



VOLUME XX
ISSUE VI
JUNE 2010

OUR TOWN

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

INFORMATION * NEWS

From the First Selectman

May has been a nice month and June (I hope) will be even better. Please come out and enjoy the lovely weather by taking a walk on the Sprague Land Preserve, at the River Park or around the Reservoir (hopefully the work on the southwest dam will be completed by the end of June).

There are several paving projects from last year (Parkwood Road, Hazelwood Road, Bay Street, Fifth Avenue and Hanover Versailles) that final touches will be done on over the next few weeks. We plan on working on drainage on Potash Hill Road as well as minor curbing concerns during the months of July and August.

We have applied for a grant to work on Upper High Street and High Street drainage which will include sidewalk improvements. We intend the grant to allow this work to be started and completed on Upper High Street over the next year.

Sweeping and roadside mowing are ongoing and will be all summer.

We will be cutting and removing trees throughout the Town in particular on Salt Rock Road. Please help yourself to the byproducts of this activity. We also have had a tub grinder come in at no cost to us, chipping the brush at the transfer station into mulch. Again please help yourself to the byproducts of this activity.

The ball fields are all in use as is the skateboard park. Signs honoring past volunteers will be refurbished and new signs required on skateboard park usage will be put up in the next few weeks. We will be enforcing good stewardship of the recreation area, in particular the skateboard area. Your children should know that the park is a gift from the taxpayers and local businesses and should treat it with respect.

This is the month we remember those who have served in the service and gave their lives so that we may be free. Come and join us May 31 as we remember the soldiers that served the country.

We are also planning a new memorial in the park area. This memorial will honor those inadvertently left off of the other memorials and honor those not yet recognized who have served in other conflicts. The memorial design will be developed by Post 85 American Legion members. The memorial will be funded by donations which can be given to Jeanette Deschamps (Town Treasurer).

A special thank you to Armand Glaude for refurbishing the benches from the memorial park, soon to be placed along the river near the Grist Mill.

Many thanks to those who took the time to vote on the budget; I appreciate your support.

June brings warm weather so take time to sit outside, read a book, take a walk, smell the flowers and listen to the sounds of nature.

~Catherine Osten, First Selectman

AARP DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM

Sprague Senior Center

June 15 and 16

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Attendance at both sessions required

Cost: National AARP

Members \$12

Non-Members \$14

Register with Buddy Meadows,
Senior Center Coordinator,
(860) 822-3000, ext. 203

DOG LICENSING MONTH IS JUNE

\$8.00 for spayed or neutered dogs; \$19.00 for male or female dogs

Office hours: Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday until 5:30

If licensing for the first time: Proof of rabies vaccinations and castration certificate must be presented before license is issued.

If mailing in renewal:

1. If during the past year your dog has been spayed/neutered or a rabies vaccination was given by the vet, mail papers with the check and we will return them with the new tag.

2. A self-addressed stamped envelope must be enclosed.

3. Mail to: Town Clerk, PO Box 162, Baltic, CT 06330

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

~Claire B. Glaude, Town Clerk

OUR TOWN

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 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.

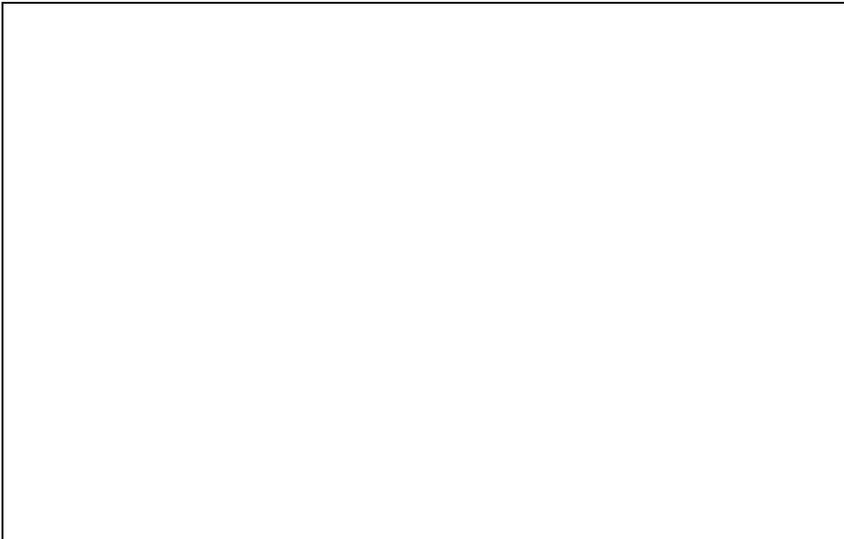
Come to our Smilers meeting held on the last Thursday of each month for more information. There isn't a committee for this project. Let us all, Smilers, rally together and make this Raffle a success.

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

HEALTH SCREENINGS

Blood pressure screenings will be held at Sprague Town Hall on **Tuesday, June 22** from 11:45 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.



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.



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

DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

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, June 1.**

At the May meeting, an official quorum was present to carry on Post business.

