

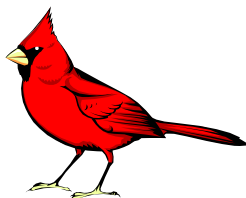


# Our Town

*Your Sprague Newsletter*

March 2007

Volume XV11 Issue 3



**Spring Arrives  
March 20<sup>th</sup> !**

## From the Selectman's Office

Spring is just around the corner I think; Mother Nature has been good to us until now. Not much snow but it did get cold, and now an ice storm.

Public Works has been busy trimming the overhanging branches.

New heating system for the Grist Mill is up and running, this should save us money for switching from electric heat to gas.

We have a new Resident Trooper John Patterson. I feel very lucky to have someone like him take this job. Obey the law and you will meet him as a friend. He will still give out tickets if you speed. I want to thank Trooper Paul Vera; he did a great job for the Town.

One of the two existing water tanks at the reservoir has sprung a leak and cannot be repaired. We are working to find money to replace the tank. With only one operational tank in place, there will only be 15 minutes of water in case of fire. Also as soon as the Fire Dept starts to draw down, the water pressure will drop and sprinkler systems will be ineffective.

I will be speaking at Legislative Hearings to try to get funds and support for Sprague regarding bond money for Mukluk Lead remediation and repair/upgrades of the Sprague Water & Sewer, Dam repair, filtration plant upgrade to handle reservoir water, tank replacement, and engineering cost. We are also looking for grants to repair the water system.

Please remember our sons and daughters who serve in the military in your prayers.

Stay safe and have a wonderful March.

**- Dennison Allen First Selectman**

## Sprague Parks And Recreation Committee

Hello Sprague,

Hope your winter "blues" are beginning to recede and you are beginning to look forward to Spring. We are in the midst of finalizing our Spring, Summer and Fall schedules of sports, recreation and events. Hang in there, Good things are right around the corner, despite what you may hear, SPARC is still moving forward.

**Indoor Soccer** is still "kicking" right along and continues to "score" top marks with local children and parents. We hope to promote more sporting events like this and keep the local children occupied with healthy and enjoyable activities. The series should be wrapping up soon (by mid March) and we will have a nice post event to recognize all those involved.

### Penguin Plunge

On February 18, the SPARC gang took a "dip" in the frigid Long Island Sound to help raise money for Special Olympics. We all raised money individually, but combined, the funds raised, were over \$1,000 for the charity. It was a lot of fun, but don't let anyone "kid you", it was really, really cold! The entire event raised over \$50,000 for Special Olympics. Kudos, to all who donated and or participated, especially Macala Smith who was the top fundraiser in our group! Many thanks from the **Shivering SPARC** and Special Olympics!

### Big S Yard Sale

We are in the last stages of putting on... **THE BIG "S" YARD SALE**. The date is April 21, from 8 am to 5pm at the Babe Blanchett Ball Field, with a rain date of April 28. Look for the flyer in this month's OUR TOWN to enter your information and requirements to set up a table or tables. These must be sent in either by mail, e-mail or dropped off to our box in the town hall.

Our address is **SPARC, PO Box 791, Baltic, CT 06330**.

So, if you are planning on having the garage cleaned out and ridding yourself of extraneous items that have been cluttering up the house, shed, garage, yard, whatever, then plan on combining with your neighbors and friends and join in on an open yard sale available to individuals or groups with items to sell. There is a nominal fee to purchase space and or a table/booth. There will be notices in the Our Town, local papers and yes, even flyers posted. This should be quite an event. Tables are available for rent, or you can reduce the space rental cost and bring your own. SPARC will be coordinating the space rental and advertising. The Concession stand will be open and run by SPARC. Bring an appetite!

### Sprague's Earth Day

Kathleen Boushee has graciously volunteered again to coordinate *Earthday in Sprague* on **March 24<sup>th</sup>** with a rain date of March 31, 2007. [The official Earth Day is in April]

The event is expected to run from 9:00 AM to 12:00PM. A pizza party will follow for all volunteers. Last year Sprague Earth Day team enjoyed a performance from *Unity of Nations Drummers*, a

local Native American group, who help entertain volunteers as they were winding down from cleaning up - especially the kids. Volunteers are needed for: sign ups, to pick up and bring the food to the volunteers and of course to help clean up!

