

TOWN OF STARK
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Anthony Grescheck, Jr., Councilman
John H. Voght, Councilman
Aaron Gerhardt, Councilman
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INTRODUCTION

This is the Fall 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.

FALL 2025 DUMPSTER DAY

The fall trash collection day will be held Saturday October 11, 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 until we find a place to dispose of them. 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 **be collected** at this Collection Day. 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 continue to beautify our community.

Van Hornesville Fire department

The Van Hornesville Fire Department will be having their Chicken B.B.Q. on Saturday, October 4, 2025 from noon to 4:00PM (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. Come in and join us at the Meeting Hall in Starkville. Take out or dine in available.

Highway Department

The Town of Stark has applied for and received a Grant for the purchase and construction of a Sand/salt storage facility to be built on Town property. The Town has purchased property from the farmland adjoining the Town Highway Garage on Elwood Road. The owner of the property is Mr. Narine Naidoo. The cost for the property was \$37,500.00. Cost of the facility to be built is approximately \$516,699.00 and includes lay-out of the building, pier foundation, and 12' concrete bunker walls. The style building is a Britespan Magnum, offered by Eagle Associates of Cazenovia, LLC. Quote was approved for Sourcewell. The Town is responsible for earthwork, including excavation, back fill and stone. The total cost of construction is to be paid by the Town of Stark up-front and must be approved before reimbursement is received from the grant application. Jerry Stucchi of JGK Associates of Utica wrote the DEC Grant application for the project. The Town is approved for approximately up to \$500,000.00 in grant funding to be applied to the total cost to the Town's project 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 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 at \$308,000.00. The truck is a model year 2026 and was purchased under Sourcewell on action by the Town Board in March of 2022. This provides the Town the opportunity to purchase at a predetermined cost using a guaranteed bid received from another local Municipality's Sourcewell contract. The truck is scheduled to be completed in early 2026, with the necessary snow fighting equipment and emissions control for diesel trucks

The Town Board has received the Volvo 10-wheel Truck ordered by the Town in 2023. Delivery of the Volvo Truck was made in February 2025. Cost for the Volvo truck was approximately \$336,000.00. This included all the necessary snow fighting equipment necessary for use during the winter season. Payment for the truck was made with a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) issued from NBT Bank, the Town's lending institution. Payments to NBT Bank will be made over a five year period, with the first principle payment due in 2026, plus interest.

The Highway Department work crew has completed road work on the roads designated Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (Chips) for repairs and stone and oiling and sealing. Chips roads completed include Welden Road, from State Route 168 to the seasonal road. Cramers Corners from Route 168 to seasonal road sign, Maby Road from Travis Road to road end. Deck Road, from Upper Deck Road to Route 168. Mayton Road from Travis Road to Aney Hill Road. These roads were authorized by the Town Board in the spring of 2025.

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 on the ballot for election include Highway Superintendent, 2-year term currently held by David Hajczewski, who is running for re-election. John Armstrong is also running for Highway Superintendent. 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, who is seeking re-election. 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. Gerhardt is not on the ballot for re-election in November. The 4-year term for Councilman was filed for by Marie Armstrong. In June of this year, Councilman Tony Grescheck resigned his position as Councilman. The Town Board appointed Nick Jordan to fill the balance of the term for this year, ending December 31, 2025, leaving two years on the term expiring December 31, 2027. Mr. Jordan is not on the ballot this November. Town resident John Valenta was nominated to run for the balance of the two years left on the 4-year term for Councilman created by Tony Grescheck's resignation, expiring December 27, 2027.

Mr. Tony Grescheck had served the Town as Highway Superintendent for over twenty years, as well as two sessions as Town Councilman. Mr. Emil 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 Tony and Emil for their 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. The Town Board moved to assign all duties and records of the Town of Stark Tax Collector to the Town of Stark Town Clerk. Any questions concerning Tax Collector should be directed to the Town of Stark Town Clerk, Eleanor Smith.

The Town Board adopted two Local Laws in July of 2025. The first is Local Law #2 of 2025. This is a direct response to Local Law # 1-2024 creating a 9-month Moratorium and Local Law #1-2025 that extended the moratorium an additional 3-months. Local Law #2-2025 is titled "A Local Law Consolidating the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals Into The Zoning and Planning Board of The Town of Stark", creating one three member board to do both duties. The entire Local Law can be found on the Town of Stark website "townofstarkny.org".

The second is Local Law #3-2025 and is titled “A Local Law to Regulate and Monitor Junk Storage in the Town Of Stark”. The purpose of this declares that a clean and healthy environment enhances the community and welfare of its citizens. The entire Local Law #3-2025 can be found on the Town of Stark website as well.

Cell Towers 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 in the fall of 2024. 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 was to 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 has been delayed due to scheduling problems with National Grid regarding electric and Fiber Optic connections, which need to be completed to allow the tower to be placed on-line. We hope for completion before the end of the year. A second cell tower was also approved in the Town of Stark. T-Mobile has constructed a cell connection on an existing tower located on property just off Barker Road and Aney Hill Road in the Town. The utility project has been approved and has been completed this summer. This should provide the Town with even better cell reception.

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