



VOLUME XX
ISSUE III
MARCH 2010

OUR TOWN

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

INFORMATION * NEWS

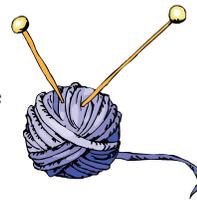
IT'S HAPPENING IN SPRAGUE!

MOONLIGHT HIKE

A moonlight hike at Sprague Preserve will be held on Friday, March 26. Come and join the Conservation Commission for a night of fun, prowling the woods in search of nocturnal life. Bring a flashlight and dress for the weather. Meet at the Grist Mill at 7 p.m. Rain date, Saturday, March 27. For more information email donaldboushee@sbcglobal.net.

PROGRAMS AT BALTIC UMC

Knitting program and Book Chat held at Baltic United Methodist Church on Tuesdays each week from 9 a.m. to noon. This is a good time to meet other local people. Also you can bring a friend. For information call the Norwich office at (860) 887-5886 or the Baltic office at (860) 822-6595.



SPRAGUE SENIOR 2010 BASKET RAFFLE

The seniors would like to fill nine baskets by September 30 to be used in their holiday raffle. Each month will have a different theme. February is a "Winter Basket," March is "March Madness" etc. Raffle tickets will be available October 1 thru November 30. Tickets are three (3) for \$1.00. Tickets will be drawn at our annual Smiler's Christmas Party on the first Saturday in December.

State guidelines are as follows: Each basket cannot be worth more than \$100 and the baskets cannot contain cash, lottery tickets, alcohol, or any form of gift cards. Also, an itemized list of the contents of the basket must be submitted.

Come to our Smiler's meeting held on the last Thursday of each month for more information. There isn't a committee for this project. Let us all rally together and make this raffle a success.

~Marie A. Davis & Project Co-Chairmen
Pauline Charron,

EARLY EARTH DAY CLEAN UP

CLEAN UP OUR TOWN, CLEAN UP YOUR STREET

BAGS AND GLOVES PROVIDED—
OR RECYCLE YOUR PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS!

SATURDAY, MARCH 27
MEET AT THE GRIST MILL
9 A.M.

PIZZA PARTY TO FOLLOW

PRE-REGISTER AT (860) 822-9808 OR SIGN UP AT TOWN HALL
(HELPS US GET A COUNT FOR PIZZA)

SPONSORED BY PARK AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Blood pressure screenings will be held at Sprague Town Hall on **Tuesday, March 23** from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Call (860) 456-7288 for appointments, cost and information on other services. These services are provided by VNA East, 34 Ledgebrook Drive, Mansfield Center.

Cadet Program

We are currently looking to expand our cadet program and are looking for volunteers ages 15 to 18 years of age to participate and learn the tasks and duties of firefighting or emergency medical services. Anyone interested is asked to please contact Mike St Germain at (860) 213-1629 or email michaelgermain@sbcglobal.net. Anyone 18 or older who would like to volunteer please contact us at the firehouse on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. or call (860) 822-6580 and leave a message.

HOLY DAY SERVICES PLANNED

Versailles United Methodist Church,
4 Church Street, (860)822-9439.
All are welcome.

Good Friday Service: Friday, April 2 at 7 p.m.

Easter Sunrise: Sunday, April 4, at Occum Dam with a light breakfast immediately following at the church fellowship hall across the street.

Easter Sunday Worship: Sunday, April 4, 10:30 a.m. at Versailles United Methodist Church.



OUR TOWN

INTERESTED IN SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY?

There are currently openings in the following commissions and committees. Zoning Board of Appeals: 1 member vacancy; 2 alternate vacancies Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission: 2 member vacancies, 1 alternate vacancy Planning & Zoning Commission: 1 member vacancy Commission on Aging: 3 member vacancies Conservation Commission: 1 member vacancy Also vacancies on the newly established Baltic Mills Committee and a reestablished Charter Commission. Please forward your interest in these town committees/commissions or boards to the first selectman's office, Catherine Osten, First Selectman, Town of Sprague, (860)822-3000, ext.202.

DTC REPORT

Sprague Democratic Town Committee members met to discuss updates from the Board of Selectmen and other Town Boards. Members reported on the candidate forum where candidates for Governor and Senate spoke. Sprague DTC will co-host a forum for Secretary of the State and Attorney General candidates the end of March.

Members agreed to a scholarship award named for long-time town clerk Mary Stefon to be given to graduating students who have displayed interest in community service.

If you have an interest in learning more about the activities of the Democratic Town Committee, contact Susan Zimmerman at 860-822-6767 or susanzimmerman@sbcglobal.net.

CARDS FOR SALE

Beautiful hand-crafted greeting cards made by Sprague Seniors are available for sale in the Senior Center, 1 Main Street, Baltic, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

UPDATED BUS SCHEDULE

Points of Departure

Shetucket Village: 8:45 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11:45 a.m.

Playground Brookside and High Street: 8:52 a.m., 9:52 a.m., 11:52 a.m.

