



OUR TOWN

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

VOLUME XVIII
ISSUE VIII
AUGUST 2008

INFORMATION * NEWS * OPINIONS

REFERENDUM RESULTS IN "YES" VOTE

A referendum vote was held July 22, 2008, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Firehouse, Bushnell Hollow Road to determine the following: "SHALL THE TOWN OF SPRAGUE APPROPRIATE \$500,000 IN A GRANT FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND, IN RETURN, CONVEY TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT A CONSERVATION AND PUBLIC RECREATION EASEMENT OVER 236.04 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, OF TOWN LAND KNOWN AS THE "MUKLUK PROPERTY," PURSUANT TO THE TERMS OF A PROPOSED OPEN SPACE AND WATERSHED LAND ACQUISITION GRANT AGREEMENT?"

The results were as follows: Electors checked as having voted on Registry List: 650;
Electors checked as having voted by absentee ballot: 28;
Property owner assessed on Grand List for not less than \$1,000: 24.
Total votes cast: 702.
Votes cast as follows: 424 YES, 278 NO.

Moderator: Tracy Jambor
Attest: Claire Gaude, Town Clerk

EMERGENCY NOTICE: WATER ADVISORY

While the Water Advisory has been lifted, residents are asked to continue water conservation practices. These include using discretion when sprinkling or watering lawns, gardens, flowers, plants or any other vegetation; washing of motor vehicles, boats or trailers; filling or cleaning swimming or wading pools; cleaning of outdoor surfaces of all buildings or structures, sidewalks, driveways and other outdoor surfaces.
Do not keep faucet running while brushing teeth or dishes.
For more information, contact the Water and Sewer Authority.

WATER EMERGENCY RESOLVED

The Town of Sprague is happy to inform residents that the water emergency has been resolved. The Town has successfully completed the installation of two new wells thus stabilizing the Town's water source.
The Town of Sprague thanks everyone for their concern and appreciates all the help from Governor M. Jodi Rell, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Public Health, Senator Edith Prague, Representative Jack Malone, the Sprague Water and Sewer Authority and of course the employees of the Water & Sewer Department who worked morning through night for our successful resolution.
The water restriction is now lifted. Of course normal conservation is recommended. Outside water use is now allowed.

~Catherine A. Osten, First Selectman
1 Main Street
Baltic, CT 06330
(860) 822-3000x202

TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE

The first installment of Real Estate and Personal Property taxes became due and payable on July 1. Taxes unpaid as of August 4 will be considered delinquent and will be subject to a 3 percent interest. From then on additional interest of 1 1/2 percent per month (18 percent annually) will be charged. Minimum interest is \$2. Checks payable to Town of Sprague. All bills, Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle, may be paid with one check. If paid by mail and a receipt is requested, mail entire tax bill and a self-addressed, stamped envelope with the payment.
Taxpayers needing an immediate clearance for the registration of a delinquent motor vehicle must pay by cash, money order or certified check. Any questions regarding tax bills should be directed to the Tax Collector, (860) 822-3000, ext. 224.
Questions regarding address change, assessments, exemptions or correct tax town should be addressed to

the Assessor at (860) 822-3000, ext. 222.
Tax Collector Hours: Monday and Thursday, 8 a.m. to noon; Wednesdays, 2 to 5:30 p.m.
Assessor Hours: Mondays 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays, 7 a.m. to noon.

SIDEWALK RECONSTRUCTION UNDER WAY

Residents are reminded to use caution when walking along Main Street during the construction of new sidewalks near the Grist Mill.

OUR TOWN

Branching Out ... Notes from the Tree Warden

There was an article in the Norwich Bulletin recently that is worth reiterating. It concerned Sycamore Anthracnose – one of the most devastating diseases that affect these majestic trees. And since we have several of these gorgeous giants in town...

Anthracnose is a fungus that thrives and infests the tree when there is plenty of moisture and cool temperatures. Exactly the kind of weather we had this past Spring. The fungus spores attack the new leaves as they emerge and cause the leaves to turn brown, curl and soon fall off. Anthracnose is often confused with frost damage because of the very cool temperatures the fungus thrives in. You may have noticed

the Sycamores in town seemed to get their leaves “very late” this Spring. In fact, these trees were actually producing a second set of leaves after the first leaves fell off. The sycamores in town should be able to survive this year’s attack, but will suffer and fail if the fungus returns next year. While there are sprays that can deter anthracnose, it is very expensive and difficult to apply. The best action tree owners can take is to rake up any leaves that are on the ground now and again in the fall. Burn or shred the leaves and dispose of them to get rid of the fungus spores that may still be attached. More information can be found if you “Google” Sycamore Anthracnose. (Anthracnose affects several other hardwood trees – dogwood, oak, maple, peach are a few – each with their own specific form of the disease).

