



OUR TOWN

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

VOLUME XX
ISSUE VII
JULY 2010

INFORMATION * NEWS

EDITOR WANTED

The position of editor for the Our Town newsletter is open. Job requirements include collecting information from town commissions and committees (via email and hard copy), editing submissions, contacting advertisers, maintaining payment records, organizing volunteers, collating (stapling, folding and mailing) newsletter, and other duties that arise related to the task.

Report to First Selectman.

Time commitment per month varies.

Contact Barbara Silvestri, Selectman Executive Assistant, (860) 822-3000, ext. 201.

Position open immediately.

COLLATORS NEEDED

Volunteers needed to staple, fold, and bundle newsletters on a monthly basis. If interested, contact Barbara Silvestri, (860) 822-3000, ext. 201.

Dear Readers,

This is indeed my last edition as editor of the Our Town newsletter. Thank you for your submissions and feedback over the past three years. The position of editor is open, and collators are always needed to staple, fold and mail the newsletter. Please contact Town Hall if you are interested.

~ Amy Lynn Reifsnyder

SUMMER REC PROGRAM

The summer recreation program for youth ages Kindergarten through grade 8 will be held at Blanchette Field, beginning Monday, July 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and ending on July 20. Coach Jones and Coach Fitzgerald will head up the program, doing all sports. Cost of the program is \$15 per week or \$50 for four weeks. Grants are available for those who qualify. For more information, contact Noreen at (860) 822-1829. Registration forms are available at Town Hall, 1 Main St., Baltic.

Sponsored by Sprague Park & Rec.

FROM THE TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

The first installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes will become due and payable on July 1, 2010. Motor Vehicle tax bills will also become due and payable on July 1, 2010. You will have the entire month of July to pay taxes. Taxes unpaid as of August 2, 2010 will become delinquent and will be subject to 3 percent interest, from then on additional interest of 1-1/2 percent per month (18 percent annually) will be charged. You may pay all bills—Real Estate, Personal Property, and Motor Vehicles—with one check. If you pay by mail, and would like a receipt, please mail entire tax bill and a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your payment. Taxpayers needing an immediate clearance for the registration of a delinquent motor vehicle must pay by cash, money order, or certified check.

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

~Mary B. Chartier, CCMC, Tax Collector

Tax Collector's Hours: Monday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to Noon
Wednesdays, 2 to 5:30 p.m.

Assessor's Hours: Mondays, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tuesdays, 7 a.m. to Noon

THANK YOU



We wish to thank all those who participated in our
Memorial Day Parade and helped to make it a great success.



Parade Committee

OUR TOWN

SPRAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Yes, the SCC is alive and well in Sprague. Our commission meets on the second Monday of each month and is very active in our community. Please join us and our effort to conserve and preserve our vital natural resources in our wonderful little town.

Our first order of business is to welcome our newest member, Ali Blanchard. I am excited to have some new young blood and fresh ideas on our team. Ali will be a great asset to our commission.

We have been working on the following projects:

The DEP land acquisition-grant application for the Watson property is into the state. We have a great opportunity to preserve approximately 230 acres adjacent to the Sprague Preserve at no cost to the town. This is a rare opportunity offered to us by the Watson family who would like to protect this beautiful piece of property from development.

The River Park: you might have seen volunteers spreading loam, fertilizing and spread seed and crossing their fingers for a better crop of grass. Pray for rain. Also we would like to thank volunteers Freda and Delor Mossey for donating and Kathleen Boushee for planting day lilies at the park. There will also soon be a new tree, also donated.

Sprague Preserve: The state archeologist and a team of archeologists surveyed the property for possible site to do dig this fall. They and the Arthur Basto Archeology Society will be hosting a historical dig possible in September and other prehistorical digs to follow. Anyone interested in helping email me at donaldboushee@sbcglobal.net. Together we can make a difference.

Well that's it for this month. Enjoy the beginning of summer. Appreciate each moment, they pass sooooo quickly.

~Don Boushee, SCC Chairman

BUS SCHEDULE

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.

DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

Thirteen members attended the regular June meeting of the Sprague DTC. Members discussed the results of the nominating conventions in May and plans for supporting nominated candidates in the primary.

