



OUR TOWN

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

INFORMATION * NEWS

VOLUME XVIII
ISSUE XI
NOVEMBER 2008



This month in sprague

ELECTION DAY Chili and Soup Sale

November 4, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Homemade baked goods for dessert!

Baltic Methodist Church, 22 West Main Street

Proceeds benefit neighborhood projects



The sound of music

Saint Michael center of the holy family

November 14, 15, 7 p.m.

Adult: \$7.50; Student/Senior: \$5; Family: \$20

Reservations recommended (860)

822-8241

*DINNER AND A
SHOW?*

*MAKE YOUR
RESERVATIONS
EARLY!
SUPPORT
LOCAL
SCHOOLS!*

Spaghetti Dinner

Sayles Elementary School

Friday, November 14, 5 to 8 p.m.



See details inside

THE AMAZING HYPNO LORENZO'S HYPNOSIS COMEDY SHOW SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 6 P.M. SAYLES SCHOOL

Contact a member of the Fire Department or mail a check 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

HOLLY JOLLY BAZAAR

SATURDAY, November 29 * 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Baltic Fire House

Sponsored by Ladies Auxiliary of the Fire Department

Information: (860) 822-8331



OUR TOWN

Transfer Station

New 2009-2010 vehicle permits will be issued starting in December. Extra staff will be available to help handle the increased paperwork. Vehicle permits are available for Sprague residents at the transfer station with proof of a valid driver's license and vehicle registration. Please have these ready to present to staff for verification. Remember, this is very important to help prevent illegal permits.

Remember to recycle all batteries, appliances, electronics, food bottles and cans, paper, waste oil, fluorescent bulbs, tires and scrap metal. If you are not recycling, you are contributing to the global warming problem, increased energy demands and our dependency on foreign oil.

Did you know that some people continue to disregard the town's Blue Bag policy? Yes, that's right! These are not newcomers - these are long-time residents and transfer station

users. The staff at the transfer station is required to notify the town hall in writing about policy abuse. Town Hall will send out a letter requesting a check payment made out to the Town of Sprague and delivered to the town clerk at the town hall.

Another persistent problem is that some people are placing their waste oil containers in the oil shed area without pouring the oil into the funnel and holding tank as required. You are responsible for properly pouring your waste oil. The staff is not required to do this for you. If you are confused, ask the staff for directions on how to do this.

Continuing to disregard these policies will result in a letter, a fine, or revoking your Transfer Station permit. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Gate Hours are Monday and 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.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION

The Planning & Zoning Commission holds its regularly scheduled meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the courtroom on the second floor of the town hall. The agenda is posted on the bulletin board in the town clerk's office on the Monday immediately preceding the meeting. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Members of the Commission are Kord Jablonski, Sandor Bittman, Paul Piezzo, Arthur Spielman, Jr., Gerald Stefon, and Richard Waterman. Alternate members are Kathleen Boushee, Mick Collins, and Christian Mueller. The Commission employs a part-time planner and consultant, Tom Seidel of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of governments, and a zoning enforcement officer, Joe Smith. An audiotape, as well as written minutes of the Commission meetings, is available at Town Hall. Additional information is online at www.ctsprague.org.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Absentee ballots will be available for the November 4 election. Please call or stop into the town clerk's office, (860) 822-3000, ext. 220, to request an application or for more information.

~ Claire B. Glaude, Town Clerk

RECYCLE

YOUR ALUMINUM!!!

Starting December 6, you will be able to drop your aluminum cans off at Sayles School once a month, on the first Saturday, at 10 a.m. Collect your cans at home (please rinse out). Great for the environment and beneficial to your child's school.

Sponsored by Sayles School PTO

A Note of Thanks

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2008 Three Village Fall Festival Cute Baby Contest. This year's winners were reviewed and voted on by 23 of our seniors at the Sprague Senior Center. A BIG thank you for the seniors' participation in this event. After much discussion, by a hand vote, they selected Marytherese of Sprague as the winner. Thank you to everyone who submitted pictures this year.

Thank you to Sprague Parks and Rec. for funding the winning prize of a \$50 United States savings bond.

