



OUR TOWN

Information and News

SERVING THE VILLAGES OF BALTIC, HANOVER, AND VERSAILLES
In the beautiful Shetucket River Valley
December, 2010

FOOD PANTRY



A Bountiful Thank You
to all who donated food.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to Harry Segerstrom and the Cub Scout Pack #19 and all others who participated in collecting non-perishable food items for the Sprague Food Pantry.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU also to the volunteers for sorting through and stacking the food into the Food P-



Energy Assistance Applications

Energy Assistance applications will be taken by Ana Lassu. Please contact Buddy Meadows for appointments at 860-822-3000, ext. 203.

Thank you,
Buddy Meadows

Sisters of Charity Can & Bottle Drive Saturday, December 4th

Please drop off items on the porch in the back driveway area of the Motherhouse Between 9:00 a.m. and noon. For more information, please call: 860-822-8241

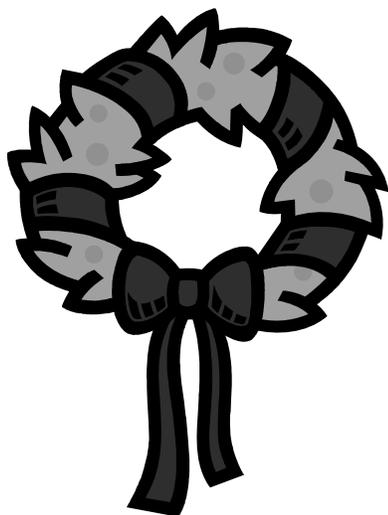
Saturday, December 4th at 5:30 p.m.
Friends of Troop 19 Annual Auction



Start your holiday shopping on Saturday December 4th at the Baltic Volunteer Fire Department, Route 138 Baltic.

Auction Items to include: One Day Sailing Trip, Wood Identification Class, Handmade Red Oak Bookcase, Folding Adirondack Chair, Connecticut Tigers Tickets, Gift Certificates, Essex Train & Boat Ride, O'Neil Theatre Certificates and Much More!

Refreshments Available! A Great Place to Start your Holiday Shopping! Auction to Benefit the Boy Scout Troop #19, Sprague, CT. To donate, advertise or for more information, contact Harry Segerstrom Sr. at 860-822-6235



**Baltic Fire Department
Christmas Fund Raiser**

The Baltic Fire Department will have beautiful holiday wreaths for sale on Saturday, December 4th starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Baltic Fire Department.

Come to the Boy Scout Troop 19's Auction and stop by the Baltic Fire Department table and show your support!

Safety in the Kitchen

KEEPING OUR SENIORS SAFE PROGRAM
Presented by the Baltic Fire Department



December 9, 2010 at 11:00 am
Sprague Senior Center



Lunch will be served and turkeys will be given!
For more information, contact Donna at 860-334-5385.

Basket Bash Bonanza & Silent Auction

Sayles School Gym 25 Scotland Rd. Baltic

To support Sayles School Class of 2011

December 3, 2010 from 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Cost: Tickets are \$5.00 for 20

Join us for our basket bash and silent auction! All profits will go to the Class of 2011 for graduation and end of year activities.



Please contact Michele Sharpe at 822-8264 ext. 121 for more info.

Sprague Garden Club Update

On November 3rd, we met at LaFrancois Florist to create seasonal arrangements. Those who attended enjoyed assembling wreaths, centerpieces and other holiday arrangements.

On December 4th, members will meet at the Heritage Winery and Café in Lisbon for a holiday luncheon and gift exchange.

January is our month to hibernate, leaf through seed catalogs and plan for a new garden year.

On February 2, at 6 p.m. we will meet at the Senior Center for a night of reminiscing. Members are asked to bring old photos pertaining to the club. If you were once a club member, we would love to have you join us for an evening of fun.

Would you like to join the club? Please call me at 860-822-6520, speak to a member or drop by our meeting in February. The public is invited.

