



OUR TOWN

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

VOLUME XVIII
ISSUE V
MAY 2008

INFORMATION * NEWS

TOWN AND SCHOOL BUDGETS UNDER REVIEW ~Amy Lynn Reifsnyder

This month's Our Town is expanded to include a copy of the proposed budget.

As all of you have noticed, energy costs in particular continue to climb, along with the cost of everything else. While the town can apply for and has already received various grants, this money cannot be used for general government expenses such as heat, electricity, general maintenance, etc., for municipalities.

First Selectman Cathy Osten said the town continues to look for ways to curb expenditures and increase revenue. She said that if the budget as presented passes, the mill rate will decrease by .25 percent. There will be no mill increase for residents.

She went on to say that residents should note that according to a report published in the Hartford Courant in February, teachers in the Sprague School District currently earn the lowest average salary in the state, \$47,011. Voluntown is slightly higher with an average salary of \$47,249.

A copy of the proposed town budget and the proposed school budget are included in this month's Our Town. Larger print versions are available at Town Hall or online at ctsprague.org, on the home page.

For further information and to participate in town government, contact the town's boards and commissions; information to follow. Meeting dates and times are on the Community Calendar.

SAYLES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

~Nancy Schaffer; nschaffer@saylesschool.org

The Honor Roll for the second marking period for academic year 2007-2008 for Sayles Elementary School is as follows:

7th Grade High Honors: Jillian Boisclair, Adam Izbicki, Jillian Provost, Emalee Shrewsbury.

8th Grade High Honors: Daniel Brine, Lauren Grabarak, Evan Jambor.

7th Grade Honors: Jennifer Blanchette, Felicia Cloke, Travis Cohen-Rappold, Jakub Eiden, Cristina Knowles, Christina Lynch, Amanda Osowski, Joseph Walczyk.

8th Grade Honors: David Cloutier, Felicia Filiatreault, Mirium Turner, Tyler Fisher, Scott Tweedie, Alyssa Larkham, Aexandria Zagorski, Bobbi MacDonald, Andy Zhao, Brienne McAvoy, Matthew McCullough, Barbara Richard, Kayla Royce, Rachel Russi.

Post 85 News ~ Tom Coletti

Two new members joined Post 85 at the March meeting. More members are needed for the post to succeed. Elections must be held within the next few months in order to not lose the charter. Membership in the American Legion includes life and term insurance opportunities, discount prescription drug program and dental and eye care.

Tom Foley from the American Legion Department of Connecticut will be working with town officials to see about establishing an office for the Soldier, Sailors and Marine Fund. Established in 1919, this fund provides temporary assistance to vets in financial need. For more information, call (860) 928-1133.

LIBRARY LOOKING FOR NEW FRIENDS

On Sunday, May 18, at 1 p.m., Joanne Nesti, veteran NBC News anchor, library helper and Connecticut Radio Information System volunteer, will be at the Sprague Library, Main Street, to initiate the newly reformed Friends of the Sprague Public Library. Refreshments will follow. Information: (860) 822-3012; www.ctsprague.org.

LYME DISEASE ASSOCIATION INFORMATION AVAILABLE

For information about upcoming legislation and group activities contact Kimberlee Pappa, Chapter Chair, Eastern CT Chapter, Lyme Disease Association, (860) 303-9020 cell, easternctlda@yahoo.com www.lymediseaseassociation.org



SPRING GARDEN CLUB PLANT SALE



Main Street, Baltic
SATURDAY, MAY 17

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Rain or Shine

Annuals * Perennials * Vegetables

Hanging Baskets

OUR TOWN

Moon Rocks in Sprague

Recently Sayles School students had some exciting “visitors”- actual rock and soil samples brought back by astronauts from the Apollo missions to the moon. Mrs. Rebecca Reyer, grade 5 teacher, went through a training class to become certified to borrow these national treasures from NASA.

Then Kaela Bohara, grade 8 student, took the exhibit a step further. Through Sayles School’s Intervention/ Enrichment Program, Kaela participates in Renzulli Learning. This computer-based program allows students to design individual long term projects that have a real-world context. Kaela organized a showing of the moon rocks at the Sprague Public Library. She planned the publicity, program, games for various age groups, and even snacks and prizes. Approximately 60 people attended the event

**PARK AND REC
CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

May 1: Meet in Town Hall, 7 p.m.

