



VOLUME XIX
ISSUE X
OCTOBER 2009

OUR TOWN

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

INFORMATION * NEWS

FROM THE FIRST SELECTMAN—Cathy Osten

I hope everyone's had a great summer, with lots of time to relax with friends and family, and take part in some of the great events that the Town has sponsored this season. Even the damp weather couldn't stop the intrepid and hard-working Recreation Committee from rescheduling and holding a wonderful 3-Village Festival this month, which offered games, contests, family entertainment, and the popular Little Miss and Mr. Sprague competition at the Babe Blanchette Recreation field.

The library has also taken advantage of the inclement weather to entice readers inside with a series of interesting and thought-provoking exhibits, which are continuing on into the fall.

As you know, we're allowing permit-only hunting in the Land Preserve (formerly Mukluk) this fall (see elsewhere in this newsletter for dates and specifics) but we're confident that all visitors will still be able to enjoy what promises to be a beautiful fall, in the Preserve and all over town. If you get a chance, please visit the Preserve—we have some new directional signs and boundary markers throughout, as well as park regulations posted on a kiosk courtesy of the Conservation Commission. Remember to wear orange—and make your pets wear orange too; it's just good sense to do so in all parks this time of year.

I've been taking advantage of the summer legislative "lull" to spend as much time as I can at the capital, tracking the changes and refinements that have been made to the state budget, so I can make sure that those programs and projects that we've planned for Sprague are affected as little as possible. Next month, I'll be able to give you a much better picture of how our new infrastructure, development, and human services project requests have fared.

Lastly, remember to support our wonderful and dedicated volunteer Fire Department by participating with your entire family in this year's Project Safe Halloween, held on October 31 at the Fire Station, with a department-escorted costume parade beforehand starting at the Town Hall. See you there!

SPRAGUE LAND PRESERVE HUNTING NOTICE

Hunters must have permit on their person at all times
in the Preserve.

HUNTING HOURS: Monday through Friday: ½ hour before
sunrise to sunset; Saturday: ½ hour before sunrise to 10 a.m.

NO HUNTING ON SUNDAY

CLOSED TO HUNTING October 10, 11, 12
(Columbus Day weekend)

ALL Department of Environmental Protection regulations
apply to hunting in this Preserve.

Bow Hunting (by permit only) from September 15 to
November 17; December 9 to December 31.

No permanent stands, no tree spikes or damage to trees.
Must use fall arrest system

Pheasant Hunting (by permit only) from October 17 to No-
vember 28. Steel Shot only. No rifles – 12 gauge or smaller
shotgun only.

Hikers: Stay on the trails, wear blaze orange (also advised for
your pets), keep dogs on leash at all time.

If you see a wounded deer call (860) 822-6895
(Sprague Rod and Gun Club)

Project Safe Halloween

**Saturday, October 31
6 p.m.**

Parade from Town Hall through town to fire hall
Share tables of goodies, games, photos, prizes for
best costumes.

**Sponsored by
Baltic Fire Department**



LITTLE MISS AND MISTER PAGEANT WINNERS

Olivia was selected as our 2009 Little Miss Sprague and Joshua
was selected as our 2009 Little Mister Sprague.

A big congratulations go to all the children who participated in the
2009 Little Miss Sprague and Little Mister Sprague Pageant. Al-
though the weather was overcast, there were bright and sunny
smiles and cheers from an active audience. Each boy and girl
walked up on stage, said their name, and told the audience either
their favorite color or their favorite animal. All participants re-
ceived a colorful personalized certificate and token gifts.

Look for Olivia and Joshua's smiling faces in our upcoming Me-
morial Day town parade!

Again, congratulations to all participants -- they were all winners!

OUR TOWN

HEALTH SCREENING

Blood pressure screenings will be held at Sprague Town Hall on Wednesday, October 27 from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

For information on screenings at other locations, contact VNAEast, (860) 456-7288.

Also, the Uncas Health Backus Bus will offer blood pressure screenings on Tuesday, **October 13 from noon to 2 p.m.**

Hearing tests will be done by Beltone at the Senior Center on **Tuesday, October 13, 2 to 4 p.m.**

Flu shots are available at Sprague Town Hall on Tuesday, **October 20, from noon to 2 p.m.** Additional sites include Lebanon Senior Center, Wednesday, October 14, 9 to 11 a.m.; Franklin Senior Center, Tuesday, October 20, 9 to 11 a.m.; Scotland Fire House, Wednesday, October 21, 4 to 5 p.m.; and Lebanon High School, Monday, November 9, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Flu vaccine costs \$30; Flumist costs: \$45; and pneumonia vaccine costs \$50. Some insurances accepted. For more information contact VNA East, (860) 456-7288.

PRESCHOOL SCREENINGS SCHEDULED

Preschool screenings for children ages 3- and 4-years-old will be held October 21, 2009, January 13, 2010, and May 12, 2010 at Sayles School, 25 Scotland Road, Baltic, for residents of Baltic, Hanover and Versailles only. To schedule an appointment, call Mrs. Morgan at (860) 822-8264, ext. 193.

HYDRANT FLUSHING DATES

The Sprague Water & Sewer Authority will be flushing hydrants during the week of October 5 through 9. Water pressure may be reduced slightly and a little discoloration of water may occur during this procedure. The Authority regrets any problems this may cause but the hydrants must be flushed periodically to maintain quality water and to insure hydrants are operable in case of an emergency. If anyone has any questions, they may call (860) 822-3005.

