From the Desk of the First Selectman

Dear Sprague Residents,

Currently we are experiencing some very difficult times. COVID-19 is affecting every area of our lives. I would like to provide you with an update on the status of the Town of Sprague facilities and services. On March 19th, I declared a State of Emergency for Sprague. This declaration will make Sprague eligible to apply for any available Federal or State reimbursement of emergency costs that are incurred.

At this time:

- Sprague Town Hall is closed to the public until further notice. Staff is available by phone or email. Tax payments may be made online or by mail.
- All municipal meetings have been suspended until further notice unless mandated.
- The Water & Sewer Authority would like to remind you not to flush any materials except toilet paper. Wipes and paper towels can cause blockage and damage to equipment.
- Water & Sewer payments may be paid at the Chelsea Groton Bank drive thru or by mail.
- The Transfer Station remains open for regular hours, HOWEVER, for the safety of staff and residents, the use of blue bags is suspended for all residents until further notice.
- The Senior Center is closed. At this time, meal delivery, and transportation to medical appointments and shopping are continuing. Bus service to Occum is suspended until further notice, except by appointment. Call 860-822-3000 ext. 203 or 201.
- Sprague playgrounds, basketball courts, & skate park are closed for the safety of our children and residents. I encourage you to get outdoors and enjoy a walk or fresh air, while observing social distancing.
- Public Works will continue to perform their duties while employing safety measures.
- The Sprague Public Library and the Historical Museum will remain closed until further notice. All events at the Grist Mill have been cancelled.
- If you are, or know of an at-risk resident please reach out to me at 860-822-3000, ext. 202 or the Sr. Coordinator at ext. 203.

This is a very fluid situation and changes rapidly. The Town Hall Staff is making every effort to continue to provide services to our residents. I expect that this may lead to inconveniences for some of us. We will continue to do our very best to meet your needs while ensuring a safe environment for staff.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any concerns at 860-822-3000 ext. 202.

Stay well,
Cheryl Blanchard

WE’RE GOING DIGITAL!

Beginning July 1st your Our Town Newsletter will be digital. You will be able to access it on the Town of Sprague website. Many of you have been suggesting this change for some time, and we are listening. This change will allow us to become more environmentally conscious by using less paper and ink. It will also allow us to save some money. We are still planning to print some copies and have them available at the Town Hall, Senior Center, and the Sprague Public Library. Of course, if you are not able to access the newsletter online or pick one up and need to have us mail it to you, we will. Simply call the Selectman’s office and give us your name and address. Thank you for helping us move into the digital age.
**Notice of Presidential Preference Primary**

For both Democratic Party and Republican Party

**POSTPONED until June 2, 2020**

Please call with any questions.

860-822-3000 ext 220

Jennifer M. Synnett, Sprague Town Clerk

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**Fishing is Open!**

On March 24, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont issued an Executive Order opening many lakes, ponds, rivers and streams to fishing statewide.

Licenses are available online at [https://ct.aspirafocus.com/internetsales/](https://ct.aspirafocus.com/internetsales/).

Anglers should explore the many sources of important information made available by DEEP through social media, email, and our improved website at [https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/CT-Fishing](https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/CT-Fishing), the 2020 CT Fishing Guide ([http://www.eregulations.com/connecticut/fishing/](http://www.eregulations.com/connecticut/fishing/)), and answers to frequently asked questions.

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**Sprague Housing Authority**

Shetucket Village Accepting Applications

Requirements: Applicants must be 62 years of age and/or disabled

No Smoking; No Pets Allowed

Please call 860-822-1512 for applications to be sent

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**Sprague Democratic Town Committee Update**

The Democratic Town Committee will conduct an Earth Day/Clean Up Day on April 25th from 9:00 to 11:00 am. We will be gathering at the River Park. Please come to help. We will provide bags and gloves. This is providing COVID-19 allows.

The election of Chairman, John Malone; Vice-Chairman, Cathy Osten; Secretary, Claire Glaude & Treasurer, Jeannette Deschamps to the DTC took place at the March meeting.