Our Little Mr./Miss Sprague contest was a big hit this year. We had 19 participants and the judges had a difficult time selecting winners. As we all know, every child was a winner and we hope that everyone, especially the children, had fun at the event. It was the children's chance to get up on stage and shine!

The judges selected Maria Feeney as our 2008 Little Miss Sprague and Joshua Petrowsky as our 2008 Little Mr. Sprague.

Thank you to everyone who donated prizes and volunteered time with this event. Thank you also to Sprague Park and Rec. for giving the money towards the winners' \$75 United States savings bond awards.

If anyone has feedback for next year's contest or would like to volunteer, please email sprague_piano_teacher@yahoo.com.

SPRAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Hello again fellow Sprague citizens. I hope everyone is well. If anyone would like a new map of the trails at the Sprague Land Preserve, formerly known as the Mukluk, they will be at the town hall sometime in November. See Claire. The only cost is a smile and a hello.

The Boy Scouts have added another trail and bridge above the small waterfall, great job. Go up and check it out. The colors are spectacular.

On that note please be aware that although we do not yet have hunting on the property, there is hunting on the adjoining lands, but not on Sundays.

Hopefully by the time you read this the fence by the cabin will be moved back, thanks to the ongoing clean up efforts. Also you will be seeing new signs with rules and regulations posted.

There are two upcoming **work days**, one at the **Baltic Reservoir November 8** marking the borders and at the **River Park November 4 at 9 a.m.**, anyone who wants to help contact me at donaldboushee@sbcglobal.net.

Speaking of the Baltic Res., go and check it out. You can once again get up to the vista that overlooks the reservoir. Wow, it is beautiful. This is part of another ongoing project to create a new leaf screen for the reservoir once it is reactivated.

For you hiking enthusiasts, we will be having our next **hike on Sunday, November 16, at 2:30 p.m.** Meet at the Grist Mill and follow each other up.

There will also be a workshop sponsored by the SCC, **Our Changing Landscapes and Animal ID, On Thursday, November 6, at 7 p.m.** in the court room at the town hall. This promises to be an interesting workshop put on by two master wildlife conversationalists trained by the DEP.



~Donald Boushee, SCC Chairman

NEW SKATE PARK OPENS IN SPRAGUE

The Sprague Recreation Committee hosted the opening of the new skateboard park on Saturday, October 25, at the Recreational Complex on Route 97 (Main Street) in Baltic. Attendees were able to view a skateboarding demonstration by Jeff Paprocki, the designer and builder of the park, who is also responsible for the construction of the successful park in Groton. The skate park is made possible through a generous donation from Cascades Boxboard Group Connecticut LLC - Versailles Mill.

The Connecticut Office of Policy and Management's Police and Youth Initiative contributed funds to the Recreation Committee to send its Teen Group to leadership and team building training, in order to maintain their park, keep it safe, and help mentor younger skaters.



AUXILIARY NEWS

Holly Jolly Bazaar is scheduled for **Saturday, November 29, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the fire house.**

We do have a few tables still available for rental. Cost for an 8-foot table is \$25. If interested in renting a space, please give me a call at (860) 822-8331. Leave your name, mailing address and phone number and a letter will be sent to you.

Also, members have begun contacting businesses in town and the surrounding area for prizes for our raffle table.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12 at the fire house. We will be meeting at 6 p.m. in order to do some of our baking for the bazaar.

We have not heard anything yet, but we are awaiting word on the annual **Evening of Giving at the Crystal Mall**. This is usually held the Sunday before Thanksgiving. If we have tickets for sale, posters will be put out around town.

The Ladies Auxiliary wishes to congratulate Gerard Bastien on the occasion of his 60th Anniversary as an active member of the Baltic Fire Department. A job well done for a very long time!

Please remember that anyone interested in joining the Auxiliary is welcome. We are always looking for new members and new ideas for fundraising. You need not be a Sprague resident or have a spouse or family member in the Fire Department to join the Auxiliary.

