



OUR TOWN

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

VOLUME XIX
ISSUE III
MARCH 2009

INFORMATION * NEWS * OPINIONS

SIGNS OF SPRING IN SPRAGUE!

Sprague Garden Club Meeting

Thursday, March 5, 7 p.m.

Senior Center, Town Hall, Baltic



Sisters of Charity Bottle Drive

Saturday, March 14

Main Street, Baltic



Early Earth Day Clean Up

Saturday, March 28, 9 a.m. to Noon

Meet at the Grist Mill

Scotland: Wednesdays, March 4 and 18, 6 to 8 p.m., Fire House, Brook Road

Franklin: Saturday, March 7, 6 to 8 p.m., Franklin Elementary Gymnasium

Bring copies of birth certificates and proof of residency!

SUPPORT LITTLE LEAGUE AND LOCAL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL!

Connecticut Defender Ticket Fundraiser to benefit Little League

Info at www.ETEAMZ.active.com/SFCLL



POST 85 REPORT

The American Legion Post 85 meeting was cancelled on February 3 due to inclement weather. The next meeting will be held on March 3 at 7 p.m. at the Sprague Senior Center.

~Respectfully submitted
Thomas Coletti

AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM

Sprague Senior Center
April 6 and 7
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

AARP Members: \$12



OUR TOWN

CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPDATE

Hello fellow Sprague citizens,
Sorry we missed last month. As we all know sometimes life gets too busy. Well here we are working slowly out of winter. Speaking of that, please be careful going up to the Mukluk Preserve, particularly if you have a low riding vehicle. Although Spring is slowly approaching, winter is still here, it is still a great time to do some winter hiking and to get outside so that we all don't get stuck in those winter blues. So bundle up and get out and enjoy the beauty that this season has to offer. We hope to team up soon with the Rec. committee and plan some more winter activities up at the Mukluk to help our fellow citizens to spend a much happier and healthier cold season.

The conservation volunteers have been busy marking boundaries, leading hikes, and working down around the headrace cutting trees.

Also, the Environmental Review Team Report has been delivered to us. Copies are available for anyone to review at Town Hall. Ask Claire for a copy if you are interested, or see Walt Bell at the transfer station. This team of experts did a great job on assessing the property's natural resources and making recommendations for future uses.

Please keep in mind that the Conservation Commission supports preserving most of the Mukluk Preserve for open space for now and forever. What is at stake here is not just the preservation of this 280 acre tract of land, but the preservation of an entire 2,000 acre river valley. We will soon be voting as a town to accept the \$500,000 open space grant that the state has already awarded us. Please get out and vote to help us in our efforts. We are at an important time in our history. We hope that all of us can get together on this issue and preserve this important asset to our town's future.

~Donald Boushee
Conservation Commission

**SPRAGUE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Baltic – Hanover – Versailles
Kindergarten (Full-day) Registration**

Registration will be held **Thursday, April 23**
9:30am-2:30am
at



**Sayles School
Scotland Road
Baltic, CT 06330
(860) 822-8264**

Sayles School is currently conducting kindergarten registration for the 2009-2010 school year.

Parents of children who will be five years old by January 1, 2010, 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 2009-2010 school year be registered as soon as possible.

Please call
(860) 822-8264, Ext. 100 for a registration packet
or if you have any questions.

PACK 19 SCOUTS CONSTRUCT BLUEBIRD HOUSES

On February 14, members of Pack 19 of Baltic, Den 3 and Den 5, met at a home workshop in Hanover to learn about woodworking and to build bird houses designed for the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*). Before building the birdhouses, the scouts learned the history of such woodworking tools as wood planes and other tools designed to smooth and prepare wood, how holes are bored in wood, how to hammer nails and how to use a brace and bit.

Besides learning how to identify bluebirds, each scout built and took home at least one bird-house, received written instructions on the installation and care of birdhouses, and participated in the inspection and cleaning of several nesting boxes that had been installed the previous year.

Den 3 is lead by Den Leader Stuart Woronecki. Wolf Cub Scouts from Den 3 participating were Quentin Carr, Marcus Gada, and Jack Woronecki.

Den 5 is lead by Leader Brian Miner. Wolf cub scouts from Den 5 participating were Kyle Stewart, Colin Giles, and Daylen Miner. Both Dens were assisted by Den Chief Noah Carr.

What you can do to help bluebirds: You need a birdhouse, of course. Late winter or early spring is the time to install the house, and to clean out nesting boxes installed in previous years. There are many websites dedicated to informing the public about the Eastern Bluebird that will tell you where to install the houses and how high off the ground to install them. One website that is a good place to obtain information about bluebirds and obtain plans for birdhouses is the State of Connecticut's Department of Environmental Protection website. Or you can purchase locally a kit or a house already made.

The bluebird carries the sky on his back.
-- Henry David Thoreau *Journal*
[1841]

TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE For Seniors and the Disabled (860) 822-3000, Ext. 203

Lisbon Super Wal-Mart and Kohl'S
Bi-weekly, Monday, 1 to 3 p.m.

Norwich Big Y and Wal-Mart, By Request

Norwich Stop 'N Shop, Dress Barn, Dollar Store
Thursday, 1 to 3 p.m.

Norwich Shop Rite
Tuesday, 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Willimantic Super Wal-Mart and Co-op
By Request, Bi-Weekly

FROM THE EDITOR: Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. 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, 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

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GREAT for the environment
EARN money for Sayles School PTO**

Information: dssixofus@netzero.com

OUR TOWN

Housing Document

6 x 8

Will Be cut and pasted

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, who died last spring, the church is collecting canned cat and dog food, dog collars and other pet care products for the Norwich Animal Pound. 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.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Sponsored by VNA East, 34 Ledgebrook Drive, Mansfield Center, a blood pressure screening will be held at Sprague Senior Center on Wednesday, March 11, from noon to 1 p.m.

There is no charge for the blood pressure screening, however there are nominal charges for other services.

Additional screenings are held locally. For a complete schedule, call (860) 456-7288.



CHAIR CAR VAN AVAILABLE

Chair Car Van is now available for door-to-door transportation to shopping and medical appointments, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call at least 48 hours in advance to schedule a ride. Pharmacy and banking stops may be made, too. (860) 822-3000, Ext. 203

BALTIC UNITED METHODIST

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.

COMING SOON!

SAYLES SCHOOL INDOOR TAG SALE!!!

VENDORS NEEDED

SHOPPERS WELCOME!

25 SCOTLAND ROAD

BALTIC

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

(SET UP 8 A.M.)