



VOLUME XIX  
ISSUE IX  
SEPTEMBER 2009

# OUR TOWN

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

**INFORMATION \* NEWS**

## FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN—Cathy Osten

I really think that Sprague accomplished more in the one or two dry days we had in July than most towns do in an entire summer! We're almost finished with Phase II of our Baltic Sidewalks project, having completed the West Main Street/Park Drive section and nearly finishing in front of the recreational fields. What a difference! We've resurfaced more roads, too: Park Drive, Parkwood Road and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue now have facelifts. Our first summer concert at the River Park was well attended and so much fun—Elm Street Project played its usual danceable brand of country/western, and friends and neighbors took advantage of the new grills and added picnic tables to have dinner at the park, enjoy the breeze off the river, and plan for the next concert.

Over at Town Hall, energy conservation repairs are progressing—we're replacing more doors and applying for funds to install on-demand hot water systems and an efficient boiler for the main offices and the Senior Center. As with other towns in the region, the stimulus funds are beginning to come in, and while the individual awards are small, they can be used for much-needed items that we would never have been able to acquire otherwise, such as a patrol ATV for the Resident State Trooper, furniture and kitchen appliances for the Senior Center, a generator for the emergency radio, an electronic security gate at the water treatment plant, and a portion of the funds to renovate the library and reconstruct the LaCroix Road bridge.

I mean it—I'm looking forward to seeing **everyone** at our next concert—mark your calendars!

## FROM THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Have you recently moved to town?

Have you moved within town?

Have you changed your address?

Have you moved out of town then back?

Have you recently married and changed your name?

If so, you will need to fill out a new voter registration card.

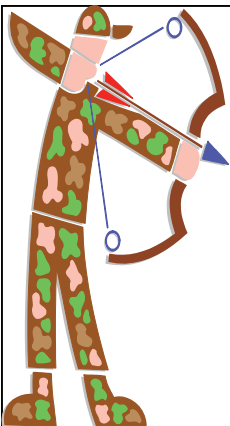
Questions about your voting status? Call Sprague Town Hall, (860) 822-3000, ext. 220.

Your cooperation will ensure that your name will be on the registry list when you **COME TO VOTE** on September 15, 2009 (Republican Primary) or November 3, 2009 elections.

## RIVER PARK CONCERT SERIES

SATURDAY August 29  
SEPTEMBER 5 and 26  
*featuring*  
**ELM STREET PROJECT**

RIVER PARK, BALTIC  
5 TO 8 P.M.



## THIS JUST IN! LIMITED HUNTING ALLOWED AT LAND PRESERVE

Just as the pages were headed to the printer, it was announced that bow hunting will be permitted at the Sprague Land Preserve (formerly Mukluk Property) off of Holton Road.

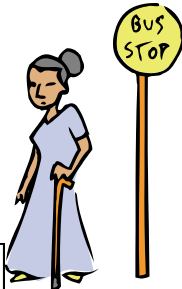
See flyer elsewhere in this publication for more details.

**OUR TOWN**

**HEALTH SCREENING**

Blood pressure screenings will be held at Sprague Town Hall on Wednesday, September 9 from noon to 1 p.m.

For information on screenings at other locations, contact VNAEast, (860) 456-7288.



**SPRAGUE-OCCUM BUS SERVICE BEGINS AUGUST 17**

The Sprague-Occum Bus Service is up and operating! All residents may take the bus from Baltic to Occum five days a week, at no charge, courtesy of the Town of Sprague and Sprague Senior Center. Buses will run routinely from designated stops between Baltic and Occum, where riders will be able to connect with the Southeast Area Transit District (SEAT) buses.

**Points of Departure**

- Shetucket Village: 8:45 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.
- Saint Mary's Church parking lot: 8:48 a.m. and 11:48 a.m.
- Playground at Brookside Avenue and High Street: 8:52 a.m. and 11:52 a.m.
- TJ's Parking Lot, Route 97 and Main Street: 9 a.m.

and Noon

**Arrival in Occum** Corner of Hooper Street and Route 97, by Red McKeon Park: 9:10 a.m. and 12: 10 p.m.

**Return**

Hooper Street and Route 97: 12:15 and 3:15 p.m.

