



OUR TOWN

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

INFORMATION & NEWS

OURTOWNCT@YAHOO.COM

TICKETS ON SALE NOW FOR IRISH PUB NIGHT FUNDRAISER

TO SUPPORT SPRAGUE'S 150th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Saturday, April 16th, 2011 – Irish Pub Night at the Sprague Rod and Gun Club! Join us for an evening with Irish singer Andy Cooney!

Christened by *The New York Times* as “Irish America’s Favorite Son”, Andy Cooney has taken the Irish-American music scene by storm. His outstanding voice and dynamic stage presence makes him a favorite with audiences. Andy’s talent and versatility provide the ability to deliver a song directly to the hearts of his listeners. Andy has played at Carnegie Hall and with the Irish Symphony Orchestra.

BUY YOUR TICKETS TODAY! Contact Buddy Meadows at: 860-822-6429

SPRAGUE 150th CAR MAGNETS

Display your town pride! Available at the Town Clerk’s office or by calling Buddy Meadows at 860-822-6429. \$3.00 each.



The Arthur Basto Archaeological Society Meeting, April 22nd

Date: April 22, 2011 at 7:00 pm, Sprague Town Hall Courtroom

All are welcome! For more info: call William Schultz (860)859-1648

Sprague's Earth Day Cleanup on Saturday, April 23rd



Celebrate Earth day with fellow town members by **ADOPTING-A-ROAD** for trash cleanup and planting bulbs. Meet at the Grist Mill at 10 am to pick up trash bags and flower bulbs. A token gift will be available for participants.

Also, in the spirit of Earth Day, the Town of Sprague is offering a **“FREE DUMP DAY”** on April 23rd at our Transfer Station from 8 am – 4 pm. Bring your ID showing Sprague residency to the Transfer Station on this day. Blue Bag usage will be waived for the day. Please remember to recycle as that is an important part of our transfer station system.

Questions, please contact Cathy Osten at 822-3000.

Trying Something New!

Let's give our minds an intellectual workout and try something new. In each monthly edition of the paper, there will be a quote of the month and a word of the month. They will be hidden somewhere in the paper.

Get the family together and try to find them, and then challenge yourself and your family to use them throughout the month in your conversations and daily activities. Post on your fridge, tack on your corkboard at work, write on a whiteboard, jot on a Post It. Have FUN sharing what you've learned!



Happy Spring! It is wonderful to feel the warm sun and have the longer days. It will even be better when we see that thermometer hit the 70 and higher temperatures.

As you know, the Sprague Community Center has been in existence since 2010. It is a component of our Outreach Ministry and from the onset we knew that at the end of the first year, our Council would be evaluating the effectiveness of the Sprague Community Center. This information will assist us in deciding if the community of Sprague wants us to continue to offer services for the members of Baltic, Versailles, and Hanover.

During the month of May 2011, the Council will be reviewing the usage of the Center and feedback we have received from the community of Sprague. I would like to ask the citizens of Sprague to give us some feedback about the level of helpfulness that the Center has offered in the Town of Sprague.

This community feedback would be a very important part of our evaluation process and will help us make the decision about the future of the Sprague Community Center. If you would like to write your opinion, please send it to the following address or you can drop your letter off at the Community Center.

Lee Memorial & Baltic UM Church
294 Washington Street
Norwich, CT 06360
Attention: Brenda J. Keefe

We would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible in order for us to have your information in time for the Council Meeting. Any suggestions for the Center would also be appreciated.

Our St. Patrick's Day Celebration Dinner was a grand success on March 12th. Many thanks to all of the people who helped make this event such a success! Special thanks go to our Master Chef, Buddy Meadows. So many people commented on the quality of the dinner. We frequently heard the comment, "It was the best corned beef and cabbage dinner that I have ever had in my life!"

Quite the compliment for our chef—thanks so much Buddy! This may have to be an annual event!

Our "Food Friday" program is going very well. For those of you who might have missed the announcement of this program, this program is held every Friday from 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Sprague Community Center.

The Sprague Community Center and the Sprague Senior Center are working together with United Way in their program called "POPPIN", "Plenty of Produce for People in Need." This program distributes fresh, healthy, and nutritious produce to needy families.

