



OUR TOWN

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

VOLUME XIX
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INFORMATION * NEWS *

SAYLE'S SCHOOL FEATURED IN *EDUCATION WEEK*

The April 2009 EASTCONN *Connections* reported that earlier this year, *Education Week*, published a front-page story exploring the nationwide decline of elementary schools offering foreign-language programs. The article highlighted one of the most "highly successful model Italian language programs" - the one at Sayles School. Student photos and an interview with Claudio Scarpelli, a native of Italy who teaches at Sayles, were included.

Superintendent of Schools Edmund Senesac is reported as saying for him it was a first. "For us to have made a national publication is a once-in-a lifetime thrill."

According to the *Connections* article, the Italian program is taught to all students at the school.

The program began eight years ago when the district was able to hire Scarpelli thanks to a series of grants from a foundation associated with the Italian embassy. In addition to teaching, Scarpelli coordinates a student exchange program with a sister school in Italy, and occasionally leads tours through the country.

Budget constraints almost caused a cut in the program's availability for academic year 2009-2010. Fortunately for Sprague, the foundation has said they will be able to back-fill the \$20,000 shortfall so the Italian program can continue.

~ Submitted by Cheryl Blanchard, Chairman, Board of Education



LISBON WALMART CHALLENGES BALTIC FD TO FUNDRAISER BALL GAME **WEDNESDAY, JULY 8 5:30 P.M. MAIN STREET, BALTIC**

The Lisbon Walmart has challenged Baltic Fire Department to a softball game at the ball field on Main Street. All proceeds will be sent to the Children's Miracle Network at the Children's Hospital in Hartford.



The fire department welcomes all members/family members/any big ringers, etc. to PLEASE participate in this fund raising event. Walmart contributes \$3 for each of their players and have asked us to please do the same, if not more. ALL PARTICIPANTS need to be fully aware that the Fire Department's Insurance policy, the Town's Insurance Policy will NOT cover any player in case of an injury. EVERY PLAYER Must realize that it will be their OWN insurance policy that they will need to use at the hospital, doctor's appointments, ambulance rides, etc.

Our game against the Lisbon Walmart Store will take place

July 8, at 1730 hours, (OOPS, that is 5:30 p.m.) and will go until WE WIN, or almost win. (*Editor's confidence...*)

Frank Davis will be coordinating the team, so contact him if you want to play or assist in any way what so ever.

Frank's cell is (860) 917-6863 and his home number is (860) 822-6925. Frank's e-mail is davisjr69@yahoo.com.

Even if you ~~cannot play~~, as is my case for another year (s) or so, come to the ball field to cheer on the FD's team. Bring your family and friends.

Thank you, hope to see everyone there at the game, who is bringing the popcorn??????

~Reg Patchell

OUR TOWN

VACANCY: SHETUCKET VILLAGE

The Sprague Housing Authority is accepting applications for efficiency and one bedroom units for Shetucket Village. These units are for elderly (62 years of age or older), handicapped or disabled people. The income limits for one person is \$43050 and for two people is \$49200. To obtain an application or receive more information about Shetucket Village, please call Judy Dewey at 822-1512.

SENIORS WANTED

Individuals age 55 and older who are looking for part time work are encouraged to apply through the Senior Community Service Employment Program. This minimum one-year commitment offers employment training and placement services for individuals who meet specific income and age requirements. Sponsored by the Thames Valley Council for Community Action Inc., applications are available at the Sprague Senior Center, (860) 822-3000, ext. 203.

HEALTH SCREENING

Blood pressure screenings will be held at Sprague Town Hall on Wednesday, **July 8** from 11 a.m. to noon. Transportation is available by calling the Senior Coordinator at (860) 822-3000, ext. 203. For information on screenings at other locations, contact VNAEast, (860) 456-7288.

BUS SERVICE COMES TO SPRAGUE

Thanks to the efforts of the Sprague Senior Center and the First Selectman, Sprague residents will get the opportunity to take the bus from Baltic to the Occum SEAT bus stop five days a week, beginning mid-July.

This is a pilot project to determine how many riders in town want/need to get to their jobs and/or shopping but have no way to get to the nearest bus stop in Occum. Senior Coordinator Buddy Meadows came up with the idea of using the Center's 26-passenger bus after being encouraged by transportation representatives from the Southeastern Council of Governments to see if there could be a coordinated effort to hook people up to the regular Norwich/New London area routes.