**NOTE:** the 3:15 is an express and will return to the Senior Center.

Watch Town bulletin boards or Web sites for additional information. If you have a suggestion or comment regarding routes, times, days of the week, etc. contact the Senior Center at (860) 822-3000, ext. 203. For SEAT information, visit [www.seatbus.com](http://www.seatbus.com).

**AFTERNOON DELIGHT BOOK CLUB**

Sprague Public Library will host the Afternoon Delight Book Club beginning Wednesday, September 9 at 3:30 p.m.

Have you ever read a book that changed your life in some way, or do you just love to read?

Do you like a mid-afternoon snack and a few nice people to chat with? If this sounds good to you, try the Afternoon Delight Book Club at the library.

The Jane Austen Book Club was a success and we all enjoyed it. This fall the book club will be in the afternoon at 3:30 p.m. We hope the new time will be better for everyone. The Afternoon Delight Book Club will talk about some of the books we have enjoyed reading in the past, and choose some books for future months.

Call Chris at the library if interested: (860) 822-3012.

**TAG AND BAKE SALE**

**Saturday, September 26**

**Versailles**

**United Methodist Church  
4 Church Street**

**8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**(No early birds, please!)**

Indoors. Rain or Shine.  
Something for everyone!

Information: (860) 822-9439

**MAKE PLANS NOW FOR...**

**Second Annual  
Fall Harvest Bonfire  
Saturday, OCTOBER 3**

Music \* Hot Dogs \* S'mores  
Popcorn \* Drinks

All are welcome!  
Children welcome to come dressed in  
Halloween costumes.

Fun crafts for the children.

**FREE**

**SENIOR VAN SCHEDULE**

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 and  
surrounding stores  
Thursday, 1 to 3 p.m.

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

Willimantic Super Wal-Mart and  
Food Co-op by request.

Medical appointments require a  
48-hour notice. Please contact the Senior  
Center for availability before making your  
next appointment. (860) 822 3000, ext 203.

## REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE

I hope all of you are enjoying the last days of summer. As fall approaches, it is time again for local elections and to consider which of our neighbors can best lead us into the next two years.

Republicans were fortunate this year to have more candidates than candidate slots for some offices. As a result, a Republican primary will be held on September 15, where all registered Republicans can vote for a final slate of candidates. I am asking all Sprague Republicans to come out and support the RTC-endorsed slate of candidates. The endorsed candidates are

First Selectman/Selectman: Stan “Jesse” Sims  
and Mick Collins  
Board of Finance: Wendy Schnip  
Board of Education: Sandra Cloutier and Michael Smith  
Town Treasurer: Ann Marie Osowski  
Town Clerk: Carmella Turner  
Tax Collector: Stephen Zevetchin  
Planning and Zoning: Stanley Walczyk  
and Warren Baker  
Board of Assessment Appeals: Dave Zamoider.

This is an exciting slate of candidates who are all eager to give something back to their community.

We hope you had a chance to meet Stan Sims and other candidates at August’s Three Villages Festival and Bike Race. Look for additional RTC events in the next two months – including a Comedy Night fundraiser where town residents can get to “meet and greet” these candidates.

On a related front, the RTC has invited the Democratic Town Committee to participate in two candidate forums for all selectmen candidates. We hope to schedule these on separate dates in October to allow all interested citizens to attend and participate. We believe it is important for the public to hear all selectmen candidates’ views on important town issues. Watch for further details on RTC candidate open house events and the selectmen candidate forum this fall.

Are you registered to vote? If not, we want to encourage all eligible residents to register early, or if you will be out of town on election day Tuesday, November 3, to request an absentee ballot. Contact Wendy Schnip, Republican Registrar of Voters at (860) 822-9410 for more information.