At our next meeting we will be selecting delegates the State Conventions.

In CT the Democratic Presidential Preference Primary will be held on June 2nd. The only electors eligible to vote in this primary are those registered Democratic. May 28th is the deadline for new voters, and for unaffiliated voters, to enroll as Democrats. For unaffiliated voters, the mail-in application must be received (not merely postmarked) by the Registrar of Voters by this deadline. The deadline for in-person enrollment is June 1st at 12:00 noon for new voters and unaffiliated voters enrolling at the Town Hall in-person, for voting in the primary.

The Sprague DTC encourages residents to register to vote.

Claire Glaude
DTC Secretary

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**TIME TO WAKE UP THOSE GARDENS!**

FREE MULCH IS AVAILABLE AT THE TRANSFER STATION

YOUR BRUSH AND SCERRA’S TUB GRINDER WORKING TOGETHER ALLOW US TO PROVIDE THIS PRODUCT TO YOU AVAILABLE DURING REGULAR HOURS

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**Earth Day 2020**

Town Clean-Up

Is POSTPONED until further notice

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**Sprague Housing Authority**

Shetucket Village Accepting Applications

Requirements: Applicants must be 62 years of age and/or disabled

No Smoking; No Pets Allowed

Please call 860-822-1512 for applications to be sent

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**Earth Day 2020**

Town Clean-Up

Is POSTPONED until further notice
News from Sayles School
As of March 25, 2020

Sayles School and the Sprague Board of Education Office are currently closed to the public. If you need to register a student, to obtain records, to obtain working papers, or to establish residency, please call 860-822-8264, between 9 am and 3 pm, Monday through Friday, to schedule an appointment at the school.

The Governor has closed all schools in Connecticut through April 19, 2020. There is still a possibility for schools to remain closed for a longer period of time. With this in mind, it is imperative that students still stay actively engaged in learning. Teachers have developed enrichment lessons that are posted on the school’s website: http://www.saylesschool.org.

As of Monday, March 30th, teachers will be posting more specific lessons. Each teacher will also be available online for one hour per day (Monday-Friday) to answer questions. Teachers will be contacting students with their online schedule. You may access your Sayles School teacher’s school email account on the school’s webpage, under the classroom tab which is located at the top of the webpage, third item to the right on the top blue banner. If you need a device to access our website, we will be glad to lend you a Chromebook. Please call 860-822-8264 to set up an appointment to obtain a Chromebook for your student.

Sayles School is currently distributing lunch and breakfast at two sites, Monday through Friday: at Sayles School and also at the entrance of the Sprague Senior Center, located at the Sprague Town Hall, 1 Main Street, Baltic, CT. All meals are free to anyone 18 years of age and younger. If needed, we can make arrangements to deliver meals to you.

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American Legion Post #85, Meeting minutes for March 3, 2020:

VCDR called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M., there were six officers and eight regular members present. Chaplin said the opening prayer.

Minutes of the February 4, 2020 regular meeting read and accepted.

Financial report. Presently there is $336.91 in the checking account and $51.02 in the Memorial Fund Savings. Financial report accepted as read.

ADJ Report: one member in arrears for 2020 dues and has been dropped from the rolls, another member paid his dues and is current, currently there are 40 active members.

Member Manny Meneses researched the amount of veteran’s in the Town of Sprague and reported there are 150 veterans. A list of the veteran’s will be given to the ADJ, who will send them a letter regarding the benefits of American Legion membership. He also reported that the members of the “Reason to Ride” are very supportive of the upcoming Veteran’s Poker Run and plan on attending the Spaghetti Dinner to show their support. Several members indicated they will assist at the Dinner.

Member Joseph Osowski reported on the amount of tee shirts on hand, currently there are 38 tee shirts and 2 sweatshirts. Member Timothy Brodeur reported on the Memorial Day Parade, he is working with Colette Hoffman trying to firm up the NFA Band, A Military fly-over, a trailer to transport older Veterans. A member of American Legion Post #85 was nominated and accepted unanimously to serve as the parade Grand Marshall. CDR to check with the individual to see if he will accept the nomination.

