ATTENTION PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF SAYLES SCHOOL

Sayles School is looking for community members to be part of the Sayles School Advisory committee. This will allow parents/guardians to bring their concerns and ideas to the school and most of all the committee will give participants a voice in the education of our children and the growth of our town. We encourage all to be part of this committee. The first meeting will be Wednesday, January 22 @ 5:00 in the Sayles Media Center. All are welcome. Please RSVP to dschoman@spraguek12.org or call 860-822-8264 ext 106 by Monday, January 20.

Sayles School is also looking for parent volunteers to be part of the Sayles School Safety committee. Meetings occur every other month at Sayles School and focus on safety procedures, school drills, and current best practice regarding safety in schools.

Please contact asamokar@spraguek12.org or call 860-822-8264 ext 100 if you are interested in being part of the committee.

Important Dates
January 1 – Holiday Recess (no school)
January 17 – Early Release (1pm)
January 20 – MLK Day (no school)

For updates and news make sure to check out our school webpage saylesschool.org, the Digital Backpack, and our school Twitter page @saylesschool

Newsletter Deadline:
There will be no late submissions accepted for the Our Town. As a reminder, the Our Town deadline is the 15th of every month. The newsletter will be collated on Saturday, the 25th of January, for the February issue, we will meet at the Town Hall at 10 am. Contact Cristian for details. If interested in volunteering email Cristian @ Spragueourtownnewsletter@gmail.com
From the Desk of the First Selectman

Happy New Year! I hope that you all enjoyed joyous and peaceful holidays. It is a great time of year to carry out traditions with family and friends and create new ones as well. This is the time of year that many make New Year’s resolutions.

The Town was fortunate to be able to share holiday meal baskets with thirteen families at Thanksgiving and holiday meal baskets and gifts with eleven families for Christmas. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the residents, students and businesses that contributed to make this possible. I would also like to extend thanks to the Town Hall staff who put in many hours to prepare and carry out this project.

Our Public Works department has been busy with snow and ice. They have been doing a great job keeping our roads safe. In between they have also been able to put up a few holiday decorations. Thank you.

Our boards and commissions are getting established with new members on board. We appreciate all who are willing to serve on these boards and help our town to continue to be a great place to live.

If you have any questions or concerns about Town issues, please feel free to call me at 860.822.3000, extension 202 or stop by during Town Hall business hours. Currently the Town Hall is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, and Wednesday from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm.

Warm regards,
Cheryl

Sprague Democratic Town Committee Update

At the December meeting, the DTC met and celebrated the holiday season. Members from all Town Committees from most towns in the 19th District were there together with Secretary of the State Denise Merrill.

Part of our meeting was devoted to honoring Claude Pellegrino for his devotion to the Town Committee where he supported our environment, school programs, preservation of our rural character and improvements of roads, water and sewer and so much more. We were happy to honor this quiet backbone of our committee.

We will be holding a caucus on January 9, 2020 to endorse new and returning members to the Town Committee, please let us know if you are interested. We continue as always to look for new members.

Claire Glaude
DTC Secretary

Open Positions as of 1/1/2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inland Wetlands</th>
<th>Recreation Committee</th>
<th>Zoning Board of Appeals</th>
<th>Water &amp; Sewer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>One regular member</td>
<td>Unlimited numbers allowed</td>
<td>One regular member</td>
<td>One regular member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two alternate members</td>
<td></td>
<td>Two alternate members</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

American Legion Post #85, Meeting minutes for December 3, 2019:

CDR called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M., there were five officers and six regular members present. Pledge of Allegiance by members present, Chaplin said the opening prayer. Pre-Amble of American Legion read by CDR.

Minutes of the November 5, 2019 regular meeting read and accepted.

Financial report. Presently there is $246.19 in the checking account and $54.98 in the Memorial Fund. Payment of $1,653.00 in shipping fees and $4,649.86 paid to Revere Masonry for installation of the Statue.

ADJ Report: three members in arrears for 2020 dues, and three expired members over the past two years.

CDR reported that the dedication ceremony was a success, with a very good turnout and press coverage of the dedication.

CDR reported that the ADJ had prepared a written history of the statue that would be emailed to members for their comments, FO to send email to members.

Fund raiser was discussed to be held in March of 2020.

CDR reported that Luminary’s would be sold at a cost of $10.00 and would be displayed at the Veteran’s Memorial in Baltic, the night of December 31, 2019. Please contact her for purchasing of a Luminary to remember a deceased veteran.