Finally, we hope all residents will give serious thought about important issues facing Sprague and participate in local decisions involving use of your tax dollars. Here are just a few questions that I frequently hear from residents: 1. Why haven’t we had any real town meetings to discuss the budget or other important decisions in almost two years? 2. Where did the \$500,000 in state grant money for Mukluk open space go to and why was no input allowed from the public? 3. How do we deal with the recent upsurge in town crime, and is a purchase of a \$9,100 ATV really our most important crime fighting priority? 4. Street lights anyone?

We encourage all residents to continue the conversation this fall and add your own concerns to the list.

~Michael Smith, Chairman  
Sprague Republican Town Committee

## OUR TOWN

### CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPDATE

Hello fellow Sprague citizens. Just want to let you know what is going on in our Sprague Conservation Commission world. We are currently discussing hunting regulations for the Sprague Preserve. Those who are up on land management practices know that it is very prudent for landowners to regulate wildlife as well as woodland, particularly deer. We are reviewing current state practices and other municipalities' regulations to help us come up with a safe way to regulate this practice in our town. We expect to have details ironed-out and will be posted on the town website and at the town hall by the second week of September.

*(Editor's Note: See flyer elsewhere for more information released by the First Selectman about bow hunting September 15 through October 3.)*

Any questions or concerns, please contact First Selectman Cathy Osten at the town hall.

We continue to mark the boundaries of the reservoir.

Thanks to all those that attended the wonderful Butterfly and Bug workshop held at the River Park on July 25 put on by Master Wildlife Conservationist Kathleen Boushee. It was very informative and fun for all. Please keep your ears and eyes open for future workshops.

As usual if you have any questions, concerns or just want to join the team, e-mail me at [donaldboushee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donaldboushee@sbcglobal.net).

~Donald Boushee, Chairman  
Sprague Conservation Commission

### Sayles School GRADUATES 2009

Jennifer Nicole Blanchette, Brenda Dianne Maerkle, Jillian Elizabeth Boisclair, Albany Raquel Martinez, Atheana Angelica Brodeur, Mikaela Anne Narciso, Jessica Marie Charron, Amanda May Osowski, Felicia Marie Cloke, Kayla Catherine Panek, Travis Lee Cohen-Rappold, Daniel Joseph Paul, Joseph Anthony Colon, Jillian Xiaojun Provost, Jessica Ann Deschamps, Jared Patrick Riley, Jakub Thomas Eiden, John Dominic Russo, Kimberly Rose Filiatreault, Emalee Morganne Shrewsbury, Michael David Helie, Mathew David Smith, Bryce Elizabeth Hill, Ariana Marie Stewart, Adam Lucas Izbicki, Cheyenne Marie Thibeault, Derek James Klein, Joseph Malik Walczyk, Cristina Marie Knowles, Jonathan Michael Zevetchin, Christina Marie Lynch.

#### Class of 2009— Awards

**Democratic Town Committee: Louis H. Desjarlais Memorial Award**, Greatest Improvement: Cheyenne Thibeault  
**Sayles P.T.O. Award**, Science: Cristina Knowles, Art (in memory of Frido Urbinati); Art: Derek Klein  
**Republican Town Committee Award**, Spelling: Felicia Cloke  
**Sprague Teachers' League Awards**, Italian: Jillian Provost; Mathematics: Bryce Hill; Language Arts: Jillian Boisclair; Art – June Clyde Preston & Medville H. Colbath Memorial: Jessica A. Charron  
**Sprague Public Library Award**, Interest in Reading: Ariana Stewart  
**Sprague Historical Society Award**, Outstanding in History: Cristina Knowles  
**Sprague Board of Education Award**, Most improved in any one area: Christina Lynch  
**Sayles School - Sarah Jeannette Raymond Memorial Award** to a student who has shown the most concern and consideration for others: Cheyenne Thibeault  
**Sprague Garden Club Award** to two students who have shown the most improvement throughout the year and/or have an interest in science and/or agriculture: Jared Riley, Cheyenne Thibeault

(Con't next page)

## Sayles School Awards (con't)

**Sayles School – Helen Champeau Memorial Award** to a student who has shown excellence in the area of music: Joseph Walczyk

**Sayles School – Peter David Stabach Memorial Award** to a deserving student interested in pursuing a vocational-technical career: Derek Klein

