

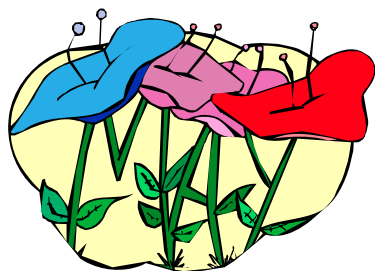


Our Town

Your Sprague Newsletter

May 2007

Volume XV11 Issue 5



The Merry Month of May!

First Selectman's Office

Dennison Allen

I want to thank the Garden Club for the flowers planted in the barrels throughout Town. Take time out of your busy day to enjoy the May flowers, and listen to the birds. This is a wonderful time to go to the Mukluk Preserve and walk up to the waterfalls. A walk by the river is always fun or visit the reservoir. It is also a great place this time of year. I would invite you to join members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on May 5th 2007 at 9:00 AM as they will be cleaning the Old Hanover Cemetery.

If all goes well, the Town will become owners of the Baltic Mill site this month; foreclosed for back taxes.

The Sprague water tank will be repaired this month.

We were very lucky the Northeaster only took down some trees and some power lines and fortunate that the weather was not cold. For those who burn wood, there was some to be collected.

The Board of Selectmen has assigned Tracy Medling, Kord Jablonski, and Mick Smith to a Committee to establish guidelines for editorial policy. They will be reporting to the Board of Selectman at our May 9th meeting.

I hope you attended the Budget Hearing on April 23, 2007 so that when you come to vote on May 7, 2007 you will have a better understanding of the budget process and how your tax dollars are spent. Please come out and vote.

I will send out bids as soon as the budget is passed on drainage and road repairs for Parkwood Road and Baltic /Hanover Road.

Have a wonderful May. Don't forget Mother's Day.

Readers:

If you have a "memory" that you would like to share, please send it in to **Our Town**.

SPRAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Hello fellow Sprague citizens,

I just want to update you on what is going on with the Conservation Commission. We have a lot going on, and coming up, as usual. The first being the plans for the "Spring sprucing-up" of the River Park. Wow, it's going to be great. We have volunteers scheduled to meet on Saturday April 28th to, once again, give their time and energy to "our" River Park. We will be planting plants and trees, installing picnic tables and benches, among many other things. Keep your eyes on this project. It is a wonderful example of community in action. Two other groups are joining in. Rachel Fish, a fifth-grader will head up a class project to put in a "Butterfly Garden" and the cub scouts will continue their Earth Day pride efforts. They will be planting 2 trees and many other flowering plants. It gets better every day. THANK YOU EVERYONE INVOLVED.

Also, the first-phase of the remediation of the Mukluk enclosed area will be beginning soon. Please heed all the signs to stay out of the enclosed area. We can enjoy this beautiful property and stay away from the fenced in area. Any questions please contact Don Boushee @ donaldboushee@sbcglobal.net. On that note I will be leading another hike on Sat. May 12th, 9-11 am leaving from the Grist Mill at 9 am. Please join us to witness the wonders of the Mukluk Preserve. It truly is a wonderful asset to our town.

On another interesting note, Wednesday April 18th the SCC led a walk on the Mukluk property. We invited the Arthur Basto Archeological Society along with the State Archaeologist Nick Bellantoni to walk the property to survey for Native American and colonial sites. They were all very impressed and in awe of this beautiful property,

particularly the waterfalls. With all this spring rain they were gushing. We will be coordinating some archaeological digs with the Society, the Sprague Historical Society, and the citizens of Sprague will be invited to participate. I will keep you posted.

Please remember that the Preserve opens at sunrise and the gate is closed at sunset.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday May 10 at 7pm. Any questions or concerns please attend.

-Don Boushee, SCC Chairman

SPRAGUE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Sprague Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing the evening of April 4, 2007 to receive public comment on its proposed Plan of Conservation and Development. The proposed Plan as presented at the hearing was available for public review on the Town website, at the Town Clerk's office and at the Sprague library for several months prior to the hearing.

Following the hearing that same night, the Commission held its regular scheduled meeting, and by a unanimous vote of the Commission, adopted the Plan, with an effective date of May 5, 2007. Copies of the Plan will be made available to the public after that date. The cost for purchase of a copy has not yet been set. The adopted Plan will remain accessible for viewing at the Town Hall, on the Town website, and at the Sprague library.

Also that evening, the Commission authorized the Zoning Enforcement Officer to approve a permit to allow the Sprague Rod and Gun Club a one-day permit for an event to follow the Pappy's Run motorcycle run that will take place in May of 2007.

