March 2011

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

OUR TOWN

Information & News
OURTOWNCT@YAHOO.COM

TICKETS ON SALE NOW
FOR IRISH PUB NIGHT FUNDRAISER
TO SUPPORT SPRAGUE’S 150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 16th, 2011 – Irish Pub Night at the Sprague Rod and Gun Club! Join us for an evening with Irish singer Andy Cooney!

Christened by The New York Times as “Irish America’s Favorite Son”, Andy Cooney has taken the Irish-American music scene by storm. His outstanding voice and dynamic stage presence makes him a favorite with audiences. Andy’s talent and versatility provide the ability to deliver a song directly to the hearts of his listeners. Andy has played at Carnegie Hall and with the Irish Symphony Orchestra.

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY! Contact Buddy Meadows at: 860-822-6429

SAVE THE DATES!
SPRAGUE’S 150th ANNIVERSARY

Our town’s 150th Anniversary is this year and our celebration will take place on:

THURSDAY, JULY 28th
FRIDAY, JULY 29th
SATURDAY, JULY 30th
SUNDAY, JULY 31st

Visit our website: sprague150.org or twitter @Sprague150th for more exciting details!

Festivities to include: a karaoke night and a 50’s dance on Friday, July 29, 2011, amusement park rides, food booth sponsored by the Baltic Fire Department, Noodles the Clown, who has performed at the White House and at the Woodstock Fair. We’ll also have fireworks on Saturday, July 30th, with a rain date on Sunday the 31st.

There will be activities for children. Entertainment will be provided all day Saturday and Sunday under the tent. More specific times will be noted in future editions of Our Town as well as the Norwich Bulletin and The Resident Newspaper out of North Stonington.
LET'S TRY SOMETHING NEW!

Let’s give our minds an intellectual workout and try something new. In each monthly edition of the paper, there will be a quote of the month and a word of the month. They will be hidden somewhere in the paper.

Get the family together and try to find them, and then challenge yourself and your family to use them throughout the month in your conversations and daily activities. Post on your fridge, tack on your corkboard at work, write on a whiteboard, jot on a Post It. Have FUN sharing what you’ve learned!

Write down the word of the month or write down the quote of the month, along with your name and phone number and place in the Our Town mailbox at the Town Hall. One name will be drawn at the end of the month. This month’s winner will receive $2.00 of a visit Baltic’s own TJ’s Family Restaurant and Catering, to be used for a visit during the month of March! Have fun!
THANK YOU
TO FAMILIES AND BUSINESSES WHO HELPED THE 2010 BALTIC SAFE HALLOWEEN PROGRAM

The men and women of the Baltic Fire Engine Company # 1, also known as the Baltic Volunteer Fire Department, wish to say a BIG THANK YOU to the many families and businesses who helped to make our 2010 Baltic Safe Halloween Program such a HUGE success. This year’s program was made possible only through the hard work of the members of the fire department and also through the generous candy and money donations of many businesses and families.

This year was the fifth year that the Baltic Volunteer Fire Department sponsored this program. This program is one in which we invite ALL children of Sprague and their parents to come to the Baltic Fire House for our Safe Halloween Program. The men & women of the Baltic Fire Engine Company # 1 sponsor this event as a way to offer the many children in town a safe way to Trick or Treat without having to deal with the many known hazards of collecting candy door to door.

Running this program requires that members volunteer a LOT of hours, starting in June and ending in February. Here, our members can discuss what worked and may not have worked, ideas that they want to try for next year. This year alone we gave out approx. $2700 in candy.

Since our first Safe Halloween Program we have looked to Walmart in Lisbon for the number 1 request of the children, that being candy. We were so glad to hear from Louise Plante of the Lisbon Walmart Store who gave a $250 donation.

The Baltic Fire Department wants to express our sincere thanks to ALL who made a donation, below is a partial list of those who were able to make a donation, PLEASE help us in saying Thank You to the many who made a donation by stopping in to the many businesses in town to say hello and Thank You for helping to sponsor this town wide event. We would not have been able to put on this event if everyone had not made a contribution.