Discussion on setting up a committee for January to work with Legion members for the 2020 Veteran’s Poker Run.

Discussion on new law for membership rights after having served in the military and eligibility to join the American Legion, ADJ to research Town of Sprague records to identify possible future members.

CDR led salute to the colors, closing prayer led by Chaplin, meeting adjourned at 7:48 P.M., membership holiday reception followed.

Respectfully submitted: Andre Trudelle, Financial Officer Post #85
FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

The second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes will become due and payable on January 1, 2020. Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills will be sent out by the end of December and become due and payable on January 1, 2020. You will have the entire month of January to pay your taxes.

Taxes not paid by February 3, 2020 shall become delinquent and will be subject to 1 ½% 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 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, you may call the tax collector at 822-3000, ext. 224. Any questions regarding address changes, assessments, exemptions, or your correct tax town should be directed to the Assessor at 822-3000, ext. 222.

You may now pay your taxes online at CTSPRAGUE.ORG. There is a 2.95% charge to pay by credit card with a minimum charge of $1.95 and a flat fee of $.95 to pay by electronic check. Taxes paid online will not be immediately cleared at the Department of Motor Vehicle. This can take up to four or five days depending on day of payment.

TAX COLLECTORS HOURS:

Mondays: 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 NOON
Wednesdays: 2:00 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.
Thursdays: 8:00 A.M. – 12:00 NOON

Mary B. Chartier, CCMC
Tax Collector

Branching Out...Notes from the Tree Warden

The Forester has completed marking ash trees that will be removed from the Baltic Reservoir property. There are 589 trees at least twelve inches in diameter marked for saw log harvesting. There are several hundred more smaller diameter ash trees that will hopefully be removed by the logger as firewood. These smaller trees will also become a hazard to the public when they die if left standing in the forest. Bids from loggers will be returned by January 3, 2020 and the Conservation Commission will then meet with the forester to select the bid that best meets the interests of the town. The goal is to have the harvesting completed this winter while the ground is (hopefully) frozen.

Residents should be aware that the North/East side of the road around the reservoir will be closed to access during the logging for the safety of the public and the loggers. The North end of the area just inside the parking area will also be closed for access to the log landing and logging trucks. Residents whose property abuts the Baltic Reservoir Open Space are also asked to not access the town property while logging operations are ongoing –again, for your safety and the safety of the loggers.

So – Emerald Ash Borer is in Sprague! Now is the time for property owners who have ash trees on their property that they want to save to start researching the best way to do that. There are only two options available and both involve chemical treatments. One method is to inject chemicals into the ground around the tree roots. The other method is to inject the chemicals directly into the trunk of the tree. Both methods kill the emerald ash borers by carrying the chemicals up the tree to the leaves before the borers start feeding on the leaves. Be aware, both of these methods are expensive; typically $8-12 per inch of tree diameter (at chest high). The most effective insecticides appear to be imidacloprid and emamectin benzoate. These are very effective and studies have shown injection of these insecticides will save ash trees that have up to a 40 or 50% loss of leaves. These applications need to be done between April and June to be effective, so start your research now. These procedures must be done by a licensed arborist certified to handle chemicals. I have not found a website that lists these arborists specifically but each company’s website will say if that company can do injection procedures.

One excellent source of information is “Insecticide Options for Protecting Ash Trees form Emerald Ash Borer”, which can be found and downloaded at www.emeraldashborer.info/

Keep in mind that the only alternative to saving your ash trees is to have them cut down. Ash trees become very brittle and unsafe within six months of dying. The more unsafe they are, the more expensive the are to have removed. An 18 inch diameter ash tree about 60 feet tall can cost as much as $2500 to have a licensed tree company cut it down. Start your planning now – tree companies are already booked up to 4 weeks out and will only get farther behind as more ash trees become hazardous.

Please be aware – my (the town’s) tree removal fund is already at zero! And Eversource will not have any additional funding for tree removals until some time in January, maybe. Emergencies will always be taken care of but routine tree maintenance will not be done until July and a new budget. There is no funding in place for proactive ash tree removal either. Dead ash trees along town roads are going to be a very expensive problem very soon. Remember my ash tree inventory 3 years ago? 540 ash trees in the town’s right-of-ways!

If you want to see a good example of what the emerald ash borer does to an ash tree, drive on Smith Rd. (off Rt. 87) in Franklin. All the bark has fallen off the length of the trunks. They looked healthy last spring.

