



VOLUME XX
ISSUE III
MARCH 2010

OUR TOWN

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

INFORMATION * NEWS

FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN ~ Cathy Osten

As most of you know, this is going to be an extremely difficult budget year, both on the state level and here in local municipalities. The governor's office is trying to cut the deficit and towns are trying to retain as many allocated funds as possible to maintain necessary services. I've been up at the capital nearly every day this past month, keeping an eye on those funds that Sprague depends upon, to make sure that state cuts have as little negative impact as possible on services here in town. Some of these important allocations include the continued payment of Town Aid Road funds, upon which we depend for much of our winter road maintenance. I've also advocated for legislation allowing town employees and other small businesses to participate in the state employee prescription drug program, to help offset growing insurance costs. Changes in regulations concerning legal notices in the paper could also save our town thousands of dollars a year. Many other cuts have been proposed, and I will continue to monitor their status and their potential effect on the town; it's my intention, however, to not raise taxes this year and I'm going to try very hard to achieve that goal.

Some good news:

Mulch will be available to the public at the transfer station beginning in April. We're chipping all the brush we cut around town, and are urging all residents to bring their brush to the transfer station so we can make more mulch with the help of that fabulous SCCRRRA chipper/mulcher that we'll have on site several times this season. *NOTE: The Gate Hours at the Transfer Station are Monday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

- The big (southwest) dam at the Baltic Reservoir will be repaired this spring; work will be completed by June. Please bear with New England Infrastructure as it conducts these repairs—they will be blocking off that area of the reservoir loop for several weeks.
- We're going to start some renovations to the ice skating pond this month, and you'll probably see some clearing at that area, along with some new trees and shrubs planted courtesy of another DEP Urban Forestry grant. Long-term plans include a renovated seating area and rebuilt fire pit, plus some cleanup of the pond itself so that it's attractive to both people and wildlife all year round.
- I appreciate all of you and everything you do to support the Town. Special thanks to the young ladies of the Academy of the Holy Family and their newly formed environmental committee. The presentation they made at the March Board of Selectmen was enlightening, I look forward to their help in keeping the Town clean!



SPRAGUE GARDEN CLUB

The garden club will meet on Thursday, April 1, 7 p.m. at the Senior Center.

Dave Candler, consulting rosarian, will be our guest speaker. Mr. Candler is accredited by the American Rose Society and an executive member of the Connecticut Rose Society. If you are interested in roses or have a rose problem, please join us for a very informative meeting. We welcome new members, and would enjoy meeting you. Refreshments will be served. Please feel free to call me if you have any questions: Jan Settje, Secretary, (860) 822-6520.

TIME TO HOUSECLEAN THE BLUEBIRD BOXES

Spring is here and the bluebirds have already been looking for homes here in Sprague. For those of you who have bluebird houses, also called nest boxes, the house should be of a design that allows the side or front to be opened so that the cavity can be cleaned out for each nesting season.

The Eastern Bluebird, *Sialia sialis* is bird about the same size as a sparrow, and the male of the species has a brilliant blue head and back and rust colored breast. The blue color of the female is less prominent. They are easily distinguished from the Blue Jay, which is larger, has a crest as well as an arrogant attitude, and is commonly seen at bird feeders throughout the winter.

There are websites dedicated to informing the public about bluebirds. The State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection has an excellent website, and it includes plans for building nest boxes and instructions for ideal locations for the nest boxes.

Early spring is the time to have the nest boxes ready for the bluebirds. For those houses already installed, you should remove old nest materials, and you may find it necessary to remove winter boarders, such as field mice. So get those nesting boxes cleaned or installed. There may be bluebirds in your neighborhood just waiting to move in and brighten your day.

~Richard Waterman, Hanover.

SENIOR RAFFLE - SHOWERS, EASTER, AND SPRING BASKET

We would like to fill nine baskets by September 30, 2010. Each month will have a different theme. April is a "Showers, Easter and Spring Basket," May is "Gardening," etc. Raffle tickets will be available October 1 thru November 30. Tickets are three (3) for \$1.00. Tickets will be drawn at our annual Smilers Christmas Party on the first Saturday in December.

State guidelines are as follows: Each basket cannot be worth more than \$100 and the baskets cannot contain cash, lottery tickets, alcohol, or any form of gift cards. Also, an itemized list of the contents of the basket must be submitted. Items for basket can be placed in the wagon located in rear of Senior Center Hall.