**Sprague Future Nurse Award** to a student who has exhibited compassion toward his/her peers, showing an aptitude and interest in science and has the desire to become a member of the nursing profession: Amanda Osowski

**Tyrus Henry Gaudreau Memorial Award**, Creative Writing: Albany Martinez

**Sayles School – Eric Joseph Lukowski Memorial Award** to a student who has shown an admirable demonstration of good sportsmanship: Jennifer Blanchette

**Sayles School – JoAnn Matthews Memorial Award** to a student who has demonstrated excellence in computer applications and the use of technology tools: Joseph Walczyk

**Sayles School – Deborah Allen Madsen Memorial Award** to a student who exhibited the greatest perseverance: Emalee Shrewsbury

**Sayles School – Medville H. Colbath Memorial Award**, Art: Bryce Hill

**Town of Sprague Award** to a student who has given his/her time doing community service: Atheana Brodeur

**Sayles School – Mark Crumb Memorial Award** to two students who demonstrate underlying enthusiasm and passion for music: Cristina Knowles, Mikaela Narciso

**Sayles School – Jr. High Teachers' Civics Award in Memory of Mr. Crumb** to a student who demonstrates a strong interest in and knowledge of civic issues and events: Adam Izbicki

**Secretary of State August P. LaFrance Memorial Award** to two students who have exhibited an exceptional work ethic and strong commitment to his/her education and future: Jillian Boisclair, Jillian Provost

**Superintendent's Student Recognition Award** to two students who have consistently demonstrated exceptional qualities pertinent to the development of successful young men and women: Cristina Knowles, Adam Izbicki

## FALL FESTIVAL & YARD SALE

**St. Joseph's Church, 11 Baltic Road, Occum  
YARD SALE**

**Friday, Sept. 18 and Saturday, September 19  
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

We have it all, including hundreds of pieces of children's clothing.

***Fall Festival 2009 Friday  
September 25 from 4 to 8 p.m.  
and Saturday, September 26 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.***

Entertainment by "Spittin Image" on Friday night  
Children's carnival games.

Our Major Raffle will have a \$500 cash first prize, a GPS system, a digital camera, a \$100 gas card and other great prizes.

Our famous Fish & Chips, Clam Fritters and Chowder are available on Friday night.

Our Saturday BBQ features Hot Dogs, Chili, Burgers, Fried Dough and much more.

The Occum Fire Department will have Fire Fighting equipment on display along with educational handouts for the children on Saturday.

Visit our General Store, Baked Goods, Treasure Chest Booth, Attic Treasures, "Kidz Closet", Stitch Niche, Silent Auction, with hundreds of dollars worth of items being auctioned off, and more.

Call the Rectory at (860) 822-8020 for more information.

### ANYONE INTERESTED?

The Park and Rec Committee is considering a women's volleyball league that would run from September through March, Tuesday nights from 6 to 10 p.m. If interested, please let them know by leaving a note at Town Hall. Location of the games to be determined.

### SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Mondays: Crafts, 1 to 4 p.m.  
Tuesdays: PO-KE-NO, 12:30 to 4 p.m.  
Fridays: Wii Bowling, after lunch

First Thursdays: BINGO, 12:30 p.m.  
Second and third Thursdays: PO-KE-NO, 12:30 to 4 p.m.  
Last Thursday: SMILERS Meeting, 1 p.m.

## OUR TOWN

### POST 85 NEWS

American Legion Post 85 held their meeting on August 4. Only seven of the 35 members attended, with one potential member present. Due to the lack of quorum, no official business could be carried out.

Post members who received new cards in the mail last month are advised that the fee of \$20 is incorrect. Dues for 2010 are \$30. Members who already sent in \$20 will be contacted to pay the additional \$10 after the Commander and Financial Officer receive new, accurate cards. Other members are encouraged to wait to pay their dues until the new cards become available. The post apologizes for any inconvenience and confusion this may have caused.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 1 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center, 1 Main St., Baltic. All veterans are invited to attend.

