



# OUR TOWN

SERVING THE VILLAGES OF BALTIC, HANOVER AND VERSAILLES  
IN THE BEAUTIFUL SHETUCKET RIVER VALLEY

**INFORMATION \* NEWS**

VOLUME XIX  
ISSUE I  
JANUARY 2009

## Folks to remember as the New Year begins...

*From Linda Puetz:* If you have an extra (Christmas) card take a moment to send it to the address below. Imagine if you received many cards from people who care. It could lift your spirit.

A Recovering American Soldier

c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center

6900 Georgia Ave., NW

Washington, D.C. 20307-5001



*From Dennison Allen:* Something cool that Xerox is doing. If you go to this Web site, **www.LetsSayThanks.com** you can pick out a thank you card and Xerox will print it and it will be sent to a soldier currently serving in Iraq. You can't pick out who gets it, but it will go to some member of the armed services. How AMAZING it would be if we could get everyone we know to send one!!! This is a great site. Please send a card. It is FREE and it only takes a second. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the soldiers received a bunch of these? Whether you are for or against the war, our guys and gals over there need to know we are behind them.

Especially for those of you who receive the Our Town out of town, a wish for a Bright and Happy New Year! Let us know where you are, so we can send you a personal greeting! Safe Journey.



### DATES TO REMEMBER IN JANUARY:

- Thursday, January 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY
- Monday, January 19 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR DAY
- Tuesday, January 20 INAUGURATION DAY

**T**o everyone who donated to the Food Pantry;  
 To the folks at Versailles United Methodist Church who collect food and supplies for the animals in local shelters; who make bed rolls for the homeless folks in Norwich; who feed their neighbors;  
 To Boy Scout Troop 19 for their generous donation of sleeping bags, tarps and tents for the No Freeze Shelter in Willimantic;  
 To the parish of St. Mary's Church who provided food bags and gifts for Christmas celebrations in town;  
 To those who donated items to the Senior Gift Basket Raffle, the Sayles School Basket Raffle and St. Joseph/Holy Family Basket Raffle; To the folks who tend the gate at the Mukluk Preserve;  
 To the volunteers at the fire department, the recreation department, and other community agencies;  
 To each and everyone one of you who takes the time to lend a hand, offer assistance, smile instead of growl; and who lives their lives each day as if they matter (because you do!), we say....



**OUR TOWN**

## American Legion Post 85

Commander David Salemma opened the first formal meeting of American Legion Post 85 on December 2. Financial Officer Tom Coletti read the minutes. Financial Officer took roll call and noted 10 members in attendance.

Commander opened up the floor to discuss new members. All members were asked to approach veterans to invite them to join the Post's ranks.

Tom Coletti stated that the 99-year lease for the land on River Street was still an open and an unfinished business item for the Post. Joe Osowski would investigate the land lease with the Town of Sprague administration and would update the Post at the next meeting.

Senior Vice Commander Wil Zinavage suggested that the Post membership consider a museum be included in the plans for any building to be built or purchased in the future. The Post museum would include artifacts donated or leased from veterans and their families. The idea was well received by the membership. A committee for an AL building was formed and headed by Tom Coletti.

Lynn Lessard asked if it was mandatory for the Post to meet in the Senior Center. Tom Coletti explained that the Senior Center was readily available for the original reorganization group to meet when the reorganization drive began in September 2007.

Lynn Lessard stated that the Post had met many times in the past at the Sprague Rod and Gun Club and suggested that it be considered again. Dave Salemma, as a Gun Club member, volunteered to approach the Gun Club's administration to see if arrangements could be made to hold monthly meetings at the club in the future.

Wil Zinavage asked that at the next meeting a status of the finances and assets of the Post be presented. Commander Dave Salemma, Adjutant Doug Patrick and Financial Officer Tom Coletti will meet between the holidays to take on that task. It was hoped that a status would be completed by next month's meeting and presented.

The Commander also notified the membership that Tom Foley could not be the Service Officer for Post 85. He also stated that until a member volunteered for the position, the Post would have to utilize State Service Officer Fred Jones in Norwich at (860) 886-8551. Tom Foley will still act as a contact for Post 85 but he is not allowed to be a Service Officer for Taftville and Baltic at the same time per Department of Connecticut organization rules.