The Planning and Zoning Commission holds its regular scheduled meetings on the first Wednesday of each month, at 7:00 P.M., in the courtroom on the second floor of the Town Hall. The agenda is posted on the bulletin board of the Town Clerk's office on the Monday immediately preceding the meeting. The public is always welcome and is encouraged to attend. Members of the Commission are: Mick Collins, Joe Osowski, Paul Piezzo, Arthur Spielman Jr., Gerald Stefon, Anna L. Talbot, and Richard Waterman. Alternate members are: Kathleen Boushee, Kord Jablonski, and Shawn Bittman. The Commission employs a part-time planner and consultant Tom Seidel of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments, Zoning Enforcement Officer Joseph Smith, and recording secretary Lisa Lentini.

A full record of the activities of the Commission at the hearing and at the meeting is available on audiotape at the Town Hall, and typed minutes of the meeting are also available there.

Exercise Yourself To A Better Brain

You've heard it talked about, written about, reported on the news...exercise has many benefits. This month's article will actually give you a few facts that may help motivate you to get moving. A recent Newsweek article came out that studied how exercise improves our brain function, "Last week, in a landmark paper, researchers announced that they had coaxed the human brain into growing new nerve cells, a process that for decades had been thought impossible, simply by putting subjects on a three-month aerobic-workout regimen. Other scientists have found that vigorous exercise can cause older nerve cells to form dense, interconnected webs that make the brain run faster and more efficiently. And there are clues that physical activity can stave off the beginnings of Alzheimer's disease, ADHD and other cognitive disorders. No matter your age, it seems, a strong, active body is crucial for building a strong, active mind."

Yes, this is one of the many studies we read and hear about. But, how do we adopt this into our own lives on a weekly or daily basis? First of all, take time to think about what kind of movement activity you enjoy. Make a list of three things. Then decide which ones are the most feasible to put into your weekly plan. You must understand though, an exercise regimen takes time and commitment—you need to readjust a few things, but you'll find it's not that difficult to do. Another point is that you need to ENJOY the activity...if not, you will never be consistent and you won't enjoy what you're doing. This point alone is the key to adopting exercise into your life.

Also, don't go crazy in the beginning! If you do, your body will burn out too fast and you won't have any energy to sustain your regimen consistently. Start out two to three times a week for maybe 20 minutes and slowly work your way into something more. Or don't! As long as you are moving for about 20 to 30 minutes three times a week, this is a good regimen to begin and stick with*. There are many studies out now that tell us to do 30 minutes each day, but listen to your body and celebrate that you are moving on a consistent basis whatever it may be. For us working people, going out on lunch break is a wonderful way to get this in. It also helps with de-stressing half way through the workday.

To conclude—get moving! No excuses! Everyone can manage to do something and once you are moving you, your body, and your brain will start to know the difference.

Submitted by: Angie Daly

Health and Nutrition Counselor

*Before beginning any exercise regimen, please consult with your doctor.

Democratic Town Committee

Hello Sprague,

I mentioned in last month's column that we've been having some new faces at our meetings. Two of those newer attendees are now officially members and the DTC is looking forward to having both Julie Lumpkins and Chris Mueller on our roster. Their participation and enthusiasm are greatly appreciated and we are looking forward to their contributions.

I've spoken with a number of Democrats and Republicans alike over the past months and folks seem to agree that formation of a charter commission and adoption of a town charter would be in the Sprague's best interest. The DTC has discussed this issue at length over past months and the time has come for the town to begin examining the process in earnest.

In an effort to get the ball rolling, the DTC recently invited the RTC and any interested individuals to join us for a joint DTC/RTC meeting where we will begin to explore the possibility of a town charter. We will be having an attorney, an expert in the field of municipal charters, speak with us about the process, what has worked in other towns and communities and what has not.

As I've mentioned recently, the DTC and RTC have cooperated successfully on recent issues. We're reached out to the Republican leaders on this issue of a town charter and I'm hopeful that we can move forward together in this process.

If you are interested in attending the meeting, or the charter process in general please contact me.

- Kord Jablonski

Chairman, Sprague DTC

822-1912, kordjablonski@yahoo.com

Republican Town Committee

At the last RTC meeting the committee voted on what we consider to be two important issues that are facing our town at this time. The first one is on the issue of opinions being published in our local newsletter, OUR TOWN; it was the consensus of the committee that the current policy for printing resident views in the newsletter has served us well for the past 17 years. That if it's not broke, don't fix it. However there are some who would disagree with this and would like to put restrictions on your ability to write personal pieces. It is the opinion of this committee that the townspeople--not a single board--should decide if the present policy needed to be changed. Therefore, it is our recommendation that resident submissions be allowed to continue until this coming November when-- on the election ballot--town residents can "vote up or down" on whether to keep the existing policy. If the ballot demonstrates the existing policy does not have the support of the public, that is the time to consider a change, not before.

