



The GAZETTE

The official newsletter produced by the Town of Starksboro

JANUARY 2019

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**TOWN OFFICE HOLIDAY
CLOSINGS:** December 31,
and January 1st, January 21st

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TOWN MEETING will be held on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Robinson Elementary School multipurpose room. The town budget will be voted from the floor at Town Meeting. You must be present to vote. Australian Ballot voting will take place on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Robinson School multipurpose room. All of the school budgets, plus the Hannaford Career budget, and Town and School officers will be voted on Tuesday. You can also vote early on these issues. Ballots should be available by February 13, 2019. Call the Town Office to request ballots.

TOWN REPORT DEADLINES / CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION:

We are in the process of assembling the Town Report so we are looking for Articles to be included from those organizations that have write ups and/or ask for appropriation from the town. We need to have these in no later than the first week of January. Please include your request in writing, and a one page write up for the town report.

If you were thinking of running for an office, now would be the time to give it a try. There are some open seats, with no candidates running. Please find a list of those offices below. Petitions due by January 28th.

Auditor (3 yrs) Cemetery Commissioner Selectboard (3 yrs)
Planning Commission (3 yrs) 1st Constable (1 yr) 2nd Constable (1 yr)
First Juror (1 yr)

January 17, 2019 – Last day to turn in petitions (signed by 5% of the voters) for articles to be included on the Warning for Town Meeting.

January 28, 2019 – Last day to turn in nominating petitions (signed by 1% of the voters) for town/school offices to be included on the Australian Ballot.

February 13, 2019 – Early ballots available

March 2, 2019 – Town Meeting, 9:00 am at Robinson Elementary School

March 5, 2019 – Australian Ballot Voting, 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, Robinson Elementary School

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 Foreman updates:** Winter weather prompted some school delays and closings in December. Tom communicates directly with the MAUSD Superintendent regarding back road conditions for safe bus travel. New winter tires are needed for the new pickup truck.
- As a result of the speed study done by ACRPC and feedback from residents, the board has approved a change to the speed limit ordinance. **The speed limit on State's Prison Hollow Road will be reduced from 45 m.p.h. to 35 m.p.h. beginning February 1, 2019.** New signs will be placed prior to 2/1.
- The liquor license for the Jerusalem Country Store was renewed.
- The **Delinquent Tax Policy** has been updated per recommendations from Amy McCormick.
- The board is preparing the **FY19-20 budget** for the Town Report and presentation to the voters at Town Meeting. This is a challenging budget due, in part, to anticipated staff changes in the next fiscal year. Health insurance premium costs continue to rise. The board may consider the VMERS retirement plan in the future.
- The board approved a **grant application** for an Electric Vehicle charging station to be placed in the commuter lot. See the Energy Committee's update for more details.

REMINDER!!!

The following positions have open seats. Please consider running for office.

Positions and terms:

- Lister (3 yr)
- Auditor (3 yr)
- Cemetery Commissioner (2 positions; 1 yr and 3 yr)
- Selectboard (2 positions; 2 yr and 3 yr)
- Planning Commission (3 positions; 3 yr)
- Library Trustees (2 positions; 3 yr)
- Town Agent to Prosecute & Defend Suits (1 yr)
- First Constable (1 yr)
- Second Constable (1 yr)
- First Grand Juror (1 yr)



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.

CROSS TRAIL – All are welcome to hike or snowshoe this local trail. It's a 1 1/2 mile loop with a great view at the stone cross. The trail is at 590 Conway Rd and maps are at the trail head. Please park on right side of driveway. Look for orange blazes. Come hike or snowshoe and enjoy God's awesome creation.

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.

Energy Corner

The Vermont Division of Community Planning and Revitalization recently posted a request for grant applications for new Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations throughout the state. The Starksboro Energy Committee worked with the Town to identify appropriate siting for two new Level 2 EV charging stations at the Starksboro Town Office Park & Ride and submitted an application for consideration. The proposed EV charging site is believed to be particularly favorable due to its proximity to the Town Park and Ride, the bus shelter that is served by ACTR bus service, and because Route 116 is an important highway corridor. Furthermore, the site is in the center of Starksboro Village in walkable proximity to various workplaces, the Town Offices, Library, Preschool, Meeting House, Baptist Church, and Elementary School.

According to the Drive Electric Vt map, there are currently no other public charge stations in Starksboro or adjoining Monkton, Bristol or Lincoln, and directly on Route 116 between East Middlebury, 31 miles to the south and Williston, 18 miles to the north (the only public station in the area is CVU about 10 miles north). The Town of Starksboro hopes to encourage and support the use of electric vehicles with these charging stations.

If accepted, the grant funding would provide ninety percent of the charging station cost with a ten percent match required by the Town of Starksboro, which the Selectboard has recently approved. Additionally, the Energy Committee has engaged in conversations with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) who, because of the favorable siting of the EV charging station, is interested to cover the ten percent match of the EV charging station grant thereby alleviating the Town of its ten percent match commitment.

If funded, the proposed schedule is targeting summer 2019 construction after the AOT matching funds become available in July 2019. Project completion and beginning of operation is proposed for the fall of 2019 or before.

Button Up Vermont, New Community Project, and the Starksboro Energy Committee will be hosting a free "Do It Yourself (DIY) Weatherization Workshop" event on January 23rd, 2019 at the First Baptist Church in the village at 7:00pm.

