

OUR TOWN

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

Information & News for January 2012

OPEN SEAT ON BOARD OF FINANCE

There is an open seat on the Sprague Board of Finance. The appointee will serve until the next municipal election in 2013. The seat is open to residents of any political party affiliation. Anyone interested in serving should send a note of introduction to the Board of Finance, P.O. Box 677, Baltic, CT 06330 or email me at clauderpellegrino@yahoo.com.

On behalf of
The Board of Finance,
Claude R. Pellegrino, Chair



Sisters of Charity Can & Bottle Drive

*SATURDAY,
JANUARY 21st*

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

LIBRARY BOARD VACANCIES:

THE SPRAGUE LIBRARY BOARD IS LOOKING FOR SPRAGUE RESIDENT VOLUNTEERS TO FILL TWO VACANCIES, ONE FULL-TIME AND ONE ALTERNATE POSITION. WE MEET ON THE 2ND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 6:30 PM IN THE LIBRARY. ANYONE INTERESTED NEEDS TO WRITE A LETTER STATING WHY THEY WOULD LIKE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE LIBRARY BOARD AND BRING IT WITH THEM TO THE NEXT MEETING ON JANUARY 10, 2012. ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL CO-CHAIRS KELLI SHREWSBURY AT 860-822-1882 OR SALLY EXLEY AT 860-822-9005.

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Winter Full Moon Hike

*Sponsored by the
Sprague Conservation Commission*

SATURDAY
JANUARY 7, 2012
At 6pm

Meet at the Grist Mill 5:45 pm



Weather will determine the destination:
Baltic Reservoir
or Sprague Preserve

Versailles United Methodist Church Breakfast

Join us for breakfast!

January 7th
6:30-10am
\$6 per person



*Pancakes
Eggs~Sausage~Homefries
Coffee, Tea & Juice*

1st Saturday of every month!



From the Desk of the First Selectman

These years have been as busy, wonderful, and challenging as I thought they would be. I hope you all enjoyed your holidays and are staying warm during these chilly months!

Now it is time to get back to work--- this year we will again be presenting the five capital plans concerning roads, town buildings, water & sewer, town equipment and parks & recreation areas. These will be updated to reflect accomplishments and newly established goals. I will meet with each of the town boards and commissions as has been done each year I have been in office, as well as presenting to you (through the Our Town) these plans for review and approval. It is only by each and every one of us working together with a clear eye and active participation that Sprague will complete its infrastructure projects.

There have been some questions concerning the budget and process through which we govern spending. As a recap here are the dates of the last 5 years of annual budget meetings from all 4 years of my tenure and the last year of the previous administration.

It should be noted that there are also budget meetings which review the spending plans of all town departments, boards and commissions throughout the months of April and May. These are handled by the Board of Finance either at regular or special meetings.

There is also a Budget Hearing held each year, these are also handled by the Board of Finance. They allow an additional time where there can be public input on the proposed budget which is being presented to the Town.

The following is documented in records which are held in the Town Clerk's office:

1) In 2007 we held 5 meetings (1 annual budget meeting and 4 special town meetings with 1 adjourned to referendum) held on the budget.

A) 5/7/07—we had the annual budget meeting, 129 people voted in total, the budget was rejected

B) 5/24/07—this was a special town meeting adjourned to referendum, 263 people voted in total, the budget was rejected

C) 6/13/07—this was a special town meeting, 128 people voted in total, the budget was rejected

D) 7/12/07-- this was a special town meeting, 81 people voted in total, the budget was rejected

E) 9/11/07-- this was a special town meeting, 112 people voted, the budget passed

2) In 2008 we had the annual budget meeting on 5/6/08 which was adjourned to referendum, 298 people voted – the budget passed

3) In 2009 we had the annual budget meeting on 4/27/09 which was adjourned to referendum, 229 people voted – the budget passed

4) In 2010 we had the annual budget meeting on 4/27/10 which was adjourned to referendum, 165 people voted – the budget passed

5) In 2011 we had the annual budget meeting on 6/11/11 which was adjourned to referendum, 157 people voted – the budget passed

As you can see the referendums allow for a greater number of residents to get the opportunity to vote on the proposed budgets. This may be because polls are open from 6am to 8pm, allowing greater flexibility for residents to participate in the budget process.

I will be providing more information on proposed spending plans as we move through this process. I plan also to provide a review on grants and how we receive them, what they can be used for and the impact on the mill rate should we not receive these grants.

I hope you have enjoyed the holidays and are ready to join us, moving Sprague forward.