Jan Settje, Secretary
860-822-6520

Scouting For Food Drive A HUGE Success

Amazing! That is the one word I can think of to describe the support the people of Sprague gave to us in this annual event.

With today's economy, this shows that the American spirit of giving is alive and well in the town of Sprague.

We collected 2643 items to restock the town food bank. Items can be brought to the town hall during business hours.

I would like to say, thank you to everyone who donated food items for this event. Thank you to the Cub Scout families who put out the food bags and helped pick up the food, and to Carastar for once again, donating the boxes to sort and store the food.

Thank you again, Harry Segerstrom Sr.

Sprague Community Center Up-Coming Events

“Serving the People of Sprague”
22 West Main Street, Baltic, CT 06330
860-822-6595

Email: spraguecommunitycenter@gmail.com

After a very busy November, the Sprague Community Center is getting ready for the activities that will take place in December.

We will start off with the newly organized Yoga Classes that are given on Monday evenings from 6:15-7:15 p.m. If you are interested in taking Yoga Classes, please give Christine Jabionsky a call at 860-822-1912.

The holiday season will be soon be upon us and the Sprague Community Center will be having “Breakfast with Santa” on December 11th from 8:00-10:30 a.m. Admission will be \$ 5.00 per person. In addition to a great homemade breakfast, children and adults can have their pictures taken with Santa and then have some time to make a Christmas ornament. This is always a fun activity. Announcements will be distributed to all of the schools in Sprague with a return slip for number of family members attending this activity. This will help us in planning for the amount of food to be prepared for the breakfast. If you don’t have children in school and want to attend the Santa Breakfast, please call the Center and make a reservation at 860-822-6595 or email spraguecommunitycenter@gmail.com

Our 3rd Wednesday Community Prayer Service will be held on December 15th at 7:00 p.m. The theme for this Service will be, “ A Blue Christmas.” This special service will be focusing on those who have recently experienced personal loss and/ or economic difficulties and need some additional support during the holiday season.

A special Christmas Eve Service will be held on Friday, December 24th at 5:00 p.m. A night for reflection on the reason for the season mixed with Christmas music. Come and share in a special evening of Christmas thoughts and music.

Watch for details for some Christmas Caroling during the month of December. If you are interested in joining a group that will be Christmas Caroling, please call the Center at 860-822-6595 or email spraguecommunitycenter@gmail.com

The Center will be working with the Sprague Library with a “Christmas Gift Giving Tree.” The Christmas tree will be in the lobby of the Library with gift tags for children and their families in Sprague. You can select a gift tag, purchase the gift, and put it under the tree. Please do not wrap the gift. We will do all of the wrapping at the Center.

The Center is also working with the schools to assist in providing gifts for families that are in need. If anyone would like to donate gift certificates or gifts, please call the Center at 860-822-6595 or email: spraguecommunitycenter@gmail.com

On behalf of the Sprague Community Center, I want to wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy new year.

Sincerely,
Brenda J. Keefe, Outreach Coordinator

From the Desk of the First Selectman

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for voting in this past election—we had a great turnout! I think it is an honor to participate in this process we call Democracy.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving, we have so much to be thankful for here in Sprague family, friends and of course good neighbors. In that light, our food bank is overflowing with items received from the boy scouts can drive—and the Cascade workers food drive matched by Cascade. If you know anyone in need, please have them call the town hall for assistance. We are also helping with submitting applications for heating assistance; call the town hall to set up an appointment.

As usual, we're all looking forward to the Christmas season here at Town Hall—all three villages do a wonderful job of decorating for the holidays. Of course, the Veteran's Memorial Park will have its usual lighted trees and gazebo.

I am hard at work preparing for next year's budget along with updating the 5 year capital plans. We have accomplished so much in such a short time frame but my goal is to do more with less and not cut services. It is nice to have you all working side by side with me. Thanks so much!

By the way our Resident State Trooper--- John Patterson may be leaving us. I want to thank him for all he has done to make this a safe environment for the citizens of Sprague. I will miss him and I know you will too.