~ Jeannette Deschamps,
Secretary

OUR TOWN

BRANCHING OUT— Notes from the Tree Warden

My primary responsibility as tree warden is the health and well-being of the public trees in Sprague. This includes the trees on all town property including the town right-of-way on all town roads. In most towns and cities, the trees in all parks are the responsibility of a director of parks and/or recreation. Since Sprague does not have such a position, I also maintain those trees. The Sprague Conservation Commission oversees the trees on open space/conservation/easement property utilizing their Forest Management Plan.

Since I am not a full time employee of the town, all of my tree warden work is done in addition to my full time job.

Therefore I rely a great deal on people who are “in town” – especially the public works crew who see changing conditions on a regular basis to inform me of tree problems. When I find or am informed of a potential problem I will assess that tree and “post” it to be pruned or removed, as necessary.

Needless to say, the miles and miles of ROW along town roads are most time consuming and expensive to maintain. This is why it is imperative that property owners verify and know where the town ROW is located at their property

before planting or removing trees along roadways. Per Connecticut State Statute, it is illegal to remove or cut or damage a public tree without the permission of the Town’s Tree Warden. If a problem exists with a tree within the ROW, it is my responsibility and I will deal with it. I need to be contacted before trees or bushes are planted within the ROW because once something is planted it becomes a public tree or bush and is therefore my responsibility. I don’t intend to interfere with landscaping plans, but I need to verify that trees and bushes are a suitable distance from the road, will not interfere with power lines and will not limit the Line-of-Sight along the roadway or for driveways.

The ROW for most properties in town can be determined using the tax maps or deeds at town hall. At a minimum, contact me before planting trees along a town road so that we can mutually agree to where the ROW is along your property and immediately know who is going to be responsible for new plantings.

Thank you to all the folks who have NOT nailed yard/garage sales signs to the trees and telephone poles. The number of signs taken to the transfer station has diminished greatly!

~ Dave Gustafson



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.

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

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 Reifsnyder

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!

~ Amy Lynn Reifsnyder, (860) 456 1082

BOOK DISCUSSION AT LIBRARY

ALL QUIET ON THE WESTERN FRONT
by Erich Maria Remarque
Thursday, November 13 at 7 p.m.
with renown historian Patrick Rowley

This anti-war novel written by a German veteran of WWI is reputed to have delayed British and American participation in the Second World War.

Join us as we discuss this possibility and theorize how this literary triumph changed the history of the 20th century

SPRAGUE CHARTER COMMISSION

Appointed by the Board of Selectmen in October 2007, the Sprague Charter Commission is in the process of drafting a charter for the Town of Sprague.

Recently the Commission presented a draft charter at a public hearing and townspeople gave us their feedback. The commission is discussing the comments received. Minutes of our discussion are available at the town hall and on the town Web site.

For the most part, the charter will follow the existing town ordinances. The proposed charter sets forth the authority of each public official, board and commission, while establishing executive and legislative authority in a way that the commission believes is respectful of Sprague's unique history.

However, one important change in a town ordinance is being proposed. The new charter will change the election of several boards in Sprague. Currently, the election of the Boards of Finance, Selectmen, Education, Assessors, and Assessment Appeals is governed by a special act passed by the General Assembly in 1949. The special act provides for something called a bare majority in electing members to the listed boards. This means the party who has the most members known as the majority party can have only one more member than the party with fewer members known as the minority party. Importantly, this act limits the number that can be voted. Bare majority as defined in the special act has the advantage of allowing more members of the minority party. Many consider this to be fairer.

The party representation that is proposed by the charter is the same as the party representation allowed by the Connecticut General Statutes. This representation is known as a supermajority. The number of members from the majority party would remain the same for boards of fewer than five members.

However, the Board of Finance, which has six members and can currently have three from each party, could elect up to four from the majority party and two from the minority party in the charter. The Board of Education with its seven members could elect up to five members from the majority party and two from the minority party.

Why does the Commission think this is a better idea? Supermajority allows a party to run more candidates in an election. Why? Because each party is not limited to the number of candidates as the special act limits them. For example, if there were two full term positions open on the Board of Finance or the Board of Education, the charter would permit voters to choose from two candidates from each party. Currently voters can choose from only one candidate from each party for the two positions.

The other reason for the proposed change is consistency. The Planning and Zoning Commission is elected according to the supermajority rule. All appointed commissions in town should also be appointed according to the supermajority rule, as there is nothing in the town ordinances which says otherwise.