Come to our Smilers meeting held on the last Thursday of each month for more information. There isn't a committee for this project. Let us all, Smilers rally together and make this Raffle a success.

~Project Co-Chairmen – Marie A. Davis & Pauline Charron

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Blood pressure screenings will be held at Sprague Town Hall on **Tuesday, April 27** from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 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.

GREETING CARDS

Hand-made, unique greeting cards are on sale at the Sprague Senior Center, 1 Main Street, Baltic, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cards cost \$1.50 each

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.

POST 85 NEWS

Post 85 meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Senior Center, 1 Main Street, Baltic, beginning at 7 p.m. All veterans of all wars are invited to participate. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 6.

At the March meeting, three guests were present: Peter Synnott, US Army, Vietnam Era; Nelson Coutemanche Sr., former member of Post 85, and present Floridian Legionnaire; and Joe Charron, Grand Knight of Baltic Council 2336, Knights of Columbus.

A call roster has been initiated to remind members of upcoming meetings, so that a quorum can be present to attend to formal business.

Legionnaire Cathy Osten updated the Post to the status of the Land Lease Committee. She reported that a formal letter and bill would be sent by the Town Administration to the Post requesting delinquent fees for the lease agreement be paid, approximately \$17. Mr. Nelson Coutemanche then donated \$20 for the payment of the bill. The membership thanks Mr. Coutemanche for his generosity.

Osten also reported that the Town had cleaned up the River Street site and would maintain the area by grass cutting and attending to other needs as determined by the Town Maintenance Department. A River Street Land Use Committee was formed to discuss land use, and the possible construction of pavilions, gazebo, etc.

Legionnaire Edgar Daigneault made a valid point when he asked Osten if taxpayers would object to the River Street land being maintained by the Town while leased to the Post. She responded that she would check with the Town Legal Counsel, but in her opinion, the Town could not do enough for the Post, and any veteran in the area. She felt strongly that it would not be an issue. She also stated that as the land was developed by the Post, and profits were reported regularly, then maintenance would be turned over to the Post. Osten said she would also address insurance liability with the Town Counsel, but it was her belief that the land was covered by the Town's insurance. More is to follow on this issue.

Grand Knight Charron and Daigneault presented their findings on the possibility of a cooperative building project between the Post and the Knights of Columbus at the KofC's High Street property (formerly Hill Top Restaurant). It was decided that the Post could not entertain this idea at this time, due to financial restraints. Ongoing communication will continue.

Tim Brodeur has created a Web site for the post: www.post85.webs.com. Minutes and other information will be posted.

ATTENTION VETERANS AND FAMILIES: The Town is in the process of creating a new memorial plaque to honor those who lived in and entered the service from Sprague during the designated years as determined for World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon/Granada, Panama, and the Gulf Wars. Anyone who has not already contacted Town Hall is asked to do so, so their name can be included. The Post and the Town hope to have the plaque ready by Veteran's Day, November 11, 2010.

Taken from the minutes

~Respectfully submitted by Tom Coletti, Financial Officer

DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

At the March Democratic Town Committee, members invited Democratic candidate for Governor Dan Malloy to speak. At the end of the evening, members voted to endorse Candidate Malloy for Governor.

Officers elected at the March meeting are

Susan Zimmerman	Chair
Claire Glaude	Secretary
Jeannette Deschamps	Treasurer

The DTC invites interested Democrats to attend the candidate forum on Wednesday, March 31 at 7 p.m. at Sayles School. Candidates for State Treasurer, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and Secretary of State will be speaking.

If you have any questions or wish to know more about the work of the Democratic Town Committee, please contact Susan Zimmerman at (860) 822-6767 or susanzimmerman@sbcglobal.net.

SENIORS ADOPT-A-SOLDIER

Sprague Seniors have adopted Sgt. Heather A. Brisson as their soldier in care. Interested parties are invited to contact Sgt. Brisson, and send goodies such as freeze dried fruits, organic energy drinks, DS games for Nintendo, itunes download cards, pictures of home, and information about any recent events. Her address is

SGT Brisson, Heather A
250th Engineer CO MRBC
APO AE 09322.

OUR TOWN

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS HIGH SCHOOL

Community Connections High School, a Big Picture inspired school is now accepting applications for the fall of 2010. CCHS opened in the fall of 2008 and adheres to the Big Picture philosophy that students learn best when they are actively engaged in their own education through personalized learning, authentic work, adult mentors and family involvement.