I feel blessed to be part of our big family in Sprague; I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season.

Cathy Osten, First Selectman

American Legion Post 85 Minutes from 11/2/10

Commander Dave Salemma opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Financial Officer Tom Coletti took the roll call and noted that there were 9 of the 43 members in attendance. The Financial Officer noted that an official quorum was present to carry on Post business. The Commander led the Pledge of Allegiance and the salute to the Colors. He then said a small prayer due to the absence of the Chaplain. The Commander also included the passing of Legionnaire Al Phillips (Korean War Veteran) in the Post prayer who had died in October. The Post members acknowledge the passing of one of their own and discussion followed after the prayer. All present acknowledged and send their condolences to his family. The Post thanks him for his service to our country. He will be missed. The Commander then asked that the minutes of the October meeting be read by the Financial Officer. The minutes were accepted as read.

The Commander opened the floor to official business. The Financial Officer noted that there was no notification for new member applications but that there was one application still in process at this time. The Financial Officer also noted that one member was still recovering from surgery he underwent last month and continues his recuperation at the Norwich Convalescence Home. The Post members wished Legionnaire Edgar Daigneault a speedy recovery. Bill Mish informed the membership that Legionnaire Will Chabotte had also undergone surgery and is expected to recover completely. The membership expressed their concern and wished him a speedy recovery as well.

The Commander asked if there were any hardship cases reported to anyone present of Post members or any Veterans in need of financial assistance. None were reported but the Commander emphasized that any Post member or Town veteran could call him. He would assure them that he would put them in contact with professionals organized by the American Legion where help was available. All information will be handled confidentially by the American Legion professionals.

Three topics were discussed under unfinished business. Wreath making was cancelled due to the membership's agreement that they did not want to interfere with another organization's fund raiser that was announced in 'Our Town'. A 50/50 club that was suggested by Don Bastien last month was discussed, voted on and accepted as a fund raiser for the Post. Profits from the 50/50 club would be used to purchase stuffed animal as presents in support of needy charitable organizations. The Post members selected Legionnaire Don Bastien as the chair person of the fundraiser who will maintain the money and books. Jr. Vice Commander Tim Brodeur asked that the Post members log on to the Internet at www.post85.webs.com and update or include any information they would care to share with the other Post members. He also stated that he would be taking pictures of the members at the next Post meeting.

The Commander asked permission to spend approximately \$150.00 to buy new slings for all, a locking bolt for one and more blanks for the Springfield rifles used during the Memorial Day festivities. Permission was granted by the membership.

Legionnaire Don Bastien asked that the membership consider obtaining information on some of the older members to see if they require any assistance during the winter months as to snow shoveling and tasks of that nature. More discussion will follow at December's meeting.

Members brought up an idea and discussion ensued concerning an informal Christmas get together by the Post members and their spouses. Lin Lamb suggested that the Community Center could be a meeting place for the Legion to hold the informal get together. More information is to follow as to the date, time and details and if the center is available during an evening in December.

The Commander asked if there was any further business. None was presented. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, December 7, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. All veterans are encouraged to attend. The meeting closed at 8:06 p.m. The Commander led the Post membership in the Pledge of Allegiance and a salute to the colors. A final prayer was said for Legionnaire Al Phillips.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Coletti
Financial Officer

Sprague Democratic Town Committee Update

The Sprague Democratic Town Committee wants to thank all the voters in Sprague who voted in the recent election on November 2nd. Turnout was great! Sixty-eight percent of registered voters in Sprague went to the polls and seventy-two percent of registered Democrats voted. Cathy Osten made a strong showing against the incumbent Republican Chris Coutu with forty-three percent of the vote in a year when other state representative candidates were returned to office by a two to one margin.

