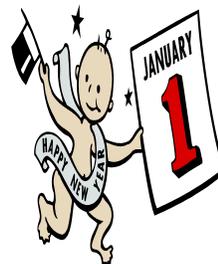




OUR TOWN

SERVING THE VILLAGES OF BALTIC, HANOVER, AND VERSAILLES
IN THE BEAUTIFUL SHETUCKET RIVER VALLEY
Information & News for January 2014



SAYLES SCHOOL FIRST TRIMESTER HONOR ROLL



Grade 8 High Honors

Juliette Berry, Ryan Cash, Brianna Dziekan, Alyssa Jedele, Jaeden Spitale, Shane Williamson

Grade 8 Honors

Alyssa Ricatta, George Sechen, Gregory Topalis, Christopher Weir

Grade 7 High Honors

Jack Allen, Anya Duarte, Stephen Sims, Andrew Tolliver

Grade 7 Honors

Brooke Boisclair, Hailey Bill, Sean Cohen-Rappold, Jasmine Dziekan, Amber Engle, Zachary Ewen, Aujiana Fletcher, Austin Leep, Joseph Lisee, Ciaran Runyan, MacKenzie Shrewsbury

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 during the last week-end of every month at the Town Hall. Contact Elizabeth for details.

If interested in volunteering email Elizabeth @ Spragueourtownnewsletter@gmail.com

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR



What will you start this year?

Versailles United Methodist Church Breakfast

Join us for breakfast!

January 4th from 6:30-10am
\$6 per person



*Pancakes ~ Eggs ~ Sausage
Home Fries ~ Coffee, Tea & Juice
1st Saturday of every month!*

From the Desk of the First Selectman

We have wished each other good cheer, enjoyed our good fortunes, and are preparing for the challenges of a new year. Whether or not it is to tidy up and declutter our homes, save money, read a good book each month, or lose a few pounds we have all made New Year's resolutions it is now time to make them a reality!

Thanks to all of you who helped us help those less fortunate than us, those with a temporary need. Your generosity is wonderful to see. It is the great community spirit that is here in Sprague that I so enjoy.

We are planning for the next budget season in light of that we will be holding a capital plans hearing during the month of January to review completed, in progress and future projects. We hope you will all come to the meeting and let us know what you think we should do next.

We also want to remind you all that it is your responsibility to keep your sidewalks and steps clear of snow and ice. In addition please do not plow your roads into the street; it makes it difficult to keep the roadways safe (it is also against the law). We thank you for making this winter safe for all of us!

Please take some time out to walk the reservoir, the land preserve, slide down the hills, and ice skate (on safe ponds). This Town is beautiful all year round, enjoy yourselves, dress warm and above all be safe!

As always thanks for your support.

Cathy Osten ~ First Selectman



Farewell from Claire Glaude...

Dear Sprague Residents,

As my tenure as Town Clerk comes to an end, I find it hard to put into words how much I have enjoyed serving you in my positions of Social Services, Registrar of Voters, Assistant Town Clerk and finally as Town Clerk. The past 28 years flew by in what seems like a moment.

Sprague has so many wonderful people who either give their time volunteering on boards, or opening their wallets to donate for town issues (i.e. land acquisitions and town celebrations), to personal pleas for food and items for flood victims'.

I wish to thank the Democratic Town Committee for supporting me in my reelection to the Town Clerk Position for the last 18 years. I admire their focus on people rather than party affiliation. Their ability to overlook political parties to find good people to fill positions on boards and commissions assures quality candidates.

I always feel honored to try to help everyone and hope if you have asked that I was able to help you. My predecessor, Mary Stefon, set a good example for me. She was an exemplary Town Clerk.

I am looking forward to a little traveling, catching up with old friends, and completing my projects that were put aside over the years. Oh, of course I also look forward to spending more time with my husband, children, and grandchildren.

A special thank you to all residents who have stopped by or penned a note to me regarding my retirement. I greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Thank you everyone!

Claire Glaude

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, 2014. Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills will be sent out by the end of December and become due and payable on January 1, 2014. You will have the entire month of January to pay your taxes.

Taxes not paid by February 3, 2014 shall become delinquent and will be subject to 1½% 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.

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

ASSESSOR'S HOURS

Tuesdays 7:00 am – 4:30 pm

Mary B. Chartier, CCMC
Tax Collector



Winter Snow Removal Reminder for Town of Sprague Residents:

- ⇒ It is your responsibility to clean off your sidewalks, walkways and steps.
- ⇒ Do not shovel or plow snow into the road.
- ⇒ Please try to park off of the roadways during bad weather.