CDR reported that the Poker Run start up meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. at the Sprague Rod and Gun Club. CDR also reported that she would like to plan a Flag Retirement Ceremony shortly. She also reported on pending legislation relating to veterans as well as present support available;

Sgt.at Arms commented that he would approach the First Selectman to see if mounting the solar panel would be permissible.

CDR led salute to the colors, closing prayer led by Chaplin, meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted: Andre Trudelle, Financial Officer Post #85
Branching Out.....

Notes from the Tree Warden

   The logging operation at the Baltic Reservoir property to remove ash trees has not started as anticipated due to the lack of a normal winter, i.e. the ground not freezing.  (Operations may have started by time of Our Town publication). Please comply with signs that will be posted to avoid the East side of the Reservoir while logging is in progress.  Also be aware that logging trucks will be moving in and out through the parking area so park at your own risk and keep a wide area open through the middle of the parking lot.

   The ash trees along the town roads are now dying.  The bark on many of the trees is showing physical signs of this by what is called “blonding” where the outer layer of bark starts to yellow.  This is most obvious on Hanover-Versailles Road which has the highest concentration of ash trees (60 trees in one and a half miles).  I do not expect these trees to develop a normal canopy of leaves or get any leaves at all.  This will speed up the dying process and make them more hazardous as summer progresses.

   There hasn’t been any funding to proactively start removing the ash trees since I conducted a survey of the ash trees in the fall of 2016.  You may remember the Emerald Ash Borer lime green tags I put on every tree surveyed – most have since faded and fallen off.  These trees will now become a major safety risk to everyone using all 26 miles of town roads.  Because the ash become extremely brittle after they die it is not uncommon for them to start randomly dropping major limbs.  Not little branches, but large diameter limbs and stems.  I have requested a $300,000 Capital Project request for this year’s budget to start removing the ash trees.  Keep in mind – this funding may still be too late to prevent accidents since, even if approved, work won’t start until July at the earliest.  I realize the town is in a financial “bind” at the moment, but we haven’t done anything for the last 3 years to mitigate the hazard and now the consequences are here.  I urge you to support this budget request to keep the Town of Sprague as safe as possible.

   Dave Gustafson
   Sprague Tree Warden

   Goin’ Postal April 2020

   Happy Spring, Sprague!  We hope our long, cold, gray winter is finally over and we are excited to celebrate the new spring season with some great new stamps!  For those of you who have been asking for flowers, we are now selling books of wild orchid stamps that vary in color, shape and size showing the diversity and beauty in nature. We also have the newest Lunar New Year Stamps commemorating the Year of the Rat. The new designs are so detailed and bright, they quickly draw attention to themselves on any letter. For golf enthusiasts, we have the new Arnold Palmer stamps featuring “The King” himself in full swing. For northern New Englanders – or anyone who loves going ‘downeast’, the Maine Statehood stamp features a beautiful coastal seascape. For those who fondly remember the long time print and broadcast journalist Gwen Ifill, her smiling portrait reminds us of her trailblazing contributions to the profession. Lots more to choose from: we have holographic Tyrannosaurus Rex stamps, First Moon Landing, Frogs, Flags and the latest design for “Let’s Celebrate!” – a white background with bright colored dots spelling out Celebrate, perfect for birthday cards or invitations to any fun event!

   Start in any time to see all the ways you can enjoy and share mini pieces of art in your own home collection, or on each letter you send out. Brighten someone else’s day today!

   Also available so close to home is the ability to have passports processed for your international travel needs – right here at the Hanover Post Office! Conveniently located on Main Street in Hanover, stop in Monday – Friday between 1 – 4 pm or Saturdays 8 – 11 am to get your passport application processed. You could be an international traveler in as little as 5 weeks!

