



VOLUME XVIII
ISSUE XII
DECEMBER 2008

OUR TOWN

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

INFORMATION * NEWS

FROM THE DESK OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN ~ Cathy Osten

2008 has gone by in a blur. So many positive and exciting things have happened in our three villages this past year. I'd like to give all our residents a brief summary of the projects the Selectman's office and the Commissions have undertaken during this first half of the new administration.

First, hats off to all the volunteer commissions and organizations, which have to be the hardest working in the region, for their dedication to their community and their specific areas of volunteer expertise. Where do we start? With the help and in-kind professional assistance of Hugh Schnip from the Economic Development Commission we were able to augment our \$500,000 DECD/Small Cities Main Street sidewalk project via a DEP Urban Forestry grant to plant shade trees along Main Street. The supplier of the trees was so impressed with the volunteer activities of people involved in this project that it donated about \$2,500 in additional trees and shrubs for streets and parks in the three villages. Meanwhile, the Conservation Commission, under the watchful eye of Don Boushee and Tree Warden Dave Gustafson, received a second Urban Forestry grant to plant 250 conifers at the Baltic Reservoir as part of the reservoir re-activation which will use the conifers as natural "filters" for airborne particles and leaves from other trees. Meanwhile at the reservoir, the SCC's contracted forester selected Sprague as the recipient of the planting of an additional 350 trees, donated yearly by the Connecticut Funeral Association. This busy commission is still implementing its \$24,000 DEP trails grant that extends from the River Park/Headrace up and downriver to the Salt Rock Campground and the Baltic Mills peninsula. Working with the Sprague Historical Society, they've incorporated the Mills headrace into an interpretive part of the River Park and Trails network, and the signage, landscaping and steel period fencing that is now part of the park comes in large part from the EPA and DEP awards.

The Water and Sewer Authority has been extremely busy working with their engineer to finalize all engineering plans for the reservoir re-activation, greatly encouraged by the \$1 million in bond funds received by Sprague this year to begin work on the repair of the dam and the developing of final plans for the entire water provision and filtration facility. If you haven't been to the Baltic Reservoir recently, please visit; with its newly cut perimeter (courtesy of Conwood, the Town Crew, volunteers, and BCI inmates) and mile-long loop it is a wonderful walk or jog, and the Sprague Boy Scout Troop are planning some projects here as well. More Eagle Scout and trail clearing/marketing projects are underway in the Mukluk Preserve, for which the check for \$500,000 was received this year from DEP as a result of the Land Acquisition Grant received by the town and the vote by citizens to accept the conservation easement for the property. Lead abatement at Mukluk was conducted this year and we were able to reduce the lead levels in the 3-acre field nearest the parking lot/cabin enough to move the containment fence back and allow visitors to use the field for picnicking, Frisbee playing, etc. We're almost finished with the \$200,000 EPA grant received for remediation here and are working with DEP to develop a long-term plan that includes review and monitoring of the remaining lead.

The Recreation Committee, under the enthusiastic and active leadership of Noreen Foley, secured funding for a host of infrastructure and program related activities this year, including an OPM grant that sent the Teen Group to a team building/ropes course with the resident state trooper, and allowed for landscaping of the new Skate Park, funded in large part by Cascades Boxboard Group of Versailles and advocated for by the Recreation Committee.

This year the Town received permission from OPM to begin to receive Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) funding, and we've applied for about \$400,000 to offset the costs of re-construction of the LaCroix Road bridge (for which we've received a provisional \$62,000 from DOT), and the replacement of the retaining wall behind the Baltic Fire Department.

Roadwork projects throughout the villages are ongoing. So far this year we've paved Wendy Drive and Wendy Circle in Versailles and completed Main Street, Spruce Street, and Mission Street in Hanover, as well as Pinecrest Lane in Baltic.

Continued page 2

OUR TOWN

From the Desk of the First Selectman, *con't from page 1*

We received another EPA award of \$200,000 to remove the remaining asbestos from Building #10 at the Baltic Mills site, which we'll be marketing for redevelopment thanks in part to approximately \$100,000 in additional Brownfields testing funds from EPA and a \$35,000 grant from USDA to conduct a business opportunity feasibility study. At the same time, the Rural Development Council has been working with the town to identify priorities and funding streams, and has been using the Mill redevelopment as a focal point in public discussions and analyses that will further define the Town's Strategic Plan.