**ANNUAL BOY SCOUT AUCTION  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10  
BAL TIC VOLUNTEER FIRE HOUSE  
ROUTE 138, BAL TIC**

Viewing 5:30 p.m. Auction 6:30 p.m.  
Auctioneer Nelson Courtemarche

Items include

Handmade Fishing Pole \* Stainless Steel Cart \* Handmade  
Adirondack Chair \* Brewery Memorabilia \* Tickets to Area Events \*  
Kasey Kahne Banner \* Garden Stepping Stones \* Budweiser  
Collector Steins \* Pitcher and Bowl Set \* New England Patriot  
Banner \* Theme Baskets \* Gift Certificates \* Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Posters \* 4-Burner Camp Stove  
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Many items still coming in. For more information contact  
Harry Segerstrom Sr. at (860) 822-6235.

With this year's proceeds, the Boy Scouts hope to purchase an enclosed utility trailer for their camping gear.

### Sprague Garden Club

As I write this article, I can't believe it's the middle of August! We haven't had a day over ninety since April 29 but I'm sure we will before the next frost. (Editor's note: This was received before the week of blazing days!) Club members have been weeding the gardens at the grist mill, gazebo and town hall and adding plants to the grist mill gardens. It hasn't been an all work and no play summer though. We visited area gardens, enjoyed a potluck picnic and had fun making cement leaves and mushrooms for our gardens.

Thank you to the First Selectman, Cathy Osten, Mark Benson and the town crew for placing mulch around the grist mill and town hall. It adds the perfect touch. Our appreciation goes out to Chris Jewell and family of Sprigs and Twigs for placing their extra mulch around the planter in Hanover and to Michael Bawza and family for mowing the grass around the Versailles planter. If I have forgotten anyone, my apologies and a big thank you to you, too.

The Garden Club will begin its new year on September 3 (tentative) with a business meeting at the Senior Center, 7 p.m. The 2009-2010 program for the year will be presented. Club members are looking forward to meeting old friends and cultivating new ones. For more information on joining the club or to confirm the meeting date, call Jan at (860) 822-6520.

Wishing everyone a safe and fun-filled Labor Day weekend,

~Jan Settje  
Secretary

## SPRAGUE SCHOOL DISTRICT BUS SCHEDULES

### SPRAGUE ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Runs may vary as much as 5 to 8 minutes either way. All students must be outside and at designated bus stops. Buses do not make random stops. Times may be changed after the start of school as needed. Due to assigned seating, only one other stop beside home will be accepted.

**Bus 1** information not available at this time.

**Bus 2** information not available at this time.

**Bus 3** Leave lot; 7:45 a.m. Corner of Park Drive; 7:50 Odd side of West Main St; 7:55 Lucier Heights; 8 a.m. Willimantic Road, Rose and Marion Sts., 8:05 Franklin Road; 8:07 Upper Pautipaug Hill Road; 8:10 Whitehall Drive, Pinecrest Lane; 8:15 Return to Pautipaug Hill Road; 8:20 Lower Pautipaug Hill Road; to school

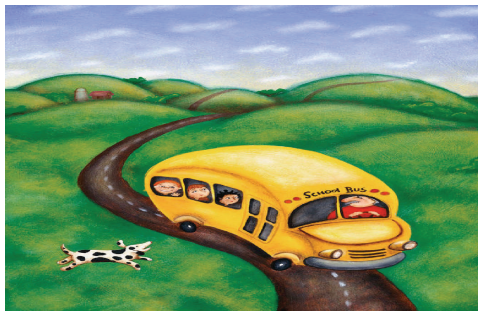
**Bus 4** Leave lot; 7:39 a.m. Odd side of Scotland Road to Salt Rock Road; 7:43 Baltic-Hanover Road; 7:51 Main Street, Hanover; 7:53 Pearl Street; 7:54 Upper Main Street, Hanover; 8:05 Parkwood Road; 8:08 Lower Main Street, Hanover; 8:11 Potash Hill Road; 8:16 Inland Road; to school