### **Shetucket RiverFest**

We have picked the dates of our Annual RiverFest, **June 2<sup>nd</sup>**, with a rain date of June 9<sup>th</sup>. As before, we will coordinate the water release from the Scotland Dam Authority and enjoy a fun paddle down the river. So, whether you own a kayak, canoe, or just an inflated inner tube, come on down and enjoy our own precious resource, the Shetucket River. We will be renting inner tubes and such. A flyer will be published soon, in both local papers and of course, Our Town. I

### **Volunteers always wanted**

As we have asked in the past, we will always welcome new members! If you wish to help out on any or all events, we would love to have you join us. We meet in the Town Hall, the first Thursday of every month. Check with the Town Clerk, for an agenda or past minutes. You may only wish to assist in only one particular aspect, which is just fine. If you have an idea for a recreation event or a sporting team to organize, talk to us. No closed doors or closed minds here. Just plan on rolling up your sleeves and pitching in.

### **SPARC Web page**

Our page is still under construction and we are excited about adding a calendar that will contain dates for SPARC events and listing of sports groups that reserved the ball fields. We want to ensure that there are no conflicts of schedules and are asking that all sports teams and leagues contact Sprague's Park and Recreation Committee directly for scheduling your season games and practices. We also want to ensure that the fields and building are kept maintained and cleaned.

We are also adding to our Web page SPARC's meeting minutes and agenda, Oh yeah, even photos of events.

### **Ball field Design work by UCONN**

SPARC has partnered with the UCONN Landscape Architecture department to come up with a series of studies on how best to revive and better utilize our recreation fields. It has been a sore subject (not to mention, an eyesore) for a number of years. The people in town are all aware of it, but before anything can actually be done, we need a plan. We met with the UCONN Department and will utilize the students in the program (18 or so) to come up with concepts for landscape, walking trails, basketball, boat launch, pavilions, lighting and of course, parking.

Our intention is to **include** the town people with a series of town meetings. We want to hear what you want for the best possible usage, by all. We hope you come out and become part of the process. Part of the students tasking and final grade will be to provide a presentation to SPARC and the town. With a town approved plan and design, we can go ahead and task our Grant Writer to search out grants and funding to make this a reality. Come on down and be part of the revitalization of the ball fields!

### **Baseball and Softball**

It's almost that time again; baseball and softball leagues are beginning to get organized for spring practice. We are trying to address concerns of the leagues. We met with the representatives of the leagues and we hope to have better coordination in the future with the leagues that use the fields. As always, we will strive to improve communication between interested parties to optimize and equalize field usage. Major concerns expressed are lighting, vandalism and the overall appearance of the fields.

### **3VFF**

The Three Village Fall Festival is in pre planning stages for October. This year's event should be quite a surprise for the entire town. We have some great things in development that will have the entire town thrilled. If you thought the helicopter landing, last year was cool, hang onto your hats! You ain't seen nothin' yet! Stay toon'd, more to come!

### **3VT**

The Three Village Tour Bike Race is shaping up nicely. We attended a bike promoters meeting for the entire North East and many of the judges, bike shops, bike clubs, race promoters and most importantly, the riders were excited to hear, we will hold this event again! We will be part of a 3 day series. It starts in Sprague on the Saturday, followed by Norwich's 1<sup>st</sup> professional bike race (we have been working with the Norwich YMCA) and the entire "series" will finish in Jamestown R.I. Expect this to grow, as the riders and clubs plan their race schedules. We are partnering with Mystic Velo Bike Club to ensure we have plenty of professional help, to make this a day to be remembered. It will be during the 3VFF, so expect crowds!

### **Recreation Budget**

We are at budget time; make sure you get involved in the process. If you are paying taxes, and like the programs we provide and develop, then please come on down and make your thoughts known.