AMGRAPH INC once again was our # 1 donation, Thank you Mr. Ken Fontaine!
Sharkeys Pizza for the donation of SIX bikes!! (EVERY YEAR)
Baltic Engine Company # 1 members
Senior Citizens of Sprague & also a matching contribution by the Peg Campanelli Family
Chelsea Groton Bank
Affordable Air & Refrigeration LLC
Frank Davis Jr. Family
Malerba Farms of Norwich
Baltic Convenience & Package Store
Farmington Bank Foundation, INC.
Walmart of Lisbon
Sprague Rod & Gun Club
Baltic Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary
Armstrong Chimney Services, LLC
Dime Bank
Edward Muenzner, CPA
Sacred Heart Educational Center
Dime Bank
Senior Citizens of Sprague & also a matching contribution by the Peg Campanelli Family
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Also… Jeanie Silman, The Smith family, Old Spots Farm, Angus Park B&B c/o Jablonski Family, Carol Dunn, Hanover Nursery School, Conde/Mellor Family, Furbacher Family, Smelser Family, 72 degrees, Baron Family, Arpin Family, Wood Family, Clark-McLaughlin Family, Alfeio Family, Brian Shukis, Perry & McKay Family, Griffin Family, Lane Family, Kutz Family, Postemski Family, Woodhouse-Becker Family, Leap Family, Generous Family, and so MANY others not mentioned here who stopped by to drop off donations of candy and/or a check.

Sincerely, Reg Patchell, Secretary & quartermaster of the Baltic Engine Company # 1
Safety Facts
Carbon Monoxide Safety

FACTS: A person can be poisoned by a small amount of CO over a longer period of time or by a large amount of CO over a shorter amount of time. Often called the silent killer, carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless, colorless gas created when fuels (such as gasoline, wood, coal, natural gas, propane, oil, and methane) burn incompletely. In the home, heating and cooking equipment that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

CO alarms should be installed in a central location outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home and in other locations where required by applicable laws, codes or standards. For the best protection, interconnect all CO alarms in the home. When one sounds, they all sound.

- Follow the manufacturer’s instructions for placement and mounting height.
- Choose a CO alarm that has the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- Call your local fire department’s non-emergency number to find out what number to call if the CO alarm sounds.
- Test CO alarms at least once a month; replace them according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
- If the audible trouble signal sounds, check for low batteries. If the battery is low, replace it. If it still sounds, call the fire department 911.
- If the CO alarm sounds, immediately move to a fresh air location outdoors or by an open window or door. Make sure everyone inside the home is accounted for. Call for help from a fresh air location and stay there until emergency personnel arrive.
- If you need to warm a vehicle, remove it from the garage immediately after starting it. Do not run a vehicle or other fueled engines or motors indoors, even if the garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not covered with snow.
- During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- A generator should be used in a well-ventilated location outdoors away from windows, doors and vent openings.

HOME HEATING EQUIPMENT: Have fuel-burning heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in. When using a fireplace, open the flue for adequate ventilation. Never use your oven to heat your home.

DON’T BECOME A STATISTIC OF WINTER 2011! HELP THE BALTIC FIRE DEPARTMENT KEEP YOU SAFE!
PLEASE USE CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS.
I would love to say Spring is here but I believe we have 4 or more weeks of potential bad weather. So far, we have not exceeded dramatically the planned for expenses in storm related materials, weather related overtime, or equipment repair due to long hours of use. I keep the BOF up to date on these expenses and hope that winter is reaching its conclusion. The Town buildings’ roofs were evaluated and no problems were discovered. A special thank you to Bill Trudelle and his crew who cleaned off the school roof potentially saving the town thousands of dollars in roof shoveling costs -- Great Job!

As was mentioned last month, I am providing you with the capital improvement plans for 2 more areas: water and wastewater and town buildings.