***-Cathy
First Selectman***

Thank You

On behalf of the men and women of the Baltic Fire Engine Co.#1, I would like to express our deepest gratitude for the support we received for Deputy Chief Tom Girard at the benefit dinner held on December 3rd. The support we received from friends, family, area fire departments, local businesses, and the Sprague community was overwhelming. Everyone was so generous with their time, effort, and donations for one of our own even during these difficult economic times.

Sincerely,

Frank Davis Jr.

*Proud member of the
Baltic Fire Engine Co.#1*

The Salvation Army- Upper New London County Service Unit

I want to thank everyone who has donated to the Salvation Army Kettles and those who rang the bell on Sprague days at Wal-mart on Dec. 3rd & 10th. We received over \$600.00! The money raised by the Upper New London County Service Unit kettle drives 90% will keep here. I also want to thank those who have sent in donation checks to the Upper New

London County Service Unit at PO Box 304 in Versailles, CT 06383.

Thank you to everyone who took Angel Cards and gave gift cards, which will be used to help buy things that food stamps do not provide.

If you need food you can call the Town Hall and speak to Colette. Thanks to Scouting For Food there is plenty of food available. May the Lord bless you during this coming year.

-Dennison Allen

Town of Sprague Representative

Thanks!

Thanks for your support!

Boy Scout Troop #19 would like to thank everyone who came out to support us in our last two fundraisers.

Our spaghetti dinner and annual auction proved to be a great success. We would like to thank the Sprague Rod & Gun Club for allowing us to use the hall & kitchen for the dinner, and the Baltic Vol. Fire Dept. for the use of their facility for our auction.

Also, a great big THANKS to the many businesses and people who donated items for the auction or advertised in our program, and those of you who came out to buy them. Thanks to you, we were able to secure enough funds to purchase an

enclosed trailer to haul all our camping gear and to have enough money to run our troop another year. The money from the auction pays for our heat and electricity for the cabin, helps pay for summer camp, buy needed supplies, and run a successful and diversified program for the boys.

It is great to know that the people of Sprague, and the surrounding towns, still believe that the Boy Scout program is worth supporting. We look forward to spring and many community projects.

-Harry A. Segerstrom Sr.

Ass't Scoutmaster

Animal Regional Control

The Animal Regional Control of Sprague, Bozrah, Lisbon, Lebanon and Franklin would like to thank the following businesses for their generous donations to the pound:

Habitat for Humanity located in Salem for the washer and dryer for the pound.

Tractor Supply in Lisbon for the food, grooming supplies, vitamins, and puppy pads.

K-9 Cleaners owned by Phyllis Watson in Haddam for leashes, collars, and muzzles.

Your generosity helps to lower costs while maintaining a high level of care for needy and homeless dogs. Thank you from the Animal Regional Control, the dogs and the pound.



Baltic Fire Engine Company #1 New Year's Safety

New Year's Eve is a night to have fun and celebrate the coming year. However, safety is a must when participating in the festivities. Whether you're staying in and celebrating with friends and family, or you're traveling to a party or city bash, following a few safety tips will ensure that you're safe and sound when the clock strikes midnight, ringing in 2012!

- If you're driving, be aware of your surroundings. New Year's Eve is notorious for drunk driving, and the best way to keep you and your loved ones safe is to know where you're at and be alert while behind the wheel.
- If you're drinking, leave the keys with a designated driver. If you don't have a designated driver, call a taxi. If you're attending a party at someone else's home, leave your keys with the host. If you're the hostess, provide a bowl at the door where guests can put their keys before the party begins. This way, you can ensure no one leaves your home while intoxicated. Also remember: buzz driving is drunk driving.
- If you're burning candles, incense or oil burners, remember to extinguish them before you turn in or before you leave the room they are burning in.
- Be sure smoke alarms are working and batteries are up to date. If you are hosting a New Year's party, this is a safety measure that is essential, especially if you are cooking. Be sure you change the batteries a few days before your party so you are sure all smoke alarms are in working order.
- If you're attending a party in a larger city, or where there are crowds, travel with a group or in pairs. With the festivities in full force around you, traveling with someone else will ensure you are never by yourself at any time. The last thing you want is to get lost in the midst of thousands of people and have to ring in the New Year by yourself.
- If you are letting off fireworks in a residential area, be sure to practice proper safety precautions when using them. Let off fireworks in a field or other open area where homes and power lines are out of site. Have a fire extinguisher nearby and never try to re-light a firework that did not go off when first lit. Also, be sure pets and children are at a safe distance from where fireworks are being ignited. Finally, always have an adult present when using any type of firework.