TJ's Parking Lot, Route 97 and Main Street: 9 a.m., 10 a.m., and Noon

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

Return

Stop as needed for return trip Express Return: 3:15 p.m. to Senior Center

Service runs Monday through Thursday except holidays. For more information call Buddy Meadows, Sprague Senior Center Coordinator, (860) 822-3000, ext. 203.

The Sprague to Occum Bus is a courtesy of the Town of Sprague and the Sprague Senior Center. For SEAT information, visit www.seatbus.com.

Winter Weather: Bus schedule will follow school closing schedule. Turn to channels 3, 8, and 30 for information.

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.

POST 85 NEWS

American Legion Post 85 meets again on Tuesday, March 2, at 7 p.m. in the Senior Center, 1 Main Street, Baltic. All veterans are welcome.

The February meeting was attended by 13 members; with a quorum present, official business could be conducted.

The goal of the post is to have a minimum of 37 members on their roster. There is some discrepancy between the local list of 40 members and the Department of Connecticut listing only 32.

Those members with dues in arrears are reminded to make payment. Dues for 2010-2011 become due in July 2010.

According to the State Adjutant Office, the Post currently owes \$137. According to Post minutes, "this bill will not be paid until an explanation has been given to the Post officers and discussed with the membership...."

The Post was visited by Representative Christopher Coutu of the 47th Assembly District during the meeting. Chris introduced himself to the membership and updated them on his new membership on the Veteran's Committee. He also stated that he was in the process of working to organize a Vietnam Veterans Parade in Norwich on Memorial Day. The event will be called the Vietnam Veterans Homecoming Parade. Chris stated it would be the first official parade of its kind in the state.

Senior Vice Commander Will Zinavage asked a pointed question, asking the Representative to look into why the State still taxes military retirement pensions. Will's point of view was that this money was earned by career veterans out of the State during their career years. He also informed the representative that many states have stopped taxing military pensions. Chris stated that he was aware of the practice and would inquire if the committee would entertain further investigation. He stated that he is available for any questions or concerns any Connecticut veterans may have. Post members were pleased that the representative visited and hoped he would frequently visit during monthly meetings when possible.

The Relocation Committee has completed its research and has recommended the Post continue to meet at the Town Senior Center. Costs that would be incurred by meeting at another location are presently prohibitive.

Adjutant Doug Patrick stated that Memorial Day plans are underway.

Fundraising ideas were discussed. A rummage sale is tentatively planned for the second and third Saturdays in April; details to follow. A plant sale was also discussed.

Tim Brodeur suggested linking a web page for the Post with the Town's web page. More information will follow.

Taken from the minutes
~Respectfully submitted by
Tom Coletti, Financial Officer

OUR TOWN

FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN ~ Cathy Osten

During the winter in Sprague we're usually planning all the projects for Spring that need attention in town. The road crew will be scurrying about, cleaning culverts and removing the (hopefully) last bits of snow and debris from the roads. Then it's on to park and roadside maintenance, so that residents as eager as we are for spring to pop can have nice clean areas to picnic and walk, down at the River Park, the ball fields, or the Reservoir and Land Preserve (Mukluk).

But besides all the work that town employees will be doing in the coming weeks, our intrepid volunteers from all the commissions and committees will be putting into action those plans that have kept them active all winter: from book events at the library to recreational activities, walks, historical records sorting, Senior trips, trail and flower-bed clearing, tree planting, public festivals and parades—all the things we take for granted in town, pretty much are the results of the extremely hard work of our volunteers. I'm thinking we should have a Volunteer Appreciation Day this year for everyone whose dedication to Sprague has made our three villages not only more inviting places in which to live and work, but has attracted statewide and regional attention.

I urge anyone who has ever had the thought, "Hey, I'd like to be part of that initiative" to give me or any committee Chair or member a call, and find out how much fun and how rewarding it is to help continue the transformation of Sprague into a vibrant, growing community.

I had planned this month to speak about the wonderful things our volunteers have accomplished. What I hadn't planned to speak about was how, over the winter, there have been some deliberate attempts at taking away some of that accomplishment, and this makes me sad for the town and angry on behalf of all of you who have worked so hard this year to improve our three villages. I'm referring to the several signs throughout Sprague that have been stolen or destroyed. I believe that this vandalism is not random, and that's what saddens me the most. I urge all residents to be mindful of activity in our public spaces that you feel to be destructive, and report it to the town representative or employee with whom you feel most comfortable, including (but not limited to) me or John Patterson, our resident state trooper. It would be a shame, and a dishonor to our volunteers, to allow this disrespect for our town and its accomplishments to stop the wonderful progress we've made and the community spirit you all have cultivated and encouraged.

FROM THE EDITOR: THANK YOU TO THOSE OF YOU WHO MEET THE Deadline for submissions on the 15th of each month. Submissions may be e-mailed to OurTownNews@gmail.com, or mailed to Town Hall, P.O. Box 677, Baltic, CT 06330. Information: (860) 822-3000. 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.

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

NEXT COLLATING PARTY FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 8 A.M. PLEASE COME!