

TOWN OF STARK

County of Herkimer

State of New York

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Fort Plain, NY 13339

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INTRODUCTION

This is the Spring 2026 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.

2026 SPRING DUMPSTER DAY

The spring trash collection day will be held Saturday May 9, 2026 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.

ASSESSING AND GRIEVANCE DAY

Grievance Day for the Town of Stark will be Thursday May 28, 2026 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 that the Mack Truck ordered three years ago has been scheduled for completion. Delivery date was April 10, 2026. The purchase price is estimated at \$310,907.00. 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 Town made a down payment of \$162,711.00 in 2025. The Town borrowed \$148,196.00 from NBT Bank to pay the balance due on the Mack Truck, equipped with snow fighting apparatus. The first payment is due in April 2027 on a five year note.

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 began doing site work on the property last fall by clearing and grading the location of the site for the proposed sand and salt barn storage facility, located behind the existing Highway Department Garage. More site work has been done by the Town's highway department work crew this spring. A work crew from Eagle Associates, the construction company awarded the contract for the building, has been on site lay to out the foundation location for footer location and walls for the building. All construction is very preliminary and some alterations may come to pass, but the project is under way and we will keep the public informed as the Town goes forward.

Progress of the project may be included on the Town of Stark website, by contacting "townofstarkny.org"

Burn Ban Designated For Our Area

There is a Burn Ban for our area that began in March 15, 2026 and is in effect until May 15, 2026. Open fires are prohibited and any questions should be directed to the Van Hornesville Fire Department. All Open fires of any kind should be closely monitored no matter when they occur.

TOWN BOARD TOPICS

Local elections for November 3, 2026 will be held at the Town of Stark Justice Court Building from 6:00 AM until 9:00 PM. Local elections are on 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/Tax Collector, 2-year term currently held by Eleanor Smith. Any person interested in these positions may fill out a nominating petition that must be filed with the Herkimer County Board of Elections by May 26, 2026. (Please note the Board of Elections is closed on Monday May 26, 2026 in observance of Memorial Day). There is also a 4-year term for Town Justice.

The Town of Stark is having Bridge/Culvert replacement work done on State Route 168 west of the hamlet of Starkville between Hoke Road and Lighthall Road. The project will take most of the summer, weather permitting. The project is under the direction of New York State. The project has shut the road down and created a detour around the work area. Sorry for the inconvenience, but the work is necessary and must be completed this summer.

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 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 intended 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 is completed

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

Community Clean-Up 2026

The Van Hornesville Community Corp. will again be sponsoring a clean-up week for the May 9, 2026 Dumpster Day in the Town of Stark. During the week, the ODY student Green Team will collect trash, scrap metal, etc., to help those needing assistance removing their trash to the Dumpster Day. 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.

Hydrant Flush in Van Hornesville

The Van Hornesville Fire Department will be conducting a flushing of the Fire hydrants in Van Hornesville. The procedure is recommended by the Department of Health. The flushing will begin around 1:30 PM on Saturday, May 9, 2026. The VH Fire Dept. performs this service twice per year for the Water District. If your water is cloudy during this timeframe, please let the water run until it clears up, as it may take a short time for this to happen. For those residents of Van Hornesville, we are sorry for the inconvenience.

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