Invierno Nieve Recordatorio Remoción de Ciudad de Sprague residentes:

- ⇒ Es su responsabilidad de limpiar sus aceras, pasillos y escaleras.
- ⇒ No palear o arar la nieve en la carretera.
- ⇒ Por favor, trate de estacionar fuera de las carreteras durante el mal tiempo.

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OUR TOWN BUSINESS PAGE:

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 @
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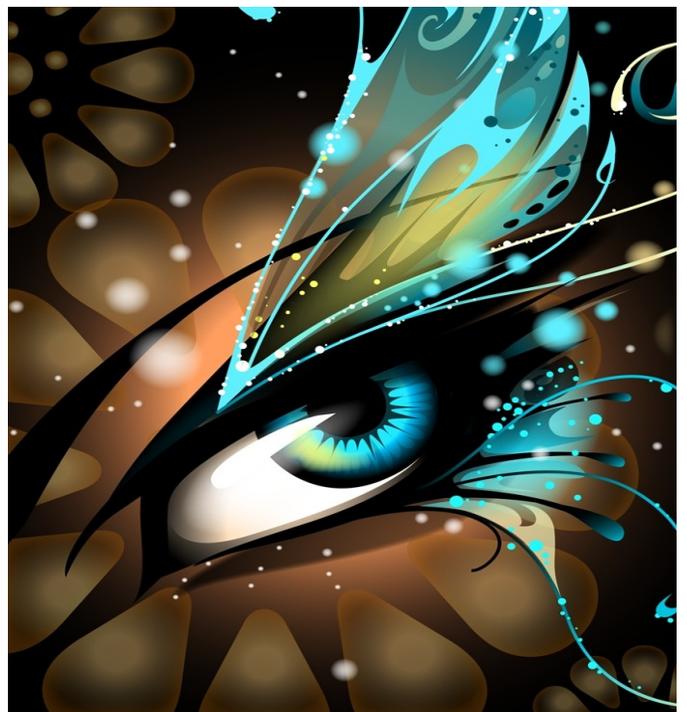
(860)204-6286

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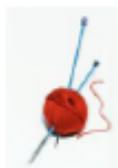
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Sprague Public Library January 2014 Newsletter

The library staff would like to wish all of you
A Happy Healthy New Year

Events for this month are:



The Knitting and Crocheting Club will meet on January 4th and
January 18th 11:00am-1:00pm. Please join us!

The Afternoon Delight Book Club will not meet this month. We will
meet on February 5th 2014 at 5:30pm to discuss No Time For Goodbye



by Linwood Barclay.

The Fiction Addiction Book Club will meet in January.

The meeting date will be announced.

All children are welcome to story hour at 10:30am on Thursdays.



Quote for the month: There is not such a cradle of democracy upon the
earth as the Free Public Library, this republic of letters, where neither rank,
office, nor wealth receives the slightest consideration. ~Andrew Carnegie

Sprague Democratic Town Committee Update

We held our December meeting at TJ's Café where we honored Claire Glaude for all she has done for each of us. It was fun as we pulled off a surprise party for Claire under the guise of a small Town Committee holiday event.

Claire will be staying on the Town Committee as our secretary but she will retire on January 5th as our Town Clerk. I have spoken of her commitment to the people of this Town before. For those who want to thank Claire one more time there is a signature quilt in the First Selectman's office just waiting for you to stop by and write an anecdote of your remembrances of your time with Claire.

The Sprague DTC encourages residents to register to vote. Registered democrats interested in serving on Town boards or joining the DTC should contact me or DTC secretary Claire Glaude at 860-822-9111.

Please visit the Sprague DTC website @ SpragueDemocrats.org for updated information.

Catherine Osten ~ DTC Chair



Branching Out.....Notes from the Tree Warden

I attended a really cold "fall" tree warden training session a couple of weeks ago. The subject was the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). The report for CT is not good. Basically, prepare to be invaded and loose 90% of all the ash trees in our state.

Currently the EAB has been found in 15 towns within 3 counties in our state. As a result of these detections Hartford, Litchfield and Fairfield counties are quarantined for the movement of all wood. The state has quarantined the movement of firewood to prevent the transportation of EAB. The EAB naturally "moves" about one mile per year, because new hatches will migrate to the closest ash tree to feed; however, the EAB in CT has already spread 30 - 40 miles in one year, definitely not on its own. Check out www.ct.gov/deep/eab for specifics on the firewood quarantine.