*Help the Fire Department
Help you,
Be Safe on this holiday!*



NOTICE: Caucus for Republican Town Committee Membership

On Tuesday, January 10, 2012 there will be a Republican Party Caucus to nominate and elect new members to the Republican Town Committee. This caucus will be held at the Sprague Senior Center at 7 PM. All registered Sprague Republicans are eligible to attend the caucus to nominate, and/or be nominated, as members to the Sprague RTC for the 2012-2013 term.



The Holiday Season and Your Dog

By Denise Dembinski

During the holiday season your dog is likely to beg tidbits from you and your guests. Although turkey, potatoes, and green beans are fine in small quantities, there are many foods which are not. The ingestion of the following food items can result in pancreatitis and gastrointestinal upset. These are painful conditions that can result in the death of a dog depending on its size.

Chocolate- Sweet chocolate may only result in a stomach ache; however, unsweetened baker's chocolate or dark chocolate can result in severe blood sugar problems, seizures, weakness, and depression.

Alcoholic Beverages- When a dog drinks between 5 and 8ml of alcohol per kilo of bodyweight poisoning occurs. To clarify this means that an ml of alcohol can result in poisoning; not necessarily an ml of whiskey or wine. Your company may set a glass on the floor next to the couch which may prove too tempting for Fido to resist.

Macadamia Nuts- Although the actual toxic ingredient is unknown, these nuts affect the skeletal muscles of a dog. Tremors, weakness, and/or paralysis of the hindquarters can result. Limbs can swell.

Raisins/Grapes- In small dogs especially, raisins and grapes can result in acute renal failure. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, and shaking.

Onions & Garlic- These dangerous food ingredients contain thiosulphate which results in haemolytic anemia, which means the dog's red blood cells are affected, causing them to burst while they circulate throughout the body. Cats and livestock can also be affected.

Candy & Sugarless Products (including gum)- Xylitol is a sugar-free ingredient frequently found in chewing gum, candy, and baking supplies.

Poultry Bones- Chicken and turkey bones splinter, resulting in sharp, long pieces which can cut, scratch, and become stuck in the dog's throat, stomach, or intestines.

"Regular" food isn't the only problem dog owners need to be aware of as non-food holiday items such as tinsel, garland, ornaments, and drinking tree water in the living room can also seriously irritate a dog's stomach. Angel hair, although soft and harmless looking, is really spun glass. Poinsettia plants are poisonous. Rock salt and other de-icers will result in vomiting and diarrhea when ingested. It will also burn your dog's paws.

We've all been told that, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." This is especially true when it comes to dogs and the holiday season. Maintain your dog's regular feeding schedule, exercise them regularly, and keep high-risk items out of reach. When you're busy is most likely when your pooch will get into trouble. Keep an eye open for symptoms of tremors, seizures, vomiting, diarrhea, and restlessness. Seek immediate veterinary treatment if necessary and have a happy, and safe, holiday season.



Recipe of the Month

Sour Cream Chocolate Chip Walnut Cake

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 box vanilla instant pudding
- 4 eggs
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- ½ pint sour cream
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Mix together the above ingredients, batter will be thick. Mix ½ cup sugar, 6oz chocolate chips, and ½ cup chopped walnuts. Grease and flour tube pan. Put half of cake mixture into pan and cover with half of the chip and nut mixture. Cover with remaining batter, then remaining mixture. Bake in a 350 degree oven for 1 hour.



Student Article:

Flying squirrels can be a nuisance! They can chew wires in your house and even make explosions! They may try to live in your attic. It is probably a warm and safe environment in there.

I looked up some ways to get rid of flying squirrels. One is the evictor. It is safe for the

environment. It is a high power light that bothers their eyes. They will evacuate in a couple of days. Another way is a live trap. You can probably buy one at a hardware store. [Make sure you get one specifically for a flying squirrel.] Fill it with cracked sunflower seeds. When you catch the squirrel, take it far from your house.



I also looked up some ways to prevent these untidy squirrels. Try trimming tree branches at least 10 to 15 feet from your house. This will stop some of their passage ways to your house. Check your house for holes at least several times a year. If you find one, repair the damaged wood. If you have a chimney you should cap it, so if it's cold out the flying squirrels won't be drawn to the heat. If the squirrel gets inside there, they will soon die. It will not be a nice smell.

I have learned a lot about the flying squirrel. They can glide for more than 50 meters. Flying squirrels don't actually fly; they glide. Did you know that flying squirrels' teeth are always growing? They must chew on bark to grind them down. The

squirrels' color may be cinnamon, grayish, reddish brown, or blackish brown.



So if you ever get a squirrel, you know what do!

Submitted by:

Jack Allen

5th Grader

Sayles Elementary

WORD OF THE MONTH

Jollification meaning festivity or revelry.