**Bus 5** Leave lot; 7:37 a.m. Even side of Scotland Road; 7:40 Hazelwood Drive; 7:43 Waldo Road; 7:45 Odd side of Scotland Road to Salt Rock Road; 7:49 Salt Rock Road; 7:56 Hanover-Versailles Road; 8:06 Bushnell Hollow Road (dump end); 8:08 Riverside Drive; 8:15 Main Street, Versailles, to school

**Bus 6** Leave lot; 8 a.m. High Street, Baltic; 8:15 West Main Street, to school

**Bus 7** Leave lot; 7:57 a.m. Main Street, Baltic; 8:08 River Street; 8:14 Wall Street; 8:16 Fifth Avenue, to school.

**Bus 8** Leave lot; 7:43 a.m. School Hill Road; 7:50 a.m. White Plains Road; 7:54 Plain Hill Road; 8:03 Even side of West Main Street, Baltic; 8:05 Bushnell Hollow Road; 8:06 Grandview Drive; 8:10 Sunrise Drive; 8:13 Bushnell Hollow Road, to school



### SPRAGUE HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Runs may vary as much as 5 to 8 minutes either way. All students must be outside and at designated bus stops. Buses do not make random stops. Students walking to the bus lot must arrive by 6:45 a.m. Buses leave promptly at 6:50 a.m.

**Bus 1** Leave lot; 6:15 a.m. Parkwood Drive; 6:20 Potash Hill Road; 6:28 Westminster Road; 6:35 Bushnell Hollow Road; 6:40 Route 207; 6:45 Route 32 to bus lot to exchange students

**Bus 2** Leave lot; 6:18 Wall Street; 6:35 121 Plain Hill Road; 6:40 190 High Street to bus lot to exchange students

**Bus 3** Leave lot; 6:10 Scotland Road, 6:15 Hazelwood Drive; 6:22 Corner of Waldo Road; 6:27 Salt Rock Road; 6:33 Main Street, Hanover; 6:35 Hanover-Versailles Road; 6:40 Sunrise Drive; 6:41 Corner of Sunrise and Grandview Drive; 6:42 Corner of Grandview Drive and Bushnell Hollow Road; 6:43 Bushnell Hollow Road; 6:45 Baltic Fire House; 6:47 Main Street, Baltic and Maple Street to bus lot to exchange students

**Bus 4** Leave lot; 6:12 Baltic-Hanover Road; 6:15 Corner of Pearl and Main Streets, Hanover; 6:18 Corner of Main Street, Hanover; 6:23 Corner of Wendy Riverside Drive; 6:28 Riverside Drive; 6:33 Versailles Post Office; 6:35 Church Street to bus lot to exchange students

**Bus 5** 6:40 a.m. Meets buses and exchanges students; 6:45 Leaves lot

**Bus 6** Leave lot; 6:13 a.m. School Hill Road; 6:18 Plain Hill Road; 6:22 Willimantic Road (Corner of Rose and Marion Streets); 6:26 Franklin Road, Amber and Country Club Drives; 6:28 Whitehall Drive; 6:32 Pautipaug Hill Road; 6:35 West Main Street; 6:37 Baltic Post Office to bus lot to exchange students

**Bus 7** Bus to New London Magnet School

**Bus 8** information not available at this time

Bus schedule provided by First Student and the Sayles School District.

**DEADLINE REMINDER TO ALL**

Please note, the deadline for submissions to the Our Town really is the 15th of the month. This means, if your activity is in November, I need the information before October 15. If *registration* for an upcoming event is in October, please be sure to submit the information before September 15, as well.

My schedule does not always allow the grace period many of you have previously been extended. Please, get your submissions in on time; late submissions are not guaranteed publication.

Thank you, Amy

**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) 617-2986.

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 Reifsnnyder ; **Editorial Assistant:** Colette Hoffman

**Production Staff:** Al Hoffman, Rita Grenier, Al Grenier, Richard Waterman, Anita Reguin, Shirley, Veronica Exley and whoever else wanders through the room the day we collate. Thanks to the EastCONN summer staff who helped.

**COLLATORS NEEDED!** We *usually* meet the last Saturday of every month, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Call to confirm: (860) 617-2986. May qualify as community service hours.