At the November meeting, the DTC discussed lessons learned from the recent election and started planning for the municipal election in November 2011. Next year's slate of candidates was discussed. In next year's municipal election, voters in Sprague will be choosing office holders for the following offices and boards:

First Selectman	Board of Selectmen
Board of Finance	Board of Education
Town Clerk	Town Treasurer
Tax Collector	Planning and Zoning
Board of Assessment Appeals	

If you have an interest in running for office in Sprague next year, please contact me or DTC secretary Claire Glaude at 860-822-9111.

**Susan Zimmerman
Chair, Sprague DTC**

VERSAILLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 Church Street, Versailles, CT
860-822-9439

We would like to invite you to our:

December 15 - Blue Christmas Service @ 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a candlelight service for those who are grieving or who are in some kind of pain. You may be facing a holiday after the death of a loved one, the loss of a pet or after a divorce. Perhaps you are unemployed or you have suffered through an emotional trauma. Maybe you feel pressured and overwhelmed by holiday preparations, or perhaps you are lonely or sad. When the darkness closes in around us we need to remember and believe that the light will come in the dawn. Please join us in Scripture, prayer, music and a reflection focusing on the comfort God offers during our dark times.

After the service you are welcome to join us for refreshments and fellowship (if you choose.)
All are welcome. Bring a friend.

December 19 - Drama, "Christ Was Born for This?" @ 10:30 a.m.

Presented @ 10:30 am worship service. All are welcome.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 9:00pm.

Join us at 8:00 p.m. prior to the service for refreshments and fellowship. All are welcome.

SPRAGUE FOOD PANTRY

For those of you not aware, the Town of Sprague has a food pantry full of non-perishable food items.

During these tough economic times, Town residents are encouraged to use the food pantry.

For those in need of food assistance, please call 860-822-3000, ext. 223 or 220





HOLLY JOLLY BAZAAR
Saturday November 27, 2010
9:00 a.m. – 3 p.m.



Fresh baked homemade pumpkin rolls, fruit turnovers, and more delicious goodies

Floral arrangements

Handmade jewelry

Lighted glass creations

Handmade doll clothes

Cookbooks

Fleece blankets and hats

And many more vendors!

Come and join us for a fun day and stay for lunch.
Come and support your Baltic Fire Department



BALTIC FIRE DEPARTMENT LADIES AUXILIARY

A regular meeting of the Auxiliary was held on Tuesday, November 9, at the firehouse.

Plans were finalized for the Holly Jolly Bazaar which will be held on Saturday, November 27, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please come and join us for a fun day and stay for lunch.

We have a wide variety of vendors coming to our event. This variety includes floral arrangements, handmade jewelry, lighted glass creations, handmade doll clothes, cookbooks, jars with baking mixes, fleece blankets and hats, to name a few.

We are filled to capacity with our table rentals. We have had to put the last few people that called on our waiting list. They will be added to our mailing list for November 2011.

Member will be meeting at the firehouse to bake pumpkin rolls, fruit turnovers and other delicious goodies for our baked goods table.

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.

Wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving from all of us to all of you.

Sincerely,
Jeannette Deschamps,
Secretary

Sacred Heart Educational Center

*Get a jump on this school year
with individualized tutoring.*

Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

All subjects available. All ages welcome!

For more information,
call Sister Mercedes at 860-822-8241
or email information@
SacredHeartLearning.org

Sprague Conservation Commission December Update

Hello Fellow Citizens of Sprague:

The volunteers of the SCC met at our November meeting to discuss conservation options of our town. I also reported on our “Moonlight Hike” for the Walk October Weekend. It was an awesome time! More than 60 people learned to use their night vision and let the full moon guide their steps though the Sprague Preserve.

The most exciting news is that the State has awarded Sprague \$275,000 to help us acquire the Watson property!

They awarded this to us because they also agree that it is important to preserve open space for us and our future generations. Thank you to the Dept. of Environmental Protection, our Governor, and our Representatives. They feel that we here in Sprague are doing a great job ensuring that we and future generations can enjoy the outdoors and our wildlife can thrive in a healthy habitat.