Those families in need must call the Sprague Senior Center at 860-822-3000 Extension 203 or the Sprague Community Center at 860-822-6595 and register their request for fresh produce by noon on Thursday of every week. We will then contact United Way and tell them the number of people that have requested fresh produce. The produce will be at the Sprague Community Center on Fridays from 2:30-3:30 p.m. During these difficult economic times we are hopeful that this program will be a help to our families in need.

Our Community Prayer Service will be held on Wednesday, April 20th at 7:00 p.m. This monthly service is open to all people of all faiths. It is a time for music, prayer, and encouragement for all who attend.

As always, our facilities at the Sprague Community Center are available for many different types of activities. If you are planning an organization, or family event, give us a call.

Take care and Happy Spring,
Brenda J. Keefe
Outreach Coordinator 860-822-6595

From the Desk of the First Selectman

I am still waiting for spring although we have had a couple of wonderful days and the daffodils are peeking through the dirt. It is sure wonderful to see the Garden Club Ladies out and about awakening the flower beds around the Town, all their work is greatly appreciated and lovely to boot.

This month's Our Town is chock full of news. Please read it carefully as it contains information on new FEMA maps (effective July this year). The Board of Selectmen has submitted its budget to the Board of Finance for the general government side expenditures. The Board of Finance continues to review the submission for potential changes. I wanted to take a minute of your time to discuss the changes made over the last several years. Further, we will be having a free **DUMP** day on April 23rd; this is the day after this year's official Earth Day. Please make use of this opportunity.

There is also the last of the capital improvement plans I have to provide you. It provides direction in the areas of Parks, Open Space, Cemeteries, and Recreation Fields. This plan was developed with the Conservation Commission, the Recreation Committee, and other groups that use and promote these areas. This plan documents enhancements, potential costs, and possible funding sources. This plan works towards increasing the usage of our beautiful outside assets.

I have gone to Hartford several times over the last month to fight for reinstatement of the PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) MME (machinery and manufacturing equipment). This is an important revenue source for the Town as it is fully 5% of our revenue. It was removed as a payment to Towns in the Governor's budget. The impact of this loss of revenue is not acceptable. Through lobbying efforts of COST and CCM (2 groups who fight for municipal concerns) along with testimony and letters it appears that in some form the loss of PILOT MME will be addressed. I will continue to press our representatives in Hartford on this issue and fight for its reinstatement.

Provided below are excerpts from the statutes, and from the OPM website which explains what MME is, this is a program designed to encourage businesses to both move into and stay in our state:

The Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment Exemption Program provides for 100% exemption of local property taxes on qualified, newly acquired manufacturing machinery and equipment. The State of Connecticut reimburses municipalities for the exemptions granted under the provisions of the program. Qualified manufacturing and biotechnology companies may receive a tax exemption on their local property taxes for a period of five years. To qualify for exemption, machinery and equipment must be five or seven-year property as defined by the Internal Revenue Service, acquired within prescribed time periods, and used predominantly for manufacturing and research and development purposes. Biotechnology and the production of motion pictures, video and sound recordings and recycling as defined in Connecticut General Statutes 22a-260, as well as more traditional manufacturing activities, are included in the program. Applicants may apply for the exemption at the local Assessor's Office by November 1 of each year.

I mentioned "free Dump day" earlier. We will also be having an Earth day clean-up starting at 10am. Please meet at the Grist Mill parking area where bags and bulbs will be dispensed. Please consider "adopting" a road in Town, let me know where you will be so that we can make sure we cover all roads. This will be our first year in a decade or more without Kathleen Boushee at the helm, her dedication and simple hard work will be greatly missed. Let's not let Kathleen down. See you on Saturday the 23rd of April @ 10am @ the Grist Mill. See you there!

The word of the month is: Conservationist. It was selected in honor of Kathleen Boushee. It means a person who advocates conservation especially of natural resources. In the dictionary it should have a picture next to it of Kathleen.

As always, thanks for what you do and thanks for your support!

Cathy

The budget is not yet ready for your review as it has not been approved by the Board of Finance. The Board of Finance continues to wait on state revenue numbers to complete its final budget presentation to the Town.

I wanted to discuss changes that have been made over the last several years that have allowed us to work within our means consistently and still deliver effective services.