Owners of homes and businesses in Starksboro and the surrounding area are invited to this hands-on workshop to learn how to improve efficiency and conserve energy in their buildings through low cost DIY projects with commonly available materials.

- Free weather stripping and refrigerator thermometers will be available
- Hands on workshop will give you the basic skills needed to make low cost/high payback improvements to your home or business
- Rebates worth up to \$100 available for participating DIY projects
- Light refreshments will be served

This workshop is part of Efficiency Vermont's Home energy saving workshop series that are being offered in communities around the state this fall and winter.

For more information contact Pete Antos-Ketcham at (802) 434-2333 or pantosketcham@newcommunityproject.org.

Starksboro Public Library
Monthly News for January 2018
Hours: Mon. 10-6, Thurs. 10-5, Sat. 9-2

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

Fiber Arts Saturday!

January 12th, at 10:30am

Join in this social time with fellow knitters, weaver, and sewers. Coffee and tea always on tap.

2nd Saturday Toddler Meetup for kids and parents

January 12th, 9:30-10:30am

The toddlers are coming, the toddlers are coming! Enjoy library toys and foster an early love books.

WINTER FILM SERIES

Theme - Art and Artists

Friday, January 25th, 7pm

Haven't picked the movies yet but mark your calendar now for some excellent films about the creative process and the lives of artists. Requests, anyone? Chair pillows, popcorn and beverages provided!

New Materials in the Library:

Youth: *The Jungle Book* (Audio); *Henry and the Chalk Dragon*-Jennifer Trafton; *Stick Man* – Julia Donaldson; *Yellow Kayak*- Nina Laden;

Youth - Graphic Novels: *Amulet #8*; *Black Panther Nation*-Ta Nehisi Coats; *Princeless*- Jeremy Whitley; *Real Friends*-Shannon Hale; *Calvin and Hobbes*-Bill Watterson;

Adults: *Great Believers* –Rebecca Makkai ; *Haunting of Hill House* – Shirley Jackson; *Raven Black* – Ann Cleeves; *Knit a murder* – Shirley Goldenbaum; *Past Tense*-Lee Child.

Non-fiction: *Shirley Jackson*; *A Rather Haunted Life*-Ruth Franklin ; *Cooking for Jeffrey*-Ina Garten (*Barefoot Contessa*); *Fear* – Bob Woodward.

Audiobooks (on CD): *All the time in the world*-Caroline Angell; *Double Mint*-Gretchen Archer; *The Hike*-Drew Magary; *Jonathan Unleashed*-Meg Rosoff; *The Tumbling Turner Sisters* – Juliette Fay; *The Weaver*-Emmi Itaranta.

RSVP Bone Builders: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-6:30 at the library. Friendly group. All ages. Prevents and Reverses Osteoporosis • Improves Balance • Enhances Energy and Well-Being!

Always free Wi-Fi in the library! Computers for use with internet connection; printing .10 a page.

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FRIENDS OF JERUSALEM SCHOOLHOUSE: The ANNUAL HUNTER/EARLY BIRD BREAKFASTS in November were a huge success. We had record numbers at the 3 Breakfasts...lots of hungry folks enjoyed lots of good food and good conversation.

Special thanks to the following people for donating food and/or monetary gifts to help us make these breakfasts happen: Mike Knight, Larry & Sue Shepard, Julia Doucet, Mike Shepard, Bear Cobble Sugarworks, Blair Hall, Cyndi Labelle, Erin Bent, Diane Orvis, Susan Klaiber, Barbara Weightman, Suzanne Orvis, Suzy Way, Dru Nye, Marge Porter, Cecilia Elwert and Nancy Orvis.

And HUGE thanks to all the volunteers that cooked, served and did cleanup...Erin Bent, Lisa Trayah, Eliza Bent, Ann Gibbons, Asher Bent, Cecilia Elwert, Blair Hall, Barb Weightman, Eleanor Ragsdale, Jordan Hall, Susan Klaiber, Suzanne Orvis, Pat Atkins, Marge Porter, Greg Orvis, Megan Porter and Nancy Orvis.

Our ANNUAL CAROLING PARTY was held on Sunday, Dec 9th. Those that attended had a wonderful time visiting, singing carols and enjoying cookies and warm cider. Santa arrived, as promised, and brought smiles to us all! Our pianist, Jen Allred, did a great job leading us in fun holiday songs as well as traditional carols. And everyone went home with a plate full of cookies!

The Schoolhouse will be relatively quiet for the winter. Bonebuilders and Tai Chi will continue to meet each week. The little mice will have free reign during the cold winter months!

If ever you wish to use the Schoolhouse for an event, please contact Edie Sears at 453-3183 regarding availability.

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 starksboro@madriver.com, 453-2639

Treasurer: Celine Coon starksborotowntreasurer@gmavt.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

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

SCHOOL BOARD

Mt. Abe Unified School District Board:

Caleb Elder – 434-4805

Steve Rooney – 453-4963

See the “School Board & Committees” tab at MAUSD.org for the meeting calendar and Minutes.

ENERGY COMMITTEE: Digger Faesy – 434-4254

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

Meetings on the 1st Monday of each month, 5:30, Starksboro Town Office

STARKSBORO VILLAGE WATER COOPERATIVE: 453-4034

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

Public Library

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

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 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

HEALTH OFFICER: Peter Ryersbach – 453-3597

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.

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 the Library

HUB TEEN CENTER & SKATEPARK:

www.bristolskatepark.com

Ryan Krushenick – 453-3678 / thehub@gmavt.net

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.