*Wondering whether to volunteer or not? The answer to your question will be found in this profound statement that originated with Sir Winston Churchill; "To each there comes in their lifetime a special moment when they are figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a very special thing, unique to their talents. What a tragedy if that moment finds them unprepared or unqualified for that which could have been their finest hour." Volunteers are always needed and welcomed to an ever expanding Parks and Recreation Committee. Our next meeting is March 1, 2007, 7 PM at Sprague Town Hall. Please join us!*

### **Healthy Snacking For Our Kids**

As we enter into spring our little ones get excited about being outside, they have more energy and overall are more active. With this increased activity their bodies need fuel more often. Healthy snacks are key for their growing active bodies. There are many misunderstandings around healthy snacking. Cookies, artificially flavored/sweetened juices, chips, candy, soda and the like are not good for our kids. These foods are called 'quick carbs'. Soon after these are eaten the body breaks them down and releases glucose (a simple sugar our bodies need to function) into the bloodstream. There is a spike in the bloodstream that triggers the pancreas to put out large doses of insulin, and sugar is rapidly depleted from the blood. Insulin is a hormone that helps the cells take in glucose and convert it to energy. This causes blood sugar levels to drop quickly which creates a cycle of continual hunger. In other words, these foods are empty and leave the body constantly wanting more.

The good news is that there are great, healthy alternatives that **kids will love** the more you make them available to their little fingertips. They include: any kind of fresh fruit sliced or cut up, whole wheat crackers with mozzarella cheese sticks, cut up carrots and celery with some great toppings like peanut butter or cream cheese with raisins, different kinds of nuts (unsalted and unsweetened), fruit trail mix (no M&M's in it). Also pretzels and popcorn, the healthiest way to cook it is the old fashioned way, on the stove with extra virgin olive oil. Additionally, plain yogurt with added fresh fruit on top, fruit yogurt pops; put above in a blender and pour into popsicle molds and freeze, whole-wheat tortillas with cheese, peanut butter, tuna fish, or egg salad. These foods when eaten create a slow, balanced process of channeling energy to the cells. They do not cause sudden spikes in blood sugar and our kids' energy levels will be more consistent.

Another great tip is if your children are old enough, make them a part of the preparation with their snacks. Children love to do things that adults do. They will feel empowered and

proud of their efforts with mom, dad, or grandma in the kitchen. The more often we give our kids healthy alternatives the better they will feel, and the more they will want healthy foods. Trust me!

**Submitted by:** Angie Daly  
Life, Health and Nutrition Counselor

## Goin' Postal 2007

March, it is said, "comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb". We'll see how the weather goes with that, as we get ready for our annual gardens, building projects, graduations and all that spring usually brings with it. Along with the warmer weather, we usually see an increase in wedding plans, too. Let us help you with that as well. We have sheets of beautiful wedding stamps that combine the 63-cents' postage for the heavier wedding invitations and the 39-cent stamps for the RSVP cards and thank-you notes. The sheets are \$20.40 each and have 20 stamps of each denomination on them. Supplies are limited, so if there is a wedding in your near future, come in soon!

Along with invitations, I'd also like to take time to let you know some basics about addressing standards to help you make sure your letters are not delayed. Most people know that the mail sorting processes are increasingly computerized, along with many other things in our fast-paced culture. But many people don't realize certain details of the process that can slow your letters and cards down in the system. The "lasers" used by the character readers in these computers are red. Using red, silver or gold inks when you address you correspondence makes the destination practically invisible to these readers and they are either rejected by the machine and diverted to a manual sortation, or misdirected with a sprayed on barcode to another destination. This can also be the case with addresses written in script or "cursive" handwriting. Being flowery and fancy in the shape of the letters can confuse the computer and misdirect your letters. If your intended destination ends in a letter that can be mistaken for a number, like MO for Missouri, write your ZIP Code below the line that has the town and state to keep it from being diverted to another state: MO 63501 can be misinterpreted by a computer as 06350 J Making sure that the addresses are clearly printed can increase the speed of your letters through the system and get them to their destination in a single day! Now that's First-Class! Help us serve you better. We do deliver for you!