There have been personnel changes in several areas:

- a) We have downsized the Public Works from 6 full time workers to 4 full time workers and 2 part time workers.
- b) We use to have 3 Emergency Management workers and have downsized to 1 worker.
- c) We have also gone from a full time Senior Director to a part time Senior Director.

We worked towards regionalizing in areas that made sense:

- a) We have regionalized services in the area of Health Districts eliminating the need for a Sanitarian.
- b) We have regionalized the Animal Control enforcement which saves us about 50% in costs when revenue is factored in and provides more coverage.
- c) The state regionalized Probate Courts; this saved a bit of money.
- d) We are working towards regionalizing revaluation to save better than \$40,000.

We also work with an eye towards stabilizing costs:

- a) We have stabilized our energy usage in electricity, and heat (oh by the way wear a sweater when you visit the Town Hall after April 15th---the heat will be turned off.)
- b) We have eliminated waste and question each purchase.
- c) We also analyze each contract in an attempt to find better deals at a lower cost to each of you.
- d) We have changed our healthcare to a high deductible HAS; in this we continue to review costs.
- e) The Board of Education and the First Selectman are attempting to find areas where we can work towards savings for both the general government and educational sides of the budget.

This is not a final budget as I am attempting to decrease our costs as they relate to a couple of more contracts and I am trying to drive our health insurance costs down yet again. I will keep you posted as we move through the process. Special thanks to the Board of Finance for their hard work, piercing questions and diligence.

OPEN POSTION AT SPRAGUE PUBLIC LIBRARY

There is an opening at the Sprague Public Library for a Library Director.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, and three references to the First Selectman's

Town Flood Information

VERY IMPORTANT

The Town of Sprague has available for review the revised flood insurance rate maps. Please read the attached letter. Note the third paragraph is of particular importance to residents.

The Planning and Zoning Commission is updating necessary regulations; this process is in progress.

In early March 2011, the revised flood insurance rate maps (FIRM) for New London County, becoming effective on **July 18, 2011**, were sent to the office of the chief elected official in each municipality. One copy of the flood maps and flood study, along with a CD containing this data in digital format, was sent. Due to FEMA's new guidelines to save money on printing costs, **this will be the only paper copy you receive**. No additional paper maps can be ordered in the future. Additional maps can be printed using the CD if you have that internal capability. We advise the community to keep the copy of their current map and study for future reference as these maps will also not be reprinted.

These maps are now also available for viewing on FEMA's Map Service Center website: <http://msc.fema.gov>. On the top red bar click on "Product Catalog". Then click on "Future FIRMs". Then chose "Connecticut" as the state. Then chose "New London" as the county. Then chose your applicable town. A list of the new map panels will appear. Residents can be directed to this website to view new maps. Historical flood maps may also be found for your town on this website.

New London County municipalities should also encourage residents to view these revised flood maps prior to July 18, 2011. Property owners should be encouraged to purchase flood insurance prior to the new map date for significant future savings if they find their structure will now be located in the floodplain.

Community officials should also now be in the process of updating applicable floodplain regulations or ordinance in conjunction with this map change. If regulations are not updated by July 18, 2011, the community will be suspended from the NFIP. See attached fact sheet regarding the consequences of suspension. Please contact me if you need assistance in this process. Review letters were sent to the floodplain contact in each community in mid-January 2011 that will aid you in this update.

These maps are available for your viewing in the Town Clerks office.

At the Sacred Heart Educational Center, our tutors are dedicated to the success of *each student* that walks through our doors. Whether you need some catching up or want to get ahead of the game, our Center can meet the needs of students of all walks of life.

- ⊗ Individualized tutoring in all subjects
- ⊗ Tutoring available for all ages
- ⊗ Sponsored by the Academy of the Holy Family; accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges

For more information, contact Sister Mercedes at 860-822-8241. information@sacredheartlearning.org
Sacred Heart Educational Center *at the Academy of the Holy Family*, 54 West Main Street, Baltic, CT 06330



Baltic Fire Engine Company #1

Prevention through Education

Learn About Smoke Alarms

Part 1

WHY SHOULD I HAVE A WORKING SMOKE ALARM?