Financial matters were discussed. Lynn Lessard, Joe Osowski, Will Chabotte, and William LeClair, Tim Brodeaur, Commander Dave Salemma, and Financial Officer, Tom Coletti were recognized for their efforts to make the April 10 tag sale a "complete success." A deposit of \$618.00 was made. Another tag sale is tentatively scheduled for October.

The new memorial plaque is being designed with hopes of being available for Memorial Day 2011, during the 150 year celebration of the Town of Sprague. Any veteran whose name is not currently included on other town memorial plaques is requested to contact Town Clerk Claire Glaude, (860) 822-3000, 220.

Volunteers from the post will place flags on the graves of deceased veterans in honor of Memorial Day.

Taken from the minutes

~Respectfully submitted by Tom Coletti, Financial Officer

This month Sprague Democratic Town Committee met with Democratic candidates for judge of probate, George Kennedy and Bob Zarnetske. We were pleased to have the retiring judge of probate, Linda Salafia, and her clerk, Eileen Robbins, as special guests.

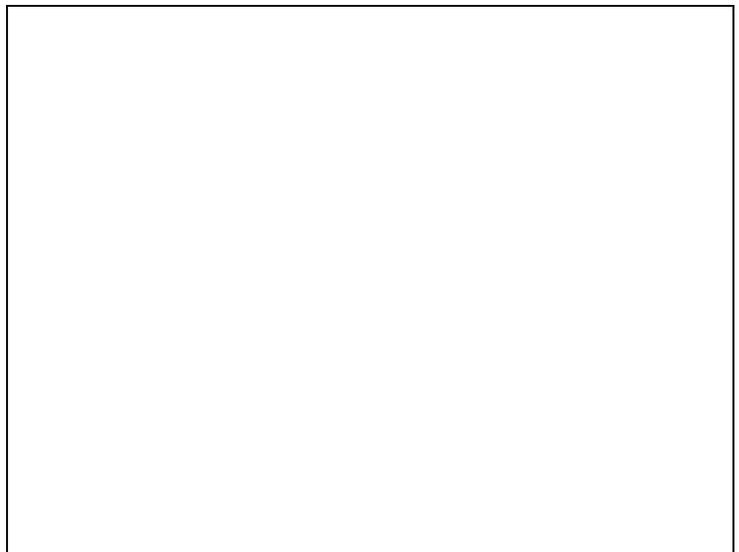
The DTC has endorsed Dick Blumenthal for US Senate, Joe Courtney for US Congress, Kevin Lembo for Lt. Governor, Denise Merrill for Secretary of the State, Nancy Wyman for State Comptroller, Edith Prague for State Senate and Cathy Osten for State Representative.

Delegates will be attending nominating conventions in May. The Democratic Town Committee meets on the first Thursday of the month. If you have an interest in joining the Sprague DTC or would like further information, please contact Susan Zimmerman at susanpzimmerman@sbcglobal.net or (860) 334-1102.

~Susan Zimmerman, Chairman



... to Pat Deslandes for the donation of a CD player to the collating volunteers. We now have Books on Tape or really cool music to listen to if our conversations run dry. Thank you!



OUR TOWN

Branching Out.....

Notes from the Tree Warden

Spring is upon us once again – a little faster than ‘normal’ and a lot wetter than normal – but here just the same. And with the flowers blooming and warm gorgeous days starts the ever popular yard sale, tag sale, charity event and family party season. Just a reminder – as Tree Warden I choose to enforce Connecticut state statutes that prohibit the attaching of signs to public trees and light poles. Whether you are selling your possessions or cookies, raising money for a ‘good cause’ with a road race or a pig roast or giving directions for a family baby shower – use stakes or wire frames to put signs and posters around town -- AND REMEMBER TO REMOVE THEM.

Some interesting items:

The huge storms this Spring caused major damage and headaches throughout the State. At a meeting recently a CL&P representative explained to the Tree Wardens the difficulties encountered in the southwest part of the state after the March 13 storm (the storm that the governor is ‘investigating’ for power delays). With the help of 60 out-of-state power crews and many tree companies, CL&P ultimately replaced over 500 power poles and 61 miles of power lines – just in Fairfield county!

The Asian Longhorn Beetle quarantine in the Worcester, Massachusetts area has been expanded to **74 square miles!** Be on the “look out” for this boring pest and it’s “cousin”, the Emerald Ash Borer.

An additional 200 pine seedlings have been ordered to plant at the Reservoir to continue establishing a proper leaf screen around the perimeter. Most of the trees planted so far survived this past winter and are getting established.

The maple sugaring season was a “bust” this year. The shortest sap gathering time on record, caused by temperatures not going below freezing at night, will result in much higher prices this year for the “real” syrup.

Please remember while doing regular Spring clean up yard work or major landscaping projects that the trees within the right-of-way along town roads are **public trees** and therefore require the permission of the Tree Warden before being pruned or removed. I will assess each tree and “post” it as necessary. I continue to rely on the road crew and the public for additional input about tree situations around town.

Enjoy all the wonderful blooms and blossoms.

~Dave Gustafson
Tree Warden

BOTTLE AND CAN DRIVE

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

SISTERS OF CHARITY
MOTHER HOUSE
MAIN STREET, BAL TIC



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.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED THESE PAST THREE YEARS!