Congratulations to First Selectman Cathy Osten on her nomination as the Democratic candidate for state representative from the 47th assembly district. Cathy will be seeking the seat currently held by Rep. Chris Coutu. If elected, she plans to remain as First Selectman, as the representative seat is a part-time position.

If interested in being involved in Cathy's campaign or in donating to her election fund, please contact campaign chair Susan Zimmerman.

The DTC will not meet in July. The next regular meeting is **Thursday, August 5.**

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

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

At the June meeting of Post 85, nomination and election of officers took place. Officers for the July 2010 through July 2011 terms are

Commander David Salemma

Adjutant Douglas Patrick

Financial Officer Thomas Coletti

Senior Vice Commander Wilfred Zinavage

Junior Vice Commander Timothy Brodeur

Chaplain Joseph Osowski

Sergeant –at– Arms Christopher Meuller.

Two new member applications were submitted. Jeremy Mish, USN—Gulf War and Brian Kalinowski, Army NG—Gulf War will be added to the membership roster as of July 1.

A new memorial plaque is being developed. Any veteran whose name has not been included in previous plaques is asked to contact Town Hall to be included on the new plaque.

Another tag sale is tentatively planned for Saturday, October 2 at TJ's Café parking lot (Thank you, TJ's!).

NOTE: The next meeting will be held **Tuesday, September 7, 2010** at the Senior Center.

Taken from the minutes

~Respectfully submitted by Tom Coletti, Financial Officer

HEALTH SCREENINGS

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

Adult Health Screenings, including blood pressure, cholesterol, blood glucose, earwax, and foot care will be held on **Tuesday, July 27** also 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.

OUR TOWN

Branching Out.....

Notes from the Tree Warden

Sadly, vandalism recently done on the tall maple tree planted in the Baltic playground (behind Town Hall) will probably result in that tree dying. In addition to five or six of the lower limbs getting snapped off within the first month after planting, the recent damage was done by peeling three feet of the bark off half the diameter of the tree. Removing the bark subjects the wood to the air, dries the wood out and allows bugs and diseases direct access to the wood. I trimmed the ripped portion of the bark back to a point where the bark is 'solid' – that is about all that can be done other than “wait and see” whether the tree was mature enough to ‘fight’ off this severe injury. The other ‘new’ maple planted in the playground has also had several of the limbs snapped off. The maple trees planted at the ball fields several years ago have also been repeatedly damaged. Originally I planted seven trees – three had to be replaced the following Spring and one replaced the year after that – and now there are six. So six remain out of eleven trees getting planted. Not a very good return on your tax dollars. All of these trees died because they were damaged to the point they couldn't recover. Please – if you see anyone damaging the trees in Town – call someone and report the activity – the State Trooper, the First Selectman, me or anyone at Town Hall.

The Town and I plant new trees to eventually provide shade, replace the oldest trees before they die and to replace trees that have to be removed for various reasons (I always plant at least one tree for each one that gets removed). Even though I *usually* buy all our trees at a great discount during the nurseries fall “yard sale”, my budget still only allows for 5 or 6 trees a year. Sometimes it feels like swimming against the tide, but I'll keep planting.

Thanks to everyone who has been using sticks and wires to put up signs rather than attaching them to trees and poles.

~Dave Gustafson
Tree Warden

LADIES AUXILIARY

The regular meeting of the Auxiliary was held on Tuesday, June 8, at the firehouse.

Our main event of the year will again be our **Holly Jolly Bazaar**. The date for this event is **Saturday, November 27**. We will have table space available for rental. Table rental letters will be going out in early September. If you are already on our list, you will receive a letter at that time. If you are interested in getting detailed information on this event, please call me at (860) 822-8331 and leave your name, address and phone number.

Be sure to watch upcoming issues of “Our Town” for any additional information on our activities.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 14**, 2010 at 7 pm at the fire house.

Please 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.

Sincerely,
Jeannette Deschamps, Secretary



To all of those who have
been a part of the
Our Town Newsletter
Production Staff!

Colette Hoffman
Claire Glaude
Al Hoffman
John Ellis
Al Grenier
Rita Grenier
Veronica Exley
Dennison Allen
Richard Waterman
Joe Osowski
Jeanette Bastien
Cecile Gagnon
Barbara Robitaille
Jeannett Deschamps
Anita Reguin
Shirley Fielding
Peg, Myrtle, Brian, Ayesha,
And the other anonymous
volunteers!

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!