



OUR TOWN

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

VOLUME XX
ISSUE II
FEBRUARY 2010

INFORMATION * NEWS

You're Invited!

The Baltic Fire Engine Company # 1, aka the Baltic Volunteer Fire Department would like to invite EVERYONE to our first



Valentine's Day Breakfast
at Baltic Fire Department, 22 Bushnell Hollow Road on February 14.
8 until 11:30 a.m.

The breakfast menu will consist of pancakes with butter & syrup, sausages, home fries and eggs. Coffee, orange juice, and milk will also be offered.

The price is \$3 for children 12 & under, \$7 for ages 13 years old and older.

A flower will be given to one member of each party attending our Valentine's Day breakfast.

If you have any questions please feel free to e-mail or call Reg at reginaldpatchell@sbcglobal.net or (860) 822-6228.



Thank you so very much for your support of your volunteer fire department. All proceeds from this breakfast will go toward the 2010 Safe Halloween Program that the Baltic Volunteer Fire Fighters now run.

We hope to see everyone here.

We can even provide a microphone in case you would like a VERY PUBLIC wedding proposal.



ANIMAL ID WORKSHOP

An Animal Identification Workshop, sponsored by the Sprague Conservation Commission and a DEP Master Wildlife Conservationist will be held on Sunday, February 7 at 1 p.m in the Gristmill.

All are invited. For more information, contact Don at (860) 822-9808

TAX FORMS AVAILABLE

The Hanover Post Office has a variety of tax forms and instructions for most life circumstances from farm or business use of your home to child and elderly deductions.

We are open 8 a.m. to noon, 1 to 4:45 p.m. Feel free to call ahead to see if we have the form you are looking for, (860) 822-6250. Thank you.

~ Tracy Medling, Post Mistress

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Blood pressure screenings will be held at Sprague Town Hall on Tuesday, February 23 from noon to 1 p.m.

Adult Health Screenings, including blood pressure, cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, blood glucose, earwax, and foot care, will be held the same day from Noon to 12:30 p.m. Call (860) 456-7288 for appointments, cost and information on other services.

These services are provided by VNA East, 34 Ledgebrook Drive, Mansfield Center.

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

On behalf of the Upper New London County Service Unit of the Salvation Army, I want to thank all who donated to the Salvation Army Kettles.

Ninety percent of the money raised by the Upper New London County Service kettle drive stays in the area.

Thank you also to those who sent a check.

Information on how the Salvation Army may be of assistance is available at the library and Town Hall. For those needing food assistance, see Colette at Town Hall. Thanks to the Scouting for Food program, there are donations available.

May the Lord bless you during this hard time,

~Dennison Allen

POST 85 NEWS

Post 85 of the American Legion held their monthly meeting on January 5, with less than five members present. Due to the lack of an official quorum, official business could not be conducted.

The Post has been informed that they are currently in arrears of \$137 with the State Adjutant Office. Details will be presented when a quorum is present. Members are reminded to pay their 2010 dues if they have not already done so. This can be done by mailing a check to Post 85, P.O. Box 294, Baltic, CT 06330. Dues for 2011 will be due beginning in July.

The Post now has 40 active members, and has exceeded the American Legion percentage recruiting goal for 2009.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 2, at 7 p.m. in the Senior Center. All veterans are encouraged to attend, and consider membership. Respectfully submitted

~Thomas Coletti, Financial Officer

DTC Report

The Sprague Democratic Town Committee held its regular monthly meeting on January 7 after its caucus. First Selectman Cathy Osten reported that the cuts to municipal aid proposed by Governor Rell were voted down by the General Assembly. Our Town budget remains on track.

The Board of Finance has issued the budget call to town boards and commissions to begin the work of preparing next year's Town budget. If you have an interest in learning more about the Town Budget, you can attend Board of Finance meetings. Regular meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month and special meetings will be scheduled in March to discuss the budget. If you have an interest in the budget of a particular board or commission, you might want to find out when the budget will be discussed and attend the meeting.

Other topics discussed at the DTC meeting were the Baltic Mill Site Committee, Charter Commission, seeking input at a public hearing on planning capital projects, and updates from boards and commissions.

The DTC is still looking for new members. You can contact Susan Zimmerman at susanpzimmerman@sbcglobal.net or (860) 334-1102. If you are not interested in becoming a member but would like to receive emails about town-related activities please be in touch with Susan with your email address.

~Susan Zimmerman, DTC Chair

Baltic Fire Department Cadet Program

We are currently looking to expand our cadet program and are looking for volunteers ages 15 to 18 years of age to participate and learn the tasks and duties of firefighting or emergency medical services. Anyone interested is asked to please contact Mike St Germain at (860) 213-1629 or email michaelgermain@sbcglobal.net.

Anyone 18 or older who would like to volunteer please contact us at the firehouse on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. or call (860) 822-6580 and leave a message.

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.

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.

Ads may be pre-purchased at a rate of: Business Card \$21; Double Business Card \$40; Half Page, \$70; Full Page, \$100.

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!

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.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

Although I'm a big fan of spring, and warmer weather, these winter months are wonderful for getting lots of planning accomplished, and January was no exception. We're in the process of finalizing a capital plan, which I invite everyone to come and review at a public hearing scheduled for February—we'll let you know the date as soon as it's finalized. The Selectmen are also diligently working on the town-wide budget, which we'll be presenting to the Board of Finance at a series of meetings in February and March. January also saw the re-birth of two important committees. The Baltic Mills Committee will be comprised of a group of citizens, business people and knowledgeable professionals who will be tasked with the creation of a marketing/development plan for the site that incorporates all activity undertaken to date, including Brownfields cleanup. The Charter Commission will be re-established to review, assess and revise as appropriate the previous Commission's work, for possible presentation to the Town in November.

Our RFP for ADA accessible renovations at the Library/Grist Mill will be going out in February, and so it's time to schedule another public hearing regarding community needs for the 2010-11 DECD/Small Cities funding round. Again, we'll let you know as soon as that date is finalized—watch your local papers for announcements.

Only two more months until we can finish planting the 1,000 daffodils and lilies that will be replacing some of the harder-to-mow banks and grassy strips in the villages. But if you can't wait to volunteer to help with *that* bit of exercise, there's always the 1-mile Baltic Reservoir loop, or a nice brisk hike with the kids and dogs in the Land Preserve. Enjoy the rest of the winter!