The second issue involves a recommendation for an ordinance that would require the town's budget go to referendum any time it exceeds a 1 mill increase. It is the committee's belief that the town meeting does not always allow for all our residents to have the opportunity to participate in the process that some residents because of jobs or other commitments are not always able to attend these town meetings and are in effect being disenfranchised. The budget affects all our town's taxpayers and they all should have a say in its acceptance or its denial. While there are many issues to be worked out before such an ordinance can be presented for consideration, we believe that this is a positive step in the right direction. To that end, we have formed a sub-committee that will be looking into towns who have already established such a policy. We believe by studying all these various policies that

other towns have implemented we can find one that would work for us as well.

- Michael W. Smith

Chairman RTC

HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

May 19th in East Lyme

East Lyme Highway Department

12 Roxbury Road (off Route 161)

Information: 444-5864

REMINDER FROM THE ASSESSOR-

As the July tax season approaches I'd like to remind residents of the easiest way to receive a correction or credit on your motor vehicle tax bill, if you are no longer the owner of your registered vehicle. You'll need one of the following forms of proof; the documentation must have the VIN# and all the corroborating information.

- A. A copy of the bill of sale or gift letter.
- B. A copy of the purchase agreement identifying your vehicle as the trade-in vehicle.
- C. A copy of the canceled title.
- D. A copy of the original registration issued to the person to whom you sold the vehicle.
- E. A copy of the registration in another state.
- F. Documentation from an insurance company, i.e.; payment for a stolen vehicle, payment for a totaled vehicle, cancellation of policy coverage **due to sale of vehicle.**

The Department of Motor Vehicles will give you a plate receipt when you cancel the registration, but this does not show the disposition of the vehicle.

Mail or fax required proof to:

Assessor, Town of Sprague

P.O. Box 162

Baltic, Connecticut 06330

fax 860-822-3016

UNREGISTERED VEHICLES STILL OWNED AND LOCATED IN SPRAGUE WILL REMAIN ON THE GRAND LIST.

National Association of Post Masters

Hello Residents of Sprague!

I am a member of the National Association of Postmasters of the US or NAPUS. I just completed the production of a cookbook entitled "United We Stand" that incorporates recipes from various Postmasters all over the state of Connecticut. We are selling the book as a fund raiser for our organization. One of the expenditures from this endeavor will be the funding of several scholarships for high school seniors for their first year of college. The cookbook is for sale through me, as a resident, not over the counter at the Post Office. If you would like a "cooperative" cookbook with lots of great tried-and-true recipes for your collection, or as a gift, please call me at home 822-9209. The cookbooks are \$10.00 per book. Have a great day!

- Tracy A. Medling (Mailing address: PO Box 11 Hanover)

SPRAGUE SCHOOL DISTRICT

**Baltic – Hanover – Versailles
Kindergarten Registration
Sayles School
25 Scotland Road
Baltic, CT 06330
822-8264**

Sayles School is currently conducting Kindergarten Registration for the 2007-08 school year. Parents of children who will be five years old by January 1, 2008 must provide birth certificates, social security numbers and immunization records for rubella, measles, polio, mumps, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B and chicken pox. Parents also need to provide three proofs of residency showing the street address. It is important that all students planning to attend full-day kindergarten during the 2007-08 school year be registered as soon as possible. Please call 822-8264, ext 100 if you have any questions and for a registration packet.

10th Annual Boy Scout Auction Saturday, May 5th

Baltic Fire Dept, Rt. 138

Preview–5:30 pm Auction–6:30 pm

Items include: Sailing Trip, 10x20 Freestanding Canopy, Large Framed Ansel Adams Photograph, Thomas Kinkade Wall Hangings, NASCAR Memorabilia, Kayak Rentals, Theme Baskets, Handmade Items, Tickets to Area Attractions.