May 10: BIG S TAG SALE—Look for the posters!

May 17: The Secrets of Letterboxing (see below)

May 26: Memorial Day Parade. Prizes for the best dressed bike, wagon, skateboard, etc.

Summer program being organized. Suggestions or volunteers? Contact Noreen Foley, at noreenfoley@sbcglobal.net, or leave a message at Town Hall.

Thanks to Penny Newberry, grant writer, for all her help and her never-ending search for grants. She has been helping with the funding for the skate park, and other sports programs.

**COME AND LEARN!!!
THE SECRETS OF
LETTERBOXING
MAY 17, NOON TO 2 P.M.
GRIST MILL
MAIN STREET, BAL TIC**



Sponsored by Sprague Park and Rec

OUR TOWN STAFF

Sprague ~ Our Town is a free monthly publication of the Town of Sprague, serving the communities of Baltic, Hanover and Versailles. Primarily funded by the Town, support is also provided by paid advertisements.

Opinions expressed in Sprague ~ Our Town are not necessarily those of town officials or the community at large, but solely reflect those of the writer.

Submissions may be edited for clarity and format as necessary. Libelous or obscene materials are not permitted.

Editor: Amy Lynn Reifsnnyder

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Production Staff: Jeannette Bastien; Al Hoffman, Rita Grenier, Al Grenier, Barbara Robitaille, John Ellis, Joe Osowski, Richard Waterman, Ruth, Dennison Allen, and whoever else wanders through the room the day we collate.

Feel free to volunteer! Good storytellers welcome. Information: (860) 456-1082; OurTownNews@gmail.com

**SPRAGUE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Baltic – Hanover – Versailles
Kindergarten (Full-day) Registration**

**Sayles School
25 Scotland Road, Baltic, CT 06330
(860) 822-8264**

Sayles School is currently conducting kindergarten registration for the 2008-2009 school year. Parents of children who will be five years old by January 1, 2009, must provide birth certificates, social security numbers and immunization records for rubella, measles, polio, mumps, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B and chicken pox. Parents also need to provide three proofs of residency showing the street address.

It is important that all students planning to attend full-day kindergarten during the 2008-2009 school year be registered as soon as possible.

Call (860) 822-8264, Ext. 100, for a registration packet or if you have any questions.

Do you know what Xanga, YouTube, and Blogger are?

Get the information you need to make Internet access safer for children.

Free Workshop on Internet Safety

For parents, guardians, caregivers, and/or educators

**May 15
Grist Mill, Main Street, Baltic
6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

Sponsored by: SERAC, 620 Norwich/New London Turnpike, Uncasville, CT 06382; (860)848-2800, Fax (860) 848-2801; www.sectrac.org
SERAC is a Regional Action Council in Southeastern Connecticut devoted to uniting communities in order to reduce the impact of substance abuse and other addictive behaviors.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPDATE

Hello again fellow Sprague citizens. I hope that some of you got to enjoy the Earth Day Earth Market and Celebration at the River Park. It was a wonderful way to open up the park to Spring. It's great to see the plants and flowers poking their little heads up to greet the season. Our primary focus this Spring will be to further spruce up the River Park. We will be spreading loam and reseeding. We also are installing two more grills. Come down and enjoy. If anyone has suggestions or time to donate to our park, let us know.

We are also clearing out in front of the headrace gates for preservation and designating trails up and down river. Also I hope that some of you will be joining us on our May hikes. They will be Saturday, May 3 at 10 a.m. and Sunday, May 18 at 11:30 a.m., leaving from the Grist Mill. Another very important issue for all of us in Sprague is the proposed Franklin Ash fill site next door. This could possibly have serious implications for us immediately downstream. It is up to us to educate ourselves on the issue and to consider what we can do as a community to protect what is important to us. Please pay attention to this issue. On a more positive note, enjoy the wonderful weather and sites of Spring.

~ Don Boushee

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE NOTICE

Please help us identify Sprague veterans who have recently returned from serving our country for recognition at the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26 at 12:30 pm. Please call the Sprague Town Hall at (860) 822-3000 ext. 220.

