



OUR TOWN

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

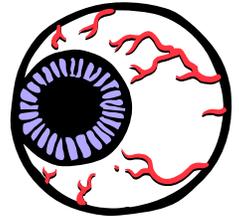
VOLUME XVIII
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OCTOBER 2008

INFORMATION * NEWS * OPINIONS

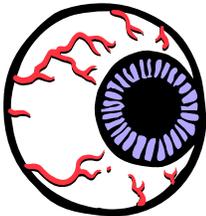
3rd annual PROJECT SAFE hallowe'en

Sponsored by The Baltic Fire Department

Friday, October 31



Costume Parade leaves town hall at 6:30 p.m.
Fun and festivities to follow in fire house



Donations sought: lots of candy, money, red led lights or other safety devices, and living bodies needed (to help with the festivities)
Checks go to "Project safe Halloween, Baltic fire dept"
Contact reg patchell, (860) 822-6228

TICKETS NOW ON SALE!!!

The Baltic Fire Department Presents

THE AMAZING HYPNO LORENZO'S HYPNOSIS COMEDY SHOW GET HYPNOTIZED

This family comedy show will be held

Saturday November 22, from 6 through 7:30 p.m.

Sayles School, Scotland Road, Baltic

Contact a member of the Fire Department or mail a check,
including how many tickets for adults and
how many for children to:

Baltic Fire Department, PO Box 314, Baltic, CT 06330.

Cost: \$15 for ages 12 and older; \$7.50 for ages 11 and under

Information: (860) 822-6228 or

e-mail reginaldpatchell@sbcglobal.net



OUR TOWN

TRANSFER STATION PERMITS

The new 2009-2010 vehicle permits will be issued starting in December 2008. Vehicle permits are available for Sprague residents at the Transfer Station with proof of a valid driver's license and vehicle registration. Remember to recycle all batteries, appliances, electronics, food bottles & cans, paper, waste oil, Fluorescent bulbs, tires and scrap metal. Stop in the office for a price list. Did you know that grass clippings are not allowed? Use a mulcher, or compost your grass clippings. The Transfer Station accepts leaves. Separate leaves and brush because they go in separate areas.

Did you know that the Town trucks leaves? This is expensive (\$taxes\$), so please keep your leaves and brush separated.

Do you have a clean 55-gallon drum, metal or plastic, suitable for the collection of antifreeze? See the staff for more information. Gate Hours are Monday & Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vehicles will be admitted up to 15 minutes prior to closing.

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

Editorial Assistant: Colette Hoffman **Production Staff:** Jeannette Bastien; Al Hoffman, Rita Grenier, Al Grenier, Barbara Robitaille, John Ellis, Joe Osowski, Richard Waterman, Dennison Allen, and whoever else wanders through the room the day we collate. Feel free to volunteer!

DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR PROJECT SAFE HALLOWEEN

I am writing to you in reference to the Baltic Fire Department's Third Annual Project Safe Halloween Program. This year we are hoping to be bigger and better than past years. This year we will need a LOT of candy and a considerable amount of money in order to purchase candy. I am writing to ask if you would please help us continue to have the Project Safe Halloween Program at the Baltic Fire Department. If you are making a monetary donation, do so with a check to "Project Safe Halloween, Baltic Fire Depart." This way your donation will not be confused as a donation that may be going to a different fund. A short note to show that the check is to be directed to Project Safe Halloween would be appreciated. We have made some Halloween decorations over the past two years so the candy and Polaroid film will be our major expenses for this year. If your company is able to donate any type of safety light such as a red blinking LED light or a glow in the dark flashlight, I will be more than happy to come to pick up the donation.

At last year's program we gave out almost \$2,000 worth of candy. We do not use any of the town's money to run this program. Everything has either been donated or purchased with money that was donated, or made by businesses and residents of Baltic. All fire department members volunteer their time to set up, clean up and pass out the candy. If you would like to assist with this program, I am always looking for a group of people who can run some Halloween games for the children as they wait for the costume contest winners to named and the six bikes to be given away.

I want to thank you very much for your help during the past two years that we have run this program in town and also for any donation that you may be able to make. I hope to see everyone in

costume (with your children of course,) for our annual costume parade and program at the fire department. I know that times are hard for many of us and that just filling up you're vehicle now forces many to decide on what item we must do with out at the store. I also know that this year will bring more children to our firehouse for our Halloween Program in addition, I hope that you may be able to make a donation for this event. Last year we had a little over 250 children attend, it seemed that the parade was the length of Route 97, from the town hall up to the firehouse. I must admit that I was always a bit nervous that no one would show up but once I saw how many children and parents (all dressed in costumes) showed up, I could not help but smile.