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT/ Division of State Police
RESIDENT STATE TROOPERS OFFICE/ Town of Sprague**

To the residents of Sprague.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Randy Silvestri and I'm your new Resident State Trooper. I have been here for the past year as a temporary duty assignment since Trooper Patterson's departure. I am happy to say that I have been assigned here permanently. I have been a trooper since 2000 and have always been stationed at Troop E in Montville. I have primarily taken the north patrol, which covers Sprague, Griswold, Lisbon and Voluntown. I am familiar with the area and I'm well aware of the ongoing issues threatening the town. I am a hard working trooper and take my job very seriously.

During my career, I have had the opportunity to work with the Quality of Life Task Force. This task force was a community policing unit that focused on problematic trends in criminal activity which may affect the quality of life of citizens. This unit dealt with policing issues such as illegal narcotic activity, associated crimes including burglary, robbery, larcenies and firearms trafficking.

Trooper Patterson has established a **Crime Hotline/Tipline** for town residents within the town hall. The number is **822-3000 Ext 207**. This was established to allow townspeople to make anonymous calls to the police for ongoing issues. Please use the hotline/tipline to report any illegal activity including speeders, vandals, drug user and sellers or any other suspicious activity. These messages will only be heard by me. I will listen to everyone's concerns and will attempt to address and rectify them as quickly as possible.

Please do not use the tipline for general police services. If you require police service please contact the state police barracks at 860-848-6500 or my office at 860-822-6156. If you need immediate assistance please call 911. I'm looking forward to meeting you all.

Respectfully,
Randy Silvestri

**FROM THE OFFICE OF
THE TAX COLLECTOR**

The second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes will become due and payable on January 1, 2012. Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax bills will be sent out by the end of December and become due and payable on January 1, 2012. You will have the entire month of January to pay your taxes.

Taxes not paid by February 1, 2012 shall become delinquent and will be subject to 1 ½%

interest per month. Annual interest is 18% and minimum interest is \$2.00.

Taxpayer's needing an immediate clearance for the registration of a motor vehicle and owe a delinquent tax must pay by cash, money order or certified check. All others who pay by personal check must wait until the check clears.

If you pay by mail and would like a receipt please mail entire tax bill and a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your payment.

If you have any questions regarding your tax bill, you may call the tax collector at 822-

3000, ext. 224. Any questions regarding address changes, assessments, exemptions, or your correct tax town should be directed to the Assessor at 822-3000, ext. 222.

TAX COLLECTORS HOURS:

Monday and Thursday:

8:00 am – 12:00 noon

Wednesday:

2:00 pm – 5:30 pm

ASSESSOR'S HOURS:

Mondays:
6:00 am – 6:00 pm
Tuesdays:
7:00 am – 12:00 noon

*-Mary B. Chartier, CCMC
Tax Collector*



Sprague Historical Society

We wish to thank all those who have supported our birthday and anniversary calendar.

The 2013 Sprague Historical Society calendar is now available and can be picked up at the town hall.

Please help support the Sprague Historical Society.
Thank you.

LADIES AUXILIARY

P. O. BOX 591
BAL TIC, CT 06330-0591

OUR TOWN NEWSLETTER
December 13, 2011

Holiday Gathering/meeting of the Auxiliary was held on Tuesday, December 13th at T J's Café. Everyone enjoyed a delicious meal and a good time. Thank you to Pam and her staff at T J's for their hospitality.

We wish to extend our deepest appreciation to all who participated in and supported us at the recent Holly Jolly Bazaar. It was a huge success once again.

Officers for 2012 are:

President: Tina Deschamps
Vice Pres.: Barbara Lambert
Secretary: Jeannette Deschamps
Treasurer: Susan Deschamps

BEST WISHES FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR FROM
ALL OF US TO ALL OF YOU.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 7 pm at the firehouse.

Please remember that anyone interested in joining the Auxiliary is welcome. We are always looking for new members and new fundraising ideas. 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



Friends of Sprague Public Library

Thanks to all who attended the Three Villages Christmas Caroling. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time singing and enjoyed delicious hot chocolate and cookies at the Gristmill afterward! It was so successful that we plan on doing it again next December and hope to see you all there!

In January and February we will be holding our annual membership drive for Friends of Sprague Public Library. Membership runs annually from March to March.

Be on the lookout in next month's Our Town for the date and time of our upcoming Informational

Meet & Greet. Stop by for a cup of coffee and a piece of pastry and learn about our recently

-Marion Leep,
President

Sprague Public Library January Newsletter

Take Your Child to the Library Day!



Saturday, February 4th, 2012

The Sprague Public Library will be participating in Take Your Child to the Library Day. We will make new library cards for those who have old ones or are new to the library. We will also be hosting a literacy dog from Cold Noses, Warm Heart Animal Assisted Therapy Dogs at 10 AM.