A properly installed and maintained smoke alarm is the only thing in your home that can alert you and your family to a fire 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Whether you're awake or asleep, a working smoke alarm is constantly on alert, scanning the air for fire and smoke.



According to the National Fire Protection Association, between 2003-2006, more than 66 percent of home fire deaths occurred in homes without a working smoke alarm. A working smoke alarm significantly increases your chances of surviving a deadly home fire.

WHAT POWERS A SMOKE ALARM?

Smoke alarms are powered by battery or they are hardwired into the home's electrical system. If the smoke alarm is powered by battery, it runs on either a disposable 9-volt battery or a non-replaceable 10-year lithium ("long-life") battery. A backup battery is usually present on hardwired alarms and may need to be replaced. These batteries must be tested on a regular basis and, in most cases, should be replaced at least once each year (except for lithium batteries). See the Smoke Alarm Maintenance section for more information.

These tips will help families do their part to protect themselves and the firefighters who protect their lives!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT
BALTIC FIRE DEPARTMENT**

American Legion Post 85 Minutes from 3/1/2011 Meeting

(Note: Minutes have been slightly shortened by Editor. For complete minutes, go to www.post85.webs.com.)

Prior to the commencement of March's meeting, the 50/50 club fund raiser was held. Chairman Don Bastien reported that \$27.00 was on record for the drawing. The drawing was held and Legionnaire Pete Synnott won again. Pete graciously returned his winnings of \$13.50 back into the fund. The 50/50 drawing will continue to be held just prior to each meeting per request of the Commander. The profits continue to increase in support for this year's needy family at Christmas.

Commander Dave Salemma opened the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Financial Officer Tom Coletti took the roll call and noted that there were 13 of the 46 members in attendance. He noted to the Commander that an official quorum was present to carry on Post business. The Commander led the Pledge of Allegiance and the salute to the Colors. The Chaplain was absent but a prayer and a moment of silence were observed for Pfc. David Fahey of Connecticut who was killed in action in Afghanistan this week. The Post membership asked that a letter of condolences be sent by Post 85 to his family.

The Commander then asked that the minutes of the January meeting be read by the Financial Officer. It was noted that there were no minutes for February because of a cancellation due to inclement weather. The minutes for January were corrected for one error. New Legionnaire Richard Wolfe was incorrectly reported as a USMC Vietnam veteran. The record was corrected to read that he was a USMC Korean veteran. The remaining minutes were accepted as read by the membership in attendance.

The Commander then opened up the floor to official business. The Financial Officer noted that there were no member applications that were in process since the last Post meeting on January 4th. The Financial Officer noted that Legionnaire Edgar Daigneault had returned from the Norwich Convalescence Home and was recovering at home. Legionnaire Will Chabotte was welcomed back to the March meeting. The membership requested that Legionnaires Emile La Porte and Mary Stefon be sent letters from the Post acknowledging their missed presence at the meetings.

The Commander asked if there was any unfinished business. Tom Coletti reported that requests for quotes had been received by three memorial plaque companies. A final decision as to the company to be contracted to cast the plaque was dependent on the final list of veterans collected. Chris Mueller reported that there were now approximately 30 names to be included on the list but his final review with the Town Administration will be concluded in two weeks. Tom Coletti and Chris Mueller along with the Commander and Town Selectwoman will meet to discuss the final details before the plaque is ordered during the week of March 14th through 19th. Tom Coletti reported that the plaque cost will be approximately \$1,700.00. Presently there has been one donation of \$50.00 from the estate of Andre Gladue, past Post 85 Legionnaire.

Discussion followed concerning several proposals that the Post would like to see be constructed on the War Memorial Park sight. Cathy Osten presented a sketch drawn by the mason that will construct the stone structure to display the plaque. The Commander asked that a meeting on sight be held approximately the same week as the cost meeting will be held. That way the Post members could review and discuss the details of the sketch and other ideas that the Post may want to be built on the sight. All Legionnaires will be called to participate if they so choose. Cathy Osten informed the Post that the Town will cover the cost of the labor to construct the base for the plaque. A motion was made by Jr. Vice Commander Tim Brodeur that \$250.00 be appropriated to assist with the plaque costs. The motion was accepted and passed by the Post. The remaining costs incurred for the project will be covered through the Town Administration and donations collected through advertisements in the Norwich Bulletin, Our Town, and other media sources the Town Administration will pursue.