Five new trees were planted in July along Route 138. I will continue to plant trees where old trees have been removed, aging trees will fail soon or open areas are “begging” for shade canopies.

Thanks to the many residents who have used alternative methods for advertising yard sales beside nailing them to public trees and telephone poles.

~Dave Gustafson, Tree Warden

ANNUAL TOWN PICNIC AUG. 16

Park & Rec invites everyone to the fun at the Annual Town Picnic on Saturday August 16, from 1 to 5 p.m. Park & Rec will provide popcorn, sno-cones, cotton candy and lots of fun.

The grills will be hot and ready for you to use at the River Park.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME Park and Rec is looking for volunteers. If you have any ideas that you would like to submit for our Fall Festival contact Noreen Foley.



ROPES COURSE BIG SUCCESS

On June 24, 21 children from Sprague attended a Ropes course held at Camp Mattatuck in Plymouth. The ropes course is designed to foster team building and leadership skills; with these new skills this group will work together throughout the summer to help design landscaping around the Skateboard Park and develop rules and regulations for the Skateboard Park. Trooper Saucier will remain involved in the teams activities.

Labor and materials for the Skateboard Park were donated by Cascades in Versailles. We are fortunate to have so many supportive local business's and organizations who care about our community and our children, we are very grateful to them.

The children did a wonderful job there. Thank you to the following children that attended the Ropes Course: Zachary Bennett, Danny Briggs, Selena Calderon, Jake Cohee, Travis Cohen-Rappold, Gregory Dziekan, Kim Filiatreault, Shannon Foley, Susan Foley, Kyle Gosselin, Corey Holman, Michael James, Michael Ladford, James Miner, Josh Paul, Dezerra Pepin, Thomas Schrader, Valerie Schultz, Joseph Walczyk, Kevin Zeller, Tyler Zeller, and a BIG thank you to Trooper John Saucier for all his time and support!

It's really helpful that First Selectwoman, Cathy Osten, and grant writer Penny Newbury work so hard to support the Park & Rec. This trip was made possible through a grant that Penny Newbury was able to obtain for us through OPM, State Office of Policy and Management's police and youth initiative Police and Youth Grant.

KICK BALL

Park and Rec will be conducting Kick Ball Games for children ages 7 to 14 on August 6 and 20 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the little league field, weather permitting. Park & Rec. will not be supplying anything but fun.

Parents are urged to come.

SUMMER REC

The Summer Rec. program is going well. The children are really enjoying themselves. Thanks to all who participated. We hope to see you all next year.

GOOD LUCK IN SCHOOL

With school nearing, Park & Rec would like to wish all the children a safe and wonderful rest of the summer, and good luck in school.

KARATE

Park and Rec is hosting a 6-week Karate program located in Franklin, by Hidden Dragon, the cost for each child is \$40. Information: Noreen at (860) 822-1829 or e-mail noreenfoley@sbcglobal.net.

GIRLS SOFTBALL

Interested? E-mail noreenfoley@sbcglobal.net.

The Web site should be updated shortly, and will contain pictures of the Ropes Course for your enjoyment... www.ctsprague.org.

OUR TOWN STAFF

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.

Editor: Amy Lynn Reifsnnyder

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Production Staff: Jeannette Bastien; Al Hoffman, Rita Grenier, Al Grenier, Barbara Robitaille, John Ellis, Joe Osowski, Richard Waterman, Ruth Clark, Dennison Allen, and whoever else wanders through the room the day we collate, **USUALLY THE LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH, 8:30 A.M. TO ?** Feel free to volunteer! Good storytellers welcome. Information: (860) 456-1082;

OurTownNews@gmail.com.

American Legion: Members Needed to Continue Post

A meeting will be held at the Sprague Senior Center at 7 p.m., Tuesday, August 26.

All transferring members and new members are asked to complete their membership sign up before this meeting. Any interested veterans that have never attended a Post meeting and are considering joining are asked to bring their DD 214 form with them.