**Auctioneer: Nelson Courtemarche
Refreshments Available**

Benefit Boy Scout Troop # 19

**For more info: Call Harry Segerstrom Sr, at
860-822-6235**

Goin'Postal

May is bringing with it many changes this year – in the weather and in the postal rates – and it's **not** all about increases! The good news about the postal rates includes some reductions in costs of sending mail! As you may recall last year, the rates for First-Class postage went up two cents on a one ounce-or-less mail piece, with incremental increases of three cents on a two-ounce, and four cents on a three-ounce, and six cents on a four-ounce piece. Last years' increase - the first one in five years for the Postal Service – was also not implemented to cover the skyrocketing fuel and other costs for mail distribution, but to cover a Congress mandated escrow account. Which brings us to now. Almost a year and a half later, the Postal Rate Commission has made recommendations which have been approved by the Board of Governors and Congress. The rates to be

implemented May 14, 2007 have some interesting changes which may pleasantly surprise you! The new pricing for First-Class Mail puts an emphasis on shape to more accurately reflect our true cost of doing business. The shapes for determining prices are: postcards, letters, large envelopes (flats) and packages. The old pricing system did not take into consideration the size and shape of letters, large envelopes and packages. Pricing was based strictly by weight and zone (how far it was traveling). The new system of pricing by shape does factor in the size and shape of an item by recognizing that each shape has substantially different transportation costs and processing costs.

The single-piece 1-ounce letter rate will increase 2 cents to 41 cents, and the single-piece postcard rate also will increase 2 cents, to 26 cents. The single-piece 1-ounce rate for large envelopes will be 80 cents, and the single-piece rate for packages will be \$1.13 for the first ounce. The additional-ounce rate for all single-piece letters, large envelopes and packages **will decrease** to 17 cents (instead of 24 cents), a reflection of shaped based processing costs. This new pricing system gives customers the opportunity to obtain lower rates as they find ways to prepare their mail in ways that reduce processing costs for the Postal Service. If the contents (documents) intended for a large envelope can be folded and placed into a letter-size envelope, the mailer can save 39 cents on the first ounce. On the other hand, mailers may determine that the perception of a large envelope better communicates their message to the addressee. Likewise, some items traditionally prepared and mailed as a package can be reconfigured and placed in a large (expansion) envelope, saving the mailer 33 cents on the first ounce — additional ounces will be 17 cents each. Most pricing changes therefore will be decreasing, as you can see by the chart below.

Any questions you may have – or any other information you need about the rate change can be found on USPS.com 24/7 day or night, where you can check out all the products and services from the Postal Service!

On a different note, I would also like to thank all the customers who came in and donated items for our “We Care!” packages to our residents who are serving overseas!

We sent out three more boxes: one each to Kenneth Jambor, David Quimby, and Michael McVicker on Wednesday, April 11. We hope they enjoy the reading material, snacks, playing cards and Frisbees we sent! (We previously had sent four boxes out, but one of our servicemen came home! Scott Wisniewski came home April 6th! Welcome Home, Scott! If you know of any other local resident who is serving, please give me their military mailing address so we can add them to our list – and keep those donated items coming! Have a wonderful Memorial Day everyone! See you at the parade!

Letters			Large Envelopes		
Weight	Current	New	Weight	Current	New
1 ounce	.39	.41	1 ounce	.52	.80
2 ounce	.63	.58	7 ounce	1.83	1.82
3 ounce	.87	.75	13 ounce	3.27	2.84
Packages					
1 ounce	.52	1.13			
7 ounce	1.83	2.15			
13 ounce	3.27	3.17			

Sprague Water & Sewer Authority

NOTICE

Please be advised that the state-mandated Consumer Confidence Report will be available at Town Hall in the Water & Sewer Authority Office during regular office hours. We at the Sprague Water & Sewer Authority work around the clock to provide top-quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water resources – they are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children’s future.

-Todd Hastings, Superintendent

EARTH DAY

Early Earth Day cleanup was well attended this year as close to 80 people participated in cleaning up our streets on Saturday, March 24th. The day was sunny and inviting and all the snow from the previous weekend had melted, giving us a great day to be outside. Among our participants were our local Cub Scouts and their parents and a large group from High Street, some skateboarders, also representatives from Hanover, Versailles, Pautipaug Hill Road and Potash Hill Road. Many bags of trash were taken to our local Transfer Station. The Unity of Nations Drummers once again did a wonderful job drumming and uplifting the spirits of tired Cub Scouts and others before the pizza arrived. The drumming from the river’s edge drew a Native American flutist who proceeded to demonstrate to some of us how to play the Native American Flute. Pizza arrived at the Grist Mill and gifts of appreciation were given out. I would like to thank the Sprague Parks and Recreation Committee for sponsoring this wonderful event which brings out the community and those who participated in our effort to clean up our town.

-Kathleen Boushee

Sprague Garden Club

Spring is here – I hope! I know, according to the calendar, it began March 22nd but, as of this writing, it hasn’t felt much like Spring – even my daffodils haven’t bloomed yet.