The Commission is interested in your opinion on this subject. You can find a draft of the charter on the Town of Sprague Web site www.ctsprague.org. The Charter Commission has its own tab on the left. Or send us comments to spraguechartercommission@ctsprague.org.

Look in next month's Our Town for another article about the proposed charter. There will be one more public hearing in January before the draft charter is given to the Board of Selectmen. In November 2009 the charter will go to town election.

If you are interested in hearing more about the charter, come to one of our meetings. We meet every other Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. Our November meetings are November 11 and 25. Commission members are Dick Douville, Acting Chair; Susan Zimmerman, Secretary; Joe Osowski and Kord Jablonski.

~Susan Zimmerman, Sprague 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

Baltic United Methodist Church News

The Baltic United Methodist Church is 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.

OUR TOWN

EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE CONTINUES BLAZING TRAIL

John Gluck, son of John Gluck of Griswold and Sandy Taylor of Hanover, has recently completed his project for the rank of Eagle Scout. To earn the rank of Eagle, each scout has to select a project which will benefit a community, educational or environmental organization. He has to secure funding for the project, get approval from his scout leader, meet with the first selectman, write up the project for the Scout Council, and wait for approval from them, before he can even start.

For his project, John continued the first hiking trail in the Sprague Land Preserve, done by Eagle Scout Philip Salva. He continued the trail from the camp site, along the power lines and into the woods up to the first waterfall. He constructed a 12-foot bridge over the stream above the waterfall. He then continued clearing and marking a trail to the second waterfall.

This was quite a project, as he had to get the telephone poles which were used for the base of the bridge, and all

the pressure-treated material for the decking and rails, to the construction site. This involved pulling the poles with a 4x4 along a rough road to within 100 feet of the site, and then using ropes and scout power to drag them to the site.

Funding for the project was through a grant from Northeast Utilities. Because of weather delays, the project was completed over three weekends. This caused more problems which John had to overcome, as he had to organize more volunteer help to assure completion of the project.

John's project added approximately 1.6 miles onto the existing trail, making the trail about four miles long. It is now possible to hike from the cabin along a groomed and well-marked trail along the river, over two bridges, past a small waterfall, over another bridge, and up to the large waterfall—all without getting your feet wet, which is what happened before these projects were completed.

~Harry A. Segerstrom Sr., Troop 19

LIMITED VOTER REGISTRATION SET

The Registrar of Voters will hold a limited registration session on Monday, November 3, from 9 a.m. to noon in the town clerk's office, 1 Main St., Baltic, to accept applications from those residents who have turned 18, became a United States citizen, or moved into Sprague after the October 28 registration deadline.

~Patricia Amon, Kathleen Z. Boushee
Registrar of Voters



Election Day is
Tuesday, November 4.
Polls will be open
6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Your vote, your voice.
Your country,
your choice.

Get out and vote!

VERSAILLES UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

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. The church is wheelchair accessible. Information: (860) 822-9439. Versailles United Methodist Church is located at 4 Church St.

In Memoriam

In memory of Bea and her Yorkies, friends of Versailles UMC who died last spring, the church is collecting canned cat and dog food, dog collars and other pet care products for the Norwich Animal Hospital. Donations may be left in the bin by the church.

Mission Project

As part of the ongoing mission of Versailles UMC, materials with which to make sleeping bags for the homeless in Norwich and surrounding towns, are being collected. Old but usable blan-

kets, fabric and sewing supplies are welcome. Stitchers will use these items to put together sleeping bags which will be distributed where needed.

Large plastic storage bags are also welcome, as are adult socks, hand and feet warmers, personal care items, etc. These items are rolled into the sleep sacks before distribution.

Items may be left at the church on Sundays, or call to make other arrangements. Donations and prayers are always appreciated.

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

POST 85 NEWS

American Legion Post 85 will meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be November 25 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center.

At the October 28 meeting the election of officers took place. The Post has been able to keep its charter.

~Tom Coletti



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

OUR TOWN

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.