Election of officers will be discussed with election of officers to take place on September 23.

If transferring members and potential new members that attended the June Post meeting support the request above, approximately 41 members will be on the Post's roll of members as of September 1.

Attendance at the August meeting is very important. Failure to meet the 40 person roster by September 1 and hold elections on September 23 will result in non-compliance to maintaining an American Legion Post status.

The first meeting to reorganize the Post was held in September 2007. One year has almost pasted since three active members, Tom Coletti, Doug Patrick, Wil Zinavage, and one transferring member, Joe Osowski, met with the Senior Vice Commander Harvey Daggett of the Department of Connecticut and District Commander Tom Foley from Taftville to request an extension in time to maintain the Post #85 Charter. The 24 member Post has grown to 35 members in that time. 40+ members are required to maintain the charter.

If the charter is lost, all members will be given the choice to transfer to local Posts in the area of their choosing or to be placed on the Department 200 active list for the Department of Connecticut American Legion. Legionnaires and potential legionnaires, it is your choice and August 26 is the day you can choose.

Regards,
Tom Coletti, Post #85 Member



Sprague Summer

Free

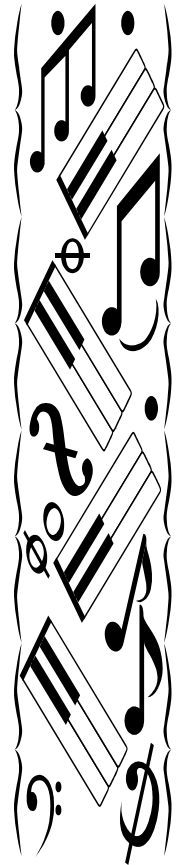
Summer Concerts

BALTIC GAZEBO

5 TO 8 P.M.

August 1 Horizontal Hippies
August 23 The faded Love Band
August 30 The faded Love Band
September 7 The faded Love Band
September 20 The faded Love Band

Rain dates to be announced
Information: (860) 822-3000 ext 208



Thomas Paine's "Common Sense" at Library

Join Patrick Rowley at the Sprague Public Library for a discussion of the famous political pamphlet brought about the American Revolution on Thursday, September 25, at 7 p.m. Lemonade and cookies will be served. <http://spraguepublic.library.googlepages.com/home>

OUR TOWN

TEENS PLAN FAMILY FUN FAIR AT THE LIBRARY ~Kristin Elliott

The Sprague Public Library Teen Advisory Group is putting on a Family Fun Fair on August 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This fair is for families to come and have fun while supporting the library. We need help gathering supplies: acrylic paint, bottled water, darts, balloons, a big cork board, new stuffed animals for prizes, rubber ducks, a kiddie pool, plastic spoons, cotton rope, paper lunch bags, children's costume jewelry, match box cars, and school supplies for prizes. Donation boxes are located in the library and Town Hall. Donations will be greatly appreciated. Information: Sprague Public Library , (860) 822-3012.

"Slime the Librarian Contest"

A "Slime the Librarian" fundraiser is currently underway at the library, and will continue until August 9. Patrons put money into jars for the librarian of their choice to be slimed. The librarian with the most money in their jar will get slimed. All money will be used to school a literacy dog for the library and community. The winner will be slimed on August 16 at the Family Fun Fair or at the Summer Reading Ice Cream Social on August 20.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. Story Time and Something Special.

Wednesdays 6 p.m., Teen Night at the Library.

visit ctsprague.org/library.htm, call (860) 822-3012 or visit the library.



FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY TO MEET

Friends of the Sprague Public Library will nominate officers at the August 23 meeting.

The Friends of the Library will be helping hands at the August 16, Sprague Library Family Fun Event and will feature a special table September 20 at the 3 Village Festival.

Anyone interested in volunteering for The Friends of the Library should contact the library at (860) 822-3012.

DON'T THROW THEM OUT!!!

With drop off boxes at the Transfer Station and Town Hall....

We can recycle the items below which is GREAT for the environment while at the same time

**earning money for
Sayles School PTO.**

**Laser Printer Cartridges
Ink Jet Printer Cartridges
Old Cell Phones**



Don't forget to include All BATTERIES!!!

Ni Cad, Lithium, other rechargeable batteries

Questions? Call Sarah Richardson at (860) 822-0779

FROM THE EDITOR: Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. The writer's name, address and a contact phone number must be included with each submission. Because the focus of Our Town is community events, articles, commission notes and other items of town-wide interest will take priority over personal opinions. Annual budget considerations may affect page appropriations as well.