~Reg Patchell, Baltic Fire Department, PO Box 314, Baltic, CT 06336, (860) 917-5064

SPECIAL VOTER REGISTRATION SET

Any United States citizen 18 years or older who is a bona fide resident of this town, is eligible to register to vote in this town. Persons age 17 years old may "pre-register" and become eligible to vote on their birthday. To register for the next election, go to the office of the Town Clerk or the Registrar of Voters during office hours before October 28. Mail-in registrations are also available by request. Completed applications must be returned postmarked by October 21.

The Registrar of Voters will hold special voter registration sessions on Saturday, October 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Tuesday, October 28, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Persons age 17 years of age are also encouraged to register if they will turn 18 before the next election.

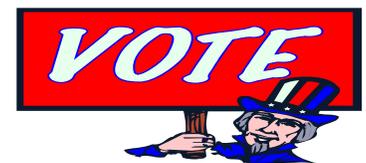
The Registrar of Voters must be notified of a change of address, change of marital status and name change.

Information: (860) 822-3000, ext. 220. Regular office hours: Wednesdays, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. The next election is slated for November.

~ Kathleen Boushee, Patricia Amon; Registrar of Voters

CONDOLENCES OFFERED

On behalf of the Our Town staff and volunteers, I would like to offer my deepest sympathies to the friends and family of Ruth Clark. Ruth died on September 4, 2008, at her home in Baltic. Not only did Ruth volunteer as a collator for Our Town, she was very involved with the Salvation Army and various women's ministry programs. Memorial gifts in her name are being accepted by The Salvation Army, 262 Main Street, Norwich, CT.



Sprague Conservation Commission

Hello again fellow Sprague citizens. I hope that everyone is well, and the kids are enjoying being back to school. I hope that you love this season as much as I do. Now we all can enjoy a new Fall season of beautiful cool weather and of course spectacular foliage of which our region is known for. On that note, I am glad to report that the conservation easement with the state was recently signed and sent back to the state to finalize so that the town can receive the \$500,000 promised by the state. I hope that many of you are enjoying The Mukluk Preserve and other open space in our town.

We will be leading a **Community Hike on Saturday October 11** for those of you who have not been able to attend our Sunday hikes. Please come and bring the kids so that we can give you the "official tour." Meet at the Grist Mill and follow me up. There will also be once again the infamous **Fall Walking Weekend hike led by Mr. Lou Dzialo and myself on Sunday, October 26, at 10 a.m.** Meet at the cabin.

Other Mukluk news: Now that we got a positive clean-up report on a portion of the remediated area, we will be moving the fence back in front of the cabin area. Please stay out of the remaining fenced off area while we continue our clean up. Any questions, call Town Hall. Another project that we are assisting with is clearing around the Baltic Reservoir to assist with the ongoing project to reactivate the Res. The current plan is to clear trees and brush around 50 feet of the edge of the water and replant various species of pines to act as a leaf screen. It's important to plant various species so that you don't get a complete wipe-out of one species by blight or infestation similar to what happened last time to the red pine. It's exciting to be a part of this import project for the town.

Also we are planning to mark boundaries of the reservoir soon. This is a big project and we could use help. Any help or input call Cathy Osten or e-mail me at donaldboushee@sbcglobal.net.

Other exciting news: The SCC will be sponsoring a special workshop entitled Wildlife and Connecticut's Changing Landscape. Presenters will be two Department of Environmental Protection certified Master Wildlife Conservationists. This is quite relevant to us all, particularly to those residents who have had sighting of bobcat and other wildlife in our area. After all, open space, wildlife corridors, and such things sometimes bring the intended results into our backyards. They will also feature identification of other local wildlife and the history of our changing landscape. Presentation will take place in November. Stay tuned.

~Donald Boushee, SCC Chairman

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

On or after October 6, absentee ballots will be available for the November 4 election. Please call or stop into the Town Clerk's Office (822-3000, ext. 220) to request an application or for more information.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE UNAFFILIATED VOTERS ONLY

Any unaffiliated voter who would like to become a Justice of the Peace may apply to the Town Clerk in writing before November 1. In Sprague, up to five unaffiliated justices may be appointed.

~ Claire B. Glaude, Town Clerk

AUXILIARY NEWS

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Fire Department will host the Holly Jolly Bazaar Saturday, November 29. Once again, tables are available for rent. Cost for an 8 foot table is \$25. If interested in renting a space, call (860) 822-8331. Leave name, mailing address and phone number.

New members are always welcome to join the Auxiliary. It is not necessary to be a Sprague resident or to have a spouse or family member in the Fire Department to join the Auxiliary. Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, at the firehouse.