There will be a special author upstairs in the community room and downstairs in the children's room at 11 AM.

The Friends of Sprague Public Library will have a Friends Drive in the meeting/Reference Room.

Friends help the library with fundraising and community events. Stop in and see how you could become more involved in the library!



The Afternoon Delight Book Club

meets the first Wednesday of each month at 3:30 PM. The book for the month of January is "Little Bee" by Chris Cleave. Please join us on January 4th!

Books are available at the library.
Stop in today for your copy!



Join us for Yarn Club

on Saturday, January 7, 2012 or on Saturday, January 21st!
Everyone is welcome to come, whether you are experienced at knitting or crocheting or would just like to learn!



REMINDER!

If Sayles School closes due to inclement weather, the library will close as well. If you are unsure because of an early closing, please call the library at 860-822-3012.

Come check out our new Coffee Corner!

We are now proud to offer beverages to our library patrons for just 75¢ a cup!



We have over 5 different flavors of coffee, as well as hot chocolate and tea!



Food for Fines

Help replenish the local food bank and take away your fines all at once.

Each non-perishable food item brought in will take \$1 off your fines.

This program starts January 2 and will end Thursday March 1. All food is donated to the Sprague Food Bank and the Sprague Community Center.

Story Hour



Every Thursday at 10:30AM. We read stories, do crafts, dance, and play games! Registration is not required.



Sprague Public Library: 76 Main Street, Baltic, CT 06330
Phone: 860-822-3012
Website: <http://spraguepublic.library.googlepages.com/home>
Staff: *Christine Kolar- Director*
Kristin Elliott; Jamie Sweet; Karen Sabrowski

~SPRAGUE COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS~

What a wonderful Christmas season we had at SCC! We served about 100 meals at our “Breakfast with Santa” event. Santa was very busy talking with children and having his picture taken with each child. Children enjoyed making their Christmas ornaments and singing Christmas songs with me at the keyboard. Our SCC volunteers, including high school students from the Academy of the Holy Family and Buddy Meadows from the Sprague Senior Center, did a wonderful job of providing a special Christmas event at SCC. We would like to thank all those who came to this annual happening at SCC. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Hopefully many of you attended our beautiful Christmas Eve midnight service in the sanctuary on December 24th at 11:00 p.m. This was a nondenominational service and those who attended enjoyed a night of music, meditation, and Christmas thoughts.

The citizens of Sprague and surrounding communities also supported our Annual “Gift of Giving Tree” at the Sprague Public Library. Many people gave many gifts to those in need and we are so grateful for your participation with this seasonal program. Surely on Christmas morning there will be many children who will be the recipients of your caring and kindness. Thank you so much.

Our next event at SCC will be a “Family Movie Night” that will feature the movie “Happy Feet.” This PG family movie will take us into the world of the Emperor Penguins, who find their soul mates through song. The movie features a penguin that cannot sing. But he can sure tap dance something fierce! “Happy Feet” won the Academy Award for Best Animated Feature and

was nominated for the “Annie Award for Best Animated Feature.” Refreshments will be served too! Donations per family would be appreciated to help with the evening’s expenses. Come and have a night of family fun!

Due to some scheduling conflicts, our December “Family Game Night” needed to be changed to February 10th from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Family Game Night” will be a night for families to play Air Hockey on our new 91 inch Air Hockey table (donated from Sears) and also play board games. There will be a \$2.00 per person donation, which will be put toward operating expenses at SCC. Come and join the 1st “Family Game Night” at SCC!

During the month of March SCC will be having a “Corn Beef & Cabbage Dinner” and a special Irish dancing treat! Mark your calendars: March 10, 2012. Watch for further details in our next newsletter. Also on March 6, 2012, SCC will be holding a fundraising night at Friendly Ice Cream Restaurant in Norwich from 5-8:00 p.m. Details about this activity will be in our February newsletter.

Our weekly “Food Friday” free produce distribution has been very successful and we will continue to offer this program on Fridays from 3:00-4:00 p.m. If you want to register for this program, please call 860-822-6595 by Thursday of the week. We are also making available free clothing and small toiletries, and coupons during the “Food Friday” distribution time. Stop by and see if there is any way we can help you and your family.

Our weekly Yoga Classes at SCC continue to be offered on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. and walk-ins are welcome. The Cub Scouts have their weekly meetings on Monday and Thursday nights, and AA Meetings are held on Sunday nights.

As always, our facilities at the Sprague Community Center are available for many different types of activities. If you are planning an organizational, or family event, give us a call at 860-822-6595.

