



VOLUME XIX
ISSUE VIII
AUGUST 2009

OUR TOWN

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

INFORMATION * NEWS

Sprague Recreation Committee announces Three-Village Fall Festival Saturday, August 29 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. Bicycle Road Race

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 crafters and merchants are welcome. Children's recreation and game vendors will be considered. Sure to be a fun day!



Sprague Historical Society
wants to see your pictures.

Sprague Historical Society is publishing a photographic history of Sprague. We are hoping to get enough pictures to finish the book for our town's 150th anniversary in 2011.

For this book, we need old photographs of places, people, things and events in Sprague. We would also like any paper memorabilia, such as newspaper articles, brochures, programs, tickets or any other paper advertising related to the Town.

You can donate these photos/memorabilia to the SHS museum, or you can just let SHS scan them. All articles will be returned to you. They can be brought to the town hall. Please include descriptions, if you can, also your name and phone number in case we have questions.

If you are cleaning out your home or someone else's, please, please don't throw anything out that might have to do with the town. Please give it to the SHS. Thank you.

Questions? Call Judy Synnett at (860) 822-8264, ext. 100 or Colette Hoffman at (860) 822-3000, ext. 223.

RIVER PARK CONCERT SERIES

SATURDAY
AUGUST 8 AND 29
SEPTEMBER 5 AND 26
featuring
ELM STREET PROJECT

RIVER PARK, BALTIC
5 TO 8 P.M.

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 \$43,050 and for two people is \$49,200. To obtain an application or receive more information about Shetucket Village, please call Judy Dewey at 822-1512.

SENIORS WANTED

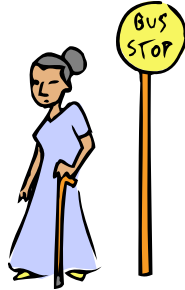
Individuals age 55 and older who are looking for part time work are encouraged to apply through the Senior Community Service Employment Program. This minimum one-year commitment offers employment training and placement services for individuals who meet specific income and age requirements. Sponsored 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, August 12 from noon to 1 p.m. Adult Health Screenings will be held on Tuesday, August 25, noon to 12:30 p.m. For information on screenings at other locations, contact VNAEast, (860) 456-7288.

SPRAGUE-OCCUM BUS SERVICE BEGINS AUGUST 17

Beginning Monday, August 17, all residents will be able to take the bus from Baltic to Occum five days a week, at no charge, courtesy of the Town of Sprague and Sprague Senior Center. Buses will run routinely from designated stops between Baltic and Occum, where riders will be able to connect with the Southeast Area Transit District (SEAT) buses.



Points of Departure

Shetucket Village: 8:45 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.

Saint Mary's Church parking lot: 8:48 a.m. and 11:48 a.m.

Playground at Brookside Avenue and High Street: 8:52 a.m. and 11:52 a.m.

TJ's Parking Lot, Route 97 and Main Street: 9 a.m. and Noon

Arrival in Occum Corner of Hooper Street and Route 97, by Red McKeon Park: 9:10 a.m. and 12: 10 p.m.

Return

Hooper Street and Route 97: 12:15 and 3:15 p.m.

NOTE: the 3:15 is an express and will return to the Senior Center.

Watch Town bulletin boards or Web sites for additional information. If you have a suggestion or comment regarding routes, times, days of the week, etc. contact the Senior Center at (860) 822-3000, ext. 203. For SEAT information, visit www.seatbus.com.

TRANSFER STATION NEWS

The recycling program at the transfer station is working very well. Materials are being collected and sent to the state-of-the-art processing centers. Thanks to all of you who are participating.

A reminder that we recycle anti-freeze, batteries, bottles and cans, brush, cardboard and paper, electronics, Freon appliances, fluorescent bulbs, mercury thermostats and thermometers, scrap metal, tires and waste oil.

The collection for blue bags and bulky waste items has been very efficient for the 2008-2009 year. Thanks to all of you who are participating. A reminder to those of you using garbage bags—the blue bags must be visible.