Another reminder: We are still sending "We Care!" packages to local residents serving overseas, so if you can donate phone cards, snack items, stationery, personal care items or postage for these shipments, it will be much appreciated! The families and returning servicemen I have talked to have said how important getting letters and packages from home was when they were so far from home. Check out last month's Our Town (the Hanover Post Office) for a list of suggested and restricted items for your review. Please consider helping out in this effort. A bag of candy, beef jerky or a deck of cards may seem like something too small to bring in, but if 10 people each bring in just a small item, we can fill these boxes and brighten someone's day, knowing they are being thought of and prayed for! We also have patriotic postcards in several styles if you'd like to drop someone a quick note of greeting and encouragement – and many styles of stuffed bears and other animals as a long-distance hug from you to your special someone, whether serving overseas, off in college, or just in the other room! We can help you connect in person, around the corner, or across the country.

There are so many products and services that we can offer to aid you

in accomplishing so much in so little time! Stop in and check it out – or go on-line on [www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com) and see how we can help you – Click-N-Ship and Carrier Pickup for eBay and home businesses, stamps by mail and personalized stamped envelopes for your convenience delivered right to your door while your at work, NetPost Mailing for all occasion personalized cards (add a gift card without ever leaving your house), and many more. See for yourself: we deliver Quality, Service and convenience for you!

## News from Sayles School

Dear Our Town Readers,

Sayles School has begun a daily Enrichment/Intervention Period. This new initiative allows us to provide extra help to readers who could use a bit of individual attention. Additionally, time is now available for enrichment experiences for other students. Grade 5 is using Renzulli Learning, a computer-based program developed by Dr. Joseph Renzulli from The National Research Center on the Gifted and Talented at the University of Connecticut. Through Renzulli Learning, students are directed to high quality web-based experiences that match their individual interests and learning styles. Each student chooses a long-term project to design, research, implement, and share in a creative manner. One student decided to share a portion of his project through a newspaper article, included below. Read, enjoy, and I hope you learn as much as I did about a truly unique field of study.

- Miss Rebecca Cipriani      Grade 5 Teacher

## Cryptozoology

By Larry Ejchorszt, age 10

Cryptozoology is the study of creatures. People claim they have sighted these creatures. People have taken pictures and claimed they were of cryptozoology creatures. The pictures have never been proven though. No one knows if they are real or not. There are many creatures that are being studied. To study these creatures cryptozoologists look for clues and signs around areas where people have claimed to have spotted these creatures. Cryptozoology is the study of weird and unexplained creatures. The three creatures I wrote about are Chupacabras, Jersey devils, and Hopkinsville goblins. I hope you learn about cryptozoology from what I wrote.

## Chupacabra

The word Chupacabra means "goat sucker." The name came from Mexico. It got its name because it was sucking livestock dry of blood and farmers were getting mad. Also at night it kills domestic animals like dogs. Owners of other animals stopped putting them out at night. Some people say that this creature has come from outer space. These creatures have been sighted in North and Central America. It has also been sighted in Southern states of the US. It has been sighted the most in Puerto Rico. Others say it is a result of US military experiments. This creature has bare gray or blue skin. Also, some say it has scales but others say it has fur. Its tucked under wings are bat like with a span of 13 feet. It has spines running down its back. The fangs are bright red. Its claws are viciously curved and wickedly sharp. The legs are strong and muscular so it can jump 66 feet in the air. Its eyes are the size of eggs and glow bright red! I hope I never live to see one of these scary creatures because they do attack!

## Hopkinsville Goblin

This goblin is known to be mischievous, hiding out in underground grottoes, hollow tree trunks, and hidden areas around the house. This goblin only comes out of its hiding place to scare humans. Some of these creatures are malevolent or evil. This animal has two eyes bulging on the sides of its head. Its ears are bat-like and can hear the slightest sound. Its skin is smooth and shimmers with a light that may be a protective force field. The face of this monster has a tiny nose, its mouth is like a slit in its face, and it has no lips at all. Its fingers are bony and tipped with sharp talons. The goblin's arms are slender and dangle almost to the ground. Its body is slender and seems way too small for its head. This creature may scare you, but it won't hurt you. So if you see one, don't be too scared!

## Jersey Devil

This creature has been sighted in New Jersey. It has bat-like wings, the head of a deformed horse, hooves, and goat-like horns that help with its devilish appearance. The body is like a dog or horse and it is very muscular. The hind legs are thin and long, like that of a crane. Its tail is thin and long with three spikes at the end. This "devil" has been terrifying New Jersey locals for over two hundred years! Many people in New Jersey have come face to face with this creature. So if you are ever in New Jersey, watch out for this horrible animal!