Deer have been a major problem this year. Little wonder as the deer herd has increased from 20,000 in the 1970s to an estimated 76,000 today! This is according to Connecticut Gardener magazine. The deer are eating almost every green plant within their reach except daffodils. Did I mention we also have voles? They eat the roots of the same plants the deer love. I haven’t been good about using the deer repellent as it costs a fortune but I think I may have found an affordable homemade recipe. It claims to be successful. The following “brew” is from Connecticut Gardener. <http://www.ConnGardener.com> promises to help control deer and voles. If you decide to make up a concoction, be sure to protect your eyes and hands while making and using the smelly, spicy hot ingredients. Place in a blender 2 cups of water, 2 whole eggs (including the shells), 3 cloves garlic, 2 TBSP cayenne, a drop of dish soap and 2 cups of green onion tops or regular onions. Feel free to add chopped habanero peppers, a TBSP pf chili powder, garlic powder, vegetable oil and a splash of milk. Blend all

on high to chop eggshells, put in a covered container and allow to ferment a couple of days in the sun or a week in the garage. Use 1/3 of the mix in a 2 quart pail of water. Pour down vole holes or, while wearing gloves and using a kitchen scrub brush, flick this mixture over the plants to be protected. Be sure to get eggshell on them and be sure to stand upwind from the spray. Repeat every 1-2 weeks, even in winter. Good luck!

-Jan Settje, Secretary

Science Project

My name is Kristine Parnell and I am a student at Lyman Memorial High School in Lebanon, CT. Last Fall I began a science project titled “The Effects of Papermill Pollutants in the Papermill and Versailles Ponds on Human Health.” Many residents of Sprague participated in the survey I conducted. I would like to thank everyone who participated. In the 2007 Connecticut State Science Fair, I received second honors and two special awards. For anyone who would like to view my report, it will be located at the town hall and library shortly.

Abstract

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has found there to be high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and mercury in Papermill and Versailles Ponds in Sprague, CT. It is believed to be caused by a nearby paper factory which has been operating for about fifty years. Citizens living nearby have reported paint peeling off their houses and cars, bad odors and dead fish. The purpose of this project was to investigate if the levels of PCBs and mercury in the ponds have an effect on living within five miles of the ponds. The average length of time that the people surveyed lived in the area was over thirty years. The data was collected, analyzed and then compared with data from the Connecticut Department of Public Health. The surveys showed some people in the pond area had similar medical conditions as those caused by PCB and mercury exposure. The percentage of people with asthma in the pond area is 7.4% compared to 7.3% of people in Connecticut. For cancer the percentages were 5.1% in the pond area and 9.2% in the state. The diabetes percentage in the pond area was 5.9% compared to 6.0% in the state. These percentages are similar; however the health of the citizens should be monitored over time. Future research is needed to determine the effect the pollutants have on the environment and people who consume fish from the ponds.

Notice
Sprague
Board of Education
May 2, 2007
Board of Education Meeting
Rescheduled to May 9th at 7 PM

Plaques Given to Generous Donors

The Baltic Fire Department recently awarded four plaques to companies and/or individuals who went above and beyond with their generous donations to the Fire Department's "Project Safe Halloween Program."

Plaques were awarded to:

- *Sean Garrity of Garrity Industries*
- *Connie and Butch Lehoux of Sharkey's Pizza for their donation of six bikes to be given away to winners of the costume contest.*
- *Ken Fontaine of Amgraph Packaging Inc. for their large donation that was used to purchase candy, etc. to help make this event a success.*
- *Mitchell Grossinger Estess of Mohegan Sun for the monetary donation, donation of a dinner for two and also blinking lights.*

Without the big assistance from these four, the program may not have been such a success. We are already starting to plan the Project Safe Halloween for the coming year. The members of the Baltic Fire Department hope that many more people and companies will be able to assist us with this program in 2007.

The Baltic Fire Department also wishes to remind everyone that the batteries in all smoke/fire and carbon monoxide detectors need to be replaced at this time to help insure that those devices will stay in proper working order.

Please keep your eyes out for some coming events the Fire Department is planning. Details to follow.

The Baltic Fire Department is also seeking men and women who wish to become a volunteer fire fighter and we are also looking for anyone who wishes to become an Emergency Medical Technician and volunteer on our ambulance. We want to let anyone who may be interested in fire fighting or volunteering on the ambulance that there are many hours of mandatory training involved to become certified and to keep the certification up to date. Along with the hours of training and responding to calls during all hours of the day or night, you will also become one of the fire family. There are many rewarding moments for those who choose to dedicate their time to such a great department. We hope to see you soon if you are serious about becoming a member of the Baltic Fire Department, Station #24.

-Reg Patchell, Baltic Fire Department

Sayles School Staff Presents to Area Superintendents

Dear Residents of Sprague:

Several staff members from Sayles School shared their knowledge and innovative instructional practices with area Superintendents.