Transfer station gate hours are Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

SENIOR 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 Shop Rite
Tuesday, 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Willimantic Super Wal-Mart and
Food Co-op 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.

REP. COURTNEY ANNOUNCES \$2.8 MILLION IN RECOVERY FUNDS, LOANS FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN EASTERN CONNECTICUT

WASHINGTON, DC -- Congressman Joe Courtney announced recently that four area towns will share more than \$2.8 million in grant and loan funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). These projects are part of \$63.8 million for rural development community facilities funding announced today by Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack.

The funding will provide \$2,831,436 in loans and grants to projects in Union, Killingly, Sprague, and Thompson.

"Communities in Connecticut are facing significant financial challenges during this economic downturn, but none more than our rural areas," said Courtney. "These funds will bring new jobs, improve infrastructure and create future economic opportunities for the area and are further proof that the ARRA is working to put our economy back on track."

"All of these projects are extremely urgent, each in its own way," noted Sprague First Selectman Cathy Osten. "With USDA's assistance we've managed to address a broad range of needs in the community that otherwise

couldn't have been funded. This type of funding has allowed Sprague to leverage other funds and make lots of things happen, that really improve the quality of people's lives."

In total, Sprague will receive \$107,436 for four town priorities: \$3,500 for insuring that the wastewater treatment plant/filtration facilities are secure, \$90,700 for improvements to the LaCroix Road bridge, which has been a town priority since 1990, \$1,217 for new appliances at the senior center that will help provide better meals and \$12,019 to repair and expand the Town Clerk's records vault and archive at town hall.

"In these difficult economic times, with money being tight, any funding that Thompson can receive for local projects is greatly appreciated," said Thompson First Selectman Larry Groh, "and I want to thank Joe Courtney for his hard work on behalf of the people of Thompson."

The town of Thompson will receive \$124,000 for a new emergency vehicle

and construction of the social services building in the funding announced today. In addition, the town of Union will receive \$2.3 million in loan funding for their school and the town of Killingly will receive \$300,000 in loan funding for the expansion of the Attawaugan fire district garage.

Rep. Courtney was a strong supporter of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which President Barack Obama signed into law on Feb. 17, 2009. This legislation was designed to jumpstart the nation's economy, create or save millions of jobs and put a down payment on addressing long-neglected challenges so our country can thrive in the 21st century. The Act included measures to modernize our nation's infrastructure, enhance energy independence, expand educational opportunities, preserve and improve affordable health care, provide tax relief, and protect those in greatest need.

~ submitted by Cathy Osten
First Selectman

SAYLES SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Sayles School presents the honor roll for the third marking period, March 2 to June 12, 2009.

High Honor

Grade 8: Jillian Boisclair, Bryce Hill, Adam Izbicki, Cristina Knowles, Jillian Provost

Grade 7: John Baldino, Daniel Briggs

Honor Roll

Grade 8: Jennifer Blanchette, Felicia Cloke, Jacob Eiden, Derek Klein, Christina Lynch, Amanda Osowski, Jared Riley, Emalee Shrewsbury, Ariana Stewart

Grade 7: Larry Ejchorszt, Rachel Fish, Ben Giroux, Tim Jorsz, Timothy Paz, Hannah Potter, Jacob Provost, Mason Thibodeau, Sara Tiffany, Anne Woronecki, Kevin Zeller



SAINT JOSEPH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The third trimester honor roll for Saint Joseph School in Baltic is as follows:

Principal's Honors: Tessa Lickwola, Audrey Pion, Harry Holte, Mary Roberts and Bridget Holte.

High Honors: Isabella D'Ottavio, Adam Roberts, Ian Violette, Michael Feeney, Mary Harrison and Joseph Feeney.

Honors: Michael Andronic, Ian Duchemin, Molly Holte, Jeffrey Lickwola, Shannon Torres, Nicole Kekac, Amy Roberts, Isabella Velasquez, Kirstie Wendorf, Madeline Sawchuk, Shyanne Navan, Gabriel Lipker, Evan Eldred, Mikaella Dombrowski, Adam Peltier and Lauren Gagnon.

OUR TOWN

Branching Out... Notes from the Tree Warden

Could June have been any wetter? Twenty two out of 30 days with measurable rain! And July's massive downpours haven't helped with trying to grow anything either. Many trees around town, especially younger ones, have leaves starting to turn red and brown – a sign that anthracnose is taking its toll. Maples, dogwoods, sycamores and even some oaks are showing the affects of the fungus taking hold. Some trees appear to have actually 'drowned'- those in low-lying areas like at the ball field - seem to have suffered from a combination of way too much water and the roots being disturbed from kids swinging around on the trunks after the stakes were removed. The First Selectman has a plan working to replace many of the trees that have

'gone down the path to the kindling pile'.

Most of the pines trees have been planted at the Reservoir. The only good thing about all the rain in June and July (and the unseasonably cool temps) is that all the pine seedlings and four foot pines have a good chance of taking root.

Several trees on Parkwood Road have been posted for removal to prepare for the road improvement project.

Thank you to all the folks in town who have started putting yard sale signs on sticks and frames. I took many signs down in June and July but most of them were for sales in Baltic and Versailles.

Finally – it's really sad that someone in the area is so desperate (and cheap) to have a flower garden that they resorted to digging up irises

around town! The donated irises in the island at Main and Hanover-Versailles and flowers from in front of homes on Main Street, Hanover-Versailles Road, and Baltic-Hanover Road were dug up. Please report any suspicious activity (like people with a shovel stopped on the road after dark!) to the Resident State Trooper or the First Selectman's Office, (860) 822-3000.

~Dave Gustafson

home daily and animals are able to keep their regular routines for meals, walks, medication and one-on-one care and attention. Owners report that their pets experience less stress and adjust better to their owners' absence when the pets remain in their normal environment.

PSI offers members access to bonding and liability insurance and educational resources such as PSI's Accreditation Program and annual Quest convention. According to PSI President Patti Moran, pet owners consider their 'fur children' part of the family and the demand for quality care continues to increase, "Our membership consists of trusted pet care professionals serving an average of 126 clients each and performing an estimated 8 million pet sitting engagements each year," Moran said.

With membership in PSI, Tasha's Tail Wagging Pet Sitting has reinforced its dedication to offering professional, quality services and increasing their knowledge of the pet care industry. Natasha Payfer and Tasha's Tail Wagging Pet Sitting are available for pet sitting in the Lisbon, Canterbury, Norwich areas and their surrounding towns. Call 860-376-WAGS (9247) for an appointment. For additional information about Pet Sitters International, visit www.petsit.com.

Tasha's Tail Wagging JOINS PET SITTERS INTERNATIONAL

Tasha's Tail Wagging Pet Sitting has been accepted for membership in Pet Sitters International (PSI), an organization of more than 7,900 independent professional pet sitting services throughout the United States, Canada and abroad. Founded in 1994, PSI is the world's largest educational association for professional pet sitters.

For pet owners, in-home pet sitting provides a unique alternative to boarding facilities—or relying on family or neighbors to check on pets. Pet sitters come to the

BALTIC UMC UPDATE

The Baltic United Methodist Church, West Main Street, Baltic, will continue to be connected with Lee Memorial Church of Norwich for another year, from July 2009 to June 2010. The first Sunday of each month, service will be in the Norwich church where Holy Communion will be celebrated. Service begins at 9:30 a.m. Beginning in September, service will begin at 10:30 a.m. Services at Baltic UMC begin at 10:30 a.m. with special lay speakers. Everyone is welcome.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Baltic United Methodist Church, along with Lee Memorial UMC, invites all children ages preschool through grade 6 to summer vacation Bible school, Camp EDGE—Experience and Discover God Everywhere. The fun begins August 17 and ends August 21, daily 9 a.m. to noon.

Each day as campers trek through Camp EDGE they will learn that God is with them, guides them, teaches them, loves them, and sends them to share the news. Campers will learn scripture at Bible Trek, participate in mind-boggling science activities at Exploration Ridge, learn new songs at Music Max, and make fun arts and crafts at Art Apex. Snacks will be provided each day, as well as outdoor activities at the Rec Plex.

Meet at Baltic United Methodist Church, West Main Street, on Monday, August 17 at 9 a.m. to become a part of Camp EDGE. For more information call (860) 887-5886.



NO NEED TO SCREAM FOR THIS ICE CREAM...

On Tuesday, August 18, Beltone Hearing will host an ice cream social at the Senior Center, 1 Main Street, Baltic, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Following the social, free hearing tests will be offered. No appointment is necessary.

SENIOR PICNIC AT THE GRIST MILL

The Senior Center will host a picnic at the Grist Mill on Thursday, August 27. To reserve a meal, contact the Senior Center at (860) 822-3000, ext. 203.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RAISES \$300 FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

On Wednesday, July 8, members of the Baltic Volunteer Fire Department and the Lisbon Wal-Mart played softball in an effort to raise funds for the Children's Hospital in Hartford. Through a 50/50 raffle, and donations from the department and members, \$300 was donated to the hospital.

According to Reg Patchell, the first few innings of the game were tied 5-5. But even with the department's two Boxers cheering them on, Wal-Mart was able to pull ahead and win the game 13 to 6.

After the game, the raffle was won by Frank Davis' mom, who in turn made a donation of her winnings back to the department's Project Safe Halloween program.

"Two good events had contributions made to them from this one softball game. Can't beat that," said Patchell.

Fortunately, the game ended just as the skies opened up with rain once everything was picked up.

The Baltic Fire Department will face the Lisbon Wal-Mart again on Wednesday,

August 12 at 5:30 in Babe Blanchette field for another fundraiser.

Photos of the July 8 game are posted on the town webpage, ctsprague.org.

For those unable to make it to the game, but who would like to help, donations may be sent to the Fire Department c/o Town Hall, 1 Main St., Baltic, CT 06330.



MEETING CHANGES

Please note that during the month of August, the Board of Finance Commission and the Sprague Historical Society will not be holding meetings. Regularly scheduled meetings will resume in September.

ANYONE INTERESTED?

The Park and Rec Committee is considering a women's volleyball league that would run from September through March, Tuesday nights from 6 to 10 p.m. If interested, please let them know by leaving a note at Town Hall. Location of the games to be determined.

SENIOR ACTIVITIES

Mondays: Crafts, 1 to 4 p.m.
Tuesdays: PO-KE-NO, 12:30 to 4 p.m.
Fridays: Wii Bowling, after lunch

First Thursdays: BINGO, 12:30 p.m.
Second and third Thursdays: PO-KE-NO, 12:30 to 4 p.m.
Last Thursday: SMILERS Meeting, 1 p.m.

ATTENTION ADVERTISERS:

JUST A REMINDER TO THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE ADVERTISED IN *OUR TOWN* PREVIOUSLY. We greatly appreciate your business, and encourage you to advertise again. We'd also like to remind you to advertise activities at the Salt Rock Camp Ground. According to the employees, many campers are looking for activities to do with their families while they are in the area. You may want to drop by with flyers and/or business cards so visitors can know how many fun and wonderful activities that are going on in the Sprague community.

SENIOR MYSTERY TRIP

On Wednesday, August 12, the seniors will be taking a Mystery Trip. The cost is \$80 per person. If interested in going, contact Betty Trudelle, SMILE secretary, (860) 889-4714.

DEADLINE REMINDER TO ALL

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

My schedule does not always allow the grace period many of you have previously 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, Shirley, Veronica Exley 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!