~Tom Coletti

### LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Baltic Fire Department held their annual Christmas get together on Wednesday, December 10, at Mona Lisa's Restaurant.

Many thanks to all who participated in and supported us at the recent Holly Jolly Bazaar. It was the best one ever!!

Officers for 2009 are President Tina Deschamps; Vice President Barbara Lambert; Secretary Jeannette Deschamps; Treasurer Susan Deschamps.

On behalf of all the members of the Ladies Auxiliary, Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 8, 2009, at 7 p.m. at the fire house. Please remember that anyone interested in joining the Auxiliary is welcome. We are always looking for new members and new ideas for fundraising. You need not be a Sprague resident or have a spouse or family member in the Fire Department to join the Auxiliary.

~ Jeannette Deschamps



## CHARTER COMMISSION REPORT

There is a saying if you want to understand a thing, try to change it. Appointing the Sprague Charter Commission has been just such an opportunity.

The Commission appreciates the comments from the residents who have come to its two public hearings and the comments received from boards and commissions. The Commission will be sending out a survey to all town residents to make sure we get the opinions of those who have not already given us comments. This survey will replace the public hearing the Commission had planned for January. Please take time to fill out the questionnaire to help the Commission with its work. If you would like to read the Charter draft before completing the questionnaire, it is available on the Town of Sprague Web site or at the Town Hall.

The work of the commission, which is only advisory, will be finished by early February to meet the state statutes. By statute, the Board of Selectmen will review the draft from the Commission. The Selectmen will also be required to call a public hearing to discuss the draft.

The Commission thanks everyone for their participation in this process of trying to understand Town government.

~ Susan Zimmerman

## FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR

The second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes will become due and payable on January 1. Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills will be sent out by the end of December and become due and payable on January 1. You will have the entire month of January to pay your taxes.

Taxes not paid by February 2 shall become delinquent and will be subject to 1 1/2% interest per month. Annual interest is 18% and minimum interest is \$2.00.

Taxpayer's needing an immediate clearance for the registration of a motor vehicle and who owe a delinquent tax must pay by cash, money order or certified check. All others who pay by personal check must wait until the check clears.

If you pay by mail and would like a receipt please mail entire tax bill and a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your payment.

If you have any questions regarding your tax bill, call the tax collector at (860) 822-3000, ext. 224. Any questions regarding address changes, assessments, exemptions, or correct tax town should be directed to the Assessor at (860) 822-3000, ext. 222.

### TAX COLLECTOR'S HOURS

Monday and Thursday 8 a.m. – Noon  
Wednesday 2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

### ASSESSOR'S HOURS

Mondays 6 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
Tuesdays 7 a.m. – Noon

~Mary B. Chartier, CCMC, Tax Collector

**FROM THE EDITOR: Deadline for submissions** is the 15th of each month...that would be the day after the 14th and before the 16th...

The writer's name, address and a contact phone number must be included with each submission. Because the focus of Our Town is community events, articles, commission notes and other items of town-wide interest will take priority over personal opinions. Annual budget considerations may affect page appropriations as well.

Submissions may be e-mailed to [OurTownNews@gmail.com](mailto:OurTownNews@gmail.com), or mailed to Town Hall, P.O. Box 677, Baltic, CT 06330. Info: (860) 456-1082.

Sprague ~ Our Town is a free monthly publication of the Town of Sprague, serving the communities of Baltic, Hanover and Versailles. Primarily funded by the Town, support is also provided by paid advertisements. Opinions expressed in Sprague ~ Our Town are not necessarily those of town officials or the community at large, but solely reflect those of the writer. Submissions may be edited for clarity and format as necessary. Libelous or obscene materials are not permitted.

**Editor:** Amy Lynn Reifsnyder

**Editorial Assistant:** Colette Hoffman

**Production Staff:** Jeannette Bastien, Al Hoffman, Rita Grenier, Al Grenier, Barbara Robitaille, John Ellis, Joe Osowski, Richard Waterman, Dennison Allen, Miss Myrtle, and whoever else wanders through the room the day we collate.