Dave Gustafson  Sprague Tree Warden

Sprague Democratic Caucus

Notice is hereby given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Democratic electors of the Town of Sprague on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the Sprague Town Hall to endorse candidates for the Democratic Town Committee.

John Malone, DTC Chairman
January 2020

Children's Story Times
TUESDAYS at 10:30am

It's never too soon to bring your youngster to the library! Join us for age-appropriate stories, early literacy activities, and social time. No registration required.

Beat the Blues BINGO
January 2 – March 19

Calling all teens & adults! Here’s a challenge just for you! Drop by the library and pick up your BINGO card. Earn squares by reading, updating your library account, using our interlibrary loan system, downloading eBooks, attending programs and more! Win a prize for a completed BINGO. Fill your card and be entered for a $25.00 gift card of your choice!

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7th at 4:00pm – Afternoon Delights: The Lemon Orchard by Luanne Rice. Join us for a delightful conversation of this month’s selection. Copies of the book now available at the library to check out!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8th at 6:00pm – Non-fiction Book Club – Christmas: A Biography by Judith Flanders. With the holiday rush behind us, join us for a lively discussion of age old myths, legends, and traditions that have made it into our own families. Not sure about joining us? You won’t know until you try it once!

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15th from 5:00-7:00pm – Passport Processing Night
Planning a trip sometime this year that requires a passport? The USPS is here to walk you through the process! It’s the perfect time to file your paperwork for April travel (or even February with expedited processing!). Cross this item off your list and add a destination to your bucket list for 2020.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25th at 11:00am – Kid Kraft Saturday: Sensational Sketches with Sage!
Sage Downey, anime-sketcher-extraordinaire, returns to SPL! If you missed her last visit, be sure to mark your calendar. She’ll give you the tricks and techniques for tackling anime characters of your very own. Registration helpful, but not required. Drop by with a friend for fantastically-free fun!

ZUMBA!
FREE CLASS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29th
6:00pm

Try this FREE introductory class, led by local instructor & fanatic Dana Belanger, and let us help you get a jump start on your New Year’s resolution! Registration always helpful, but drop-ins welcome for teens (14+) and adults.

During inclement weather, please reference Facebook or call the library for delays and closure information.
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<tr>
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**Tuesdays Senior Cafe Menu ~ January 2020**

*Structural and pricing changes subject to change, please call 706-746-7334 for more information.*

*Insufficient weather may be rain, snow, or other conditions that could impact outdoor dining. Social distancing will be in effect when indoors.**

*Insufficient weather dictates all outdoor events will be canceled. For more information, please call 706-746-7334.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Program Closed</td>
<td>Program Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Fried Peanut</td>
<td>Fried Peanut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Peanuts</td>
<td>Peanuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Peanut Square</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Peanut Square</td>
<td>Peanut Square</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cheese, quesadillas, etc.</td>
<td>Fried Peanut</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Fried Peanut, etc.</td>
<td>Fried Peanut, etc.</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Peanut, etc.</td>
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**Notes:**
- Program Closed: Health Department (Closed) Feb 28.
- Program Closed: Health Department (Closed) Feb 28.
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- Program Closed: Health Department (Closed) Feb 28.

**Additional Information:**
- Program Closed: Health Department (Closed) Feb 28.
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Ads must be pre-purchased at rates of: Business Card $21; Double Business Card $40; Half Page $70; Full Page $100. Purchase 11 months and receive the 12th month free. All payments for ads are made in the Town Clerk’s Office at Town Hall. All payments must be made prior to the submission deadline. All ads must be emailed to the editor by the 15th of the month @ Spragueourtownnewsletter@gmail.com.

- Personal and Commercial Vehicles
- All Makes and Models
- Foreign and Domestic
- Certified CT Emissions Repair Technician

Bozrah Auto Repair Center

4 Rachel Drive, Bozrah
M-F 8am-5pm
860-213-5914

DON BOUSHEE
CELL: 860-772-6050
drboushee@gmail.com

WILLIAM RAVEIS REAL ESTATE
YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE GUY.

CALL for A FREE CONFIDENTIAL MARKET ANALYSIS FOR THE NEW YEAR.