On behalf of the Sprague Community Center I wish you and your family a happy and healthy New Year in 2012!

Sincerely,

Brenda J. Keefe

Outreach Coordinator

Sprague Community Center: 860-822-6595



American Legion Post 85 12/6/11 Minutes

The 50/50 club fund raiser usually held immediately after the meeting was held prior upon request of Chairman Don Bastian in order to have a final tally for turnover to the Financial Officer. He reported that \$20.00 had been collected for the drawing. The drawing was held and Legionnaire Tom Coletti won. Tom graciously returned his winnings of \$10.00 back into the fund. The membership thanked him for his generosity. Legionnaire Will Chabotte also added in another \$20.00 as a gift to the fund. The Post members thanked him as well. The profits continue to increase in support for this year's needy family at Christmas. A final report will be given at the end of these meeting minutes.

Commander Dave Salemma opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. at the Sprague Rod and Gun Club. He led the Pledge of Allegiance and the salute to the Colors. The Chaplain said a prayer for all veterans. Adjutant Tom Coletti took the roll call of officers and noted that no officers were absent. A membership head count was taken and noted to the Commander that there were 13 of the 45 members in attendance and an official quorum was present to carry on Post business. The Adjutant read the meeting minutes for 11/1/11. They were accepted as read. The Adjutant also noted that there were no member applications that were in process since the last Post meeting held in November.

It was noted that Legionnaire Phil Cosma was present from Post 15 in Jewett City. Phil addressed the Post and stated that he wanted to attend one of the Post's meetings and observe. He is a 32 year member of the American Legion.

The floor was opened up to old business. A brief discussion was held concerning the Veteran's Day Festivities held at the War Memorial Park on November 11th, 2011. The general consensus was that it was a successful event. Some member voiced that more participation from the Post is needed to make the event rival the Memorial Day festivities. More discussion on expanding the event will be discussed at the 2012 meetings.

Adjutant Tom Coletti stated that he made a Christmas wreath and put it next to the Veteran's Day wreath at the War Memorial. Discussion followed where some members would like to install more decorations for next year's Christmas. It was decided that more discussion will follow on that idea at future meetings.

Junior Vice Commander Tim Brodeur investigated the possibility of obtaining a statue that would fit the Post's needs from companies that have unclaimed orders. He reported that none were found. Discussion for a statue to be placed at the War Memorial will be kicked off at the January meeting. The committee members to pursue a statue investigation are presently, the Adjutant, Sergeant-at-Arms, Junior Vice Commander, Financial Officer and Legionnaire Don Bastian also volunteered.

The Commander stated that he has authorized the Financial Officer to order 24 new Post ball caps for those members who have not received one. The Financial Officer will order them at a reduced rate to be available at the January meeting.

The floor was opened to new business. Sr. Vice Commander Will Zinavage stated that there should be a drive within the Post to solicit new members. He had volunteered to investigate what funds are available from State to use to advertise, solicit, and campaign for new members. He will report at the next meeting to the Post. There was no further new business.

The Christmas fund has reached \$427.50 thanks to Legionnaire Don Bastian for chairing the fund. The Post unanimously agreed that the funds should be transferred to the Financial Officer to begin buying presents for several needy families in town. The gifts will be delivered the week of December 18th.

The Financial Officer reported that the treasury contained \$725.57 as of 12/6/11. Checks were issued to pay Johnson's Florist for the War Memorial wreath, American Legion Department of Connecticut dues, Legion Cap Orders and a Legion Bumper Sticker fund raiser. She also reported that 3 members continue to remain 2 years in the rears for dues and that 6 members have not paid their 2012 dues. The Adjutant stated that he will wait until after the January 3rd meeting before taking any action on the 3 members.

The Commander asked if there were any hardship cases reported to anyone of the Post members present for any Veterans in need of financial assistance. None were reported. The Commander asked if there were any sick members. None were reported. With no further business to attend to, the Commander informed the members that the next meeting date will be held Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sprague Rod and Gun Club. All veterans are encouraged to attend. He closed the meeting at 8:07 p.m. The Commander led the Post membership in the Pledge of Allegiance and a salute to the Colors. The Chaplain said a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Coletti, Adjutant-Vice Commander

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Sprague Republican Town Committee News – January 2012

Happy New Year to the residents of Sprague! We hope you enjoyed a fine and safe holiday season and that 2012 will bring you health and happiness.

The Sprague Republican Town Committee was proud to sponsor their first winter coat drive that was held outside TJ's café on November 4. Over 100 coats were collected from towns' folk as well as hats, mittens and scarves. The coats were sorted, cleaned and brought to the Sprague Community Center for distribution to the needy in town. We plan on making this an annual event and will publish the date so more people can help those in need. Special thank you to TJ's for allowing us to use their parking lot for this most worthwhile endeavor.