~Jeanette Deschamps, Secretary

OUR TOWN

Sprague Public Library Summer Reading Program 2008

Wow! What wonderful young readers we have in town! Ninety children registered to participate in our summer reading program. Children needed to read and report on at least eight books, an average of one per week, over the summer. Sixty participants (listed below) met or exceeded the reading goal with a total of 858 books read! Our top readers were Kristin Brodeur in grades 4 through 8 who read 24 books and Annmarie Mulkey in grades preK through 3 who read an amazing 124 books!

All children who met the reading goal were invited to our annual Ice Cream Sundae Party on Wednesday, August 20 at the library. Children feasted on ice cream donated by the Ejchorszt family and the West Main Street Norwich Dairy Queen. An awards ceremony was held and all students received

certificates of commendation. All of our readers also earned a choice of a book to keep donated by the Sprague Garden Club, basketball tickets to a CT Suns game, and baseball tickets to a CT Defenders game. We also had a surprise visitor at the party- the CT Defenders mascot! Congratulations to all of our readers, thanks to all of our sponsors, keep reading, and I hope to see everyone again next summer!

~Rebecca Reyer
Program Director

Hannah Aldridge, Olivia Aldridge, Kelsey Allen-McQuade, Kyra Boyd, Atheana Brodeur, Kristin Brodeur, Cristian Calderon, Jasmine Calderon, Selena Calderon, Gabriel Carr, Micah Carr, Noah Carr, Quentin Carr, Dylan Crider,

Bridget Crowley, Joe Crowley, Katie Crowley, Libby Crowley, Brianna Dziekan, Gregory Dziekan, Jasmine Dziekan, Zachary Dziekan, Shannon Foley, Cameron Genest, Kyle Genest, Tessa Hospod, Zosia Hospod, Timothy Jorsz, Ben Kilpatrick, Noah Kilpatrick, Brian King, Hannah King, Julie King, Austin Leep, Clover Leep, Isabella Llano, Amanda Lumpkins, Hannah Michaelson, Annmarie Mulkey, Johnathan Mulkey, Marytherese Mulkey, Celina Ortiz, Tatyana Ortiz, Raj Patel, Riya Patel, Eva Patnoad, Cole Patnoud, Alex Pike, Brian Pike, Taylor Plante, Tyler Plante, Gabriela Rivera, Pamela Russo, Hannah Sabukowicz, Andrew Sechen, George Sechen, Madison Smith, Tommy Smith, Kristine Staggs, Seth Zastowsky.

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

BRANCHING OUT— Notes from the Tree Warden

I want to clarify the procedures I use to prune out dead and dangerous tree limbs or to remove trees in Town.

When a resident calls to report a hazardous public tree or dangerous/broken limbs over a road, the public works guys see a problem tree during their daily work in town, or I find a problem during one of my survey drives, I will evaluate the potential hazard. I consider the location, the size of the limb or limbs, the degree of infestation or rot in the tree and, of course, the level of risk to the public. I will then "post" the tree for pruning or removal, if warranted. The town does not own a bucket truck so we use a tree service to do most of our tree work, especially for high work or work around power lines. If I cannot adequately assess a

tree I have the tree service owner, a Connecticut licensed arborist, also evaluate the tree. However, at (about) \$900 a day my budget will only support six or seven days of tree work for the whole year. It may take a "while" for posted trees to actually get pruned or removed because we make sure that we have a full day of work before we call in the tree service. It is cost prohibitive and impractical to remove every small dead limb from every tree in town. All trees have a "natural" cycle of limbs dying off – usually limbs low in the tree and relatively small. I will continue to have safety issues resolved as rapidly as possible.

State foresters and the State Entomologist are very concerned about an infestation of Asian long-horned beetles. These pests are tree killers. Shiny black with white spots and very long antennae, the long-horned beetle is not particular about what hard wood tree it eats. The adult female lays up to 160 eggs, leaving rust colored holes on the tree. When the eggs hatch, the white, worm-like immature beetles burrow into the wood of the tree. The adult beetles exit the burrows leaving ½ inch holes in the tree. Once a tree is infested the tree cannot be saved – it must be cut down and burned or chipped to prevent further infestation. Residents should be diligently looking for these destructive pests. If you suspect finding a long-horned beetle, put it in a jar and put it in the freezer. Call

Kirby Stafford (CT State Entomologist) at (860) 203-974-8485 or any of the UCONN Cooperative Extension Services. An infestation of the long-horned beetle was discovered in Worcester, Massachusetts, this year. Thirty three square miles were quarantined. This is too close to not pay attention and be aware.

