



VOLUME XIX  
ISSUE XII  
DECEMBER 2009

# OUR TOWN

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

**INFORMATION \* NEWS**

## FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN'S OFFICE—Cathy Osten

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for voting in this past election—we had a great turnout, and I'm very pleased to be invited back and serve as your First Selectman, along with Buddy Meadows and Michael Collins, for another two years.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving. As usual, we're all looking forward to the Christmas season here at Town Hall—all three villages do a wonderful job of decorating for the holidays. And of course the Veteran's Memorial Park will have its usual lighted trees and gazebo. The Recreation Committee is preparing for some caroling this year, as are the Senior Center Smilers, who go caroling in area nursing homes.

Some of you might have seen the RFP in the paper for reconstruction of the main reservoir dam—we're on our way to the next step in re-activating the Baltic Reservoir, and hope to have a contractor on board by late this month.

Last month we finished all the sidewalk repairs left on the "punch list," and our capital improvement plan is targeting upper High Street to receive sidewalks and drainage repairs. We've also started working on revising the Town's Strategic Plan, building off the accomplishments of the last Plan and making some five-year projections that include not only the areas of economic development but ways in which we can expand human services programs, public safety initiatives, conservation, preservation, public/private partnerships, quality of life issues, etc.

I feel blessed to be part of our big family in Sprague; I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

**FEMA:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is updating all flood zone maps. A copy of the zone map for Sprague is available in the town hall for viewing; residents are welcome to stop by and review whether or not their property is located within a flood zone. Residents might want to consider whether they need flood insurance, before changes are made by FEMA.

**VETERAN'S DAY:** On Veteran's Day, Wednesday, November 11, a flag folding ceremony was held as was a wreath laying ceremony in honor of those who have served in the armed services. Photographs can be seen on the town web page.

**FOOD DRIVE:** Also, a HUGE THANK YOU to the many folks in town who donated to our food bank through the Boy Scout food drive. A special thanks to Cascade Union Work Force for their significant monetary donation. We're grateful for the general good will of the town's people.



### HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR

Sprague Historical calendars will be available late December.

## PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION COMPLETES ZONING REVISIONS

On October 14, 2009, the Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved the final phase of revisions to its zoning regulations. The action by the Commission that evening created four distinct village zones. Two of these zones separate Baltic village from the newly created Economic Development Zone, the site of the former Baltic Mill. The other two zones are in Hanover and in Versailles. The village zone regulations are intended to relax some of the regulations that have existed for a number of years. They are designed to encourage mixed use development. In the Economic Development Zone particularly, the regulations allow the commission more flexibility when working with the applicant.

This final phase was the culmination of work that began in 2004. At that time the Commission started work on the Plan of Conservation and Development (PoCD). A PoCD is required by the State of Connecticut, and presents a Commission's recommendations for conservation and development of the town. When enacting zoning regulations, the Commission must show that the regulations are consistent with the PoCD. Revision of the PoCD was completed in 2007. Since that time, following those recommendations, the Commission enacted regulations that affect the use of nearly all property in Sprague. Some of those changes are conservation subdivision regulations, watercourse protection regulations, an increase in residential lot size requirements, and most recently, village zones. These changes are reflected on a zoning map, which together with the regulations is referred to as the "Comprehensive Plan of Development." The regulations and map are on file in the Office of the Town Clerk in the Town Hall. The recent regulation changes, which took effect November 4, 2009, are being added to the existing regulations, which will also be accessible at the Town's website.

**OUR TOWN**

**SPRAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPDATE**

Hello fellow Sprague citizens. Fall sure has been beautiful. We all hope that you have been getting out and enjoying our beautiful River Valley and the Preserve. I recently led a hike, along with Lou Dizialo - Thanks Lou - on the October Walking Weekend up at the Preserve. Over 30 hikers showed up from all over Connecticut and Massachusetts. They sure did love it.

On this subject of hiking, **please make sure that you wear orange** when out in the woods during hunting season wherever you go.

Also, I would like to mention that, as I have reported recently, we had our first wood harvest up at the Preserve as part of our Forestry Management Plan to keep the forest healthy and to help support its up-keep. There are tree tops left from the harvest. If any town citizen would like to cut some up to help us clean up the area, call Cathy Osten and she will help make arrangements to let interested wood cutters in, (860) 822-3000.