The Commander then personally thanked Jr. Vice Commander Tim Brodeur who chaired a successful Valentine Day's supper that was held on Saturday, February 12th. It was noted that good conversation and excellent food was enjoyed by all who attended. Financial Officer Tom Coletti suggested that maybe the Community Center could be used again for a Memorial Day get together after the parade. The idea was tabled until next month's meeting.

Jr. Vice Commander Tim Brodeur took more pictures of new members present and gathered their personal information to post on the Post's web site. He also asked the Financial Officer to continue to email the monthly minutes to be posted on the site. The Post's Internet site is www.post85.webs.com.

Tom Coletti brought up the need for the Post to consider nominations for a new slate of officers to be presented to the American Legion Department of Connecticut prior to July. All Post positions are open and every Legionnaire is encouraged to participate in the nominations process. It was also suggested that more members consider taking an office to relieve some of the duties for those that have held multiple positions for many years. The nomination process will commence at next month's meeting.

The Commander updated the Post that the 7 Springfield rifles will receive new slings and one rifle will receive a new bolt. He stated that the rifles will be in pristine condition for Memorial Day. Tim Brodeur was asked to lead the seven man team for firing the rifles at the Memorial Day ceremony. The Commander informed the Post that he would like all able bodied legionnaires of the Post to march in this year's Memorial Day parade. He encouraged the Post members to wear their uniforms if possible. He hoped that all branches of the five services would be represented in the parade this year. The standard wear for the marching members should be American Legionnaire hats, white shirts, blue blazer (optional) and gray slacks.

The Commander informed the members that the next meeting date will be held Tuesday, April 5, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. Respectfully submitted. Thomas Coletti. Financial Officer



SPRAGUE SCHOOL DISTRICT
Baltic – Hanover – Versailles
Kindergarten (Full-day) Registration
on Thursday, April 28, 2011 from 9:30am-2:00am at

Sayles School
25 Scotland Road
Baltic, CT 06330
822-8264

Sayles School is currently conducting kindergarten registration for the 2011-2012 school year. Parents of children who will be five years old by January 1, 2012 must provide birth certificates, social security numbers and a record of all state mandated immunizations along with a current physical. 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 2011-2012 school year be registered as soon as possible. **Please call** 822-8264 Ext. 100 for a **registration packet** or if you have any questions.

Connecticut ISA Inaugural
Men's Softball State Tournament



Inaugural State Tournament

Connecticut ISA Inaugural Men's Softball Tournament - Saturday, May 14th and Sunday, May 15th (week AFTER Mother's Day) - Babe Blanche Field - Baltic, Connecticut - 3 Game Guarantee with double-elimination playoffs for Top 4 Teams. Please contact Dan at connecticutisa@yahoo.com or (347) 205-4685 for more information.



Sprague Garden Club



The Garden Club will meet on April 6th at 6 p.m. at the Senior Center. Our Guest Speaker will be DEP Wildlife Biologist, Peter Picone. The topic will be: The Challenge of Managing Invasive Non-native Plants at Charter Oak Tree Farm, Sprague, CT.

Come learn how landowner and wildlife biologist, Peter Picone and his family manage habitat on their land right here in Sprague. You will learn about invasive non-native plants and tips on controlling them. Also, you will learn about valuable native plants and how to improve your own property for wildlife especially songbirds and butterflies.



Sprague Garden Club Plant Sale **on May 14th 9 am – 1 pm**



Join us at the Sprague Garden Club Plant Sale at the Town Hall garage. A variety of hanging baskets, annuals, vegetables and homegrown perennials will be for sale.

The Club has canna tubers for sale now. 6 large tubers for \$5. Pot them up for an early start to the season. Get them early for the best selection. Call 822-6520.

Club members will be meeting in early May for a workshop on living wreaths. They will last for years if made with hardy succulents such as hen and chickens or sedums. To learn more go to: http://www.ehow.com/how_4497229_succulent-wreath.html.

We always need people who enjoy being outside and working with others to keep the gardens around the grist mill, gazebo and planters looking their best. Gardening with many hands makes light work and grows great friendships. Join us for fun and sun.