The Town will be experimenting with days and hours to determine how to serve the most residents. For now, the bus will make pickups starting from the Senior Housing complex, and travel down through Main Street (Route 97) on its way to Occum, picking up passengers along this route.

This service will be available to all residents regardless of age, and has the capacity to transport individuals in wheelchairs. It will be free during this pilot time frame, and will probably be fixed at 50 cents per trip if it becomes permanent.

Watch the Town bulletin boards or Web sites for additional information, and if you have a suggestion or comment regarding routes, times, days of the week, etc. please let the Senior Center know (860) 822-3000, ext. 203, and they can tailor this service to meet your transportation needs.



SENIOR PICNIC

Sprague Seniors will be holding their annual Indoor Picnic at the Senior Center, 1 Main Street, Baltic, on Wednesday, **July 8**, beginning at noon. The menu includes baked chicken, salad, mashed potatoes, vegetable, dessert and a beverage. The cost is \$8 per person. Reservations recommended: (860) 822-3000, ext. 203.

MYSTERY TOUR

Sprague Seniors will be taking a Mystery Trip to Who Knows Where on Wednesday, **August 12**. The cost is \$80 per person. Interested in going? Contact Betty Trudelle, SMILE Secretary, at (860) 889-4714

Editor's Note: Traveling with the seniors is just plain fun, even for a whippersnapper such as myself!

VAN SCHEDULE

Lisbon Super Wal-Mart and Kohl's—Bi-weekly, Monday
1 to 3 p.m.

Norwich Big Y and Wal-Mart
by request.

Norwich Stop 'n Shop and
surrounding stores
Thursday, 1 to 3 p.m.

Norwich Stop Rite
Tuesday, 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Willimantic Super Wal-Mart and
Food Coop by request.

Medical appointments require a
48-hour notice. Please contact the
Senior Center for availability before
making your next appointment. (860)
822 3000, ext 203.

BRANCHING OUT... Notes from the Tree Warden

By now just about everyone in town is thrilled with the splendor all the new trees in town provided as they blossomed this Spring - OR - are still cursing all the pollen they blew into eyes, noses, throats All the new trees on Main Street in Baltic, the skate park, the ball fields and the River Park are looking good. Thanks to all the folks that worked hard together to get the trees from the nursery to their new 'homes'.

A huge 'Thank You' also to Harry Segerstrom and his enthusiastic Boy and Cub Scouts for planting about 600 pine seedlings at the Reservoir in June. These seedlings are needed to replace the Red Pines that became diseased and had to be cut down years ago. Public water sources are required to have pine trees around them to act as a deciduous leaf screen. Too many hardwood leaves in the water create 'muck' at the bottom, make the water look 'dark' instead of clean and can affect the taste of the water.

At least the cool, rainy and cloudy weather we had all of June will give all the seedlings a good chance to get started and survive the much anticipated warm weather we are supposed to have this month and next.

Once again, I sincerely thank all of the folks in town who have conscientiously made the effort to put their yard/garage/tag sale signs on sticks or wire frames and then removed them promptly after their sales. I removed a large number of signs from telephone poles and trees in June, including auction and seamless gutter ads. I enforce the State statutes to try to keep all of Sprague from looking like the poles in other towns where signs are up until the weather rips them down. Thanks for your cooperation.

The new fiscal year started on the first of July, so funds are available for pruning and tree removal, as required. I have been surveying and will post trees as necessary.

~ Dave Gustafson, Sprague Tree Warden

Sisters of Charity Bottle Drive Main Street Baltic



a.m. to Noon

Saturday

Sprague Conservation Commission update

Welcome fellow Sprague citizens to Summer from us at the SCC. We all hope that you are enjoying it. Once the rain stops and the sun shines, I'm sure the flowers and veggies will soon follow. I've noticed some people enjoying the River Park. Picnics and fishing are great ways to enjoy the park. Thanks to the volunteers and town workers who upkeep the park. It looks great.

A lot of people are also enjoying the Sprague Preserve. Remember there are a lot of activities to do right here at no cost. We can go hiking, biking, canoeing, and much more, without spending a lot on gas, and we get the kids outside.

Also we will continue to have work days. These will include the Preserve and the Reservoir. Anyone who wants to help, please e-mail me at donaldboushee@sbcglobal.net.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME We are also looking for new members. Come to our next meeting or e-mail me.



ANYONE INTERESTED IN BUTTERFLIES & BUGS?

FREE workshop at RIVER PARK

for children and adults.

9 to 10:30 a.m. **Saturday, July 25**

Put on by Master Wildlife Conservationists

Have a great summer.
~Don Boushee, SCC Chairman

LADIES AUXILIARY

Due to a conflict with other activities, we will be changing our meeting night to the second Tuesday of the month. This will take effect with our September meeting. We do not meet in July and August.

Our Holly Jolly Bazaar is scheduled for Saturday, **November 28**, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tables available for rental. Our letters will be going out in early September so if you are on our list from prior years, you will be getting a letter. If you are not on our list and are interested, give me a call at (860) 822-8331 and leave your name, mailing address and phone number.

Please watch upcoming newsletters for any additional information on our activities.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, **September 8**, at 7 p.m. at the fire house.

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.

~Sincerely,
Jeannette Deschamps, Secretary

OUR TOWN

POST 85 NEWS

Commander Salemma is seeking volunteers for next year's American Legion Color Guard to march in the Town parade. He would also like a seven-man team to perform the 21-gun salute as was done in previous years now that the Springfield rifles have been reconditioned. He will coordinate that with the Town parade commission for next year.

He also discussed the possibility of having a membership drive in the fall. A booth is being planned to sell refreshments during town events, and for current members to be available to answer questions of veterans who may be considering joining the Legion. The Commander's goal is to bring in the Vietnam vets who have never joined any veteran association and the Lebanon/Grenada, Panama and Gulf War vets to increase the number of the post members and lower the average age of the post.

Members were also informed that new travel cards would be sent in the mail in July. Expected dues will be \$30 for the 2010 year.

No meeting will be held in July due to its close proximity to the Fourth of July holiday weekend. The next meeting will be held at **7 p.m. at the Sprague Senior Center on August 4.** At that meeting, nominations for the new officers will be held.

~Respectfully submitted, Thomas Coletti,
Financial Officer

TAX COLLECTOR NOTICE

The first installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes will become due and payable on July 1, 2009. Motor vehicle tax bills will also become due and payable on July 1, 2009. Residents will have the entire month of June to pay taxes. Taxes unpaid as of August 3, 2009, will become delinquent and will be subject to 3 percent interest. From then on an additional interest of 1-1/2 percent per month (18 percent annually) will be charged. Minimum interest is \$2.00. Checks may be made payable to Town of Sprague. Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle taxes may be paid with one check. If paying by mail, and a receipt is desired, mail entire bill and include a self-addressed stamped envelope with payment. Taxpayers needing immediate clearance for the registration of a delinquent motor vehicle must pay by cash, money order, or certified check.

Any questions regarding tax bills can be addressed by calling (860) 822-3000, ext. 224.

Questions regarding address changes, assessments, exemptions or correct tax town, should be directed to the assessor's office at (860) 822-3000, ext. 222.

Tax Collector's Hours

Monday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to noon

Wednesday, 2 to 5:30 p.m.

Assessor's Hours

Monday, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tuesday, 7 a.m. to noon

~Mary B. Chartier, CCMC, Tax Collector

WATER AND SEWER REPORT AVAILABLE

Please be advised that the state mandated Consumer Confidence Report will be available at Town Hall in the Water & Sewer Authority Office during regular office hours, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We at the Sprague Water & Sewer Authority work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water resources. They are the heart of the community, our way of life, and our children's future.

~Todd Hastings, Superintendent

PLANS UNDERWAY FOR THREE-VILLAGE FEST

Sprague Recreation Committee announces the Three-Village Fall Festival will be held Saturday, **August 29** from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. This year's Bicycle Road Race will be traveling through town that day, as well.

Vendors interested in participating are asked to contact Noreen Foley at (860) 822-1829, or through the Volunteer link at ctsprague.org. Rental prices are \$10 per table. Food vendors as well as crafter and merchants are welcome. Children's recreation and game vendors will also be considered.

Sure to be a fun day!

DEADLINE REMINDER TO ALL

Please note, the deadline for submissions to the Our Town is really the 15th of the month. This means, if your activity is in the middle of say, August, I need the information before July 15. If the *registration date* for an August event is in July, the deadline was June 15, and you missed it.

My schedule does not always allow the grace period many of you have been extended. Please, get your submissions in on time, or they will not be published.

Thank you, Amy

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 Reifsnyder ; **Editorial Assistant:** Colette Hoffman

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

COLLATORS NEEDED! We usually meet the last Saturday of every month, beginning at 8:30 a.m. COME BY! Good storytellers and poets especially welcome!