One of the guest speakers for our training was the city Forester for Fort Wayne, Indiana. Ft. Wayne has 45,100 'street' trees and 2800 acres of parks. And 25% of all the trees are ash trees! He explained the extent that the Emerald Ash Borer has had on his urban forest. Over the last 4 years, EAB has cost \$8M and caused the removal of 1100 trees!! I mention these impressive figures only to make you aware of the impact this insect can have. Not only in time and costs, but also the potential loss of trees and the benefits the trees provide to our community.

There are measures the town and homeowners can take to minimize the impact and tree loss from EAB. The first step I will take in the Spring will be to obtain an inventory of the public ash trees in town. I will continue to provide additional information to you in the coming months about preventive measures, specific impacts and timelines regarding Emerald Ash Borer in CT.

Finally, to the lady in the red minivan who cut down the Blue Spruce tree on Riverside Dr. on or about December 11th; I sincerely hope you needed that tree more than the town and residents of Sprague.

Dave Gustafson ~ Sprague Tree Warden





Sprague Garden Club

Club members met in November at the Grist Mill for a fall clean up. We left a few of the perennial stalks and grasses standing for winter interest.

Our holiday luncheon was held at Buon Appetito in North Stonington on December 7.

The food was great and a nice way to end 2013.

Our next meeting will be a business meeting March 5, Senior Center, 6:30 p.m., weather permitting.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy winter,

Jan Settje,
Secretary

BALTIC FIRE DEPARTMENT LADIES AUXILIARY

Members met on Tuesday, December 17, for the holiday gathering/regular meeting at T J's Cafe.

We have received a preliminary report and once again our Holly Jolly Bazaar was a huge success. We want to thank all who donated prizes for our raffle and came out to support us and our vendors on the day of the Bazaar. It is your continued support that enables us to raise funds to assist the Fire Department in obtaining needed items for the firehouse.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8, 2014, at the firehouse at 7 p.m.

Please remember that anyone interested in joining the Auxiliary is welcome. We are always looking for new members and new ideas for fundraising. You need not be a Sprague resident or have a spouse or family member in the Fire Department to join the Auxiliary as a regular member. We have recently added Junior Members – young women between the ages of 16 and 18 who have a parent or guardian in the fire department or auxiliary.

Our sincere best wishes for a Happy Healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Jeannette Deschamps

Jeannette Deschamps ~ Secretary



FREE ESTATE PLANNING FOR VETERANS AND SPOUSE

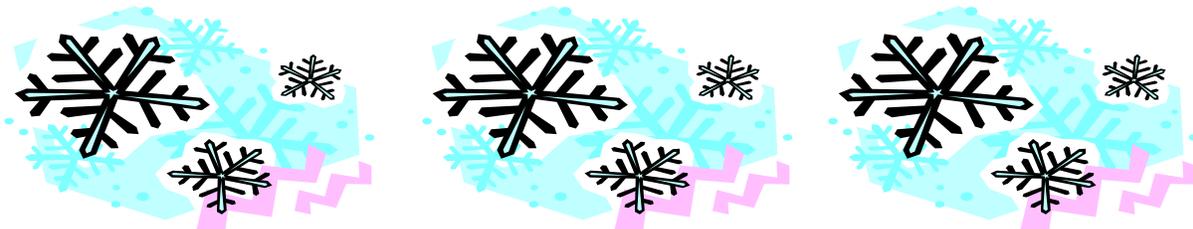
Experienced attorneys in the CBA Estate and Probate Section, the Elder Law Section and in conjunction with the CBA Veterans and Military Affairs Committee will be preparing free estate planning documents to our Veterans and their spouses at a Workshop. These documents may include: a will, living will/health care directive and power of attorney. We serve all Veterans, whether retired or not, and no matter what income they have.

The workshop will be held in a two-part series. The first day is January 15, 2014 and the final part is February 5, 2014 at 5:30pm. Both sessions will be held at the Norwich Vet Center located at 100 Main St, Norwich, CT 06360.

On January 15th, the veterans will be given a brief introduction to inform them of the scope of the work and the various documents. Afterwards, veterans will be introduced the volunteer attorneys who will review their estate plan wishes, including veteran benefits they or their spouse may be entitled to. Veterans will be asked to return to the facility on February 5, 2014 in the evening to review and execute the documents.