Ads may be pre-purchased at a rate of : Business Card \$21; Double Business Card \$40; Half Page, \$70; Full Page, \$100.

Submissions may be e-mailed to OurTownNews@gmail.com, or mailed to Town Hall, P.O. Box 677, Baltic, CT 06330.

~Amy Lynn Reifsnnyder, (860) 456 1082

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

The Baltic United Methodist Church is now associated with Lee Memorial Church in Norwich on Washington Street, with the Reverend Ho Soon Han as their pastor and Baltic UM's pastor-in-charge.

On the first Sunday of each month, Communion Sunday, services will be held at Lee Memorial at 9:30 a.m. All other Sunday services will be in the Baltic church at 10:30 a.m., with lay speakers from Lee Memorial and other churches.

Social activities will be blended.

Schedule for August:

Aug. 3, Lee Memorial, 9:30 a.m.

Aug. 10, David Myers, Baltic UM, 10:30 a.m.

Aug. 17, Helen Weeks, Baltic UM, 10:30 a.m.

Aug. 24, the Rev. Mary Webber Hall, Baltic UM,
10:30 a.m.

Aug. 31, Special Service

The public is invited to all services.

The church and community are looking forward to a wonderful relationship with Lee Memorial, as all are united in Christ.

AUGUST 16: TAG SALE 8 A.M. TO NOON

DONATIONS ARE NEEDED, TAG SALE ITEMS,
CLOTHES, FURNITURE, BAKED GOODS, PERENNIALS
CONTACT DOROTHY LAMB, (860) 536-4981

AUGUST 24: COMMUNITY PICNIC DAY
THE CHURCH WELCOMES THE COMMUNITY TO STOP
BY FOR HOT DOGS & HAMBURGERS. HOME BAKED
GOODIES, COFFEE & PUNCH. THERE WILL BE LIVE
ENTERTAINMENT. RAIN OR SHINE!
NO ONE GOES HOME HUNGRY.
BRING YOUR FRIENDS EVERYONE IS WELCOME!
LET'S EAT DRINK AND BE MERRY.

GIANT RUMMAGE SALE
FOOD * CLOTHING * FURNITURE *
HOUSEHOLD * toys * books * MORE!

If you can't find it, you don't need it!

FRIDAY, AUG. 1, 4 TO 7 P.M.
SATURDAY, AUG. 2, 9 A.M. TO NOON
St. Joseph School
Route 207 (West Main Street)
Baltic
(860) 822-6378

PARTICIPATORY PLANNING MEETING FOR HANOVER, VERSAILLES AND BAL- TIC

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19

5 P.M., TOWN HALL

SECOND FLOOR

Representatives from all town commissions and departments will be meeting with the Connecticut Rural Development Council to help create a strategic plan that prioritizes development goals for Sprague's immediate and long-term growth. Some areas of discussion: infrastructure, commercial and industrial development, public and community services, Americans with Disabilities Act issues, recreation, rural character preservation and tourism.

The first step in this process is to conduct a SWOT analysis to identify the town's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

This is an opportunity for residents, business and land owners to voice opinions on how Sprague could look in 5, 10, or 15 years. Your thoughtful participation is welcome.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Any unaffiliated voter who would like to become a Justice of the Peace may apply to the Town Clerk, in writing, between August 1 and November 1. In Sprague, up to five unaffiliated Justices of the Peace may be appointed. If more than five applications are received, the Town Clerk must conduct a lottery at a ceremony open to the public, on or before November 21, 2008.

The four-year term for Justices of the Peace will be from January 5, 2009 through January 7, 2013.

Job Opening

Part-time Crossing Guard

St. Joseph School
Baltic

10 hours a week
\$8.79 an hour

Applications
available at
Selectman's Office

Closing Date:
August 8, 2008



PLAN AN OUTING WITH PARK & REC

The Boy Scouts have been busy making trails down at the Mukluk.

Why not pack a lunch and go see the beautiful work they've done there?

If you would like to organize a family day filled with a hike and then a cook-out at the Shetucket River Park contact either Don Boushee, Conservation Commission, or Noreen Foley, Park & Rec, and they will help organize something, (860) 822-1829 or e-mail noreenfoley@sbcglobal.net.