Happy Holidays
$50 OFF
Any Seal Coating Job

$100 OFF
Any Driveway Installation

HASTEDT BROS. LLC
ASPHALT PAVING
860.848.0545
Baltic CT

ANDY'S CELL: 860.234.3541    JOE'S CELL: 860.234.3543
Email: estimates@hastedtbrothers.com    Web: www.hastedtbrothers.com

DRIVEWAYS * PARKING LOTS * GRADING * CRUSHED STONE * OIL AND STONE
DRIVEWAYS * ALL TYPES OF DRAINAGE WORK * APRONS * CURBING *
LINE STRIPING * SEAL COATING * CRACK FILLING
# BUS SCHEDULE FROM SPRAGUE TO OCCUM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points of Departure to Occum</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shetucket Village</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground Brookside &amp; High Street</td>
<td>7:48am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TJ’s Parking Lot</td>
<td>7:50am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arrive Occum - SEAT Connection Site Red McKeon Park, Hooper St. &amp; Rte. 97</td>
<td>8:10am</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points of Departure to Sprague</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red McKeon Park, Hooper St. &amp; Rte. 97 (stop as needed for return trip)</td>
<td>8:15am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Express Return to Senior Center</td>
<td>2:15pm</td>
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</table>

Times are approximate and may vary several minutes earlier or later. Service runs Monday through Thursday except for holidays. For more information call Buddy Meadows, Sprague Senior Center Coordinator at 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 schedule visit www.seatbus.com. Winter Weather Schedule: The bus will follow the school closure schedule during the winter. Watch early morning television on Channel 3, 8 or 30 for closures.

## SPRAGUE SENIOR CENTER

Join us by stopping in or calling Buddy Meadows (Coordinator/Municipal Agent) at 860-822-3000, ext. 203. Buddy can also be reached by email: seniorcenter@ctsprague.org.

Requirement: age **55 and over**

Might you be interested in one or all offered: health services, programs, trips, informational presentations, luncheons, and more?

Transportation is available to attend Senior Center lunches, shopping, and senior events as well as medical appointments.

Lunch is served at the Senior Center at 11:45 am on Monday, Tuesday & Thursday. The third Wednesday of the month is a Special Celebration Meal. Make a reservation by calling 860-822-3000 ext. 245 or ext. 203. You must be age 60.

TVCCA “Meals on Wheels” program delivers hot meals (to the homebound) Monday through Thursday. Call the TVCCA Senior Nutrition Program at 860-886-1720.

Chorus – visiting various places with an hour program

All Occasion Card Making – January 7th 10 – 11:30 AM

Library on premises – either just take a book or exchange for one

Movie shown at Senior Center on January 15th 12:30 PM – No fee charged

Smilers Monthly Meeting - January 30th - 1:00 PM

Come in to see what the Center is all about and we encourage recommendations.
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<td><img src="https://via.placeholder.com/150" alt="Fireworks" /></td>
<td><img src="https://via.placeholder.com/150" alt="Fireworks" /></td>
<td><img src="https://via.placeholder.com/150" alt="Happy New Year" /></td>
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<td>Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 pm, Town Hall</td>
<td>American Legion 7 pm, Rod &amp; Gun</td>
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<td>Board of Selectmen 7 pm, Town Hall</td>
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<td>Board of Ed 6 pm, Sayles School</td>
<td>Comm. On Aging 9 am, Town Hall</td>
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<td>Water &amp; Sewer Authority Meeting 4 pm, Town Hall</td>
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<td>Historical Society Mtg, 6:30 pm Museum</td>
<td>Housing Authority 7 pm, Senior Ctr.</td>
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<td>Senior Smilers 1 pm, Town Hall</td>
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Note from the Editor: Elizabeth Calderon

The deadline for Our Town submissions (and corresponding payments for ads) is the 15th of each month. Submissions will be no more than 200 words and must be e-mailed to spragueourtownnewsletter@gmail.com. No series will be accepted. Longer articles may be submitted and used based on room at the Editor’s discretion. The focus of Our Town is community events, articles, commission notes and other items of town-wide interest. Annual budget considerations may affect page appropriations. Ads have no restriction on word limit and must be pre-purchased at rates of: Business Card $21; Double Business Card $40; Half Page $70; Full Page $100. Purchase 11 months and receive the 12th month free. All payments for ads are made in the Town Clerk’s Office at Town Hall. Sprague~ Our Town is a free monthly publication of the Town of Sprague, serving the communities of Baltic, Hanover & 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 formatted as necessary. Libelous or obscene materials are not permitted.