Veterans who wish to receive this free legal help can contact Melissa Wyckoff at the Connecticut Bar Association by phone [\(860\)612-2036](tel:8606122036) or email mwyckoff@ctbar.org

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. We will also be having this workshop in Bristol on February 26th and March 19th.



American Legion Post 85, Baltic

December 3, 2013 Minutes

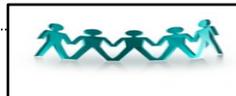
At 7:03 PM the CDR opened the meeting. The Chaplain led the Post in prayer. 12 members were in attendance along with 3 District 5 officers. The minutes from November 5 were read and accepted. Financial report stated that \$2,909.82 in the treasury came from various fund raisers. The CMDR announced that Tom Coletti had been appointed Adjutant. Bill Mish volunteered to update the Post website.

2014 Memorial Day Parade will be held on Monday, May 26 commencing at 11:00 AM. The post members discussed the 99 year lease on the River Street property. Payment will be held until further discussion at January's meeting.

The CMDR commented on past communications received. Discussions were held on enacting on Boy's State in 2014. Dist. 5 officers assisted Post 85 CMDR in presenting an award to Past Commander Dave Salemma for his 5 years of service as CMDR. It was reported that \$180.00 was available in the Christmas fund.

The meeting closed with a salute to the colors and a prayer. The next meeting will be held on January 7th at 7:00 p.m. at the Sprague Rod and Gun Club. All veterans are welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Salemma
Legionnaire



SPRAGUE COMMUNITY CENTER (SCC) NEWS~

Greetings from SCC! I hope everyone is taking some time to enjoy the colors of this beautiful fall season. What a glorious fall we are having in our neck of the woods!

SCC has now included the United Way Mobile Food Pantry Van on the 2nd Friday of every month. The food distribution time is the same as all of the other "Food Friday" times—2:00-3:00 p.m. It is recommended that any new people wanting to get food come early and register. There are no requirements other than making out a card with name, address, telephone number, and family size with ages of family members. People can call 860-822-6595 and give that information over the phone for any of our "Food Friday" food distribution times.

Every Friday from 2-3:00 p.m. SCC offers this "Food Friday" program.

In addition, Backus Hospital Staff is available every Friday during the "Food Friday" time for Blood Pressure Screening, Glucose Screening, and at times Lead Screening for children. We also have representatives from the SNAP Food Program for those who want to apply for that program. Beginning this year SCC will also be hosting an opportunity to apply for heating assistance. A representative from TVCCA will be on site during the "Food Friday" food distribution time.

Every 1st and 3rd Friday the Backus staff is present for free Primary Health care in the Backus Health Van. This service is open to all.

Our Pecan Sale is in full swing! If anyone would like to buy a one-pound bag of Pecan halves, please call 860-822-6595 or stop by on Fridays anytime between 12:30-3:30 p.m.

As always our SCC Hall is available to rent for private events. If you are interested, please call 860-822-6595.

Happy fall and blessings to all. Brenda J. Keefe ~Outreach Coordinator

Sprague Community Center

860-822-6595

FOOD PANTRY



A Bountiful Thank You once again to all who have donated food.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to the Cub Scout Pack #19 and all others who participated in collecting non-perishable food items for the Sprague Food Pantry.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU also to the volunteers for sorting through and stacking the food in the Food Pantry.



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BUS SCHEDULE FROM SPRAGUE TO OCCUM

<u>Points of Departure to Occum</u>	<u>Time</u>		
Shetucket Village	7:45am	9:45am	11:45am
Playground Brookside & High Street	7:48am	9:48am	11:48am
TJ's Parking Lot	7:50am	9:50am	11:50am
Arrive Occum- SEAT Connection Site Red McKeon Park, Hooper St. & Rte. 97	8:10am	10:10am	12:10am
<u>Points of Departure to Sprague</u>	<u>Time</u>		
Red McKeon Park, Hooper St. & Rte. 97 (stop as needed for return trip)	8:15am	10:15am	12:15pm
Express Return to Senior Center	2:15pm		

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.



**The Salvation Army
Upper New London County Service Unit
Dennison Allen, Town of Sprague Representative**

I want to thank all who have donated to the Salvation Army Kettles. Also thank those who rang the bell on Sprague days at Wal-Mart Dec. 6 & 7th. We received over \$600. The money raised by the Upper New London County Service Unit kettle drives, 90% will be kept here. I also want to thank those who have donated checks to the Upper New London County Service Unit, PO Box 304, Versailles, CT 06383.