Jan Settje,
Secretary

SAYING OF THE MONTH:

“A TRUE CONSERVATIONIST IS A MAN WHO KNOWS THAT THE WORLD IS NOT GIVEN BY HIS FATHERS, BUT BORROWED FROM HIS CHILDREN.”

~ John James Audubon”

WORD OF THE MONTH: CONSERVATIONIST

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, 9:45, 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



Deadline for submissions is the **15th of each month**. Submissions may be e-mailed to ourtownct@yahoo.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.

. 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.

Some examples of **Salutations**, last month's word of the month, received or regularly used. Thanks for your responses.

Sincerely, yours, sincerely,
later, yours faithfully,
God bless, yours truly,
Godspeed, yours ever,
take care, respectfully yours,
love, faithfully yours,
talk to you later, best regards,
best wishes, many thanks, truly,
kind regards (one of my favorites)

ourtownct@yahoo.com

Final Reminder of Our Town's New Email Address

Our Town has migrated to a yahoo email account. The gmail address is no longer used. Send all correspondence to ourtownct@yahoo.com



SPRAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION UPDATE

Welcome to spring, fellow Sprague residents. We are excited to see that spring is in the air after a long and snowy winter, although we did enjoy the beauty of it all. We had a wonderful hike up at the Preserve. We did make it into the property, thanks to the town crew for plowing the road.

It was truly a winter wonderland full of tracks of the wild critters for us to follow and wonder about. Also before this update hits the press we would have had another Full moon hike. It's great to get out into the woods at night. If you never have, please keep your eyes open for our next full moon event.

Earth Day Hike at the Preserve

Join us for an Earth Day Hike on April 22nd. We will meet at the Grist Mill @ 9 am. The waterfall is flowing.

Triathlon in Celebration of Sprague's 150th Anniversary

Also, we will be sponsoring a Triathlon in celebration of our Town's 150th to raise money to help us in our efforts to conserve our precious Open Space. Come and join in the fun on July 30th. Keep an eye open for notices. It will include a run through the Preserve, a kayak ride down to the Occum dam and a bike run around our beautiful town. WOW! I can't wait.

Don Boushee, SCC Chairman

Goin' Postal April, 2011

Hello Sprague! Warmer weather and sunny at supertime must mean Spring has sprung! I am looking forward to seeing more pussy willows, crocus and snow-drops while waiting for the tulips and daffodils to follow behind them ☺

For this month, I wanted to let you know about the upcoming stamp releases – and boy do we have a lot this time! To coincide with Earth Day, we've got the new "Go Green" stamps being released the first week of April. 16 different designs on a self-adhesive stamp sheet to advertise your ecology-mindedness to all! The next to be released will be the Helen Hayes stamp to honor that wonderful actress who graced stage and screen for decades. Most people my age will remember her as the eccentric and loveable owner of Herbie the Love Bug in the first movie in that Disney series. But she was also an accomplished stage actress for years on and off Broadway.

The new Lady Liberty and US Flag stamps will be released at the Mega Stamp Show in New York City, as another self-adhesive stamp sheet. This stamp, which is already available in coils of 100 at all your local Post Offices, alternates both stamp designs for a little variety when you want to show your patriotic side.

A new design for the flat rate Priority stamps which are in \$4.95 denominations features the New River Gorge and will be issued on April 11. Also released on the 11th, is a new stamp honoring our first President, George Washington. This will be a 20¢ stamp as a make-up rate for the second ounce on heavier letters and cards and those pesky non-machinable square greeting cards that look so cute, but don't go through the automated sortation machines ☺. Also, to give you anticipating brides a heads up, the Wedding cake stamps will be released in the new 64¢ format just in time for your Spring and Summer Weddings! Beautiful stamps with intricate detail to add a touch of elegance to any invitation. Paired with the 44¢ wedding ring stamps for your RSVP cards, you'll have everything covered in one short visit.

Right behind it on April 12, the Civil War stamps, commemorating the 150 anniversary of that conflict, shows the Battle of Fort Sumter and the Battle of Bull Run. And wrapping up the April stamp releases for the month, the perennial heart-throb of stage and screen Gregory Peck will be released on April 28th, with the First-day ceremony happening – where else? - in Los Angeles California.