USDA came to the rescue again this year, and after much hard work by the Superintendent and Board of the Water and Sewer Authority, and many meetings with state health and permitting officials, gave the town approximately \$150,000 to put in a new well in Baltic, thus averting the critical drinking water shortage the town was facing.

If this year's sidewalks project was good news to Baltic Main Street residents, West Main Street and Park Drive residents will be equally happy next year, as we were awarded another \$500,000 from DECD to replace sidewalks up Route 207 to Holy Family Academy.

We have Senator Edith Prague and Senator Don Williams to thank for urging the DOT to fund our application for \$50,000 for a new wheelchair accessible 8-passenger senior van that is fuel efficient and much easier to board. We also received an \$8,800 transportation grant that offsets the cost of salaries and fuel to provide transportation to medical appointments, weekly shopping, door-to-door pickups, etc. Senior Coordinator Lori Trombley oversaw the "extreme makeover" of the Senior Center that included new carpeting, paint and drapery.

The library received approximately \$6,000 in grants that allowed the board and staff to greatly expand the collection, including a teen section that is the envy of the region. The Grist Mill also got an exterior makeover this year, with the re-paving of the parking lot, which included the installation of period lighting, wooden guardrails, and handicap access via a new brick front patio and stone wall. As always, the Garden Club, led by Chair Jan Settje, quietly and competently set about repairing their beds, establishing new ones along the wall and the building, and artfully blending the landscaping once again with the walkways around the library.

The parking lot paving extended to behind the Town Hall so that the Town Garage's parking area is now substantially improved, and there is additional space for Senior Center vehicles.

And finally: Slow down as you enter each village! We have finalized the construction of entry/welcome signs in all three villages and will have them installed by the end of the year.

If you thought THIS year was busy . . . stay tuned for next year! Some of our plans and projects include: installing solar panels at the town office building, renovation of the senior housing complex, renovation of the Grist Mill building to allow for use of the second and third floors, working with the future developers of the Mill Complex on a design and use that complements downtown, finalizing engineering plans for the reservoir re-activation, expansion of the fire department, augmentation of social services . . . and lots more picnics and fun! Have a wonderful holiday season!

Again thank you for everything you do!!!! ~ Cathy Osten

NOTICE TO HIGH STREET RESIDENTS

The contract with Barr, Inc., of Putnam, to remove and replace sidewalks downtown has been extended to include 206 to 230 High Street. Contractors will remove existing sidewalks and in some cases, walkways to houses, with prior permission from homeowners. Sidewalks will be replaced, and lawns regarded. It may be dusty for a few days, and traffic may be delayed. State Police will be on hand to direct traffic and representatives from DOT will be inspecting work at regular intervals.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19
5:30 TO 7:30 P.M.

Meet at Town hall, proceed down
Main Street to enjoy hot chocolate and
sandwiches by the bonfire!

Finish the evening with caroling
at the Gazebo on the
Town Green.
Questions? Call
Noreen
at (860) 822-1829



PARK & REC REPORT

I would like to thank all the members and non-members of the Park & Rec Committee for their hard work and dedication to making this an outstanding year. We were able to provide The Riverfest, summer activities, Three Villages Festival, the opening of the Skateboard Park, indoor soccer — with many thanks to Coaches Jones and Fitzgerald, and a couple of fantastic field trips! Thanks also to Penny (grant writer) and of course, Cathy Osten — all with little or no cost to the families in town.

Again, for all the families and children who participate in our events, thank you so much for your continued support!!!

Talent Showcases: We are seeking local bands who may want to hold a battle of the bands during the summer months. Also, we would like to add a talent show to the Three Villages Festival. Anyone who is interested should contact Noreen Foley at (860) 822-1829.

Congratulations to the Sayles Girls Varsity Soccer Team for placing second in the championship game. You girls are awesome!!!

Have a safe and wonderful holiday to all of you from us at the Park & Rec Department.

~Noreen Foley

POST 85 NEWS

Post 85 held a meeting in October to discuss the slate of nominations of officers that had been submitted on September 9. The names of the members that had been put into nomination for officer positions for Post 85 were reviewed by the membership with no additions, deletions or discussion. The first election for the position of Commander was completed with the election of David Salem as the 2008-2009 Post Commander.

The following members were elected as follows:

Douglas Patrick, Adjutant
Thomas Coletti, Financial Officer
Wilfred Zinavage, Senior Vice Commander
Timothy Brodeaur, Junior Vice Commander
Joseph Osowski, Post Chaplain
Richard LaBarre, Sergeant at Arms
Thomas Foley, Service Officer

Commander Salem was instructed by Connecticut Department Representative Tom Foley to submit his name and those of his staff of Post 85 to the American Legion Department of Connecticut via the established format.