Person Ordering	B or A	DATE	NAME(S)
Phone:			
<p>(B) Birthdays: _____ @ \$1.00 ea</p> <p>(A) Anniversaries: _____ @ \$1.00 ea</p> <p>Calendars: _____ @ \$5.00 ea</p>			
Total Paid \$			

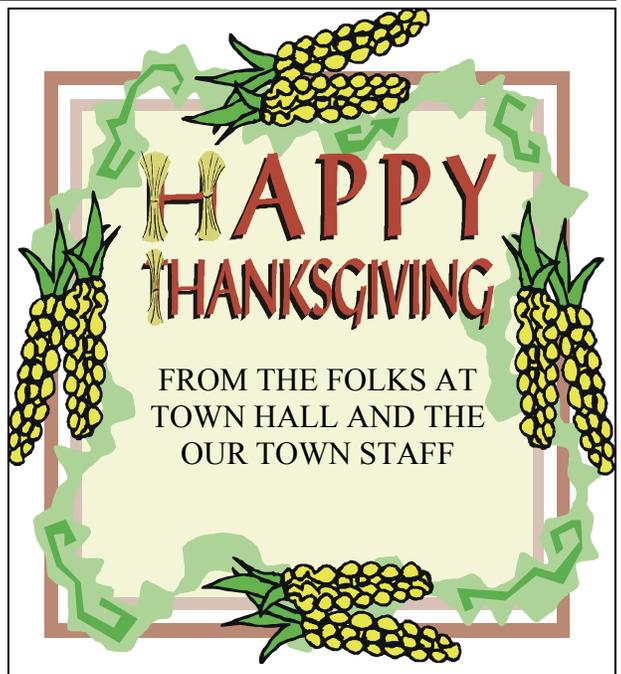
Send your check and this form to: Sprague Historical Society, P.O. Box 162, Baltic, CT 06330. Deadline for ordering is November 13.



Don't Throw Them Out!!!!
 Tell your Neighbors.....
 Box Tops are worth 10 Cents Each!!!
 Send yours to Sayles School.

VOICES FOR FAMILIES

Greater Norwich Community Leadership Team presents Voices for Families—A Parent Empowerment Initiative. Beginning with a Saturday Retreat, and followed by 15 evening classes, the curriculum includes How to Define a Problem; Personal Skills; Diversity; Bridges and Barricades; Language and Writing Skills; The Media and Packaging Agendas; State and City Government; Board of Education and School System; Budgets, Accountability and Outcome Expectations. Limited scholarships are currently available. Meals and childcare are provided. For more information contact Sherry Filia-treault at (860) 823-3782 or e-mail sherry@cityofnorwich.org.



Sponsored by Sayles School PTO

Feed One

In this era of economic crisis, many people are facing new challenges. For many, the loss of the promise of a financially secure future can feel overwhelming. But for millions of Americans, it isn't their retirement plan, or their child's education they worry about, it's whether or not there is enough food available to feed themselves or their families for the next few days. Now, more than ever, families are in crisis as their incomes simply do not cover basic needs. This is where you can help.

Covenant Soup Kitchen, 220 Valley Street, Willimantic, strives to provide enough food for three meals for three days, or a total of nine meals, to each visitor to their emergency food pantry. Individuals and/or families may only come once a month for an emergency supply. Daily hot meals are provided on site Monday through Saturday. Bag lunches are available Sundays.

While it is too much to ask for one person to feed everyone, if everyone who is able feeds just one, none will go hungry. In accordance with United States Department of Agriculture recommendations – and when donations are on the shelf – patrons may receive a variety of food that meets the daily recommended diet. Interested in serving a neighbor in need?

Feed One: 2-4 servings of protein: tuna, canned meats, one-can meals, etc.;

1 pound grain: rice, boxed cereal, pasta

4 or more cans of fruit and/or juice; 4 or more cans of vegetables

Fresh fruit and vegetables welcome anytime

1 can of soup; 1 can of beans, or one package dried beans

Miscellaneous items – whatever it is you would hate to live without.

Donations may be dropped off at Scotland Congregational Church, on the green, Sundays 9 a.m. to noon, or at the soup kitchen, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information: (860) 423-1643.

Donations also accepted at Town Hall for local families.