   If you would like to take advantage of the security and convenience of a local PO Box, stop in to any of the Sprague office today to open a PO Box. Prices vary slightly from office to office, so stop in today for current pricing. We look forward to servicing your mailing and shipping needs.

   Finally, anyone who has a local business, whether it be a home-based or commercial venture of any size, we can help you save on everything from shipping, parcel pick-ups, and Every Door Direct Mail advertising to merchandise return service. If you would like more info on any of these products and services, call the office between 8 am and 1:00 pm. You can schedule an appointment for me to visit your business or we can talk on the phone and explore the options open to you through the United States Postal Service. We deliver – for You! 860-822-6901 Tracy A Medling, Postmaster Baltic, Hanover and Versailles CT Post Offices

Homeowner Tax Relief Program

   Applications for the Homeowner Tax Relief Program are now being accepted. This program is for residents who are 65 or older as of December 31, 2019 or rated totally disabled by Social Security, own and reside in their home, and meet the income requirements of married $45,100 or single $37,000. Applicants must supply proof of all 2019 income to the Assessor’s office including the Social Security statement 1099 and a copy of your Federal Income Tax Return (if filed). The filing period is February 1st through May 15th.

   Please call the Assessor’s office at 860-822-3000 ext. 222 with any questions regarding this program. Assessor’s hours are Monday 8:00 am to Noon and Wednesday 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm.

Additional Veteran’s Exemption

   Applications are being accepted for the Additional Veteran’s Exemption. This program is for persons receiving the regular veterans exemption and have a 2019 income of $45,100 married or $37,000 single (including social security) or $18,000 single and $21,000 married (excluding social security) for 100% V.A. determined Disabled Veterans. Proof of income must be supplied. Applications are filed biennially with the assessor. The filing period is February 1st through October 1st.

   For more information on these programs, please contact the Assessor’s office.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TO CANCEL A MEAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>Please Call:</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong> Pot Roast</td>
<td><strong>2</strong> Stuffed Shells w/' marinarra Broccoli Mixed Vegetables Medley Mixed Fruit Cup</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>72 hours notice is appreciated</strong></td>
<td><strong>Phone:</strong> 860-934-1006</td>
<td><strong>Mashed Potatoes Peas &amp; Pearl Onions Diced Peaches</strong></td>
<td><strong>Cheese Omelet Tater Tots Squash Mix w/String Beans &amp; Carrots Diced Pears</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Pesto Grilled Chicken Rice Pilaf Corn w/ Onions &amp; Peppers Pineapple Tidbits</td>
<td><strong>Red Eye Pork Loin w/ gravy Home Fries Collard Greens Tropical Fruit Cup</strong></td>
<td><strong>8 Beef &amp; Bean Chili Pasta Shells w/herbs Broccoli Fresh Fruit</strong></td>
<td><strong>9 Chicken Cordon Bleu Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Pears w/Mandarin Oranges</strong></td>
<td><strong>10 Good Friday Holiday Frozen Meal Cod w/Herbs &amp; Tomatoes Parsley Steamed Potatoes Brussel Sprouts Fruit Cocktail Program Closed</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Italian Pork Sausage &amp; Peppers Penne Pasta w/marinara Zucchini, Peas, &amp; Carrots Diced Peaches</td>
<td><strong>Ethnic Celebration Latin Style Chopped Steak Yellow Rice Brussel Sprouts Mixed Fruit Cup</strong></td>
<td><strong>15 Easter Celebration Baked Ham Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Pears w/Mandarin Oranges</strong></td>
<td><strong>16 Cod w/Corn Salsa Roasted Garlic Rice Green &amp; Yellow Squash Fruit Cocktail</strong></td>
<td><strong>17 Salisbury Steak w/gravy Herb Roasted Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Medley Fresh Orange</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Steak Fajita “Bowl” Spanish Rice Squash Mix w/ Carrots &amp; String Beans Tropical Fruit Cup</td>
<td><strong>Crispy Cod Sandwich Sweet Potato Tater Tots Green &amp; Waxed Beans Fresh Fruit</strong></td>
<td><strong>22 Birthday Celebration Creamy Chicken Dijon Garlic Roasted Potatoes Peas &amp; Carrots Birthday Treat Grape Juice</strong></td>
<td><strong>23 Pork Sausage &amp; gravy Home Fries Brussel Sprouts Diced Peaches</strong></td>
<td><strong>24 Chicken &amp; Broccoli Steamed Rice Oriental Vegetable Blend Mandarin Oranges</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 BBQ Pulled Pork w/bun Baked Beans Mixed Vegetables Medley Fresh Orange</td>
<td><strong>Stuffed Chicken Kiev Roasted Garlic Rice Green &amp; Yellow Squash Diced Peaches</strong></td>
<td><strong>28 Beer Battered Fish Fritters Tater Tots Corn w/Onions &amp; Peppers Diced Pears</strong></td>
<td><strong>29 Swedish Meatballs Egg Noodles Broccoli Pineapple Tidbits</strong></td>
<td><strong>1% Milk and Whole Grain bread are served with each meal. Menu is subject to change without notice.</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TVCCA’s Senior Nutrition Program is supported by Senior Resources/Area Agency on Aging with Title III funds made available under the Older Americans Act. This menu meets 1/3 RDA and conforms to U.S. Dietary Guidelines. Certified by Lindsay D’Amato, MPH, RD, LDN.
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