The water and wastewater plan was developed with the Sprague Water and Sewer Authority (a board of the Town), their engineering firm and the water and sewer superintendent. The Town provides water service to 433 households, and sewer service to 562 households in all three villages. In addition, service is provided to all 3 schools in town, the fire department, senior housing, 3 of the churches in town, the post offices and all town buildings. To put this in perspective, there are 1,188 households identified in the Town according to the latest census data. This plan documents potential costs and potential funding sources.

The second plan identifies areas of town buildings needing improvement or upgrading. This was developed in conjunction with the library director, the road foreman, the facilities manager and the town’s engineer. It provides possible costs and funding sources.

I also have been busy paying attention to both the Governor’s budget and pending legislation to ensure that impact on the Town is minimal. As this critical budget travels through the legislative process I will continue to keep an eye on it.

Please watch the bulletin boards at the town hall and around town for the spring activities that our volunteer Boards and Commissions have planned. From recreation activities to library events to Earth Day, there’s something in Sprague for everyone this upcoming (please come soon) spring!

The word of the month is: Salutation. It was selected by Annmarie. It means: an expression of greeting, goodwill, or courtesy by word, gesture, or ceremony.

Please forward your favorite salutation or use this word in an appropriate manner in a sentence or letter and forward it to my office. A few examples of usage of the word or examples of salutations will be in next month’s Our Town.

As always thanks for what you do and thanks for your support!

Thank You,
Cathy
Greetings from the Hanover Post Office

Hello Sprague! Spring is almost here and we are almost done digging out from the deepest snow our town has seen in years! I hope you are all recovering and looking for some ways to make your life a little easier.

The US Postal Service can help you with that task in several ways. First, if you are tired of shoveling out that mailbox, you could always open a PO Box in either of the three local Post Offices – Baltic, Versailles, or Hanover, depending on where you live. Boxes range from $40.00 - $100.00 per year depending on the size and will keep your mail dry, secure, and ready for pick up as early as 10 am. Payments can be made on an annual or 6 month basis, and are available in both key and combination lock styles. For those of you who are not home during office hours and still would like to take advantage of this service, Hanover has outside mailboxes with 24/7 key access for $56.00 per year. They are going fast – only 10 outside units are unrented at the moment. Stop in today and see what we can do for you.

For the stamp enthusiast out there, we have new releases coming out soon – all in the Forever format. The Jazz Appreciation and Latin Music Legends stamps are both due to be released in March and are a great way to brighten your day after all the white and gray we’ve seen so far this year! Also out in March is the new Neon Celebrate Stamp. Add lots of color to any special occasion card – from birthdays to anniversaries and reunions of all kinds 😊 All three of these – and our previously released stamps - are available in a pressure sensitive adhesive pane of 20 stamps for $8.80 each.

Upcoming wedding on the horizon? We have lots of choices for your nuptial invitations, regardless of the weight. The Wedding Rings and purple Love Pansies are the most popular for the smaller invitations and RSVP cards. I have also had people buy Adopt a Pet or Evergreen Forevers or Dolphins. If you’re looking for something a little more personalized, why not try customized postage through USPS.com at http://www.usps.com/postagesolutions/customizedpostage.htm? It’s easy to download your favorite digital photos and design your own stamps for any occasion. Use engagement pictures for your wedding invitations, new baby photos for your announcements, even a prized flower garden shared on a dreary day for get well cards or to show off your horticultural prowess – the possibilities are endless!

One more note: the lunch times for the post offices in our area are purposefully varied for you to have full retail window service available anytime during the day. Hanover is closed from 12 – 1:15, Versailles is closed 12:30 – 1:30 and Baltic is closed 1 – 2:30. This will allow you to drive directly to the office that can best serve you when you are ready for personalized service.

As always, any of our services from stamps by mail, to online shipping options, to parcel pick up are all available 24/7 at USPS.com. We deliver Convenience, Quality and Service just for you! See you soon!