Enjoy the fall colors.

~Dave Gustafson
Sprague Tree Warden



Sprague Charter Commission

The Charter Commission has been meeting since its appointment by the Board of Selectmen in October 2007 to develop a Charter for the Town of Sprague. Soon it will be time for you to voice your opinion. We have been working on a Charter that will allow the citizens of the Town of Sprague to govern ourselves in the manner that makes sense. We have listened to the boards and commissions and to our elected officials. We have drafted a document that reflects the input we have received. Copies of the draft charter are available at the Town Hall.

When our representatives in Hartford vote on statutes, they are voting on policies that affect all towns in the State of Connecticut. Some statutes may work well for a large municipality like Norwich but may not work so well for a small town such as Sprague. By adopting a charter we will be able to tailor the government in the town to our specific needs. We will be able to specify how we elect officials and determine their terms of office.

At the present time the draft charter includes some significant changes: The Board of Selectmen will increase to (5) versus (3), with a (4) year term of office versus (2) years, the offices of Town Clerk, Tax Collector, and Town Treasurer will become hired positions rather than elected positions. The Charter Commission is also proposing that all boards and commissions follow the state statute regarding minority representation.

There will be two public hearings for you to voice your opinion. The first will be held at the Town Hall, on September 30, 2008, at 7 p.m. We ask that you come to this hearing and voice your opinion. The second hearing has not yet been scheduled but will be posted in the *Our Town*. You may also leave comments or ask questions about the Charter on the Sprague Web site under "Charter Commission."

In January, after resolution of comments, the Draft Charter will be turned over to the Office of the Selectman. The last step in the adoption of a Charter will be a referendum vote. It is expected that the referendum on the Charter will take place on election day in November 2009.

~Richard Douville
Acting Chairman
Charter Commission



DON'T THROW THEM OUT!!!

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

RECYCLE
Laser Printer Cartridges
Ink Jet Printer Cartridges
Old Cell Phones

Include All BATTERIES!!!

GREAT for the environment
EARN money for
Sayles School PTO

Information:
dssixofus@netzero.com

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.

UP THE VALLEY...

Editor's Note:

This month a new column appears in the Our Town, Up the Valley. A space exchange has been initiated with the town newsletter of Scotland, the Highland Herald. We have agreed to run press releases for events in each others' town in the respective newsletters, thereby giving folks an opportunity to know what is going on over the town line.

Open House at the Huntington Homestead are on the second and third Saturdays of each month, May through October. There are two Open Houses scheduled for next month, October 4 and the 18. Hours are 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. Tour the birthplace of Samuel Huntington, signer of the Declaration of Independence and President of the Continental Congress. Admission is free; donations gratefully accepted. Special tours can be arranged by appointment. For information, call (860) 423-1547.

Additional information and a museum store available at www.Huntingtonhomestead.org.

21st Annual Scotland's Highland Festival, Sunday, October 12, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Edward Waldo Homestead, Waldo Road, Scotland. Admission \$12; Seniors 65 and over, \$10; Children 6 to 12, \$5; Children 5 and under, free. No pets allowed. Clan Village; piping, drumming, and bands; dancing; athletics; food; beverages; and more. New this year: Connecticut's tartan sale to benefit the Scholarship Fund. Visit www.scotlandgames.org for more information.

OUR TOWN

AMERICAN LEGION POST 85

A tentative meeting of American Legion Post 85 is scheduled for October 28, 7 p.m. Whether or not the Post will continue will be decided by late September, after press time. For information, contact Tom Coletti, tcoletti@gdeb.com.

Helping Hand Neighbor to Neighbor

Donations continue to be accepted by Salvation Army Upper New London Country Unite, PO Box 304, Versailles, CT 06383. All money will be used to help Sprague people.

May the Lord Bless you as you share with others

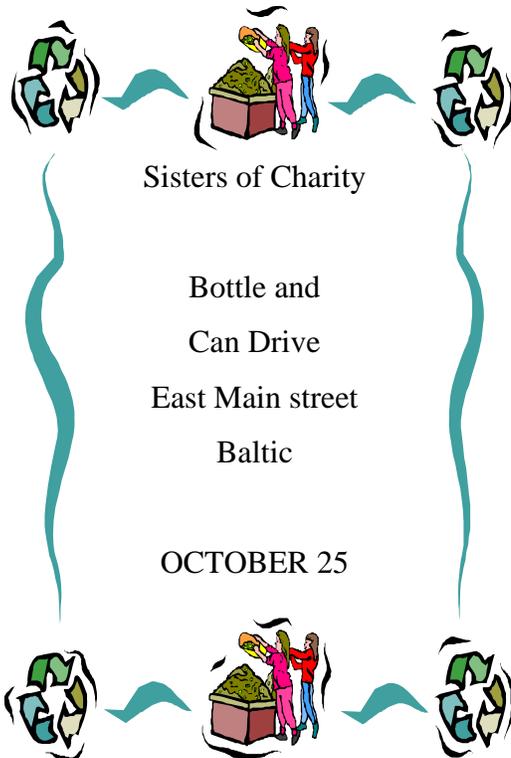
~ Dennison Allen,
Sprague Service Unite Member