We are seeking new members to serve on the Republican Town Committee for 2012-2013. If you are a registered Republican and are interested in serving, please express your desire to become a member either by email to "Sprague RTC Chair" at SpragueForward@gmail.com, or by written letter to *Sprague RTC, PO Box 304 Versailles, CT 06383*. Also see the Republican Party Caucus notice in this issue of *Our Town* to be held on Tuesday, January 10, 2012.

Finally, there is an old saying: "Don't believe everything you read in the newspaper." During last fall's elections, the Norwich Bulletin issued two editorials sharply critical of Sprague Republicans for distributing "erroneous" and "misleading" information regarding the state of town finances, specifically a reduction of town reserves.

Sprague Republicans made no claims of financial malfeasance, as some accused. We simply used town financial documents to draw attention to the fact that Sprague was spending more than it was receiving in revenue, while not raising taxes to pay for the extra spending. This was done by taking the difference out of town reserves. The Republican Town Committee therefore stands by its campaign materials.

Our position was, and remains that town budget priorities should be determined by voters in *annual* town meetings. This is where healthy debate can and should occur and where spending priorities can be established by Sprague voters. Please let your selectmen know that you want them to allow an *annual* town budget meeting in 2012 and every year thereafter, as defined by Connecticut State Statutes.

For more information on this issue, please visit www.SpragueForward.org.



Sprague Democratic Town Committee Update

At the December meeting, the DTC met and celebrated the holiday season and started to prepare for the 2012 election cycle.

We are having a caucus on January 12th, 2012 at 6:30pm at the Town Hall to endorse new and returning members, please let us know if you are interested or just stop by. We are always looking for new members, in addition we are establishing a young Democrats' council for those not yet old enough to vote but interested in participating in local, state or federal politics.

The Sprague Democratic Town Committee continues to urge new residents to register to vote. The committee will be glad to help anyone who would like to register. Registration can be done by mail or at the Town Hall. Registered voters interested in serving on a Town board or joining the DTC should contact me or DTC secretary Claire Glaude at 860-822-9111.

-Catherine Osten
Chair, Sprague DTC

Habitat for Humanity of Southeastern Connecticut

Looking for an affordable housing opportunity?

Habitat for Humanity of Southeastern Connecticut will soon be accepting applications for homeownership. People are selected based on need for decent affordable housing, ability to pay a monthly no-interest mortgage payment, and willingness to invest 400 hours of labor into building your home.

If your household income falls within the following ranges, you may qualify for a Habitat for Humanity home, even if you have had credit problems in the past.

Household Size	Minimum Income	Maximum Income
Two	\$25,300	\$33,800
Three	\$25,300	\$38,000
Four	\$25,300	\$42,200
Five	\$27,350	\$45,600
Six	\$29,350	\$49,000
Seven	\$31,400	\$52,350
Eight	\$32,400	\$55,750

Applications can only be obtained by attending one of the following information sessions in its entirety:

****Friday, February 3rd 2012** from 7- 8:30pm at the First Hispanic Baptist Church of New London

****Saturday, February 4th 2012** from 10:30- 12pm at the New London Public Library

During application information sessions families or households interested in becoming a Habitat for Humanity homeowner will learn about the program and the qualifying guidelines. For more information call 860-442-7890 or send an e-mail to mission@habitatsect.org.

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LIFE - MEDICAL - DISABILITY - BUSINESS

Deadline for submissions is the **15th of each month**. Submissions may be e-mailed to OurTown@ctsprague.org. The focus of Our Town is community events, articles, commission notes and other items of town-wide interest. Annual budget considerations may affect page appropriations. Ads may be *pre-purchased* at 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 & 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 formatted as necessary. Libelous or obscene materials are not permitted.

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., and 11:52 a.m.

TJ's Parking Lot, Route 97 and Main Street: 9:00 a.m., 10:00 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. 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, ext. 203.

VNA East

34 LEDGEBROOK DRIVE, MANSFIELD CENTER, CT 06250

PH: 860-456-7288 FAX: 860-456-4267

January 2012 Health Screenings

VNA East will hold the following clinics:

Blood Pressure Screenings:

Wed	Jan	18	Scotland Town Hall	12:30 – 1 pm
Tues	Jan	24	Franklin Senior Center	10:30 – 11:30 am
Tues	Jan	24	Sprague Town Hall	11:45 – 12:45 pm

Adult Health Screenings - including blood pressure, cholesterol, blood glucose, earwax, and foot care. Blood pressure screenings are free; other services have a nominal charge. Call (860) 456-7288 for appointments, costs, and information on other services.