Tracy Medling, Postmaster Hanover

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Full Moon Hike at the Sprague Preserve
On Saturday March 19th
Meet at the Grist Mill at 6:30 pm

Join us to howl at the moon and welcome spring. Weather permitting.
Sponsored by the Sprague Conservation Commission
For questions, email donaldboushee@sbcglobal.net
SPRAGUE COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

It won’t be too long now before we will see that magical date on the March calendar marking the beginning of Spring! I am sure we are all ready for the signs of Spring! Our Sprague Community Center will be getting ready for Spring by having a few March activities.

Beginning on Wednesday, March 2nd and running for 7 weeks, the Sprague Community Center will be co-hosting with the Unites States Power Squadron (largest boating organization in the United States), a Safe Boating Course. This course will be an 7 week course from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Community Center and will be taught by a certified boat instructor and several members form the Norwich Power Squadron. Successful completion of this course is needed for a Boating License in the state of Connecticut. The cost of the 7-week course and for the needed textbook and materials is $85.00. The dates for the course are: March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th, April 6th, & 13th. Final examination for the Boating license will be on April 13th. Registration for this 8-week course can be processed by RuthAnne Collins at the following address: rdctruffles@sbcglobal.net.

Want to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day at SCC? Come join us on March 12th from 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. for a delicious Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner presented by a great chef, “Buddy” Meadows and his assistants, Linwood Lamb and David Myers. Tickets are $8.00 for adults and $5.00 for children 12 and under. Call for reservations at 860-822-6595 and join us for a great night at SCC.

We are also proud to announce that the Sprague Community Center and the Sprague Senior Center will be partnering with United Way in their new program called “POPPIN”, “Plenty of Produce for People in Need.” This new program will be distributing fresh, healthy, and nutritious produce to needy families. Those families in need must call the Sprague Senior Center at 860-822-3000 Extension 203 or the Sprague Community Center at 860-822-6595 and register their request for fresh produce by noon on Thursday of every week. We will then contact United Way and tell them the number of families that have requested fresh produce. The produce will be at the Sprague Community Center on Fridays from 2:30-4:00 p.m. During these difficult economic times we are hopeful that this program will be a help to our families in need.

Our facilities at the Sprague Community Center are available for many different types of activities. If you are planning an organization, or family event, give us a call.

Take care and remember Spring is on the way!

Brenda J. Keefe
Outreach Coordinator
VNAEast MARCH HEALTH SCREENINGS

34 LEDGEBROOK DRIVE, MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250
PH: 456-7288          FAX: 456-4267

**Blood Pressure Screenings:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Andover Old Fire House</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
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<td>Willington Senior Center</td>
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<td>Florence Lord Marlborough</td>
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<td>Hebron Senior Center</td>
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<td>Chaplin Senior Center</td>
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<td>Lebanon Senior Center</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
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<td>Scotland Town Hall</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Ashford Senior Center</td>
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<td>Thur</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Marlborough Town Hall</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Columbia Beckish Senior Center</td>
<td>12:30-1:30</td>
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<td>Mon</td>
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<td>Marlborough Senior Center</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
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<td>Franklin Senior Center</td>
<td>10:30-11:30</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
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<td>Sprague Town Hall</td>
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**Adult Health Screenings** - including blood pressure, Cholesterol, HDL Cholesterol, blood glucose, earwax, and foot care. Blood pressure screening is free; other services have a nominal charge. Call (860) 456-7288 for appointments, costs and information on other services. Clinics will be held at:

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<td>Columbia Beckish Senior Center</td>
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<td>Chaplin Senior Center</td>
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<td>Willimantic McSweeney Senior Center</td>
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<td>Willington Senior Center</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
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<td>Hebron Senior Center</td>
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**MANSFIELD SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER**

**Adult Health Screenings**

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<td>Wed</td>
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<td>8:30-11am</td>
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Including blood pressure, Cholesterol, HDL Cholesterol, blood glucose, earwax, and foot care. Blood pressure screening is free; other services have a nominal charge. Call (860) 429-0262 Ext. 4 for appointments.
St. Joseph School 18th Annual 3 Mile Race

Residents of Baltic, Hanover, and Versailles:

Are you fed up with all this snow? Does cold weather make you yearn for warm, sunny spring days? How about coming to an event that officially marks the beginning of spring for runners of all ages here in Eastern CT?

