

TOWN OF STARK

County of Herkimer

State of New York

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Fort Plain, NY 13339

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Aaron Gerhardt, Councilman
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INTRODUCTION

This is the Spring 2025 edition of the Town of Stark Newsletter. We hope this newsletter finds you healthy and safe. We hope you find these newsletters to be both useful and informative. Our purpose is to keep residents and taxpayers up to date on the happenings of the Town of Stark. We welcome your input on these newsletters. If you have a comment or question on the contents, please contact any member of the Town Board.

2025 SPRING DUMPSTER DAY

The spring trash collection day will be held Saturday May 10, 2025 from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM at the Town of Stark Highway Department Garage in Starkville. We will **NOT** be taking tires on this day. Household hazardous waste, batteries or garbage are not to be collected on dumpster day, but can be disposed of at the recycling Center in Utica. All trash will be placed in dumpsters and sent to the landfill. White goods (refrigerators, freezers, stoves, TV's etc.) will **NOT be collected** at this time, but will be collected at the Dumpster Day in the fall. The Town employees in attendance will be there to assist you, not to unload for you, and to determine what can be left off at the dumpster. Thank you in advance for cooperating. Take advantage of the Dumpster Day to beautify our community.

Van Hornesville Fire department

The Van Hornesville Fire Department will be having their Chicken B.B.Q. on Saturday, May 3 from noon – 4:00 (or until sold out). Halves are \$9.00. Dinners are \$13.00 and include chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, roll, baked potato, dessert and a drink. There will also be a Chinese auction. Join us at the Meeting Hall in Starkville. Dine in available.

ASSESSING AND GRIEVANCE DAY

Grievance Day for the Town of Stark will be Thursday May 29, 2025 at the Town of Stark Highway Department Garage and Courthouse offices from 4:00 PM in the afternoon to 8:00 PM in the evening. We are asking anyone having a question of their assessment to contact Assessor Jim Fresco at 315-867-1632 to discuss their assessment without doing so in person. Mr. Fresco may also be contacted by email at jffresco@herkimercounty.org. The Board of Assessment Review (BAR) members are Edward Mower, Don Sheldon and Paul M. (Mike) Kennerknecht. If there is no other way to resolve your issue with the assessment, you can make an appointment to meet with the BAR.

Highway Department

The Town Board has received notice the Volvo 10-wheel Truck ordered by the Town one year ago, has been scheduled for assembly by the middle of October, 2024. Delivery of the Volvo Truck was made in February 2025. A Mack style truck has been on order for the past three years and is still on schedule for assembly. Cost for the Volvo truck is approximately \$336,000.00. This includes all the snow fighting equipment necessary for our needs during the winter. Payment for the truck will be with a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) issued from NBT Bank, the Towns lending institution. Payments to NBT Bank will be made over a five year period with the first payment due in 2026, plus interest.

The Town Board has applied for and received a Grant for the purchase and construction of a Sand/salt storage facility to be built on Town property. Cost of the facility is approximately \$560,600.00. The style building is a Britespan offered by Eagle Associates of Cazenovia, LLC. The Town has also contacted another company, Hybrid Building Solutions. The total cost of construction is to be paid by the Town of Stark up-front before reimbursement is received from the Grant company. Jerry Stucchi of JGK Associates in Schuyler wrote the Grant application for the project. The Town is in line for approximately up to \$500,000.00 of the total cost to the Town for site plan review, land preparation and purchase, construction material, equipment rental and labor associated with the total cost of the Project.

The Town Board has also received notice that the Mack Truck ordered three years ago has been scheduled for assembly. Delivery date is undetermined at this time. The purchase price is estimated. The truck was purchased under Sourcwell. This provides the Town the opportunity to purchase at a predetermined cost using a guaranteed bid received from another local Municipality Sourcwell contract.

Cell Tower for the Town of Stark

Verizon Wireless approached the Town of Stark looking to locate a Cell Tower on Puskarenko Road near the intersection of Travis Road. The Town of Stark Planning Board met many times to listen to the proposal from Verizon and their construction contractor. The meetings resulted in the approval of the Verizon proposal and the location of the Cell Tower in the Town of Stark. The proposed location should improve the cell phone coverage for the outer areas of the Town of Stark and neighboring communities. Construction and development of the Verizon cell tower is underway and should be completed this summer or early fall.

A second cell tower has been approved in the Town of Stark. T-Mobile is constructing a cell tower located on property just off Barker Road in the Town. The utility project has been approved for continuation and should be completed this summer as well. This should provide the Town with even better cell reception.

TOWN BOARD TOPICS

Local elections for November 4, 2025 will be held at the Town of Stark Justice Court Building from 6:00 AM until 9:00 PM. Local elections are scheduled for this November. Positions open for election include Town Highway Superintendent, 2-year term currently held by David Hajczewski. Town Supervisor, a two year term currently held by Richard Bronner. Town Clerk, a 2-year term currently held by Eleanor Smith. Town councilman, a four year term currently held by John Voght, Town Councilman, a 4-year term currently held by Aaron Gerhardt, who was appointed by the Town Board beginning January 1, 2025, following the resignation of Councilman Emil Ziaja effective December 31, 2024. Mr. Ziaja had served the Town of Stark as a member of the Town Council for 27 years. The Town of Stark would like to take this opportunity to thank Emil for his dedication and service to the Town of Stark.

The office of Town Tax Collector was also open for election. At a regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Board held on April 8, 2025, the Town Board adopted a resolution abolishing the office of Tax Collector in the Town of Stark, effective December 31, 2025, when the term of Tax Collector expires, and moved to assign all duties and records of the Town of Stark Tax Collector to the Town of Stark Town Clerk.

Because of the size of the room, only a limited number of voters will be allowed in the courthouse at any one time. Thank you for your patience.

Van Hornesville Community Corp Survey

The Van Hornesville Community Corp. has been conducting a community survey have been collecting input from members and the local community regarding what direction to take going forward. The results of that survey will be discussed on Saturday May 3 at noon at the Route 80 Bowl in Van Hornesville and on Sunday May 4 at 1:00 PM at the Van Hornesville Fire Department Meeting Hall in Starkville. All are invited to attend both of these meetings and to join in the conversation of the future of the 1833 Stone Mill, the Millpond and other properties.

The Community Corp. will also be sponsoring a clean-up week from May 5 through May 10 in Van Hornesville. During the week, the ODY student Green Team will collect trash, scrap metal, etc. (Sorry, no Styrofoam, or hazardous waste, such as paint, oil, chemicals). On Saturday May 10, at the Mill, VHCC will collect e-waste such as computers, monitors, TVs, DVD players and printers.

If you have

un-used vehicles to get rid of, the VHCC can put you in contact with scrap dealers and towing services to help coordinate with the removal and will pass on any money collected to the owners. This goes for anyone in the Town of Stark and the surrounding area. Contact info@vhcccorp.org with questions.

Town of Stark Town Board
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