Closer to home for anyone who will be doing some traveling of their own, the Hanover Post Office will be participating in a National Passport Day event on Saturday April 9th from 8 – 11 am. Anyone who needs to get a passport (including passport pictures) can stop in during those hours and get that task taken off your "to do" lists. For information on fees and passport requirements prior to that day – or to get it done even earlier – stop by the Hanover Post Office anytime from 8 – 12 and 1:15 – 4:45 pm or download info and forms directly from the National Passport Information website at travel.state.gov.

Please also note the Hanover hours of operation are changing April 14th, to allow more people longer access to pick up their mail after work. Our lunch time is extending from 12 – 1:15 to allow the office to stay open until 5:15 pm.

As always, We deliver Quality, Convenience and Service for you!
See you soon!
Tracy Medling, Postmaster

Sisters of Charity Can & Bottle Drive April 30th

Drop off your bagged clean cans & bottles to the back of the Motherhouse. If questions, please call 860-822-9272.





VNAEast April Health Screenings

34 LEDGEBROOK DRIVE, MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250

PH: 456-7288 FAX: 456-4267

Blood Pressure Screenings:

Wed	Apr	6	Andover Old Fire House	12:30-1:30
Wed	Apr	6	Willington Senior Center	1-2
Thur	Apr	7	Florence Lord Marlborough	11-12
Tues	Apr	12	Hebron Senior Center	10:30-11:30
Wed	Apr	13	Chaplin Senior Center	9-10
Fri	Apr	15	Columbia Beckish Senior Center	12:30-1:30
Mon	Apr	18	Marlborough Senior Center	1:30-2:30
Tues	Apr	19	Lebanon Senior Center	12:30-1:30
Wed	Apr	20	Scotland Town Hall	12:30-1
Wed	Apr	20	Ashford Senior Center	1:30-3
Thur	Apr	21	Marlborough Town Hall	2-3
Tues	Apr	26	Franklin Senior Center	10:30-11:30
Tues	Apr	26	Sprague Town Hall	11:45-12:45
Thurs	Apr	28	Hebron Senior Center	10:30-11:30

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.

**NO ADULT HEALTH SCREENS
SCHEDULED**

Save the Date!
Sprague's Memorial Day Parade
Let's Honor our Veterans!



Monday, May 30, 2011 at 12:30 p.m.

For more information, contact, Colette Hoffman at 860-822-3000 Ext. 223

APRIL 2011



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
	<p>The word of the month is <u>Conservationist!</u></p>		<p>Take a moment to visit our town's 150th website at Sprague150.org</p>		<p>1 Be careful of April Fools Pranks!</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>4 Inland Wetlands Commission, Town Hall, 7 pm Zoning Board of Appeals, Sprague Town Hall, 7 pm</p>	<p>5 SPL Board Meeting, Grist Mill, 6:45 PM American Legion Post 85 Mtg Sr. Ctr. @ 7 pm</p>	<p>6 Garden Club Sr. Ctr. @ 6 pm P&Z Comm, Town Hall, 7pm BOE, Sayles School, 7 pm</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>11 Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7 pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 6:15 pm</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 Irish Pub Night Fundraiser – See cover of paper for details!</p>
<p>17 Remember to sign up/RSVP for the Zentangle class with our Sprague Library!</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 Water & Sewer Authority, Town Hall, 4:00 pm</p>	<p>21 Board of Finance, Town Hall, 7 pm</p>	<p>22 Earth Day Hike at the Preserve. Meet at the Grist Mill at 9 am</p>	<p>23 EARTH DAY CLEANUP, Grist Mill 10am DUMP DAY!</p>
<p>24 Happy Easter!</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Agriculture Commission, Sprague Town Hall, 7 pm Historical Soc., Town Hall, 6:30 pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 K full day Registration at Sayles, 9:30-2 Reg. Animal Control Mtng Lebanon Town Hall, 10:30 am</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30 Drop off your cans and bottles at the Motherhouse</p>
<p>31 Will April showers bring May flowers?</p>						<p>How many tulip bunches are in this paper?</p>

How many shamrocks were in March's paper? Answer =19.