St. Joseph School’s 18th Annual 3 Mile Road Race and ½ Mile Kids Fun Run that is going off on March 26th (Saturday) at 9:00 am near the school. All profits from this event go towards the school’s Physical Education program to keep it self-sufficient within the school. There will be awards for the top 3 in 9 age categories, a raffle drawing for great prizes, coverage from the Norwich Bulletin, and what many consider THE best post-race buffet in this part of the state…you will not go away hungry.

Fill out the application in March’s Our Town newspaper if you want to run a few miles for a great cause. Don’t forget the FOOD too! If you seek any other info on the race, my email/phone # is on the application.

Glenn Costello
(PE Teacher & Race Director)

Sprague Garden Club to Host Attracting Bluebirds Talk
March 2nd at 6 p.m.

What a winter! It is one that only the record keepers could love. I hope that the bad weather cycles will just be a memory by March. The spring equinox is March 20 at 7:21 p.m. The club members planted crocuses and snowdrops here and there in the Grist Mill Gardens. Hopefully, they wintered over and will give us a hint of things to come. Many of you have seen Mr. Dick Waterman’s bluebird houses around town. Dick will be our guest speaker on the topic of: Attracting Bluebirds. This is a meeting for all bird lovers!

Please plan to join us at the Senior Center on Wed., March 2nd at 6:00 p.m. Our meetings are open to all. Refreshments will be served.

Jan Settje, Secretary

ourtownct@yahoo.com
Our Town’s New Email Address

Our Town will be migrating from the gmail address to this new ourtownct@yahoo.com address as of this month. Please send all correspondence, ads, and submissions to the new address of: ourtownct@yahoo.com
Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. Submissions may be e-mailed to OURTOWNCT@YAHOO.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. The focus of Our Town is community events, articles, commission notes and other items of town-wide interest. These items will take priority over personal opinions. Annual budget considerations may affect page appropriations.

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 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.
Warm Winter Greetings

from the Sacred Heart Educational Center

Individualized Tutoring
In all subjects
And for all ages.

Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges
Sacred Heart Educational Center
54 West Main Street
Baltic, CT 06330

For more information, contact Sister Mercedes:
Phone: 860-822-8241
Email: information@SacredHeartLearning.org
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<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Hat" /></td>
<td><strong>The word of the month is:</strong> salutation!</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Talk on Bluebirds. Sr. Center 6 pm&lt;br&gt;P &amp; Zoning Commission 7 pm Town Hall</td>
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<td>Zoning Board of Appeals&lt;br&gt;Mtng 7 pm&lt;br&gt;Town Hall&lt;br&gt;Inland Wetlands 7 pm&lt;br&gt;Town Hall</td>
<td>Commission on Aging&lt;br&gt;Mtng&lt;br&gt;Courtroom, 2:30 pm</td>
<td>Board of Selectman&lt;br&gt;Mtng&lt;br&gt;6:15 pm&lt;br&gt;Town Hall</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Get ready for Corned Beef &amp; Cabbage at TJ’s on Thursday!</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Conservation Commission&lt;br&gt;Mtng 7 pm&lt;br&gt;Town Hall</td>
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<td>Corned Beef &amp; Cabbage at Community Center</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>Agriculture Commission&lt;br&gt;Mtng 7 pm&lt;br&gt;Town Hall&lt;br&gt;Historical Society Mtng 6:30 pm&lt;br&gt;Town Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Lace up for the Saint Joseph Road Race</td>
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<td>Take a moment to visit our town’s 150th website: sprague150.org</td>
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</table>
| 29 | 30 | 31
| 31 | Was March in like a lion and out like a lamb? |
|  | How many shamrocks did you find? |