TVCCA's Senior Nutrition Program is supported by Senior Resources-Area Agency on Aging with Title III funds made available under the Older Americans Act. This menu meets 1/3 RDA and conforms to U.S. Dietary Guidelines. Certified by Lindsay D'Amato, MPH, RD.

TVCCA SENIOR COMMUNITY CAFE JANUARY 2012

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

HOMESTYLE MEAL

HOMESTYLE MEAL

HOMESTYLE MEAL

 Senior Nutrition Program Closed 2	Potato Crusted Fish Au Gratin Potatoes Zucchini & Tomatoes Pears w/ mandarin oranges	Tuscan Beef, Pasta & Bean Ragu Broccoli & Cauliflower Baby Carrots Sugar Cookie Orange Juice	Orange Soy Glazed Pork Loin Sweet Potatoes Green Beans & Diced Red Peppers Fresh Fruit	Cheese Manicotti w/ Marinara Sauce Broccoli Italian Vegetable Medley Pineapple Cup 6
Roasted Pork Loin w/ Gravy Mashed Sweet Potatoes Zucchini Danish Apple Juice 9	Cheese Burger Noodle Casserole Green Beans Coin Cut Carrots Fresh Orange 10	Chicken Oreganata Scalloped Potatoes Broccoli, Cauliflower & Carrots Pears w/ mandarin oranges 11	Baked Ziti w/ Sweet Chicken Sausage Baked Italian Vegetable Medley Peas Fruit Cocktail 12	Ethnic Celebration Beef & Bean Burrito Southwestern Brown Rice Fiesta Vegetable Medley Applesauce Cup 13
Dr. Martin Luther King Day  Senior Nutrition Program Closed 16	Chicken Florentine Rice Pilaf Roman Vegetable Medley Peach Cup 17	Honey Glazed Ham Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Applesauce 18	Crispy Baked Chicken Sweet Potatoes Green Beans with Diced Red Peppers Cupcake & Cranberry Juice Happy Birthday 19	Turkey & Penne Casserole Coin Cut Carrots Peas Fresh Fruit 20
Italian Style Meatloaf Penne Pasta w/Marinara Green Beans & Diced Peppers Pears w/ mandarin oranges 23	Maple Mustard Pork Loin Mashed Potatoes Broccoli & Cauliflower Fruit Cocktail 24	Beef Stroganoff Buttered Egg Noodles Peas & Carrots Fresh Orange 25	Mexican Baked Fish Southwestern Brown Rice Zucchini & Yellow Squash Pineapple Cup 26	Honey Mustard Baked Chicken Paprika Roasted Potatoes Baby Carrots & Snap Peas Oatmeal Cookie Grape Juice 27
Chicken Dijonaise Au Gratin Potatoes Broccoli & Cauliflower Fresh Fruit 30	Eggplant Rolette Penne Pasta w/Marinara Bean & Carrot Medley Chocolate Chip Cookie Orange Juice 31		1% milk and whole grain bread are served with each meal. Menu is subject to change with out notice.	All Meal Reservations should be made 72 hours in advance.



January

2012

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day	2 Inland Wetlands 7 pm, Town Hall Zoning Board of Appeals, 7 pm Town Hall	3 American Legion 7 pm, Rod & Gun	4 BOE, 7 pm Sayles School Knights of Columbus 7pm, Fire House P&Z Comm. 7 pm Town Hall Book Club, 3pm, Library	5	6	7 Breakfast 6:30am-10am Versailles Methodist Church Winter Full Moon Hike, 6pm, Grist Mill Yarn Club, 11:30am, Library
8	9 Conservation Comm. Mtg., 7 pm, Town Hall	10 Commission On Aging, 2:30 pm, Town Hall Library Bd. Mtg. 6:45 pm, Grist Mill RTC Caucus, 7pm, Senior Center	11 Board of Selectmen 5:00 pm, Town Hall	12 DTC Caucus, 6:30pm, Town Hall	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17	18 Water & Sewer Auth., 4 pm, Town Hall	19 Board of Finance 7 pm, Town Hall	20	21 Can & Bottle Drive, 9am-12pm, Motherhouse Yarn Club, 11:30am, Library
22	23	24 Agriculture Comm., 7 pm, Town Hall Historical Society 6:30 pm, Grist Mill VNAEast BP Screening, 11:45am, Town Hall	25	26 Regional Animal Control Mtg. 10:30 am Lebanon Town Hall Recreation Comm. 7 pm, Town Hall	27	28
29	30	31				



Our Town

Your Sprague Newsletter

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