P AND Z TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING MAY 7

The Sprague Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing on May 7, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sprague Town Hall courtroom, located on the second floor. The hearing is being held to receive public comment and written communication concerning proposed zoning and subdivision regulations. The proposed regulations were developed by the Commission as the result of recommendations set forth in the recently adopted Sprague Plan of Conservation and Development. The text of the proposed zoning and subdivision regulations are available to review at the Town Hall and are also available online on the Sprague Town Web site at www.ctsprague.org. Some of the proposed changes include: elimination of the R-40 (one acre) residential zone; expansion of the R-80 (two acre and R-120 (three acre) residential zones; creation of a Watercourse Focus Area overlay zone; and a regulation requiring a public hearing notice sign to be posted on the affected property. The Commission holds its regular monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the courtroom on the second floor of the town hall. The agenda is posted on the bulletin board in the town clerk's office on the Monday immediately preceding the meeting. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Members of the commission are Shawn Bittman, Kord Jablonski, Joe Osowski, Paul Piezzo, Arthur Spielman, Jr., Gerald Stefon, and Richard Waterman. Alternate members are Kathleen Boushee, Mick Collins, and Christian Mueller. The Commission employs a part-time planner and consultant, Tom Seidel of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments, and a zoning enforcement officer, Joe Smith.

An audiotape, as well as written minutes of the Commission meetings, is available at the Town Hall. Additional information is available at www.ctsprague.org.

~ Richard Waterman

LADIES AUXILIARY MEETS

At the Baltic Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary meeting on Wednesday, April 9, the group discussed fund raising plans for the upcoming year. The main event is the Holly Jolly Bazaar to be held Saturday, November 29.

Members will not be marching in the Memorial Day Parade, but a few of us will be helping with refreshments at the firehouse afterward. Hope to see a great crowd to honor the veterans who have greatly contributed to the community and the country.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 11.

Anyone interested in joining the Auxiliary is welcome.

~Jeannette Deschamps, Secretary

HELP WANTED

Town of Sprague Transfer Station Assistant

Part-time 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM on Saturdays.

Applications available at the Selectman's Office,
1 Main Street, Baltic

OUR TOWN

HEALTH SCREENING SCHEDULE

VNA East of Mansfield Center offers the following screenings.

Blood Pressure Screening:

Thursday, **May 1**, Florence Lord Marlborough, 11 a.m. to noon; Wednesday, **May 7**, Andover Old Fire Department, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.; Willington Senior Center, 1 to 2 p.m.; Tuesday, **May 13**, Marlborough Senior Center, 1 to 2 p.m.; Hebron Senior Center, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.; **Wednesday, May 14**, Chaplin Senior Center, 9 to 10 a.m.; **Sprague Town Hall, noon to 1 p.m.**; Thursday, **May 15**, Columbia Beckish Senior Center, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.; Marl-

borough Town Hall, 2 to 3 p.m.; Tuesday, **May 20**, Lebanon Fire Safety Complex, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.; Wednesday, **May 21**, Scotland Town Hall, 12:30 to 1 p.m.; Ashford Senior Center, 1:30 to 3 p.m.; Tuesday, **May 27**, Franklin Senior Center, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Adult Health Screening:

Includes 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.

FROM THE EDITOR:

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. The writer's name, address and a contact phone number must be included with each submission. Because the focus of Our Town is community events, there may be times when there is simply not enough space to run opinions.

Submissions may be e-mailed to

OurTownNews@gmail.com,

or mailed to Town Hall, P.O. Box 677, Baltic, CT 06330. I can be reached by telephone at (860) 456-1082. Thanks again for sharing your news and events with Our Town.

~Amy Lynn Reifsnnyder

MUKLUK HIKES

**Dress accordingly
Bring water**

**Saturday,
May 3, 10 a.m.**

**Sunday,
May 18,
11:30 a.m.**

**Meet at the
Grist Mill**



Weight Watchers

Weight Watchers meetings will be held Fridays, 3:30 p.m. in the media center at Sayles School. The cost of the 12-week program is \$152. For more information, contact Kelli Shrewsbury at (860) 822-8264, ext. 142.



AUCTION! AUCTION! AUCTION!

To benefit
Boy Scout Troop 19

Saturday, May 10, 2008

at
Baltic Fire House
Route 138, Baltic

**Nelson Courtemanche,
Auctioneer**

Refreshments available

Information: Harry Segerstrom Sr.
(860) 822-6235