Quinn, come back!!! Bring friends! Feel free to volunteer!

## Ground Control to ...

Did you know that a ham radio can be used to contact the astronauts on board the international space station? The Sayles School fifth and sixth graders would like to make contact this winter. I have passed my licensing exam, but do not have a radio. I am looking for someone in the community who could lend a radio to the school for a short period of time.

If you have a radio to share, please contact Mrs. Rebecca Reyer at school (860) 822-8264 ext. 132 or at home, (860) 822-1643.

Thank you!



**RECYCLE \* DON'T THROW THEM OUT!!!**  
**Laser Printer and Ink Jet Printer Cartridges, Old Cell Phones**  
**Include All BATTERIES!!!**

**Drop off boxes at the Transfer Station and Town Hall**  
**GREAT for the environment**  
**EARN money for Sayles School PTO**

**Information: [dssixofus@netzero.com](mailto:dssixofus@netzero.com)**

**HEY YOU! YES, YOU!**

Hey You! Yes, You! Kids! Parents! Look What's Happening in Sprague in 2009!  
 Starting Saturday, January 10 from 6 to 9 p.m., and every Saturday afterward, the Sprague Parks and Recreation Committee will be hosting a Youth Night at the Town Hall, 1 Main Street, Baltic. The Sprague Senior Center has graciously donated their community room (second floor) for Sprague youth of any age to participate in a variety of games and activities including Wii, ping pong, movies, board games, on-line games, music etc.  
 We're going to try and have refreshments available such as popcorn, soda, etc. and everyone is welcome to bring some snacks to share if they'd like.  
 This is a great opportunity for kids and teens to come and relax with their friends, hang out, listen to music (feel free to bring your own CDs, too), etc.  
 This event is supervised by Park and Rec members and volunteers. For more information call Chair Noreen Foley at (860) 822-1829. Let's try and make this as successful as possible so that the Sprague Youth Center becomes a permanent part of the Recreation Committee's programs. See you there!

**CAN AND BOTTLE DRIVES**



**SATURDAY  
 JANUARY 10  
 8 a.m. to Noon**

**SISTERS OF CHARITY  
 MAIN STREET, BALTIC**

**SATURDAY  
 JANUARY 3**

**SAYLES SCHOOL  
 Scotland Road**



**CHURCH NEWS**

**VERSAILLES UNITED METHODIST**

Pastor Wanda Greaves invites all to join in worship on Sundays, 10:30 a.m., with Sunday School during worship. Holy Communion offered first Sunday of the month. Coffee Fellowship follows. The church is wheelchair accessible. Information: (860) 822-9439. Versailles United Methodist Church is located at 4 Church St.

**In Memoriam:** In memory of Bea and her Yorkies, friends of Versailles UMC who died last spring, the church is collecting canned cat and dog food, dog collars and other pet care products for the Norwich Animal Hospital. Donations may be left in the bin by the church.

**Mission Project:** As part of the ongoing mission of Versailles UMC, materials with which to make sleeping bags for the homeless in Norwich and surrounding towns, are being collected. Old but usable blankets, fabric and sewing supplies are welcome. Stitchers will use these items to put together sleeping bags which will be distributed where needed. Large plastic storage bags are also welcome, as are adult socks, hand and feet warmers, personal care items, etc. These items are rolled into the sleep sacks before distribution. Items may be left at the church on Sundays, or call to make other arrangements.

**BALTIC UNITED METHODIST**

**CHURCH** On the first Sunday of each month, Communion Sunday, services will be held at Lee Memorial Church, Norwich, at 9:30 a.m. All other Sunday services will be in the Baltic church at 10:30 a.m., with lay speakers from Lee Memorial and other churches.

Ode to Sprague

We're not classy, we're not fancy  
 But we're everything you need  
 Pack your bags and your family  
 Come to visit us and see!

We've got music Sunday mornings  
 And there's hiking everyday  
 A clean river for the fishin'  
 And a real nice place to stay.

Bring the kayak and your paddle  
 Your baseball, bat and mitt  
 Sprague Three Villages is Heaven  
 Come, experience it!