State statute.

The draft can be found by following the link on the home page of the town's website: [starksborovt.org](http://starksborovt.org)

The public hearing will take place at the Robinson Elementary School's multi-purpose room on June 12, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. Please review the plan ahead of time. If you need a paper copy, they will be available at the town clerk's office upon request.

We welcome you to submit your questions and comments in advance of the hearing so we can have answers or more information available as needed. You can email your questions/comments to the Planning Commission Chair Dennis Casey at [starksborozoning@gmavt.net](mailto:starksborozoning@gmavt.net) or via Rebecca Elder/Zoning Administrator ([Rebecca@starksborovt.org](mailto:Rebecca@starksborovt.org)). You can also send via mail to the town office at PO Box 91, Starksboro, VT 05487

*Thank you for your interest in the plan! We look forward to seeing you in June.*

# WORSHIP SERVICES

## **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF STARKSBORO:**

[www.Starksborobaptistchurch.org](http://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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:pantosketcham@newcommunityproject.org).

## Conservation Corner: Spring/Summer 2018

Welcome to the Starksboro Energy Committee's Conservation Corner of the Gazette. This month we offer some suggestions for seasonally timed opportunities to save both energy and money as we shift into summer.

### *Level One—easy or free/very inexpensive*

1. To keep cool this summer try using low energy consumption fans. If you use an air conditioner, set the thermostat as high as you can accept.
2. Install blinds on south-and west-facing windows and keep them closed during the day to keep sunlight out.
3. Save energy and reduce indoor heat by using a clothesline to dry clothes.
4. For watering your lawn and garden, consider installing a rain barrel or tank. If elevated off the ground, it can supply gravity-fed water to where you need it.

### *Level Two—minimal effort or initial expense*

1. Install low wattage LED bulbs. These bulbs produce less heat per unit of light produced. They will also last 10-20 times longer than incandescent bulbs and will save far more than their cost in electric bills.
2. Insulate your hot water heater. This will save energy and reduce heat entering your home.
3. Repair leaking faucets to save water and keep your pump from running unnecessarily.

### *Level Three- more significant effort or moderate expense*

1. Lawns require a lot of time and energy to keep up. Consider replacing some or all of your lawn with a ground cover. Gas powered mowers account for 5 percent of the nation's air pollution and spill 17 million gallons of fuel during refueling. There are excellent human powered and cordless electric alternatives these days that work just as well and avoid this pollution.
2. Walk, bike, carpool, or use mass transit whenever possible. There are two stops in Starksboro for the ACTR (<http://actr-vt.org/>) commuter bus. A bus shelter is located next to the commuter parking lot behind the town office near the community garden. There is also a stop at the old South Hinesburg General Store across from Clifford Lumber.
3. For short range commuting, take a look at the new electric peddle assist bikes ("e-bikes") available these days. E-bikes make biking a more viable solution for rural and hilly areas like ours. Check out <http://www.vbikesolutions.org/>.
4. Have a professional energy audit performed on your home and see what opportunities there are to keep cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter.
5. Do it Yourself air sealing and insulation: Small steps can have a significant impact on how you feel in your home. Efficiency Vermont provides a rebate to cover the cost of materials to air seal and insulate your attic or basement yourself. <https://www.efficiencyvermont.com/rebates/list/diy-insulation-and-air-sealing>
6. Check out the Efficiency Vermont website or contact them at 888.921.5990 for more low cost/no cost ways to save money and energy.

Have an idea for Conservation Corner? We'd love to hear your ideas that can help our neighbors and community reduce energy consumption, pollution, and save money.

***Starksboro Public Library***  
***Monthly News for June 2018***

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

*Catherine Goldsmith, Librarian, 453-3732 - [starksboropl@comcast.net](mailto:starksboropl@comcast.net)*

Public Libraries are for EVERYONE and.....

# **"LIBRARIES ROCK!"**

## **Summer Reading Club Kick-off Event "Tales for a Harmonious World"**

**Storytelling by Joan Robinson - Susanna Olson**

**Monday, July 2, 5:30-6:30pm**

**STORIES and SNACKS!**

### **Hey kids - Join the Summer Reading Club**

- Pick a prize every time you come in to exchange your books
- Set your personal reading goal.
- Tell us about your favorite books.
- Win a free book in August by meeting your summer reading goal.
- How many books can Starksboro read this summer?

Summer reading keeps school skills sharp and makes back to school more fun. Read what you LOVE! Catherine and Lynn can help find just the right book for each child.

**FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM SCHOOLHOUSE:** What a glorious time of year to live in Vermont! So many beautiful, warm days stretching out before us...here's to a summer filled with lots of outdoor activities with family and friends...swimming, picnics, camping, gardening, kayaking, biking, hiking, etc...and evenings around the campfire making and eating s'mores!!

Be sure to contact Edie Sears if you would like to find out about using the Jerusalem Schoolhouse for an event...453-3183.

This month we have a wonderful story by Cecilia Elwert that shares what she loves most about our community. Hope you enjoy it! And, please, send along your story to Nancy Orvis at [norvis1113@gmail.com](mailto:norvis1113@gmail.com) if you would like to share why you moved to South Starksboro, why you stay, and what you love most about our community.