If you should come across any of these creatures, please contact Miss Cipriani or Larry immediately!!!

Area stores and restaurants are featuring maple-themed entrees and area gift shops will feature maple candy, maple butter, maple cream, maple jelly, maple sugar-coated peanuts and maple vinegar as well as the well-known maple syrup. These unique offerings celebrate the region's "liquid gold" and make it possible for everyone to come and enjoy the region's bounty.

A complete schedule of **Maple Sugar Days** activities is available by calling The Last Green Valley toll-free at 866-363-7226 or visit [www.thelastgreenvalley](http://www.thelastgreenvalley) on the web. It's a sweet way to catch the flavor of New England.

## Homeowner and 100% Disabled Tax Relief Program

Applications are now being accepted for the Homeowner and Totally Disabled Tax Relief Program. This program is for residents who are age 65 or older as of December 31, 2006 or rated totally disabled by Social Security, own their home, and meet the income guidelines. This year the income limit for single applicants is \$28,800 and for married applicants \$35,300. Applicants must supply a copy of their 2006 Federal Income Tax Return (if filed) and/or proof of all 2006 income, including the Social Security 1099, to the Assessor's office.

This program requires filing every two years. *Participants currently on the program have received letters notifying them if this is their year to re-file.*

Applications will be accepted until May 15, 2007. For an appointment call the office at 822-3000 ext-222, the Assessor is in the office Wednesday 8am to 5:30pm and Thursday 8am to 4:30pm.

## Sprague's Earth Day

(A Little Bit Early)

Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007

(Rain Date March 31<sup>st</sup>)

9 am – 11:45 am

Meet at the Grist Mill

Recycle your shopping bags Gloves and large bags will be supplied

to each group or individual

Pizza Party Immediately Following Cleanup

The Unity of Nations Drummers Will Perform

Pre-registration will help us get an idea what streets should be covered and a count for the pizza party as well as a special Earth Day gift.

Call Kathleen at 822-9808 or sign up at Town Hall

*Sponsored by Sprague Rec and Parks Commission*

## The Last Green Valley

**Maple Sugar Days**, a celebration of the Annual Maple Harvest, will take place throughout the 35 towns of The Last Green Valley on March 16-18 and March 23-25, 2007. Sugarhouses in northeastern Connecticut and south central Massachusetts have special tours and demonstrations. Visitors can see maple sugaring as it was done in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century at Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, MA.

## United States Postal Service

**Rural Carrier Associate**

(Non Career)

Opens December 11, 2006

Closes June 1, 2007

**Bloomfield**

**Norwalk**

**Norwich**

**Putnam**

**Waterbury**

**New Haven**

**New Milford**

**Exam Hot Line**

**860-524-6120**

## Sayles School 50<sup>th</sup>

The piece in *Our Town* that mentioned Sayles School's 50-year anniversary brought back a lot of memories. I was born in 1951 and my class had the distinction of being the first to attend all eight grades. That was fifty years ago and I know it's a cliché, but it seems like it was only yesterday. The original Sayles School building was constructed during a period of unprecedented prosperity. America had just played a major role in winning a world war and all of that wartime technology and infrastructure had been redirected into making life good again. Sprague's children would have only the best.

The new school building was absolutely the state of the art for its time. Each grade (K-8) had its own classroom with a small lavatory and coat closet. The coat closet was called a

“Cloak Room” even though none of us had a cloak or knew what a cloak was or knew where to find one if the need arose whatever that need might be. Our classrooms were outfitted with the new green chalkboards, PA and intercom systems, and a pull-down screen for the filmstrip projectors that had recently become available. Mrs. Andrachowski let me try out the chalkboard by writing “I will not talk in class” five hundred times. The new chalkboards did not impress me. The school layout also included a gymnasium with a stage, showers and locker rooms. There was a Teacher’s lounge and a Nurse’s office where you could tell Miss Muller you felt sick and get picked up by your parents. And of course there was the new Principal’s office where I spent my fair share of time. Looking back, I believe that Mrs. Brazil our principal may have been a saint. There was a baseball field where the parking lot is currently located. Parking and a smaller ball field were situated where the soccer field is found today.