We will continue to work hard to acquire the remaining difference for the cost of the property. Anyone who has ideas to help are welcome to contact myself or attend an SCC meeting. I am also including a Question & Answer sheet to answer questions about this project .

Any additional ideas or questions, please come to our next Sprague Conservation Meeting on the 2nd Monday of every month. You may also email me donaldboushee@sbcglobal.net or call Cathy Osten.

**Respectfully submitted
Don Boushee, SCC Chairman**

The Watson Heritage Farm Questions and Answers

What is the Watson Heritage Farm?

It is a large, undeveloped property in Sprague and Franklin. The State has a lien on the property for costs the Watson family incurred. The family, which is very committed to conservation, has offered to exchange 240 acres for the amount of the lien, \$430,000, but only if the land is kept as open space. The family has offered the land to the Town of Sprague. Only about 57 acres is in Sprague. The rest (188 acres) is in Franklin.

Why does Sprague want the land?

It will be annexed to Sprague Land Preserve, a.k.a. the Mukluk Preserve.

How much is the land worth?

It has been appraised at \$550,000. The Watson's are accepting a loss of about \$120,000 on this deal because they are committed to conservation.

Who is going to pay for the land?

The State has offered to put up \$275,000. Sprague's volunteer Conservation Commission is looking for other sources for the rest of the funds. Joshua's Trust has agreed to pay up to \$15,000 for closing costs and other costs related to the acquisition.

How much does Sprague intend to spend to acquire this property?

It is our goal to not to spend a cent on the acquisition.

How much will Sprague spend on maintenance?

The town will spend nothing on maintenance. The road to the property is a public road in Franklin. There are no buildings or structures to maintain.

How much will the town spend to develop the land?

The town does not intend to spend anything on development. Any development, such as trails and footbridges, will be done by Scouts and other volunteer organizations.

How much will the town spend to insure the property?

The town will not need to spend anything for insurance. The owners of open space are protected from liability suits. There is no need for insurance.

Why is Sprague acquiring land in Franklin?

Because that's where the land is. The Watson family has offered the land to the town of Sprague because of the town's proven dedication to conservation, as evidenced by Sprague Land Preserve. Franklin supports the acquisition.

How much will the town lose in taxes if the land becomes Open Space

Approximately \$56 per year.

If people have questions about this opportunity, whom should they ask?

People can address questions to the office of the First Selectman, Cathy Osten, or to the Sprague Conservation Commission. **Respectfully submitted, Don Boushee, SCC Chairman**

VNA East
34 LEDGEBROOK DRIVE, MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250
PH: 456-7288

December Health Screenings

VNA East will hold the following clinics:

Blood Pressure Screenings:

Wed	Dec	1	Andover Old Fire House	12:30-1:30
Wed	Dec	1	Willington Senior Center	1-2
Thur	Dec	2	Florence Lord Marlborough	11-12
Tues	Dec	7	Hebron Senior Center	10:30-11:30
Wed	Dec	8	Chaplin Senior Center	9-10
Mon	Dec	13	Marlborough Senior Center	1:30-2:30
Tues	Dec	14	Lebanon Senior Center	12:30-1:30
Wed	Dec	15	Scotland Town Hall	12:30-1
Wed	Dec	15	Ashford Senior Center	1:30-3
Thur	Dec	16	Marlborough Town Hall	2-3
Fri	Dec	17	Columbia Beckish Senior Center	12:30-1:30
Tues	Dec	21	Franklin Senior Center	10:30-11:30
Tues	Dec	21	Sprague Town Hall	11:45-12:45

Adult Health Screenings - including blood pressure, Cholesterol, HDL Cholesterol, blood glucose, earwax, and foot care. Blood pressure screening is free; other services have a nominal charge. Call (860) 456-7288 for appointments, costs and information on other services. Clinics will be held at the following locations:

Thur	Dec	2	Hebron Senior Center	8:30-1pm
Thur	Dec	2	Columbia Beckish Senior Center	1:30-3:30pm
Mon	Dec	13	Willington Senior Center	1:30-3:30pm
Thurs	Dec	16	Hebron Senior Center	8:30-1pm
Wed	Dec	22	Chaplin Senior Center	11:30-1pm