On April 13, 2007, Dr. Judy Benson-Clarke, Ms. Rebecca Cipriani, Dr. Kristie Fresco-Hawes, Mr. Andrew Gonzalez and Mrs. Emily Spence presented at the Southeastern Connecticut Area Superintendents' Association Meeting. Superintendents from Southeastern Connecticut and Middlesex County attended the presentation titled, "Sprague's *NCLB" Data Driven Intervention/Enrichment Model for k-8th. Principals, Curriculum Directors and Directors of Special Education from several districts attended.

The presentation focused on the Intervention/Enrichment Model adopted by Sayles School staff this school year and the role that frequent data collection has played in making instructional decisions. Dr. Judy Benson-Clarke, Assistant Superintendent of Schools reported on the research and theory behind Response to Intervention and Enrichment, as well as the next steps that they will implement. Dr. Fresco-Hawes, School Psychologist reported on the model being used and teachers presented examples of successful day to day activities in their classroom related to intervention and enrichment. Staff members were pleased to share the promising practices that are the core of our instructional decisions for Sayles School students with administrators and instructional leaders from other school districts.

-Dr. Kristie Fresco-Hawes, School Psychologist.

*No Child Left Behind

Sayles School Career Day

On Friday April 13, Sayles School Grades 5-6 attended a Career Day. Each child met with representatives from eight different careers over the course of the day. The presenters introduced students to their career and then answered student questions. It is never too early for kids to start looking to the future! The pursuit of a future career can motivate a student to excel in school and can even be the goal that pulls him or her through rough times at school and at home. It is vitally important that our children realize that the choices they make now can and will influence the choices they are able to make in the future. Career Day introduces the students to some of the options they will have available to them in the future- if they begin to plan for it now. Students and presenters alike had an educational and thoroughly enjoyable day!

Thanks to all of our presenters:

Operating Room Nurse Mrs. Benson

Librarian Mrs. Warner

Air Force Reserves Mrs. Drew

Insurance and Financial Services Mr. Cipriani

Carpenter Mr. James
 Surveyor Ms. Camp
 Office Manager Mrs. Giroux
 Technical Support Help Desk Mr. Moran
 Human Resources Manager Ms. Stephenson
 Marine Biologist Mr. Morgan
 Casino Supervisor/ Dealer Mr. Giroux
 Newspaper Reporter
 Music Professor Mr. Woronecki
 Horse Groom Mr. Piekarski
 Engineer Mr. Drew
 Gymnastics Coach/ Small Business Owner Mrs. Briggs
 Pharmacist Mrs. Paz
 Mechanic/ First Selectman Mr. Allen
 Post Office Mrs. Medling
 Chemist/ Chemical Engineer Mrs. Filiatreault
 Blackhawk Helicopter Crew Chief Mr. Brodeur
 Pampered Chef Sales Consultant Mrs. Narciso
 Dentist Dr. Baratz
 Education Superintendent Dr. Senesac



Sprague Garden Club

Plant Sale
Saturday
May 19th
9 AM – 1 PM

Rain or Shine

Choose from a Variety of Plants &

Other Gardening Items

Annuals, Perennials

Vegetables

Hanging Baskets

At

Baltic Town Hall

Main Street

Baltic, CT



MEMORIAL DAY
PARADE

MONDAY, MAY 28th
12:30 PM

SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

Sprague Economic Development Commission (SEDC) Update

Development Agency Designation.

At their March 14 meeting the Board of Selectmen decided that they have the authority to officially designate SEDC as the town's development agency, allowed under Connecticut State Statutes.

There was some confusion about who could make this decision: the Board or residents at a town meeting. After a ruling from the town attorney, it was decided that the Board could make the designation. The Board has yet to take action, but will make a final decision soon, after reviewing the charter and bylaws being finalized by the SEDC.

What is a Development Agency? As the town development agency, SEDC would develop specific project plans for each economic development project. Each project plan would be subject to review by the municipal planning agency (P&Z), the regional planning agency (South Eastern Connecticut Council of Government or SECCOG), and the state Commission on Economic and Community Development. Upon approval of a project plan, the Development Agency would then perform additional tasks such as applying for state and federal grants, and issuing of municipal bonds in the town's name.

As the Development Agency, SEDC would become the primary point of contact for Sprague on matters regarding designated economic development projects in Sprague, closely coordinating its activities with the office of First Selectman.

Project Designation. Under the statute, the SEDC had requested that the Development Agency be named for four projects currently being developed by SEDC. These are:

1. The Baltic Mill Redevelopment
2. Sprague Business Park
3. Baltic Village Revitalization
4. Recreational Tourism Initiative

The Board decided that when they vote to create a Development Agency, they will approve only a single project at this time: the Baltic Mill project. This means the Development Agency will not be allowed to plan more than a single project at a time.