Audio-visual presentations were done with a filmstrip projector and a record player. The filmstrips were sort of like photo slides on a continuous roll. The audio being played back had a “ping” sound at the end of each segment that told the teacher when to advance the film. Photocopying machines had yet to be invented and copies of worksheets were “run off” on a mimeograph machine. Let me say here and now that in my opinion, the mimeograph machine was one of the finest inventions of the twentieth century. The machine itself was useful enough but the real value was in the fragrance of the ink. All over the country, grateful students would inhale the aroma of freshly run copies and the handing out of worksheets was a special time for everyone. I have often suspected that the ink fumes might have been slightly intoxicating. Our teachers always seemed unusually mellow after running off copies. What I wouldn’t give today for a freshly run mimeograph copy.

My desk had a separate chair, a flat wooden top, four metal legs, and a compartment below the desktop for books and papers. I was not as neat as I should have been back then and when we would do occasional cleaning of our desks, I found a truly amazing quantity of outdated, forgotten, and lost items. Waxed paper from my lunch, petrified oranges, reams of crumpled school papers, the other winter glove, broken crayons, and about twenty-seven pencils I didn’t know I had. Our teachers started the day with the pledge of allegiance and then unlocked the mysteries of long division and writing in cursive. Mrs. Allen taught us how our government works and where the Belgian Congo could be found. We looked at onion skin under the school microscope and Mr. Lamb amazed us with electricity and magnetism experiments. We all did our president reports for Mr. Bennet and read them to the class.

After school we went to Lib’s for penny candy or maybe a comic book. We watched Superman and Leave it to Beaver on TV. Our parents danced the Twist. Our grandparents loved Lawrence Welk. John F. Kennedy was president and Nikita Khrushchev was premier of the Soviet Union. Fidel Castro was building missile launch sites in Cuba. Did we worry? Not even a little. We were kids growing up in a small town and life was good!

**-Submitted by Ed Kane of Hanover**

Readers: If you have a “memory” that you would like to share, please send it in to **Our Town**.

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO  
BALTIC WINE & SPIRITS  
AND BALTIC CONVENIENCE STORE  
On Their Grand Re-Opening  
at  
West Main Street in Baltic**

**Your Investment in the Revitalization of the Village of Baltic is Greatly Appreciated by Your  
Community**

**Your friends wish you the best of success and prosperity long into the future**

**Paid for by your friends at the Hanover Literary Guild, Oenological Society and Zymurgists  
Alliance**

## VNA East

### The Visiting Nurse Association East will hold the following clinics: Blood Pressure Screenings:

March 1	Florence Lord Marlborough 11:00 – 12:00
March 7	Andover Old Fire Department 12:30 – 1:30
March 7	Willington Senior Center 1:00 – 2:00
March 13	Hebron Senior Center 10:30 – 11:30
March 13	Marlborough Senior Center 2:00 - 3:00
March 14	Chaplin Senior Center 9:00 - 10:00
March 14	Sprague Town Hall 12:00 – 1:00
March 15	Columbia Beckish Senior Center 12:30 - 1:30
March 15	Marlborough Town Hall 2:00 - 3:00
March 20	Lebanon Fire Safety Complex 12:30 - 1:30
March 21	Scotland Town Hall 12:30 - 1:00
March 21	Ashford Town Hall 1:30 - 3:00
March 27	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:

March 1	Ashford Hop River Homes 1:30 – 4:30
March 6	Franklin Senior Center 8:30 – 11:30
March 6	Sprague Senior Center 12:00 – 2:30
March 8	Hebron Senior Center 8:30 -- 1:00
March 8	Columbia Beckish Center 1:30 – 4:30
March 22	Hebron Senior Center 8:30 – 1:00

### SAYLES SCHOOL TARGETS STUDENT NEEDS

Dear Sprague Community:

The belief system at Sayles School is that we can effectively teach all students. We also believe it is our responsibility to identify the curricular, instructional, and environmental conditions that enable learning. To this end, a Response to Intervention Model (RTI) has been implemented and the schedule has been changed this year to include a 45 minute Intervention/Enrichment Period 4 days a week. The focus for Response to Intervention is on reading this year and will expand in the future.