The Commander asked for discussion to consider changing the established monthly meeting. Starting Tuesday, December 2, meetings will be on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.

The November 25 has been cancelled in lieu of its close proximity to the December 2 meeting.

The Financial Officer volunteered to publish and mail a Meeting Notice of Change postcard to the membership, interested transfer prospects and potential new members that have attended previous meetings in the first week of November to inform them of the change. The Commander brought up the latest billing notification mailed to the membership for payment of dues. It was determined that the Adjutant had crossed payment of the Post dues with the Department of Connecticut deadline. The deadline was missed due to the status of the Post as pending until the membership had decided its fate. Any member that had received a notice for payment from the Department of Connecticut for the 2009 year and has paid dues and possesses an AL 2009 card should disregard the notice.

Tom Foley, as the Department of Connecticut Representative asked that the newly elected officers take the oath of office. The oath was administered and the meeting concluded with Tom asking each new officer to be familiar with their new position. He also asked that the meetings be held within the guidelines of the American Legion handbook. The next meeting will follow the established and formal meeting criteria.

Respectfully submitted,

~Tom Coletti,
Financial Officer
America Legion Post 85

CAN RECYCLING SPONSORED BY PTO

Starting December 6, you will be able to drop your aluminum cans off at Sayles School once a month, on the first Saturday, at 10 a.m. Collect your cans at home (please rinse out). Great for the environment and beneficial to your child's school. Sponsored by Sayles School PTO

RECYCLE * DON'T THROW THEM OUT!!!
Laser Printer and Ink Jet Printer Cartridges, Old Cell Phones
Include All BATTERIES!!!

Drop off boxes at the Transfer Station and Town Hall
GREAT for the environment
EARN money for Sayles School PTO

Information: dssixofus@netzero.com

OUR TOWN

CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPDATE

Hello again fellow Sprague citizens. Wow, believe it or not, winter is just around the corner. Conservation Commission members have been busy working up at the Sprague (Mukluk) Preserve and at the River Park. We will also continue to work up at the reservoir marking the boundaries.

There's still a lot to be done, but it's all good work. It's nice to know that ordinary citizens can make a difference in their community to make it a little better. Let's continue all the good work together.

Our next meeting is, as usual the second Monday of each month. If anyone wants to get involved or has any questions, please come.

Next Hike: Meet at the Grist Mill across from the Town Hall **Sunday December 7 at 12:00 pm.**

~Donald Boushee, Chairman

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, articles, commission notes and other items of town-wide interest will take priority over personal opinions. Annual budget considerations may affect page appropriations as well.

Submissions may be e-mailed to OurTownNews@gmail.com, or mailed to Town Hall, P.O. Box 677, Baltic, CT 06330.

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 Reifsnyder

Editorial Assistant: Colette Hoffman **Production**

Staff: Jeannette Bastien; Al Hoffman, Rita Grenier, Al Grenier, Barbara Robitaille, John Ellis, Joe Osowski, Richard Waterman, Dennison Allen, Myrtle, and whoever else wanders through the room the day we collate. Feel free to volunteer!

~ Amy Lynn Reifsnyder, (860) 456 1082

LADIES AUXILIARY INVITATION

The regular meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fire Department was held on Wednesday, November 12. Following the meeting members baked fruit turnovers and pumpkin rolls for our baked goods table at the **Holly Jolly Bazaar** scheduled for **Saturday, November 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Please come and join us for a fun day and stay for lunch. We have an assortment of vendors this year.

The annual **Evening of Giving at the Crystal Mall** was not held this year. 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.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas from all of us to all of you.

Sincerely,
Jeannette Deschamps,
Secretary

Food Drive HUGE Success

All I can say is fantastic !!!! The Cubs and Boy Scouts would like to say THANKS to all the people who donated food to our food drive. The food pantry was quite low, but thanks to all of you, it is full to overflowing. I can't believe the amount of food that we collected, 3492 items. This is our largest food drive yet, and due to the hard economic times, it is great. This shows that the true American spirit of giving is alive and well in Sprague.

The scouts removed the food from the pantry, cleaned it, and painted it top to bottom. We are in the process of restocking the shelves and it will be ready by press time.

Again, THANKS to all and we hope you will continue to support this great endeavor.