The SEDC believes that it was important to proceed with planning on all four projects. All four are part of the town's Strategic Plan and are mentioned in the new Plan of Conservation and Development. All four projects are also

incorporated into the regional economic development plan and thus potentially eligible for Federal funding.

However, projects without well-developed project plan usually do not receive federal development funds. More planning work must first be done on each project. While we have made completed the Baltic Village Revitalization Master Plan, none of the other projects have as yet a comprehensive plan. In addition, each project must go through the long review process before actual work can begin. So we believe that it is more prudent to proceed on a broader front with multiple projects to maximize the chances to receive funds at the earliest opportunity.

We hope to convince the Board to expand the number of projects at the earliest possible date.

Commission Vacancy.

SEDC has interviewed four candidates seeking to fill the current vacancy and found all full of creative ideas on economic development for Sprague. Members were so impressed that we wish we could take them all on board.

So the Commission decided to something along those lines: at our February meeting, SEDC voted to expand the commission from five to seven members, allowing us to choose three new members. We made this decision because we would need more volunteer commissioners to address the extra work we anticipate from becoming the town's Development Agency.

Expanding membership means that we must amend the 1973 ordinance that created SEDC. This must be approved at a town meeting. Within the next month the Board of Selectmen will call a town meeting for this purpose. At that time we will also brief the town on how the Development Agency will function. We hope you will come out for this meeting and listen and provide feedback for how you would like the Development Agency to serve your community.

-- Sprague Economic Development Commission

Members are Kevin Generous (chairman), Carl Holte, Hugh Schnip, Mick Collins and Dennison Allen (*ex officio*). The SEDC meets every fourth Wednesday of each month in the town hall. You can contact us at: *Sprague EDC, PO Box 751, Baltic, CT 06330*, or by e-mail at econdvelopment@ctsprague.org.



May 13th

VNA East

The Visiting Nurse Association East will hold the following clinics:

Blood Pressure Screenings:

May 2	Andover Old Fire Department	12:30 – 1:30
May 2	Willington Senior Center	1:00 – 2:00
May 3	Florence Lord Marlborough	11:00 – 12:00
May 8	Hebron Senior Center	10:30 – 11:30
May 8	Marlborough Senior Center	2:00 - 3:00
May 9	Chaplin Senior Center	9:00 - 10:00
May 9	Sprague Town Hall	12:00 – 1:00
May 15	Lebanon Fire Safety Complex	12:30 - 1:30
May 16	Scotland Town Hall	12:30 - 1:00
May 16	Ashford Town Hall	1:30 - 3:00
May 17	Columbia Beckish Senior Center	12:30 - 1:30
May 17	Marlborough Town Hall	2:00 - 3:00
May 22	Franklin Senior Center	10:30 - 11:30

Adult Health Screenings: Including blood pressure, Cholesterol, HDL Cholesterol, blood glucose, earwax and foot care. Blood pressure screening is free: other services have a nominal charge. Call 860-456-7288 for appointments, cost and information on other services. Clinics will be held at the following locations:

May 3	Hebron Senior Center	8:30 -- 1:00
May 17	Hebron Senior Center	8:30 – 1:00
May 29	Franklin Town Hall	8:30 – 11:30
May 29	Sprague Senior Center	12:00 – 2:30

Call for Sprague Artists

Seeking resident fine artists of all media and exquisite handcraft artisans interested in participating in a Sprague Open Studios Weekend.

Planning has started for a fall event to showcase Sprague's talented, thriving artistic community to greater Eastern Connecticut.

Contact Diane Hastings for more information

822-9702 (Fred's News)
822-8439 (Home)
Fredsnews@msn.com

Read Away... The Pursuit of Happiness!
Summer Reading Program at the Sprague Public Library

The Sprague Public Library will once again be offering a summer reading program for all children from birth to entering grade 8. Registration will be held at the library on Tuesday June 19 and Wednesday June 20 during the first week of summer vacation. Over the summer, children read and complete short reports on age-appropriate books. The reading goal is 8 books, or an average of one per week over the course of the program. At the end of the summer, all children who meet the reading goal will be invited to an Ice Cream Sundae party Wednesday August 15 where certificates and prizes will be awarded. Additionally, this summer the Sprague Library is partnering with the Connecticut Defenders for their All-Star Reading Night. All children reading at least 4 books will receive a pair of tickets to the game on Tuesday August 21. Students who meet our goal and read at least 8 books will be recognized on the field during a ceremony before the game. High school-age and adult volunteers are needed to assist with the program. If you are interested in volunteering or have any questions, please call Rebecca Cipriani at 822-1643.