In other news, we would like to congratulate Cathy Osten on her reelection. She has been a big help the SCC in all its endeavors. I would also like to thank Chris Mueller for joining us as an alternate on the Conservation Commission. If anyone is interested in what we do, please come to one of our meetings on the second Monday of each month. We currently have an opening for a regular member.

I would also like to announce two winter events coming up: **January 17** a winter hike and tracking up at the Preserve and **February 7**, Animal ID and tracks workshop at the Gristmill. More details to follow, but remember to mark your calendar.

**HAND-MADE CARDS FOR SALE**

Beautiful and unique greeting cards hand-crafted by Sprague Seniors are available for sale in the Senior Center 1 Main Street, Baltic Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost is \$1.50 per card

**SALVATION ARMY ACCEPTING DONATIONS**

The Salvation Army Upper New London County is accepting donations. Checks can be mailed to Salvation Army Upper New London County Service Unit, PO Box 304, Versailles, CT 06383.



**UPDATED BUS SCHEDULE**

**Points of Departure**

**Shetucket Village:** 8:45 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11:45 a.m.

**Playground Brookside and High Street:** 8:52 a.m., 9:52 a.m., 11:52 a.m.

**TJ's Parking Lot, Route 97 and Main Street:** 9 a.m., 10 a.m., and Noon

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

**Return**

Stop as needed for return trip

Express Return: 3:15 p.m. to Senior Center

Service runs Monday through Thursday except holidays. For more information call Buddy Meadows, Sprague Senior Center Coordinator, (860) 822-3000, ext. 203.

The Sprague to Occum Bus is a courtesy of the Town of Sprague and the Sprague Senior Center. For SEAT information, visit [www.seatbus.com](http://www.seatbus.com).

**Winter Weather:** Bus schedule will follow school closing schedule. Turn to channels 3, 8, and 30 for information.

**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.

### From Judy Belaval, CT DEP Office of Source Reduction and Recycling

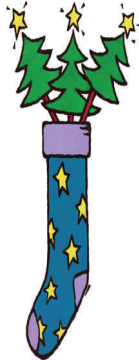
Just wanted to congratulate the town of Sprague for providing the opportunity for the schools in town to get free assistance from the Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) through a US EPA grant to set up a recycling program for their school. As you are probably aware, recycling is not only an environmentally preferable way to manage our wastes – in Connecticut recycling is also the law – and has been since 1991. Please visit the CT DEP website for information about what your school is required to recycle.

If your school does not currently have a recycling program - it is in violation of both CT state law and the local Sprague recycling ordinance.

This is a wonderful opportunity for your school to get help in setting up a program; to comply with state and local recycling requirements, and to help your students develop life-long habits that benefit both society and the environment. It's a win-win opportunity.

We anticipate you will not let this opportunity slip by. Please respond to Athena Lee Bradley at NERC ([athena@nerc.org](mailto:athena@nerc.org)) and copy DEP ([judy.belaval@ct.gov](mailto:judy.belaval@ct.gov)) regarding your decision about taking advantage of this unique opportunity.

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



**The Baltic Fire Department  
Ladies Auxiliary**

Thank you for supporting this year's  
Holly Jolly Bazaar! We hope you had  
a great day.

**2nd annual Connecticut Sport Stacking Championships**  
St. Michael Center, 24 School Hill Road, Baltic  
Saturday, December 5, 2009  
9:00am-3:00pm.

Open to anyone who knows how to sport stack—upstack and downstack  
12 specially designed cups in various sequences on a “stackmat”

**Doubles events \* 4-Person Relay \* Age categories**

Try to advance to the final 5 in three basic stacks: 3-3-3, the 3-6-3, and  
the cycle stack that involves 45 different movements

Our tournament from 2006-2008 had been called the St. Joseph School Sport Stacking Invitational.

We are now a sanctioned tournament for the second straight year, which means state and world records can be set.

We are expecting about over 100 competitors from all over New England, including last year's tournament champion, and overall world record holder from Massachusetts, Steven Purugganan from Longmeadow.

Sport stacking has positive benefits on a student—eye-hand coordination, ambidexterity, focus, concentration, strengthening the weak side of one's body and brain, and a child's self-esteem.

For more information contact Glenn Costello, PE Teacher & Sport Stacking Director, at (860) 886-2828 or [rungdc@aol.com](mailto:rungdc@aol.com) or visit [worldsportstackingassociation.org](http://worldsportstackingassociation.org) to see the video!



## OUR TOWN

### NEW PROGRAMS AT BALTIC UMC

The Reverend Ho Soon Han is organizing two new programs during her office hours. She is starting a get-together for anyone who wants to be with others and knit scarves.

The second program is a discussion group on a best-selling book called *The Shack* by William Paul Young. It is based on a true happening in a person's life.

These will be on Tuesdays each week from 9 a.m. to noon. This is a good time to meet other local people. Also you can bring a friend.

For information call the Norwich office at (860) 887-5886 or the Baltic office at (860) 822-6595.

Looking forward to these meetings.

### VERSAILLES UM OFFERS HOLIDAY COMFORT and JOY

**December 16** - Blue Christmas Service at 7 p.m.

Are you feeling a loss? Loss of a loved one ... a beloved pet ... are you unemployed ... or just "blue" during this holiday time? Whatever loss you are feeling right now, join us at Versailles United Methodist Church for our Blue Christmas Service. Please accept this invitation to be with us to receive words of strength and hope that speak to us in the midst of sorrow. Pass this invitation on to family members or friends whom you feel may benefit. All are welcome. Refreshments served after service in fellowship hall.

**December 20** at 10:30 a.m. Christmas Drama, "When Joseph Doubted" will be presented during worship at Versailles United Methodist Church. All are welcome. Refreshments served after worship.

**December 24** You are invited to our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 9 p.m. Come early at 8 p.m. and enjoy refreshments in our fellowship hall *before* the service.

### Sayles School - PTO News

**Pies are Back!** Sayles School PTO is sponsoring its annual Lyman Orchard Pie fundraiser just in time for the December holiday season! The cost for each ready-to-bake 9-inch pie is just \$14.00 (**due upfront**), so be sure to stock up. See a Sayles student this week to place your order or contact Stephanie (822-6545) no later than December 4 for further information. Don't miss out - order today!

**Breakfast with Santa - Saturday, December 12 8:00-11:00am.** Children of all ages are invited to spend the morning with Santa. For a nominal charge at the door, visit with Santa while enjoying a pancake breakfast, make a craft, and do some holiday shopping at our special holiday store.

**Box Tops and Labels for Education collections continue!**



Don't forget to clip "box tops for education" coupons, which are located on a wide variety of grocery products. With community wide support, Sayles School can earn cash for school activities and supplies. Do you make purchases online? Access your favorite online retailers through [btfe.com/marketplace](http://btfe.com/marketplace) and up to 15% of your purchases will be directly donated to our school. Visit [btfe.com](http://btfe.com) for more details.



Be sure to save those Campbell's product labels too. Everyday Campbell's items such as soup, pasta, gravy, juice, and sauce qualify for the Labels for Education program. Visit [labelsforeducation.com](http://labelsforeducation.com) for a complete list of eligible products. Your support is most appreciated.

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## DTC REPORT

The DTC met several times in October to discuss campaign related matters. These included the accomplishments of the first two years of the Osten-Meadows administration and plans for the next two years. Suggested focus for the next two years is economic development of the Baltic Mill site, expanded recreational activities at the Sprague Land Preserve, and infrastructure investments in roads and the Baltic Reservoir.

The Sprague 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and the possibility of appointing a new charter commission were also discussed.

The DTC thanks the many voters who turned out on Election Day. Because of your support, the Osten-Meadows Democratic team can look forward to another two years of working for a better Sprague.

A reminder that the **January caucus** is the time to join the DTC. If you have an interest in becoming part of the work in Sprague, please contact Susan Zimmerman at [susanpzimmerman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:susanpzimmerman@sbcglobal.net) or at (860) 822-6767.

## Branching Out... Notes from the Tree

I attended a Connecticut Tree Warden Association training session recently that focused on the aftermath and massive clean up operations following the tornado that struck Wethersfield in June of this year. The amount of damage that an F1 (lowest grade) tornado path a quarter of a mile wide and half a mile long caused is amazing! This training pertained specifically to the trees and damage from trees. Some of the interesting statistics:

- 350 trees were destroyed or heavily damaged (requiring removal)
- 35 homes were damaged by trees falling on or through them; most had repairable roof damage, a few had significant structural damage and one had to be razed (the tree was laying on the first floor on the 2 ½ story home!)

- 80% of the power outages were caused by trees

- Only about 10% (35) of the trees that were damaged/destroyed were public trees
- The 10 or so huge trees on the town green were totally uprooted, yet the lawn on the green showed no evidence of a tornado going through,

- One logging company and several tree service companies worked 16 hours a day for over two weeks to remove trees and branches from the town.

It is important for property owners to take a good look at their yards/properties and assess the potential damage a tornado or hurricane could cause to their homes. A good assessment may require hiring a tree service to evaluate and then correct problems. Tree work can be expensive, but less than home restoration or replacement.

No one wants to believe a tornado could strike their town – but Wethersfield is proof that it can happen in Connecticut.

I survey town roads and the right-of-way public as often as possible but still rely on the Town road crew and the townspeople to inform me of any potentially hazardous trees to prune or remove. Information can be provided to town hall, the First Selectman or myself.

Thank you to the Sprague Garden Club for the opportunity to address them about Tree Warden responsibilities.

~Dave Gustafson, Tree Warden

The Sprague DTC  
Thanks The Residents of Sprague  
For their participation on  
Election Day 2009  
Together  
We are making  
Sprague all it can be

Paid for by the Democratic Town Committee  
Jeannette Deschamps, Treasurer

## ADOPT AN ANGEL



Please join in the Spirit of the Season of Giving by visiting the Giving Tree in the Grist Mill Lobby.

The Baltic United Methodist Church has a Giving Tree ready for us to adopt an angel for the holiday.

Choose an angel and shop on line with our GVglobal mall supporting the Friends Sprague Public Library.

Don't forget books make great gifts that last a lifetime.

[www.ourgvmall.com/friendsspraguepubliclibrary](http://www.ourgvmall.com/friendsspraguepubliclibrary)

It is in giving that we receive.

Thank you for Supporting Friends Sprague Public Library and the angels.

~Linda A. Puetz, President, F oSPL

POST 85 MINUTES

Commander Dave Salemma opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. The Financial Officer took the roll call and noted that there were more than five of the thirty eight members in attendance. The Financial Officer noted that an official quorum was present to carry on Post business. Mr. Michaud, a World War II Veteran and perspective member was present to observe the meeting. The Post encourages all veterans to attend and listen to the post proceedings.

The Post welcomed Phil Michaud (WW II Navy Sea Bees) as the newest member of Post 85. Congratulations and welcome, Phil. The Post now has 39 active members.

The Commander asked that the members consider being part of the rifle/color guard for next year's Memorial Day parade. The Springfield Rifles are now back in good condition to be used at next year's parade.

The next meeting will be held December 1 at 7 p.m. in the Senior Center. All veterans are invited.

~Respectfully submitted, Thomas Coletti, Financial Officer

On a Note:

Eight Post members attended a town flag changing and wreath laying ceremony on Veteran's Day, November 11, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. at Memorial Park. The Post thanks the town administration for organizing the event, the Boys Scouts for assisting in the changing of the flags and Ms. Tracy Medling for singing the National Anthem at the Memorial park and the Town Hall. Refreshments were provided by the Town immediately after the event where veterans from WW II through Vietnam were available to answer questions on their experiences during their time of service. The event was attended by approximately 70 citizens. The Post hopes that all citizens in town consider attending next year's event.

GIFT IDEA

SPORTSMEN LICENSES 2010

Licenses for the 2010 season are available at the Town Clerk's office after December 1.

If you have any questions, call (860) 822-3000, ext. 220.

~Claire Glaude, Town Clerk



ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

The first trimester honor roll for St. Joseph School in Baltic is as follows.

**Principal's Honors:** Isabella D'Ottavio (Grade 5), Bridget Holte (8), Tessa Lickwola (5), Audrey Pion (5), and Isabella Velasquez (7).

**High Honors:** Michael Andronic (Grade 5), James Harrison (4), Nicole Kekac (6), Adam Roberts (6), and Mary Roberts (7).

**Honors:** Tayler Aldrich (Grade 6), Anastasia Bibeau (4), Jacob Campbell (6), Michayla Campbell (6), Bethany Cataldo (6), Mikaella Dombrowski (8), Michael Feeney (7), Harry Holte (6), Molly Holte (5), Katyana Howlett (6), Shylo Howlett (5), Jeffrey Lickwola (5), Gabriel Lipker (8), Shyanne Navan (8), Gabriel Records (4), Amy Roberts (6), Madeline Sawchuk (8), Shannon Torres (5), and Kirstie Wendorf (8).

Sisters of Charity

Bottle and Can Drive

Saturday, December 12

Main Street, Baltic



A BOUNTIFUL THANK YOU

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Harry Segerstrom and Boy Scout Troop #19 and all others who participated in collecting non-perishable food items for the Sprague Food Pantry.

THANK YOU also to the volunteers for sorting through and stacking the food into the Food Pantry. To all who donated food – a Bountiful Thank You.



### TOWN OF SPRAGUE LEGAL NOTICE

The following Ordinances were adopted at a Special Town Meeting of the Town of Sprague held on November 17, 2009:

Ordinance #2009-1 – Tax exemption for farm machinery and farm buildings exemption pursuant to Connecticut General Statute’s section 12-91. This ordinance creates exceptions, upon application and the meeting of criteria set forth in the General Statutes, for farming real and personal property tax assessments. This ordinance shall be applicable to the October 1, 2009 Grand List and be effective thirty (30) days after publication.

Ordinance #2009-2 – Peddlers & Soliciting. This ordinance regulates peddlers and solicitors, and requires those involved in these activities to obtain licenses by application and the payment of fees. The ordinance replaces an earlier ordinance, and shall become effective thirty (30) days after publication.

Ordinance #2009-3 – Regulating building and maintenance of approaches to any street or highway in the Town of Sprague. This ordinance modifies an existing ordinance regulating access and egress to public streets. This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after publication.

Copies of said ordinances may be inspected during normal business hours at the Sprague Town Clerk’s Office, and are also available upon request.

~Claire B. Glaude, Sprague Town Clerk

### PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

A Public Information Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8, 2009, at 7 p.m. in the Sprague Town Hall concerning the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation’s recommended layout and design of Project No. 133-094, Bridge No. 1550, Route 207 over Beaver Brook, Sprague. A plan will be transmitted to the Town Clerk for public inspection in advance of the meeting.

Submitted by Julie F. Georges, P.E., Trans. Principal Engineer (Structures)  
Bureau of Engineering and Construction

### TOWN HALL HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Town Hall will be open 8 a.m. to noon on **Thursday, December 24.**  
Town offices will be closed on **Monday, December 28 and Thursday, December 31.**



OUR TOWN NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Is your student falling behind in their class work?  
Did they miss too many school days due to sickness?  
Is your home school plan not getting the results you expected?

**SACRED HEART LEARNING CENTER**  
54 West Main Street, Baltic,  
provides individual tutoring to students from all schools, all ages.

Cost is \$30/hour \* 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.,  
Monday through Friday  
Contact Sister Mercedes  
for more information

(860) 822-8241



*Kindness and Knowledge in an environment of  
Peace, Joy, Love, and Happiness*

Due to injury and illness, winter days in the south and Parts West, and busier schedules, the collating crew who usually meet monthly to put the Our Town newsletter together is shrinking. If you are interested in volunteering to collate, staple, and/or fold once a month, leave a message for Amy Reifsnnyder at (860) 822-3000 or email [OurTownNews@gmail.com](mailto:OurTownNews@gmail.com).

Those of you who are required to complete Community Service hours are welcome to come! We can use the help.

Besides, it’s a lot of fun, with great storytelling, swapping of recipes and hearing about the history of the town. We usually start around 8:30 a.m. (or earlier if you’re Al or Richard), and finish before lunch—if we have enough help.

We try to meet the last Saturday of each month, but that doesn’t always work. So, if you’re interested be sure to call.

Looking forward to hearing from you,

~Amy

**FROM THE EDITOR: THANK YOU TO THOSE OF YOU WHO MEET THE Deadline for submissions** on 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](mailto: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:** Al Hoffman, Richard Waterman, Veronica Exley and whoever else wanders through the room the day we collate.