The RTI process is a multi-step approach to providing interventions at increasing levels of intensity to students struggling with learning. Students are given various assessments and their daily performance is also used to determine whether they participate in

Intervention or Enrichment during that period. Intervention students participate in scientifically based programs that have been shown to improve reading skills. The programs focus on skills necessary for reading success throughout a student's career. All of these program interventions are offered in addition to the instruction received in the classroom. All students participate in reading instruction with their whole class and are then involved in Intervention/Tutoring or Enrichment as appropriate.

Enrichment students participate in activities designed to extend skills and critical thinking. For example Fifth Grade students are exploring and researching individual topics of interest and sharing the results in a variety of ways. Some examples of individual projects include

- Cryptozoology (the study of creatures that may or may not exist)
  - \* Research on Internet, books, letter to North American expert
  - \* Oral presentation, poster, papier mache model of Nessie, series of newspaper articles on various creatures to be submitted to local newspapers for possible publication.
- Karate
  - \* Research on Internet and through personal interviews
  - \* Oral presentation with PowerPoint to school and karate class
- Astronomy
  - \* Research on Internet, through books, writing to local experts
  - \* Illustrated children's book and book on tape about constellations, turning the classroom ceiling into a scale drawing of glow in the dark constellations. To be used with grade 5 science curriculum and PTO Family Science Night.
- Baseball
  - \* Research on Internet and personal interviews
  - \* Directing and filming instructional video to share with class and Little League team.

All of the students are assessed throughout the year and their placement in intervention/tutoring or enrichment is further tailored to meet specific needs. Staff recognizes that students make progress at varying speeds and adjust groupings and target skills according to that progress. Groupings within Intervention and Enrichment are designed to target students with similar skills and to change as needed.

An essential piece of this process is the analysis of data and the frequent monitoring of progress. Data allows staff to employ a laser-like focus on individual progress and adjust interventions frequently. An additional essential piece of the process is parent involvement. A parent is a student's first and best teacher. The demands on students have changed in recent years as a result of Federal Legislation (No Child Left Behind). Attendance and readiness to learn is vital to a student's ability to meet these requirements. It is critical that families and Sayles School work together. Parents can practice reading at home, ensure that students are well rested, properly nourished, and attending school regularly. Additionally, parents can monitor homework completion and quality and carry out interventions recommended by teachers. Sayles School Staff trust that families will work together with us to build a strong work ethic and consistent personal expectations. This joint effort is essential to student academic success and preparation for the global work force. The staff looks forward to continued collaboration with the families of Sprague in order to meet the needs of all students.

Sincerely,

Dr. Judy Benson-Clarke, Assistant Superintendent of Schools for  
Student Services and  
Achievement

Christina Fireman, Student Achievement Strategist  
Dr. Kristie Fresco-Hawes, School Psychologist  
Meredith Sundman, Student Achievement Strategist

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Thursday, March 1

SPARC Town Hall 7:00 pm  
 Democratic Town Comm. Town Hall 6:30 pm

## Monday, March 5

Inland Wetlands & Water Town Hall 7:00 pm  
**Zoning Board of Appeals** Town Hall  
 7:00 pm

Wednesday March 7

**Planning & Zoning** Town Hall  
 7:00 pm

Knights of Columbus 74 Scotland Road 7:30 pm

**Board of Education** Sayles School  
 7:00 pm

Thursday March 8

Tuesday, March 13

**Library Board** Grist Mill 6:30 pm  
**Republican Town Committee**  
 7:00 pm

Wednesday March 14

**Board of Selectman** Town Hall 7:00 pm  
**Baltic Fire Auxiliary** Fire House 7:00 pm

Thursday, March 15

**Board of Finance** Board Room Town Hall 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 21

Sprague Water & Sewer Authority Hall 7:00 pm

Tuesday, March 27

**Historical Society** Grist Mill 6:30 pm

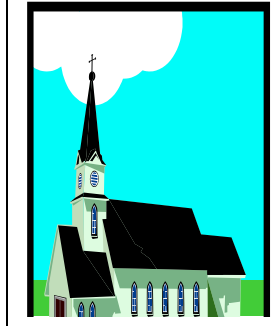
**Sprague Housing Auth.** 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 28