Summer Recreation Program

The Sprague Recreation Committee will once again be holding a Summer Recreation Program for children entering grades 1-8. Once again, the program will run for three weeks for each age group. We are fortunate to again offer Sports with Mr. Gonzalez, Drama and Games with Mrs. Labbe, and Arts, Crafts and Science with Miss Cipriani. More information as to dates and times will be sent home through the local elementary schools and posted in the Town Hall. If you would like more information, to volunteer to help with the program, or to sign up your child, please call Rebecca Cipriani at 822-1643. We will also be holding an in-person registration event at the library on Tuesday June 19 and Wednesday June 20 during the first week of summer vacation.

*****NEW*** Teen Drop-In Recreation Program**

Hey, teens! Bored? Nothing to do? Nowhere to hang out? Come join us at the Teen Drop-In Program. We'll meet every Thursday night starting June 22 from 6:30-8:30 in the Grist Mill. Hang out, play games, eat, do crafts, you'll decide. This is a place where YOU will make the decisions and tell me what YOU want to do with yourselves. Best of all, it's free! So grab a friend and stop on by. No pre-registration is required. For more information or suggestions, call Rebecca Cipriani at 822-1643.

Summer Recreation Programs 2007

Once again, the Sprague Parks and Recreation Committee will be sponsoring a series of summer recreation programs open to all Sprague children.

Drama and Games with Mrs. Labbe 9:00-12:00 at the Grist Mill
Entering Grades 1-2 July 16-20
Entering Grades 3-5 July 9-13
Entering Grades 6-8 June 25-29

Sports with Mr. Gonzalez 1:00-4:00 at the Ball Field



Entering Grades 1-2 July 9-13
Entering Grades 3-5 July 23-27
Entering Grades 6-8 July 30- August 3

Arts, Crafts, and Science with Miss Cipriani 12:30-3:30 at the Baltic Playground

Entering Grades 1-2 June 25-29
Entering Grades 3-5 July 2-6 (Not July 4)
Entering Grades 6-8 July 9-13

Cost: \$10 for all three weeks of programming

To register your child, please complete the form on the back of this paper and return to school. You may also register in person at the Sprague Public Library Tuesday June 19 from 4-8 PM or Wednesday June 20 from 12-5 PM. For any questions, please call Rebecca Cipriani at 822-1643.

*** If space constraints allow, this program will also be open to non-Sprague residents for a fee of \$10 per week.

NEW Teen Program for Students Entering Grades 9-12 at the Grist Mill



Thursday Evenings 6:30-8:30 PM from June 22- August 16
Come hang out with your friends, play games, eat snacks, make crafts, almost anything goes! YOU will decide what to do each evening!!!! Just drop in; registration is not necessary.

Added Bonus- This year it is free!

Sprague Summer Recreation Program Registration Form

Name _____

Grade Entering _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____

Home Phone Number _____

Phone Number Where Parent/Guardian Can Be Reached During Program Hours

Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number

Child Allergies or Medical Concerns _____

I am registering for the following programs:

_____ Drama Grades 1-2 July 16-20 _____ Science Grades 1-2 June 25-29

_____ Drama Grades 3-5 July 9-13 _____ Science Grades 3-5 July 2-6

_____ Drama Grades 6-8 June 25-29 _____ Science Grades 6-8 July 9-13

Drama meets from 9-12:00. Science meets from 12:30-3:30.

_____ Sports Grades 1-2 July 9-13

_____ Sports Grades 3-5 July 23-27

_____ Sports Grades 6-8 July 30- August 3

Sports meets from 1-4:00.

The total cost for the three weeks will be \$10 per child. Please enclose a check payable to: _____

I give my child permission to attend the Sprague Summer Recreation Program Monday through Friday on the days and times listed above.

I understand that in case of an emergency, the staff will attempt to locate me and/or my emergency contact. If that is not possible, I give permission for the staff to provide emergency medical treatment as necessary at the William Backus Hospital in Norwich, CT. In cases of non-emergency medical needs, I give the staff permission to apply antibiotic ointment, band-aids, and other minor medical treatments.

I understand that participation in the Sprague Summer Recreation Program is a privilege. I will provide daily prompt transportation. If my child is not picked up promptly daily, I understand he or she may no longer be allowed to attend the program. Also, if my child is a continual behavioral problem, he or she will also no longer be allowed to attend the program.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

_____ My child has permission to walk to and from the program daily.

_____ I will pick up my child daily.

_____ The following individuals also have permission to pick up my child: