



OUR TOWN

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

VOLUME XX
ISSUE I
JANUARY 2010

INFORMATION * NEWS

FROM BALTIC VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

The men and women of Baltic Engine Company #1 wish to say thank you to everyone who made it possible for us to run our Safe Halloween program. Your donations allowed us to continue with the Safe Halloween project at the Fire House. At this year's program we had 850 people walk through the doors; 630 of them were children.

Safe Halloween kicked off with a costume parade which started at Town Hall and ended at the Fire House. Once at the fire house the children, escorted by parents and/or guardians, had the opportunity to view some of the fire trucks and equipment that is used by our members.

Once inside, the children could play some of the games, have their photos taken while standing in front of our haunted house backdrop, and walk around to see their friends as they went from table to table filling their baskets with an abundance of candy.

All of the tables were staffed by members of the fire department, as well as volunteers from Lisbon Target, Lisbon Walmart, and the Baltic Senior Center.

Once again, Sharkey's Pizza of Baltic donated all six bicycles that were given away to three boys and three girls in the different age groups.

We would also like to thank all the residents and businesses from Sprague who were able to drop off sealed bags of candy or cash donations, especially AMGRAPH Inc, Mr. Ken Fontaine—once again our #1 sponsor; Sprague Senior Center; Peg Campanelli and her husband; Malerba's Farm of Norwich for pumpkins and gourds; the Ladies Auxiliary of Baltic Volunteer Fire Department; Edward Muenzer, CPA, Norwich; Frito Lay, Dayville; New Britain Candy Company; Dime Bank; Saint's Lawn Care Service; Local 1840 USW of Cascade paper plant; employees from Caraustar packaging plant.

Also, Affordable Air; Affordable Refrigeration; Jablonski Family; Sprague Rod and Gun Club; Knights of Columbus; Jewett City Savings Bank; Baltic Wine & Spirits; Democratic Town Committee; Family of Chris and Julia Wood; Baltic Roofing; Lorraine Allen; the Furbacher Family; the Blanchard Family; Big Y of Norwich; Stop & Shop of Norwichtown; the Sims Family; Versailles Methodist Church; the Lane Family; Guillot Funeral Home LLC; Chelsea Groton Bank; the Chrzanowski Family; the Conde Family; Jeff DeCoste; Barbara J. Alfiero; J & D Associates; the Sisters of Charity Our Lady Mother of the Church; the Hanover Nursery School; the Arpin Family; the Smelser Family; and the many folks who stopped by the Fire House with donations.

~ Reg Patchell

SAYLES SCHOOL HONOR ROLL

Sayles School has announced their honor roll for the first marking period, September 3 through November 20, 2009.

Grade 8

High Honors: John Baldino, Daniel Briggs, Rachel Fish, Timothy Jorsz, Sara Tiffany, Anne Woronecki

Honors: Kayla Davis, Gregory Dziekan, Noah Eaton, Lawrence Ejchorzt, Benjamin Giroux, Briana Montgomery, Timothy Paz, Jacob Provost, Emily Rondeau, Mason Thibodeau, Kevin Zuller

Grade 7

High Honors: Dylan Crider, Pam Russo, Selena Williamson

Honors: Kellse Ericson, Kyle Grills, Kyliegh Manfredi, Sarah Warzecha, Tyler Zeller

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Thank You to
Shawn Bittman
for sharing the
Gingerbread Grist Mill
that was on display at
Town Hall during the
holiday season.



POST 85 NEWS

Commander Dave Salemma opened the meeting at 7:15 p.m. The Financial Officer took the roll call and noted that an official quorum was present to carry on Post business. Mr. Will Chabotte, a Vietnam Veteran was present to observe the meeting. The Post encourages all veterans to attend and listen to the post proceedings.

The Commander asked for the reading of the minutes from the November meeting. The minutes were accepted as read. He then opened up the floor to unfinished business reports from committees. No changes were noted in the Leased Land Committee or the K of C Teaming Committee by the Financial Officer. A committee to investigate relocating the meeting of the Post to other locations was reported as being cost prohibitive for the Post. The Post will continue holding meetings at the Sprague Senior Center. The committee reports were accepted as reported.

The Financial Officer was instructed not to pay the State Adjutant Bill of \$137.00 until the Commander received an update to the details of the bill from the State Adjutant. The payment is now pending until a detail bill is presented.

The 2010 membership cards continue to be sent as dues money is received. The Financial Officer stated that another reminder notice will be sent in January 2010 for members to send their \$30 to Post #85, Post Office Box 294, Baltic, CT 06330.

The Post welcomed Mr. Wilfred Chabotte, Jr., USAF Vietnam, as the newest member of Post 85. Congratulations and welcome, Wil. The Post now has 40 active members.

Under new business the Post discussed recognizing past Auxiliary members of Post 85 at next year's Memorial Day festivities. Doug Patrick has volunteered to chair the committee.

The membership also discussed the enjoyment the Post members had at this year's Veteran's Day Observance and talking about their military experiences with the citizens who attended. Post members look forward to next year and the possibility of expanding the observance. Senior Vice Commander Wil Zinavage suggested that maybe a day prior to Veterans' Day, the Post members who were available, could visit and talk with the grammar school children in town. There will be more discussions on this matter.

Fund raising ideas were discussed by the member ship.

The next meeting will be held **January 5, 2010, at 7 p.m.** in the Senior Center. All veterans are invited.

The Commander closed the formal meeting at 8: 35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

~Thomas Coletti, Financial Officer

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

To: Enrolled members of the Democratic Party.

Pursuant to the rules of the Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that a caucus will be held on January 7, 2010, at 6:30 p.m., in Town Hall, 1 Main Street, Baltic, to endorse candidates for Democratic Town Committee and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus.

Any registered Democrat interested in applying for and becoming an active participant on the Town Committee may forward a letter of intent by January 4 to Susan Zimmerman, P.O. Box 187, Hanover, CT 06350 or appear in person at the January 7 caucus.

Questions may be directed to Susan at (860) 822-6767.

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.

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.

LADIES AUXILIARY

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Baltic Fire Department held their Annual Christmas get together on Tuesday, December 8, at T J's Cafe.

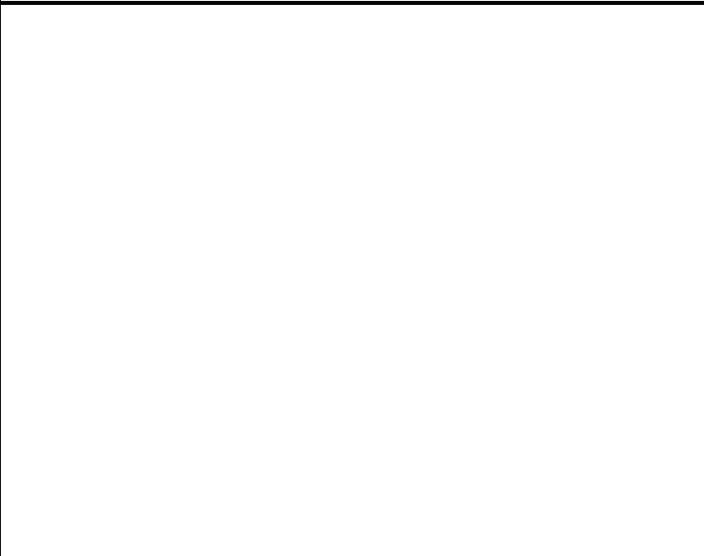
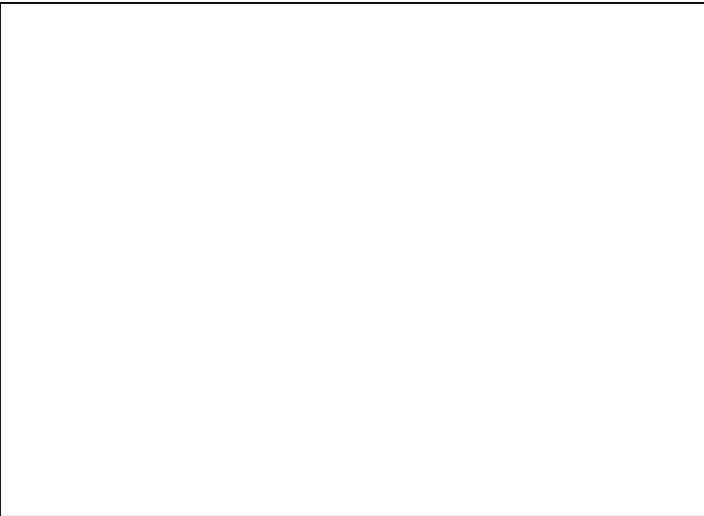
The Auxiliary would like to offer our sincere thanks to all who participated in and supported us at the recent Holly Jolly Bazaar. It was a huge success – one of the best ever.

Officers for 2010 are President Tina Deschamps; Vice President Barbara Lambert; Secretary Jeannette Deschamps; Treasurer- Susan Deschamps.

Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy & Healthy New Year from all of us to all of you.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 13, 2010, at 7 p.m. at the fire house. 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.

~Jeannette Deschamps, Secretary



DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

At its December meeting, Democratic Town Committee members discussed the upcoming Town Committee Member Endorsement Caucus in January. If you have an interest in becoming a member of the Sprague DTC, please contact DTC Chair Susan Zimmerman at susanpzimmerman@sbcglobal.net or 860-334-1102.

First Selectman Cathy Osten and Selectman Buddy Meadows updated members on Board of Selectmen information:

- o Baltic Mill Site
- o Town Meeting December 15
- o Single Stream Recycling
- o A-3 Bond Rating
- o Capital Improvement Plan

First Selectman Cathy Osten reported on the cuts to municipal aid proposed in the Governor's Mitigation and Recession Plan. These cuts are being reviewed by the General Assembly and could potentially affect taxes in Sprague.

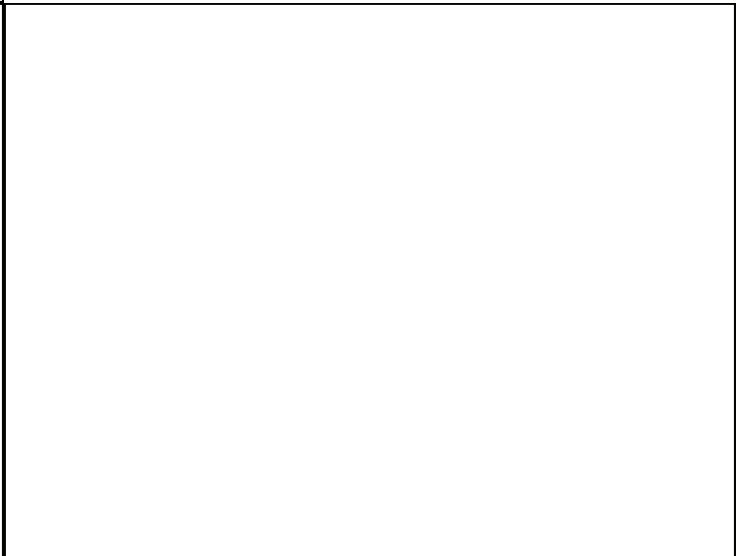
Other topics discussed were appointment of a Charter Commission and sending expanded information to residents on e-Sprague.

The DTC wishes to thank the residents of Sprague for their support this past year and wishes everyone happy holidays.

~Susan Zimmerman, Chair

PROGRAMS AT BALTIC UMC

Knitting program and Book Chat held at Baltic United Methodist Church 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.



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TAX COLLECTOR

The second installment of the Real Estate and Personal Property taxes will become due and payable on January 1, 2010. Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills will be sent out by the end of December and become due and payable on January 1, 2010. You will have the entire month of January to pay your taxes.

Taxes not paid by February 1, 2010, shall become delinquent and will be subject to a 1-1/2 percent interest per month. Annual interest is 18 percent and minimum interest is \$2.00.

Taxpayer's needing an immediate clearance for the registration of a motor vehicle and owe a delinquent tax must pay cash, money order, or certified check. All others who pay by personal check must wait until the check clears.

If you pay by mail, and would like a receipt, please mail the entire tax bill and a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your payment.

If you have any questions regarding your tax bill, you may call the tax collector at (860) 822-3000, ext. 224. Any questions regarding address changes, assessments, exemptions, or your correct tax town should be directed to the Assessor at (860) 822-3000, etc. 222.

Tax Collector hours:

Monday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to Noon

Wednesday, 2 to 5:30 p.m.

Assessor hours:

Mondays 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

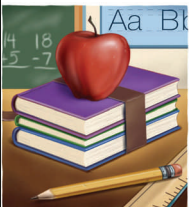
Tuesdays 7 a.m. to Noon

~ Mary B. Chartier, CCMC, Tax Collector

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*

TRANSFER STATION—SINGLE STREAM

The Single Stream trash flow started on Wednesday, December 2, 2009. Simply stated, this combines the bottles and cans with the cardboard and paper. This change will reduce cost and increase revenue sharing for these trash items. No other changes are involved with this, i.e., all other recyclables are the same, TOS trash blue bags are to be used (this is a contract with the Preston incinerator), the price list is the same and permits are still required.

The December issue of Our Town showed the items to include in the Single Stream. Willimantic Waste fliers are posted at the Transfer Station and on the Town's Website. Empty aerosol cans are included so please ask the staff about partial or full aerosol cans. Please put these items in the Single Stream packer located next to the boardwalk. A sign is being updated to help and will be posted next to the single stream packer. Special thanks to Kathleen Boushee for making the signs.

There are still a few people that are not recycling. Bags of trash with recyclables are still going down the trash chutes and then to the Preston incinerator, with no revenue coming back to the town. Please consider making a small effort to help reduce costs and increase our recyclable items revenue. Please recycle.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

To Al Hoffman, Colette Hoffman, Veronica Exley and the Town Hall Staff for their help collating and distributing the December Our Town.

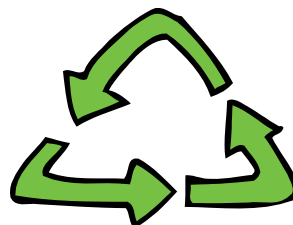
Also, thank you to those who offered their prayers and cards of concern following my recent hospitalization.

Most appreciated,

~Amy Lynn Reifsnyder



**Sisters of Charity
Bottle and Can Drive
Saturday, January 9
Main Street, Baltic**



**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.

FROM THE EDITOR: THANK YOU TO THOSE OF YOU WHO MEET THE Deadline for submissions on the 15th of each month. Submissions may be e-mailed to OurTownNews@gmail.com, or mailed to Town Hall, P.O. Box 677, Baltic, CT 06330. Information: (860) 822-3000. 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.

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:** Al Hoffman, Richard Waterman, Veronica Exley and whoever else wanders through the room the day we collate.

COLLATORS NEEDED! If you have about three hours a month to share, we need people to help put the newsletter together. Train on the job!! Schedules vary, but we generally meet the last week of every month. Contact (860) 822-3000 if you want to be included in the fun!



SPORTSMEN LICENSES 2010

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

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

~Claire Glaude, Town Clerk