Thank you Cecilia...we are happy to have you living "up south"!

Starksboro has been my home since 1981 but I was born not too far away in Middlebury, lived briefly in Brandon and was raised in Rutland.

Within Starksboro I've lived in three distinct neighborhoods- the broad Lewis Creek valley in the Village on Rt 116, the narrow Big Hollow Rd corridor and now up in South Starksboro on Rt 17 for more than a decade below the flank of the Green Mountain range.

After nearly 25 years in the Village I knew I'd be staying in Starksboro and was fortunate to purchase my home in a private sale. A bonus feature is an old stone wall bordering one edge of the property. And an abundance of wildflowers and wildlife (so far one bear, one moose, and of course deer, turkeys and plenty of birds.)

One hope of my son was that wherever I bought there would be a stream. I lucked out again as my property is bordered by Baldwin Creek with a woods path above the creek bank.

What fun to go 'creeking' and note the changes in the stream bed and banks over time, especially after Irene.

And the sound of that creek- I can tend my numerous perennial beds for hours accompanied by the constant sound of water tumbling over rock. In fact I've probably dug up a few too many new beds at the encouragement of that sound!

Having rediscovered my long ago passion for hiking, there's no doubt the mountains are a huge feature- the spring green creeping up the mountainside, the dramatic snow line, the alpenglow or a full moon rising over the ridge. I never tire of the view of Mt Ellen (one of Vt's 5 high peaks above 4K!) from inside my home. And depending where I am in South Starksboro, I catch glimpses of parts of the Monroe Skyline, traversing from Lincoln Gap to App Gap.

I maintain almost 4 miles of 3 different trails for the Green Mountain Club including the Jerusalem Trail. (My friends kid me by making it clear that I live outside Jerusalem 'proper' but hey, I think of the J Trail as home too!) While I don't know these woods as well as the locals, the J Trail offers up vast opportunities to observe and explore nature up close as I gain elevation while doing trail work. The trails and woods roads also serve as a venue for walking meditation; to just 'be' and I'm grateful it all unfolds right at my doorstep.

South Starksboro's two historic public buildings are near and dear. The one room 1874 Jerusalem Schoolhouse is still a community gathering spot of all sorts and I have been involved in efforts to restore it. One use has been as a nearly free fitness center- tai chi, bone builders and this winter as I went through the yoga positions on a somewhat chilly floor (doesn't bother me!) I thought back to students nearly 150 years ago learning in the same space. I enjoy maintaining the schoolhouse window boxes throughout the year.

The South Starksboro Friends Meeting House built in 1826 stands solid with the mountain range as backdrop, a quiet spot for contemplation.

And a shout out to the Jerusalem Corners Country Store, from pizza to gas and under new ownership.

While most of us head off the mountain for work and I may know but a fraction of folks up here, we do run into each other walking the trail and roads, swap perennials and houseplants, keep an eye out for each other and our property, water plants while away, throw a party or two, honk as we zip by (I still don't recognize most cars!) and collectively wonder when we'll get our section of Rt 17 repaved.

We even explore together how we'll manage to 'age in place' so we can keep living in this gorgeous corner of Starksboro we call home.

**THE GAZETTE** is published monthly and mailed to all Starksboro residents. Articles and advertisements must be submitted by the **20<sup>th</sup> of each month** to the Town Clerk. If the 20<sup>th</sup> falls on Fri, Sat, or Sun, than it is due the following Monday **by NOON**. **Anything not received by the 20<sup>th</sup> will not be included in the Gazette.**

**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), 453-2639

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

**Zoning Administrator:** Rebecca Elder [rebecca@starksborovt.org](mailto:rebecca@starksborovt.org)

*Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs mornings 453-2768*

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

[starksborotaxes@gmail.com](mailto:starksborotaxes@gmail.com)

**Listers** – 453-2778 Tues/Thurs 9 – 3pm [starksborolisters@gmail.com](mailto:starksborolisters@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.*

Peter Marsh – 453-3478

Tony Porter – 989-5096

Keegan Tierney – 777-9431

Koran Cousino – 453-4352

Eric Cota – 373-9763

**SCHOOL BOARD**

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

Louis DuPont – 453-5538

Nancy Cornell – 453-2681

Caleb Elder – 434-4805

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

**Supervisory Board** – Nancy Cornell, Louis Dupont, Caleb Elder

**LIBRARY:** 453-3732 or [starksboropl@comcast.net](mailto:starksboropl@comcast.net)

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

*Library Board Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday @4:30 pm at Library.*

**REPRESENTATIVES**

Fred Baser – 453-4391

**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)

**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

**PLANNING COMMISSION:**

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:**

Meetings: 4<sup>th</sup> Monday @7 pm at the Starksboro Public Library

Chair, Jan McCleery – 453.3755 or [mccleery@norwich.edu](mailto:mccleery@norwich.edu)

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

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR:** Charlene Phelps

363-4276

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

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

**STARKSBORO VILLAGE WATER COOPERATIVE: 453-4034**

Meetings: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. The hours are 9:30 - 6:30.

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Public Hearing on the draft Town Plan  
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**starksboro town plan**  
2018-2022



## Selectboard News – May

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