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.
$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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points of Departure to Occum</th>
<th>Time</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shetucket Village</td>
<td>7:45am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:45am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:45am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playground</td>
<td>7:48am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brookside &amp; High Street</td>
<td>9:48am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:48am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bus Shelter at Skating Pond</td>
<td>7:50am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9:50am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:50am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arrive Occum- SEAT Connection Site</td>
<td>8:10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Red McKeon Park, Hooper St. &amp; Rte. 97</td>
<td>10:10am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:10am</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points of Departure to Sprague</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red McKeon Park, Hooper St. &amp; Rte. 97 (stop as needed for return trip)</td>
<td>8:15am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10:15am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:15pm</td>
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<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, by appointment only. 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](http://www.seatbus.com).

**SPRAGUE SENIOR CENTER**

*Join us* by 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?

**Because of the CORONAVIRUS, please call prior to attending any activities.**

**Transportation** is available for shopping and medical appointments. Call Buddy to schedule.

TVCCA “**Meals on Wheels**” program delivers hot meals (to the homebound) on Mondays for the week. Call the TVCCA Senior Nutrition Program at 860-886-1720.

**There is a Library** on premises when open.

**No Movies will be shown until further notice.**

**No Monthly Meetings until further notice.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tues</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thurs</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>DUE TO COVID-19, MOST MEETINGS MAY BE CANCELLED. CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.</strong></td>
<td><strong>1</strong> Garden Club 6:30 pm, Senior Ctr</td>
<td><strong>2</strong></td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
<td>Inland Wetlands 7 pm, Town Hall</td>
<td><strong>7</strong> American Legion 7 pm, Rod &amp; Gun</td>
<td><strong>8</strong> Board of Selectmen 5 pm, Town Hall</td>
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<td><strong>10</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
<td><strong>13</strong></td>
<td><strong>Easter Sunday</strong> Conserv. &amp; Agric. Comm. Mtg, 6 pm, Town Hall</td>
<td><strong>14</strong> Library Ed. Mtg 6:30 pm, Grist Mill</td>
<td><strong>15</strong> Water &amp; Sewer Authority Meeting 6 pm, Town Hall</td>
<td><strong>16</strong> Board of Finance 7 pm, Town Hall</td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>19</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td>BOE, 6 pm Sayles School</td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
<td><strong>23</strong></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>26</strong></td>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
<td><strong>28</strong> Historical Society Mtg, 6:30 pm, Museum</td>
<td><strong>29</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong> Senior Smilers 1pm, Senior Ctr.</td>
<td><strong>3</strong></td>
<td><strong>4</strong></td>
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*TENTATIVE*
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.