## CHURCH SERVICE DIRECTORY

### SUNDAYS

Versailles United Methodist	10:30 AM
Bethel Community UMC	8:30 AM
St. Mary's, West Main AM	8:00 AM & 10:00
Hanover Congregational	9:30 AM
Church of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints	10:00 AM



Hanover Congregational  
 Church

**Main Street, H**

Please Join Us for  
 Sunday Services and  
 Sunday School  
 9:30 AM

**Rev. Robert Morris,**  
 Minister  
**Wendy Schnip, Organist**

**Deadline for April Our Town ad and  
 article submissions:**

**March 19th**

## OUR TOWN STAFF

The "OUR TOWN" Newsletter is a monthly publication funded by local advertising and The Town of Sprague as a forum for public information. The opinions expressed here are those of individual authors, where indicated by his/ her name. These opinions do not necessarily reflect those of this newsletter. All submissions must be signed and submitted by deadline each month. The OUR TOWN staff reserves the right to edit copy for proper grammatical form and to conform to space allocations. Libelous, obscene, or inflammatory material will not be printed.

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**Town of Sprague Parks and Recreation Committee**

**PO Box 791**

Baltic, Connecticut 06330

**April 21, 2007 (8am to 5pm)      Big S Yard Sale Application**

**Contact Information**

Organization Name	
Street Address	
City ST ZIP Code	
Contact Name	
Contact Phone	
E-Mail Address	

**Type of Activity**

Please indicate the number of booths/space requested and enter the description of your activity/exhibit. We want to ensure that your booth does not have any duplicate activities near by or interfere with near by activities. You will also need to indicate whether you require electricity for your booth.

# of Booths	Type	Electricity Yes	Electricity No
Enter dimensions of your booth →		←	

**Set up Time**

I understand the Set Up Time will begin Saturday 7AM to 8:30AM and all Set Up activities must be completed No later than **9:00AM**.

**Special Notes**

I understand that neither the Town of Sprague nor any members of the Sprague Recreation Committee is responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen items or property.

Each participant is responsible for their own set ups, tables, tarps, extension cords, etc. No vehicles shall be allowed to remain on the ball field during the Big S Yard Sale activities, except for those pre-approved to park along the Outfield Fence. All other vehicles **MUST BE REMOVED** from the FIELD and ACCESS road as soon as set up is completed. Parking is located across the street from the ball field, next to the school bus parking area.

Make check or money order payable to The Sprague Parks and Recreation Committee and mail the payment with completed application by April 21, 2007, to:

Scott Larkham

Email: slarkham@aol.com Phone 822-8582

Or Attn: Sprague Parks and Recreation Committee (SPARC)

**Town of Sprague Parks and Recreation Committee**  
**PO Box 791**  
Baltic, Connecticut 06330

**Signature**

Name (printed)	
Signature	
Date	

**Our Policy**

It is the policy of this organization to provide a safe and family friendly atmosphere for this event.

***WE MUST KEEP THE BALL FIELD SAFE FOR OUR FAMILIES AND CHILDREN.***

Thank you for completing this application form and for your interest in the Big S Yard Sale.

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**Hello Sprague,**

I'm happy to report some new faces at board and commission meetings this past month. Moreover, openings on the Board of Finance and the Economic Development Commission, as well as an alternate spot on Planning and Zoning, have all had interest from folks who have not previously served on one of Sprague's boards or commissions. Irrespective of political affiliation, it is very exciting to see this level of interest in our community. I've previously spoken of the need for involvement from a broader group of participants and it is wonderful to see this happen.

At the time of this writing, only the BOF spot has been filled and the DTC would like to extend

sincere congratulations to Karen Collins for her appointment. Our thanks go to outgoing board member Cliff Fortin for his years of thoughtful service on the BOF.

As a reminder, DTC meetings are held the first Thursday of every month. Should you have interest in attending or becoming involved with the DTC, please contact me for details.

**- Kord Jablonski**  
**Chairman, Sprague DTC**  
**822-1912, [kordjablonski@yahoo.com](mailto:kordjablonski@yahoo.com)**