~Harry Segerstrom Sr.
Troop 19

In Music News

Wil and Deb Chabotte returned on October 30 from a three week tour of Germany and Switzerland with Pete Haycock's True Blues band. Deb is a Co-CEO of DMC Enterprises LLC/Revolution Music and Instruments/ RMISound.

Last January Deb signed Pete Haycock to the RMI Recording label. If Pete's name does not ring a bell then perhaps his original band will. Peter was the lead guitarist, co-founder, front man, and songwriter for the Climax Blues Band from its inception until 1984.

The tour was wonderful and during their stay they signed a contract for two more of Pete's CD's to add to the current CD Pete Haycock's True Blues featuring Glen Turner "Live". Pictures of the trip and video will be added to the RMISound.com web site in the near future along with a narrative of the trip.

~Deb Chabotte

The BEST in Blues can be found at www.revolutionmusicandinstruments.com

Baltic United Methodist Church News

The Baltic United Methodist Church is associated with Lee Memorial Church in Norwich on Washington Street, with the Reverend Ho Soon Han as their pastor and Baltic UM's pastor-in-charge. On the first Sunday of each month, Communion Sunday, services will be held at Lee Memorial at 9:30 a.m. All other Sunday services will be in the Baltic church at 10:30 a.m., with lay speakers from Lee Memorial and other churches.

Helping Hand Neighbor to Neighbor

Donations continue to be accepted by Salvation Army Upper New London Country Unite, PO Box 304, Versailles, CT 06383. All money will be used to help Sprague people.

May the Lord Bless you as you share with others

~ Dennison Allen,
Sprague Service Unite Member

A BOUNTIFUL THANK YOU

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Harry Segerstrom and the Boy Scouts Troop #19 and all others who participated in collecting non-perishable food items for the Sprague Food Pantry and thank you also to the scouts for sorting through and stacking the food into the Food Pantry.

Thank you also to the scouts and Tim Stahl for their part in cleaning out and painting the Food Pantry.

To all who donated food – a Bountiful Thank You



VERSAILLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Wanda Greaves invites all to join in worship on Sundays, 10:30 a.m., with Sunday School during worship. Holy Communion offered first Sunday of the month. Coffee Fellowship follows. The church is wheelchair accessible. Information: (860) 822-9439. Versailles United Methodist Church is located at 4 Church St.

In Memoriam

In memory of Bea and her Yorkies, friends of Versailles UMC who died last spring, the church is collecting canned cat and dog food, dog collars and other pet care products for the Norwich Animal Hospital. Donations may be left in the bin by the church.

Mission Project

As part of the ongoing mission of Versailles UMC, materials with which to make sleeping bags for the homeless in Norwich and surrounding towns, are being collected. Old but usable blankets, fabric and sewing supplies are welcome. Stitchers will use these items to put together sleeping bags which will distributed where needed.

Large plastic storage bags are also welcome, as are adult socks, hand and feet warmers, personal care items, etc. These items are rolled into the sleep sacks before distribution.

Items may be left at the church on Sundays, or call to make other arrangements.

Donations and prayers are always appreciated.

CAN AND BOTTLE DRIVE
SISTERS OF CHARITY
MAIN STREET BALTIC
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29

SPRAGUE TRANSFER STATION

2009-2010 Vehicle Permits 2009-2010 vehicle permits are available at the Transfer Station on Saturdays, December 6, 13, and 20. Vehicle registration, description and plate number must match. After December 20, permits will be available Monday, Wednesday and Saturday during normal gate hours. There is no charge for the first vehicle permit. If you have more than one vehicle, only one permit per visit is allowed. Multiple vehicle permits are not issued on the same visit - you must present the vehicle to receive a permit for that vehicle.

Starting on January 1, 2009, all vehicles must have a vehicle permit attached on the *passenger side, lower-right windshield*, for legal access to the facility. Remove the previous permit before attaching the new one. Do not attach the permit with tape or any other means. The permit must be attached with its own adhesive.

You may need to show driver's license and vehicle registration upon request; these must be valid and show tax code 133.

If you are no longer using a vehicle with a permit attached, remove the vehicle permit and bring the pieces in for another one, if applicable. Only one vehicle permit number will be issued per address per household.

Application No vehicle permit will be issued for an incomplete application. Print legibly first name and last name, street address (no post office boxes), village (Baltic, Hanover or Versailles), license plate number, telephone number. Read the compliance statement and then sign and date the application.

Sprague residents must have a valid driver's license and vehicle registration showing tax code 133, Town of Sprague. Indicate that you are a Sprague resident on the application form.

Non-Sprague residents must have a valid driver's license, vehicle registration and a current Town of Sprague tax bill. Fill out the application address with the information on your driver's license and vehicle registration, not the address of the property you own in Sprague. Indicate that you are not a Sprague resident on the application form.

Application for a replacement or additional permit can be made at a cost of \$5 each. The permit is not transferable. The vehicle cannot be used by someone other than the permitted signer. Any deviation from this must be immediately brought to the attention of the staff for review. Misuse of this permit may result in revoking the permit. If your permit is revoked, entry into the premises may result in arrest for trespassing. may also be imposed.

Misuse of Permit The staff may record license plate and permit numbers. This additional effort is being done to help keep in check a variety of misuses that cost tax payers money. Misuses include no permit, no permit displayed, a loose permit, and using another person's permit or vehicle, bringing refuse in from another town and so on. This will not be tolerated, and may result in a fine of not more than \$200.

Gate Hours A reminder that gate hours are Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vehicles will be admitted up to 15 minutes prior to closing. Thank you for your cooperation.

~Walt Bell

OUR TOWN

PROJECT SAFE HALLOWEEN QUITE THE TREAT

This is the third year that the Baltic Fire Department has run Project Safe Halloween. The fire department adopted this program as a way to have the community visit their fire department, see some of our trucks, equipment, and meet the volunteers who give so many hours to the department for the variety of calls, meetings, and drills that we attend.

This event allows the children in town to go trick or treating at the many tables that we had set up. The children will not have to go door-to-door in the darkness of night, while in a costume that can hamper their vision and their movement, with the possibility of cars speeding by, drivers not paying attention to a dark road and the children out trick or treating. This program also should take away some of the parents' worries of candy being tampered with since our candy and foods are coming from safe sources. The first year we ran our event attendance was around 125 children, our second year brought us up to 250, and this year the numbers were beyond anyone's expectation — we had over 700 people attend, 550 children with 150 adults in tow.

This year, thanks to the great weather, we continued to have our costume parade. The ghosts and goblins lined up outside Town Hall as they waited for the fire truck escort up to the department. This year we had 10 tables with candy piled high for the children to collect from. This year the Baltic Fire Department gave away over \$2,700 worth of candy; this did not include the cost of decorations, photos and gifts that were given away. It was only through the generous donations of some very great businesses and families, that we were able to put on such a great event this year. Unfortunately, the number of children attending did not match the amount of candy that was donated. We learned in the beginning of October that most of the candy would have to be purchased for this year's event and lucky for us we received a couple of large donations to help offset the cost of the candy. The Baltic Fire Engine Company # 1 would like to express our sincere gratitude to the following businesses and families for their donations for our Project Safe Halloween Program this year: AM-GRAPH, Mr. Ken Fontaine, and his business were our # 1 contributor for the third year!!!

Walmart of Lisbon, from whom we received a grant which allowed us to purchase all of the decorations and other material needed. Along with the check, Walmart also sent two of their employees to assist at our event. We hope with our large crowd we did not scare them from coming back, they were a great help. Sharky's Pizza, High Street, once again, donated ALL SIX bikes that were given away to the winners of the costume contest!! Garde Arts Center of New London, tickets for upcoming shows for the costume contest.

Sprague Recreation Committee, candy, props and labor to assist; Thank you Noreen Foley.

Caraustar, Inc. - Nik Blake ran a program where all of the employees could donate candy for our program, seven large boxes of candy were collected, THANK YOU!!

Malerba's Farm, Norwich, CT; this is the 3rd year for Vinnie Malerba to make a donation of ALL of the pumpkins that were given away to all of the children who wanted one.

The following gave money, which allowed us to purchase all of the candy that was needed: Mohegan Sun Casino, Bob's Furniture Stores, Sprague Rod & Gun Club, Edwin Muenzner, CPA, Norwich, Baltic Wine & Spirits Store, Baltic Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary, Nutmeg Wire, Baltic, Jablonski Family, Hanover, Walter Treat; Buzz's Hair Cuts, Baltic, G.J. Guillot, Julia & Chris Wood, Kathryn & Stanley Sims Jr., Walter Griffin, Big Y, Norwich, Stop & Shop, Norwich, Dennison Allen Family, Versailles, Hanover Nursery School, Mueller Family, Target Store, Waterford, BJ's Waterford, TJ's, Baltic, Republican Town Committee.

New Britain Candy Company donated several boxes of candy and allowed us to make a purchase from their company.

Frito Lay, Dayville, made a donation of six cases of assorted bags of chips.

New Britain Candy Company allowed us to purchase a good amount of candy from them.

The Baltic Fire Department would like to express their sincere gratitude to all of the businesses and families who were able to make a donation for this event. So many local companies and families really came through to help us run this event. We hope that we will be able to count on your continued support during next year's Halloween program.

All of the members of the Baltic Engine Company # 1 (Baltic Fire Department) would also like to wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday Season. PLEASE make sure that the batteries in your smoke alarms are changed and please drive carefully.

Sincerely,
Reg Patchell
Baltic Fire Department

Our Town News Update

Just wanted to thank everyone in town for your ongoing support of the Our Town newsletter. Since July, our page budget tally is 84 pages, with an average of 14 pages per edition. This is slightly over the budgeted 12 page average, and accounts for the exclusion of several personal observations and some editing to submissions. We appreciate your concern for the Town and your understanding as we strive to work within the current financial guidelines established.

~Amy Lynn Reifsnnyder, Our Town News

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE HOLIDAY MAILING DEADLINES

Military Mail addressed to:	Express Mail Military Service*	First-Class Mail Letters and Cards	Priority Mail	Parcel Airlift Mail	Express Mail Military Service is available to selected military post offices. Check with local post offices to determine if service is available. Parcel Air Lift is provided on a space available basis; items may not exceed 30 pounds in weight or 60 inches in length and girth combined. Additional fees apply.
APO/FPO AE 090-092	Dec. 18	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Dec. 4	
APO/FPO AE 093	N/A	Dec. 4	Dec. 4	Dec. 1	
APO/FPO AE 094-098	Dec. 18	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Dec. 4	
APO/FPO AE 340	Dec. 18	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Dec. 4	
APO/FOP AE 962-966	Dec. 18	Dec. 11	Dec. 11	Dec. 4	

International mail should be sent between December 11 and 22 for delivery by December 25; check local post office for date-line. Be aware of shipping restrictions and be sure to package contents carefully to prevent breakage.

The Sprague Charter Commission

The Sprague Charter Commission continues its work on a new Charter. The goal is to put in writing the way we govern in Sprague. Much of what happens in town government has been done because we all know how to do it. Yet we haven't taken the time to write it down.

In writing the charter, the Commission has chosen to make only a few changes. One of the ways that Town government would change if the charter is adopted is to add two members to the Board of Selectmen. This would make the total number of Selectmen five (5) including the First Selectman. The proposed board would have up to three (3) members of the majority party and up to two (2) members of the minority party.

The increased size of the board will give an opportunity for a greater range of opinions and more expertise. In addition, the first selectman can ask one or two members of the board to accompany him/her to meetings without the limitation of a quorum.

Some of you have expressed concern that we may not find more candidates to run for the board as it is sometimes hard just to fill the current three-member board. Another way of looking at this concern is whether individuals are discouraged from running for the Board of Selectmen because they are afraid they will be the only one with a viewpoint.

Learning the jobs of first selectman and board of selectman is a time-consuming process. And just when it is getting easier, it is time to run again for re-election. So the Charter Commission is also proposing that the terms of office for the first selectman and the board of selectmen be increased to four years.

Sprague Planning & Zoning Commission Updated to November 10, 2008

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 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, Mick Collins, Kord Jablonski, Paul Piezzo, Arthur Spielman, Jr., Gerald Stefon, and Richard Waterman. Alternate members are Kathleen Boushee, 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

At the public hearing, there was general support for these ideas. Tell us what you think.

You can send comments to spraguechartercommission@ctsprague.org. Or come to our meeting Tuesday, December 9 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall. A new draft of the revised charter revised will be available shortly. You can find a draft of the charter on the Town of Sprague web site www.ctsprague.org. The Charter Commission has its own tab on the left.

There will be one more public hearing in January before the draft charter is given to the Board of Selectmen. In November 2009 the charter will go to town election.

Commission members are Dick Douville, Acting Chair; Susan Zimmerman, Secretary; Joe Osowski; Dennison Allen and Kord Jablonski.

~Susan Zimmerman, Sprague Charter Commission

Sayles School Basket Bash

Friday, December 5

5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Raffle to follow



**Door prizes,
baskets and
silent auction items to win.**

Tickets are \$5.00 for 20 tickets



The Town of Sprague would like to thank the United Steel Workers Union Local 1840 from Cascades Box Group of Versailles CT, for their generous donation of two trucks full of food to the Town of Sprague food bank.