Dennis Littky and Elliot Washor created and designed The Big Picture Company twelve years ago. There are now over seventy Big Picture schools throughout the United States. Community Connections is one of three Big Picture schools located in Connecticut.

CCHS is a college preparatory-based program accentuating the value of personalized education, learning through internships, and a curriculum that is based on individual student's needs and passions.

Located on Railroad Avenue in Plainfield, CCHS is a Lisbon district school which accepts students from surrounding towns (Sprague included) which have declared Community Connections to be a school of choice for its high school bound students. For application information or to schedule a visit, please contact Director Heather Mileski at (860) 319-9733 or via email at hmileski@lisbonschool.org.

HYDRANT FLUSHING

The Sprague Water & Sewer Authority will be flushing hydrants during the week of April 12 through 16. Water pressure may be reduced slightly, and a little discoloration of water may occur during this procedure. The Authority regrets any problems this may cause, but the hydrants must be flushed periodically to maintain quality water and to insure hydrants are operable in case of an emergency. If you have any questions, call (860) 822-3005.

SPRAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARY BAKE AND BOOK SALE

**MONDAY, MAY 31, MEMORIAL DAY
11:30 A.M. TO 2 P.M.**

Stop by the library to browse our book, DVD, and VHS sale table before and after our town's Memorial Day Parade.
Sample our homemade baked goods!

Money collected from the sales will be used to purchase a 26-volume Britannica Student Encyclopedia set. These encyclopedias are created for ages 10 through 17, giving young learners excellent access to information needed for school projects and homework.

For more information, or if you would like to make a baked good, or give a monetary donation, contact Renee at sprague_piano_teacher@yahoo.com, or the library at (860) 822-3012



SPRAGUE SCHOOL DISTRICT Baltic – Hanover – Versailles Kindergarten (Full-day) Registration

Registration will be held on Thursday, April 29, 2010 from 9:30am-2:30am at

**Sayles School
25 Scotland Road
Baltic, CT 06330
(860) 822-8264**

Sayles School is currently conducting kindergarten registration for the 2010-2011 school year. Parents of children who will be five years old by January 1, 2011 must provide birth certificates, social security numbers and immunization records for rubella, measles, polio, mumps, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B and chicken pox. Parents also need to provide three proofs of residency showing the street address.

It is important that all students planning to attend full-day kindergarten during the 2010-2011 school year be registered as soon as possible. Please call 822-8264 Ext. 100 for a registration packet or if you have any questions.

NEWSLETTER TITLE

EASTER EGG HUNT

**SATURDAY, APRIL 3
9 A.M. AT BALTIC LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD**

Categories: To Kindergarten, Grades 1 to 3,
Grades 4 to 6

Information: Call Craig at (860) 822-1339
Sponsored by Sprague Park and Rec

SENIORS CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY

The seniors held a St. Patrick's Day luncheon on March 17, at noon. Corned beef, cabbage, carrots, rolls, dessert and coffee was served. Forty-seven hungry leprechauns enjoyed this delicious meal catered by TJ's Café. The craft group was recognized for their charming decorative napkins. The women wore green carnations and the men wore green bow ties. Thanks to Claire Glaude for sewing all the bow ties and thank you Pat Deslandes and Marie Davis for organizing this wonderful event!!

CHARITY EVENT

FOR LINDA ALLEN (LAVIGNE)

PASTA DINNER and D.J.

at

MOOSE LODGE

950 FITCHVILLE ROAD

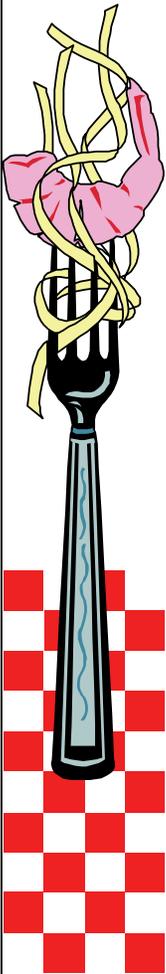
BOZRAH

SUNDAY, MAY 2 * 4 TO 7 P.M.

Tickets: \$10.00 per person

CARDS AND DONATIONS:

c/o TJ's Café, PO Box 86, Baltic, CT 06330



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 Reifsnyder; **Editorial Assistant:** Colette Hoffman

**NEXT COLLATING PARTY SATURDAY, APRIL 24,
8 a.m. Late arrivals welcome, too!**