VNAEast
34 LEDGEBROOK DRIVE, MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250
PH: 456-7288

January Health Screenings

VNA East will hold the following clinics:

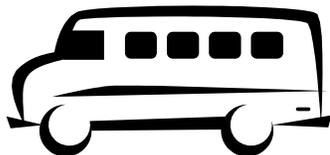
Blood Pressure Screenings:

Wed	Jan	5	Andover Old Fire House	12:30-1:30
Wed	Jan	5	Willington Senior Center	1-2
Thur	Jan	6	Florence Lord Marlborough	11-12
Tues	Jan	11	Hebron Senior Center	10:30-11:30
Wed	Jan	12	Chaplin Senior Center	9-10
Fri	Jan	14	Columbia Beckish Senior Center	12:30-1:30
Mon	Jan	17	Marlborough Senior Center	1:30-2:30
Tues	Jan	18	Lebanon Senior Center	12:30-1:30
Wed	Jan	19	Scotland Town Hall	12:30-1
Wed	Jan	19	Ashford Senior Center	1:30-3
Thur	Jan	20	Marlborough Town Hall	2-3
Tues	Jan	25	Franklin Senior Center	10:30-11:30
Tues	Jan	25	Sprague Town Hall	11:45-12:45

Adult Health Screenings - including blood pressure, Cholesterol, HDL Cholesterol, blood glucose, earwax, and foot care. Blood pressure screening is free; other services have a nominal charge. Call (860) 456-7288 for appointments, costs and information on other services. Clinics will be held at the following locations:

Wed	Jan	19	Chaplin Senior Center	11:30-1pm
Thur	Jan	20	Hebron Senior Center	8:30-1pm
Thur	Jan	20	Hop River Homes	1:30-3pm
Mon	Jan	24	Willington Senior Center	1:30-3:30pm

SENIOR VAN SCHEDULE



Lisbon Super Wal-Mart and Kohl's
Bi-weekly, Monday, 1 to 3 p.m.

Norwich Big Y/Wal-Mart by request.

Norwich Stop 'n Shop Plaza

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.

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., 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.
(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.

For more information, call Buddy Meadows,
Sprague Senior Center Coordinator at 860-822-3000 x210

Salvation Army Upper New London County Unit

I ask you to look and see if there is some way you can give to the Salvation Army Upper New London County Unit.

This money will help your neighbors here in Sprague. Please send your check (whatever you can spare) to Salvation Army Upper New London Country Unit, PO Box 304 Versailles, CT 06383

For those of you in need of food, please contact Collette Hoffman at the Town Hall or myself. May the Lord Bless you as you share with others,

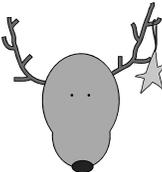
**Dennison Allen,
Sprague Service Unit Member**

Deadline for submissions is 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. The focus of Our Town is community events, articles, commission notes and other items of town-wide interest. These items will take priority over personal opinions. Annual budget considerations may affect page appropriations. Ads may be *pre-purchased* at a rates 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.

Our Town Calendar of Events

December



			1	2	3 Basket Bonanza at Sayles School at 5:30 p.m.	4 Troop 19 th Annual Auction at 5:30 p.m. Baltic Fire Dept. Wreaths for Sale At Baltic Fire Dept. starting at 5:30 p.m.
5	6	7 American Legion Mtng at 7 pm Sprague Senior Center	8 	9 Keeping Seniors Safe: <u>Safety in the Kitchen</u> Presentation at 11 a.m. Sr. Center	10	11 Breakfast With Santa at the Sprague Community Center at 8 a.m.
12	13	14 No Sprague Public Library Board Mtng in December!	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24  Did you put out your reindeer food and milk & cookies?	25 Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas!
26	27	28	29	30	31 Have a Safe New Years Eve!	