CANNED PET FOOD NEEDED

The Versailles United Methodist Church is collecting canned cat and dog food and dog collars for the Norwich Animal Hospital. Donations may be dropped off at 4 Church Street, Versailles, in the bin by the church.

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.



Sprague Historical Society

Invites you to include your family's BIG DATES on their
2009 BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

Each date listed costs \$1

Money used to preserve Sprague's history

Send checks to: Sprague Historical Society

PO Box 162, Baltic, CT 06330

See back page for order form

Calendar cost: \$5 Order deadline late November

Justice of the Peace

Available for your special wedding day

With contacts for wedding photography
and a bagpiper with whom
I have worked before

All of them perform excellent work.

Call Reg at 860 822 6228



Please feel free to leave a message if I am not
available to answer your call

GET THAT HOLIDAY FEELING....

SPRAGUE SENIOR CENTER is looking for large baskets of all kinds for their annual Basket Raffle, to be held at the December holiday party.

Baskets and items to fill them may be dropped off at the Senior Center, Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Raffle baskets will be on display in Town Hall during November.



POKENO PLAYERS WANTED

The Senior Center continues their Pokeno Thursdays on September 11 from 12:30 to 3 p.m.

Pokeno is "easy to learn and play. Similar to BINGO. Bring along a friend and spend a fun afternoon at the Senior Center. Transportation available: (860) 822-3000.

VERSAILLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor Wanda Greaves invites all to join in worship on Sundays, 10:30 a.m., with Sunday School during worship.

Holy Communion offered first Sunday of the month.

Coffee Fellowship follows.

Wheelchair accessible.

Information: (860) 822-9439.

Versailles United Methodist Church is located at 4 Church St.

HELP WANTED: Town of Sprague Part-Time Recording Secretary

The Town of Sprague is accepting applications for a Part-time Secretarial position, to attend all regular monthly meetings and any special meetings/Hearings for the Sprague Planning & Zoning Commission

Responsibilities: attend all regular meetings/hearings and special meetings record and transcribe minutes. Approx. 8 hrs. Per month.

Qualifications: High school graduate and two years experienced preferred. Great listening skills, ability to type 45 -50 WPM, computer skills required in MS Word. Apply in person Selectman's Office 1 Main Street, Baltic or call 822-3000 ext 201 for more information. Application must be submitted before October 6, 2008 EOE

HUNTING CONSENT FORMS AVAILABLE

State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Wildlife Division Hunting on Private Land Consent forms are available at Town Hall. All hunters are required to have land-owner permission when hunting on private land. PLEASE HUNT RESPONSIBLY.

NOTE: Hunting in the Mukluk is prohibited at this time. Also, no motorized ATVs or motor bikes are permitted.

For information on the Lyme Diseases Association, contact Kimberlee Pappa
Chapter Chair
Eastern CT Chapter, Lyme Disease Association, LDAECC
860-303-9020 cell
easternctlda@yahoo.com
www.lymediseaseassociation.org
Sprague, CT 06330

Sprague Historical Society 2009 Community Calendar - Order Form

Fill out the form below with the names and dates of people you'd like to see in the calendar.

Birthdays and Anniversaries - \$1.00 each

Calendar - \$5.00

SHS will use the money to preserve Sprague's history. *This calendar is part of that history.*

Send the form and your check to: "Sprague Historical Society" - PO Box 162 - Baltic, CT 06330

Calendars will be available for pickup at Town Hall in December. You'll be notified when they're ready.

	B or A	DATE	NAME(S)
<div style="border-bottom: 1px solid black; padding-bottom: 5px;"> _____ Person Ordering </div>			
Phone: _____			
(B) Birthdays: _____ @ \$1.00 ea			
(A) Anniversaries: _____ @ \$1.00 ea			
Calendars: _____ @ \$5.00 ea			
Total Paid \$			
Send your check and this form to: Sprague Historical Society, P.O. Box 162, Baltic, CT 06330. Deadline for ordering is November 13.			

MAILING DUMMY HERE