I also want to thank those who took Angels and gave gift cards which will be used to help with things food stamps do not provide.

If you need food, call Town Hall to speak to Colette. Thanks to Scouting for Food, there is food to help you.

May the Lord bless you during this coming year.

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.



TVCCA SENIOR COMMUNITY CAFE JANUARY 2014

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p>1% milk and whole grain bread are served with each meal.</p> <p><u>Menu is subject to change with out notice.</u></p>		<p></p> <p>HAPPY NEW YEAR 2014 Program Closed</p>	<p>2 Stuffed Shells w/ Marinara Sauce Broccoli Carrots Fresh Fruit</p>	<p>3 Beef & Bean Chili Seasoned Rice Chuck Wagon Vegetable Medley Pineapple Cup Ethnic Celebration</p>
<p>6 Stuffed Chicken w/ Broccoli & Cheese Rice Pilaf Mixed Vegetables Apple juice Sugar cookie</p>	<p>7 Eggplant Rolette Penne w/ Marinara Green Beans Pears w/ mandarin oranges</p>	<p>8 Tuscan Beef & White Bean Stew Buttered Noodles Capri Vegetable Medley Applesauce Cup</p>	<p>9 Chicken Marsala Roasted Potatoes Long Bean Vegetable Medley Fruit Cocktail</p>	<p>10 Crispy Cod Patty Macaroni & Cheese Peas & Carrots Fresh Orange</p>
<p>13 Salisbury Steak w/ Gravy Mashed Potatoes Green Beans & Corn Pears w/ mandarin oranges</p>	<p>14 All Beef Hot Dog w/ Bun Baked Beans Chuck Wagon Vegetables Grape Juice Danish</p>	<p>15 Baked Chicken Rigatano Rice Pilaf Stewed Tomatoes Fresh Fruit</p>	<p>16 Braised Pork Loin w/ Gravy Sweet Potatoes Green Beans & Diced Peppers Peach Cup</p>	<p>17 Baked Ziti w/ Sweet Chicken Sausage Broccoli Carrots Fruit Cocktail</p>
<p>20  Martin Luther King Day Program Closed</p>	<p>21 Baked Cod w/ Tomato Garlic Compote Seasoned Rice Italian Vegetable Medley Fresh Orange</p>	<p>22 Cheese Manicotti w/ Marinara Peas Carrots Pineapple Cup</p>	<p>23 Swedish Meatballs Buttered Noodles Mixed Vegetables Applesauce Cup</p>	<p>24 Hungarian Chicken Paprika Rice Pilaf Green Beans Orange Juice Cupcake Birthdays Celebration</p>
<p>27 Western Omelet Roasted Potatoes Chuck Wagon Vegetable Medley Fresh Fruit</p>	<p>28 Lazy Man's Lasagna Broccoli Carrots Fruit Cocktail</p>	<p>29 Cod Newburg Mashed Potatoes Green Beans & Tomatoes Cranberry Juice Chocolate Chip Cookie</p>	<p>30 Chicken Gacciatore Rice Pilaf Italian Vegetable Medley Applesauce Cup</p>	<p>31 Meatloaf W/ Gravy Mashed Sweet Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Peach Cup</p>



January

2014

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 	2	3	4 Breakfast 6:30am-10am Versailles Methodist Church
5	6 Inland Wetlands 7 pm, Town Hall Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 pm Town Hall	7 American Legion 7 pm, Rod & Gun	8 Board of Selectmen 5:00 pm, Town Hall BOE, 7 pm Sayles School Knights of Columbus 7pm, Fire House P&Z Comm. 7 pm Town Hall	9	10	11
12	13 Agriculture Comm., 7 pm, Town Hall Conservation Comm. Mtg., 7 pm, Town Hall Republican Town Comm. Mtg, 7 pm Town Hall	14 Comm. on Aging 2:00 pm, Town Hall Library Bd. Mtg. 6:30 pm, Grist Mill	15 Water & Sewer Auth., 4 pm, Town Hall	16 Board of Finance 7 pm, Town Hall	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	21	22	23 Regional Animal Control Mtg. 10:30 am Bozrah Town Hall	24	25
26	27	28 Historical Society 6:30 pm, Grist Mill	29	30 Recreation Comm. 7 pm, Town Hall	31	



Our Town

Your Sprague Newsletter

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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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR