



VOLUME XIX
ISSUE IV
APRIL 2009

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

Happy Spring, everyone! This past three months seems to have gone on forever, weather-wise, but that certainly hasn't meant that things here at the Town offices have slowed down. Especially to be commended is our Public Works crew, who provided exemplary service during the season's endless storms, keeping the roads and public areas safe for private vehicles and school buses. As you know, all that wear and tear can really hurt a road, and we did an inventory over the winter of road projects needing our attention this summer. I'm hoping we can get the following roads either repaired or paved this season: Parkwood Road, Park Drive and Fifth Avenue. The winter's been rough in more ways than weather, as we all know. So we've been working especially hard to cut back on as many administrative costs and services as we can without sacrificing quality or safety. As of February we eliminated streetlights from various places in town, none in areas where public safety is a concern, reducing the number of lights the town pays for from 292 to 128. In this process we discovered some lights were paid for by homeowners for their convenience. This avenue is available to those who wish a light in front of their homes (for information contact CL&P). That translates into a savings of \$20,000 per year for the town. Along those lines, I've been working with the Facilities Manager for the past five months to develop a plan to convert the municipal offices to primarily solar-generated electricity. We've had a number of building assessments completed by alternative energy professionals (with presentations made to the Board of Selectmen) and will be able to assess the cost savings and make a decision by the end of May. I'm hoping that the installation of solar panels will be able to decrease our utilities bill by 7 percent, per year, the system paying for itself within 10 years.

We were once again fortunate enough to receive approximately \$500,000 from the Department of Economic and Community Development/Small Cities to augment our streetscaping project in downtown Baltic, and the construction of sidewalks on West Main Street, Park Drive, and River Street will begin on April 1. We've mailed notices to property owners in those areas advising them of this, and of the need to have all personal items and materials removed from the front of houses so the workers can get to the sidewalk area to remove the old concrete and re-grade the front yard to the new sidewalk level.

The spring will hopefully bring much good news regarding projects for which we applied for funding over the winter, from a variety of sources including DOT's Small Bridge Program, STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program), the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, USDA, and Representative Joe Courtney's office. The Water and Sewer Authority is presently overseeing the reconstruction of one of the dams at the reservoir and we've applied for funding for the replacement of the second dam through Joe Courtney's office. We've applied to USDA and STEAP to augment DOT funding for the replacement of the LaCroix Road Bridge, and are also awaiting word re: our STEAP request to replace the retaining wall behind the Fire Department. Speaking of the Fire Department, Rep. Courtney's office is working with us to assist with an application that should be coming out soon regarding specific stimulus package funds for the construction/expansion of fire stations, so we will be pouncing on that as soon as we hear anything. (Con't p. 2)

OUR TOWN

FROM THE SELECTMAN (CON'T)

The protective fence is almost completed at the headrace; funded by EPA and the DEP Recreational Trails grant, which also paid for the beautiful informational signs that will be posted in various places around the River Park this spring. You'll also notice that you're now greeted by welcome signs entering all Sprague's villages.

We also prepared a number of "small" grants that were recently submitted to USDA: generator repair at the fire department, appliances and furniture for the Senior Center, an automated gate for the wastewater treatment facility, and offsetting engineering costs for the bridge project, the sidewalks project, and the ADA upgrades to the library/ grist mill, for which we are submitting an application to DECD for \$750,000 this year. We've also applied to the Connecticut Trust for Historic Pres-

ervation for a complete set of architectural and engineering plans for the entire grist mill building, so that future projects such as the renovation of the third floor will be "shovel ready" whenever there is an available funding opportunity.

Our tree-hole digger has come out of hibernation and will soon be preparing 200 holes for the pine tree "debris screen" at the Reservoir as part of our third DEP Urban Forestry grant.

EPA has finally approved the final testing plan submitted by the environmental firm

completing hazardous materials testing at the Baltic Mills site. Work should be completed by summer, and we'll use the remaining Brownfield's funds to address identified priority issues. The remainder will be documented in detail—a useful tool for a prospective investor/developer.

We are preparing to take the Baltic Mill site to its next level of development. Thus it has been listed on a number of marketing and informational websites for adaptive reuse of former mills/ industrial sites. Our USDA funded partners

at CEREC have been working with me to aggressively market the site. We look forward to interviewing prospective developers and hearing their ideas on revitalizing the Baltic Mill and how it fits into economic growth of the Baltic Village area.

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 spring!

~Cathy Osten

Sprague Historical Society wants to see your pictures

Sprague Historical Society is publishing a photographic history of Sprague in time for the town's 150th anniversary in 2011. For this book, we need old photographs of places, people, things and events in Sprague. You can donate these photos to the SHS museum, or you can just let SHS scan them.

If you would like to donate photos, drop them off at town hall. Include your name and phone number in case we have questions; include descriptions, if you can.

We can scan them while you wait if you bring them to the **SHS Open House on April 18**, from 1 to 5 p.m, at the SHS Museum in the Grist Mill on Main Street in Baltic.

Questions? Call Glenn Cheney at (860) 822-1270 or e-mail glenncheney@comcast.net.

EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

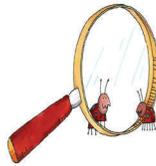


11 A.M. AT THE SOCCER FIELD

Categories: To Kindergarten, Grades 1 to 3,
Grades 4 to 6

Information: Call Craig at (860) 822-1339

Sponsored by Sprague Park and Rec



Nature Scavenger Hunt

Sunday, April 19

11 a.m. Meet at the Grist Mill or
11:45 a.m. at Sprague Preserve
(formerly Mukluk)

Master Wildlife Conservationist volunteers from
Department of Environmental Protection will assist.
Bring water and a snack. Dress appropriately.
Come hike and enjoy!

To register or for more information call
Donald Boushee, (860) 822-9808

PLAN NOW! 5th Annual River Fest * Sunday, May 31 * 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There is no cost to go down the river. There will be food for sale and anyone who brings an individually wrapped bag of candy will receive a free meal. The candy will be donated to the Fire Department's Safe Halloween Project. DJ Music all day long, so come out and enjoy a ride down the Shetucket River. Information: Craig, (860) 822-1339

OUR TOWN

CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPDATE

Hello fellow Sprague citizens.

It's certainly been a great New England winter. March sure did come in like a lion. I hope that you have been enjoying, or at least making the best of, the beautiful wintery scenery of our town.

Does this sound a little bit too upbeat for winter? I hope not. By the time you read this it will already be spring. I have recently heard of people getting out and enjoying some winter and early spring hiking up at the Sprague Preserve and up around the Reservoir.

Good for you, it's a great way to ward off the winter blues and welcome in the new spring season.

Speaking of the Res., if you are surprised to see the trees cut around the reservoir, this is all part of the project to get the reservoir back on-line. The water line will be up to the top of the bank once the dam is fixed, therefore the trees needed to be removed. There will also be new evergreen trees planted to help act as a leaf-screen. Anybody who would like to volunteer with some planting in the spring please let me know.

Also we are working on marking the boundaries of the property as we did at the Preserve, another volunteer opportunity. We will begin on **April 5**, but I am sure we will not finish in one day. Please come out and become part of this great team of volunteers and make a contribution to your town.

By now the "Early Earth Day" town clean-up sponsored by the Recreation Committee on March 28 would have been a great success again. Thanks everyone for making a difference, and the pizza was great.

We are also sponsoring Sprague's version of "No Child Left Inside." Our first event will be on **April 19**. Meet at the Grist Mill at 11:30 a.m. and follow us up, or meet us up at the Sprague Preserve (formerly the Mukluk) at 11:45. We will have a **Nature scavenger hunt and hike**. There will be other events each month. Stay tuned. Also please be careful up at the Sprague Preserve. Those pesky beavers have been busy. The lower road is a little washed-out. Just wave to them pesky varmints as you hike by, they are very persistent. We are working on a deterrent to their blocking up of the culvert. Spring is here and it's been a long winter.

Also please take a look at our town website. There's a place to note volunteer activities. I really can't wait to see the River Park all in bloom. Enjoy each day of your life and remember to not take ourselves too seriously.

~ Don Boushee, SCC Chairman

CHAIR CAR VAN AVAILABLE

Chair Car Van is now available for door-to-door transportation to shopping and medical appointments, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please call at least 48 hours in advance to schedule a ride. Pharmacy and banking stops may be made, too. (860) 822-3000, ext. 203.

AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM

Sprague Senior Center
April 6 and 7
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
AARP Members: \$12
Non-members: \$14

SPRAGUE ATHLETE PITCHES PERFECT GAME

In sports, it is rare that an athlete is able to have the word “perfect” used in the description of a performance, but Sprague’s Caitlin Eaton can now include that superlative among her achievements.

A graduate of Sayles School (Class of 2003) and Norwich Free Academy (Class of 2007), Caitlin is now a sophomore at Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee, and pitches for their Division One softball team, a member of the Ohio Valley Conference.

Caitlin was named Ohio Valley Conference Pitcher of the Week after pitching a perfect game in an 8-0 five inning win over Indiana-Purdue University, retiring all fifteen batters with seven strikeouts. This was the first perfect game in the program’s history.

The perfect game was one of several games played that week in the Sixth Annual Georgia Classic. Besides her outstanding pitching performance, Caitlin batted .438 with ten hits, including a double and two home runs, leading the Tigers to a 4-1 record and second place in the Classic.

Overall this season, Caitlin has a 5-2 record of pitching, is batting .478 with a team leading four home runs and six runs batted in.

Congratulations, and well done, Caitlin.

~ Richard Waterman



Saint Joseph School Honor Roll

Saint Joseph School in Baltic announces its honor roll students for the second trimester.

Principal’s Honor Roll – Bridget Holte, Grade 7; Harry Holte, Grade 5; Isabella D’Ottavio, Tessa Lickwola, Audrey Pion, Grade 4.

High Honors – Mary Harrison, Grade 8; Mikaella Dombrowski, Grade 7; Tayler Aldrich, Zachary Collins, Adam Roberts, Ian Violette, Grade 5; Molly Holte, Grade 4.

Honors – Joseph Feeney, Adam Peltier, Grade 8; Shyanne Navan, Madeline Sawchuck, Evan Eldred, Gabriel Lipker, Grade 7; Mary Roberts, Isabella Velasquez, Grade 6; Shannon Torres, Jeffrey Lickwola, Michael Andronic, Ian Duchemin, Grade 4.

St. Joseph School is located at 10 School Hill Road, Baltic. For more information call (860) 822-6141.

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

Registration will be held **Thursday, April 23**
9:30am-2:30am
at



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

Sayles School is currently conducting kindergarten registration for the 2009-2010 school year.

Parents of children who will be five years old by January 1, 2010, 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 2009-2010 school year be registered as soon as possible.

Please call
(860) 822-8264, ext. 100 for a registration packet
or if you have any questions.

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. Info: (860) 617-2986.

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 ; **Editorial Assistant:** Colette Hoffman
Production Staff: Jeannette Bastien, Al Hoffman, Rita Grenier, Al Grenier, Barbara Robitaille, John Ellis, Joe Osowski, Richard Waterman, Dennison Allen, Miss Myrtle, Anita Reguin, and whoever else wanders through the room the day we collate.
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! We usually meet the last Saturday of every month, beginning at 8:30 a.m. COME ON BY!

OUR TOWN

POST 85 NEWS

Financial Officer Tom Coletti opened the meeting due to the absence of the Commander at 7:05 p.m. The minutes of the last held meeting of 1/6/09 were read. The minutes were accepted as read. The roll call of members was read. The Financial Officer noted that an official quorum was present to carry on Post business. A call list was distributed to the members to utilize during meeting cancellations.

The floor was opened to discussion on unfinished business. Tom Coletti reported on his completion of reading the 99 year lease the Post has with the Town of Sprague. Coletti noted that his main concern in the development of the land would be the environmental conditions that are set forth in the lease. Discussions followed concerning the use of the land in years past. Further discussion was tabled

until the Town Attorney completes his review of the lease and informs the Legion of its obligations. The Legion will also wait to hear from the Town Administration on the subject and the 2 to 5 year plan the Town is working on to receive possible grants concerning joint development of the land.

The Financial Officer moved the meeting onto any other unfinished business to be discussed. Tom Coletti informed the Post that the Knights of Columbus were very still interested in teaming with the Post to discuss the construction of a building on the Knight's land on High Street. He also stated that the K of C is still interested in the Post's 99 year lease as well. No further information was available at this time.

Coletti stated that he would investigate the status of the town clerk's researching of

the DD 214 forms filed in Sprague for the development of a new plaque to be added to the Sprague Memorial for the Gulf War veterans. No information was available at this time.

The past suggestion of the senior vice commander that women be honored at the 2009 Memorial Day Ceremony was brought up on the floor. More on that subject will be addressed at the next meeting in April and was tabled. Junior Vice Commander Tim Brodeur volunteered to approach and ask the command at his Air National Guard Unit if they would be available to perform a helicopter fly-by at this year's Sprague Memorial Day Ceremony. Tim stated that he would have more information at next month's meeting if he wasn't on travel. Coletti stated he would contact the Planning Committee of the

Town to insure a time table and communications on the subject were coordinated. He would also contact Tim if he was on travel to get the status.

Tom Coletti reported that there was approximately \$700.00 in the AL account. Several checks were issued by the Commander to pay Department of Connecticut fees. There were no other outstanding bills noted. The status of the Post's due paying was discussed with only five individuals listed in arrears. No new members joined in February. The Financial Officer asked if there was any further business or ill members to be discussed. There were none noted.

A closing prayer was read. Upon completion of the prayer, the Financial Officer closed the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Coletti, Financial Officer

Sprague Garden Club

The club held a business meeting at the Senior Center on March 5 to discuss the activities for the remainder of the year. It was great to see everyone after our winter hibernation. The Plant Sale is on! I believe this will be our fifteenth sale. How fast the years have passed. Mark the Plant Sale date on your calendars - **Saturday, May 16, 9 a.m.** at the Town Hall Garage, RAIN or SHINE. We will also have home-baked goodies. Come for the plants and stay to have coffee with us.

Our schedule for the coming months will be:

April 9 Sprague Library's English Garden Lecture, 6:30 p.m., Grist Mill; **May 7** Business meeting to discuss Plant Sale, 7 p.m., Senior Center; **May 16** Plant Sale, 9 a.m. Town Hall Garage, RAIN or SHINE; **June 11** Potluck Picnic at the River Park, weather permitting. June, July, August visit various local gardens.

We will be cleaning, planting and weeding at the Grist Mill as needed.

If you would like to join us, attend one of our activities and introduce yourself or call (860) 822-6520. We are looking forward to meeting you.

~Jan Settje, Secretary

VERSAILLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH EVENTS

Sunrise service on Easter Sunday, **April 12**, at Occum Dam with a continental breakfast served after worship. All are welcome.

Please join us for Easter Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

April 25 a yard and bake sale from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Come purchase many wonderful bargains.

All in the community are welcome to join our ongoing mission project, My Brother's Keeper Quilting Group, to make sleeping bags for the homeless in Norwich on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon. This month we will meet on **April 7** and **April 21**. Come join the fellowship for this mission project. All are welcome!

Versailles United Methodist Church is located at 4 Church Street, Versailles. For information call Pastor Wanda J. Greaves at (860) 822-9439.

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Sponsored by VNA East, 34 Ledgebrook Drive, Mansfield Center, a blood pressure screening will be held at Sprague Senior Center on Wednesday, **April 8**, and Wednesday, **May 13** from noon to 1 p.m.

An adult health screening will be held on Tuesday, **May 26**, from noon to 2:30 p.m. Appointments are required for this screening

There is no charge for the blood pressure screening, however there are nominal charges for other services.

Additional screenings are held locally. For a complete schedule, call (860) 456-7288.

BALTIC UNITED METHODIST

On the first Sunday of each month, Communion Sunday, services will be held at Lee Memorial Church, Norwich, 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.

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

SENIORS HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY

Celebrate. Remember. Fight Back.

Celebrate cancer survivors • Remember loved ones
Fight back against cancer with your community

If you are interested in being a part of the Baltic Park & Rec team for the Relay For Life of Southeastern CT on June 27-28, 11am to 9am, at NFA, please contact Noreen Foley at noreenfoley@sbcglobal.net or 822-1829.

for more information:
www.relayforlife.org
1.800.ACS.2345 www.cancer.org



WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY NOTICE

The Sprague Water and Sewer Authority will be flushing hydrants April 13 through 17. Water pressure may be reduced slightly and a little discoloration of water may occur during this procedure. The Authority regrets any problems this may cause but the hydrants must be flushed periodically to maintain quality water and to insure hydrants are operable in case of emergency. If you have any questions, please call (860) 822-3005.

~Todd Hastings, Superintendent

HELP WANTED The Sprague Water and Sewer Authority will be accepting applications for a part-time seasonal employee to assist the operators of the water/sewer plants with their daily workload. Hours will be determined based on need.

Applications are available for anyone interested at the Authority office, located in Town Hall, or online at www.ctsprague.org. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Thursday.

~Ward Eccles, Chairman

CANCELLATION: THE TAG SALE SPONSORED BY THE SAYLES SCHOOL PTO SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 4 HAS BEEN CANCELLED. INFO: Sarah (860) 822-1173.

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS NEW OFFICE HOURS

Please Note: New office hours of the Registrar of Voters are now Tuesday, 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

4-H AUCTION

The New London County 4-H Foundation invites everyone to its

60th Annual Old-fashioned Auction

with Ernie Eldridge, auctioneer,

at the New London County 4-H Camp,

Kahn Road, Franklin

on Friday and Saturday, April 24 and 25, 6:30 p.m.

A plant sale will be held on Friday, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Food Concession will be open both nights.

This is an all-volunteer event to benefit New London County 4-H Camp.

Donations and help needed

(860) 899-5266; (860) 887-1608; (860) 642-6413

PLAN NOW! 5th Annual River Fest * Sunday, May 31 * 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There is no cost to go down the river. There will be food for sale and anyone who brings an individually wrapped bag of candy will receive a free meal. The candy will be donated to the Fire Department's Safe Halloween Project.

DJ Music all day long, so come out and enjoy a ride down the Shetucket River. Information: Craig, (860) 822-1339