~ Todd Hastings, Superintendent

SENIOR HALLOWEEN PARTY

The annual Halloween Party at the Senior Center will be held on Thursday, October 29 beginning at noon. A special menu is in store. To make reservations, call (860) 822-3000, ext. 203. Costumes optional.

UPDATED BUS SCHEDULE

Points of Departure

Shetucket Village: 8:45 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11:45 a.m.
Saint Mary's Church parking lot: 8:48 a.m., 9:48 a.m., 11:48 a.m.
Playground at Brookside Avenue and High Street: 8:52 a.m., 9:52 a.m., 11:52 a.m.
TJ's Parking Lot, Route 97 and Main Street: 9 a.m., 10 a.m., and Noon

Arrival in Occum Corner of Hooper Street and Route 97, by Red McKeon Park: 9:10 a.m., 10:10 a.m., and 12: 15 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. For more information call Buddy Meadows, Sprague Senior Center Coordinator, (860) 822-3000, ext. 203.

The Sprague to Occum Bus is a courtesy of the Town of Sprague and the Sprague Senior Center. For SEAT information, visit www.seatbus.com.

SENIOR VAN SCHEDULE

Lisbon Super Wal-Mart and Kohl's

Bi-weekly, Monday
1 to 3 p.m.

Norwich Big Y and Wal-Mart

by request.

Norwich Stop 'n Shop and

surrounding stores

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.



HISTORICAL SOCIETY CALENDAR

Sprague Historical Society would like to include your family's big dates on the 2010 historical calendar. The cost is \$1 for each birthday or anniversary. Money goes to preserve Sprague's history. Order forms are available at the back of last year's calendar and elsewhere in this publication. Send the form and a check to Sprague Historical Society, PO Box 162, Baltic, CT 06330.

The calendar costs \$5 and will be available in December.

Deadline for ordering is November 12.

OUR TOWN

BRANCHING OUT...

Notes from the Tree Warden

It's been a busy summer. Numerous trees, regrettably, were removed for safety, disease and road improvements. Fortunately, the town has planted more trees than it had to cut down. Most of the trees planted on Main Street in Baltic, at the ball fields and around the skate park survived the very soggy spring, the heat of the summer and other 'abuses' of an urban environment. Those that succumbed to these stresses will be replaced to ensure a pleasant "eye-scape" and help provide a healthy town to live in.

So far, about 50 percent of the seedlings planted around the reservoir have survived. This is a reasonable survival rate and is why seedlings are normally 'over-planted' - that is, planted twice as close as the mature trees will remain in rows. Most of the 4-foot pines that have been planted so far are doing OK. A few of them were victims of equipment and scheduling problems and didn't get in the ground quite soon enough. These will be replaced soon with more pines also getting planted.

As of this writing I've noticed the first indications of the fall leaf 'munchers' starting to affect some oak trees. Watch for the gypsy moth and orange-striped oakwood caterpillars that will, or have already started to, eat the leaves. Any of the good pesticide products on the market will help to minimize damage and subsequent stress to your trees.

Thank you to all the folks who helped keep Sprague looking nice and clean this summer by not nailing signs on poles and trees.

~Dave Gustafson, Tree Warden

TROOPER PATTERSON'S REPORT

To the residents of Sprague,
I hope everyone in town had a great summer, even though summer really didn't start this year until the middle of July. All in all everything was rather quiet in town from a policing standpoint. I hope the State Police's aggressive patrol efforts have had something to do with this.

As most of you have heard, or read, the Town of Sprague recently acquired an ATV through a federally funded grant, at zero cost to the town. The federal funds covered the costs of the ATV, its trailer, a helmet, gloves, goggles and the infamous skull graphics. Since I became resident trooper in 2003 I've received numerous complaints from residents who have said that local and out-of-town ATV riders have destroyed their land and crops. These landowners advised me that the ATV riders were ripping down No Trespassing signs on their properties, as well as destroying fences that were put up to keep the ATV riders out. To combat these complaints I attempted to get an ATV donated to the town from a local business. Due to the poor economy I was unable to acquire an ATV to address these problems at that time. When I was first notified that federal funds were being made available to local communities for police equipment or services, I approached First Selectman Cathy Osten and grant writer Penny Newbury and asked them to use the grant funds to acquire an ATV. After explaining the number of complaints I've received over the years concerning illegal ATV riding on taxpayers' land, they agreed that applying for an ATV would be a good idea. Every small town in Connecticut was given the opportunity to apply for this \$9,100 grant. I chose to use the allocated funds to purchase an ATV.

The ATV will be used to patrol the newly acquired Mukluk (Sprague Land Preserve) property as well as the town reservoir. Landowners who are having problems with illegal ATV riders are asked to let me know so I can address the issue. Anyone who wants me to patrol their lands with the assistance of the DEP is asked to notify town hall. The ATV will primarily be used as a deterrent to those ATV riders who are illegally operating their quads on private property and town- and state-owned land. The ATV can and will also be used to deter illegal drug activity in wooded areas, and it will assist in locating missing persons.

In closing, I'm well aware there are other ongoing issues in town. Every town has a drug and alcohol problem, and every town has its rash of larcenies and burglaries. I know what's going on in town and I know who is doing what. It takes time to catch everybody, but I'm trying to catch them all. I'm asking the residents of Sprague to ...

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DEMOCRATIC TOWN COMMITTEE

REPUBLICAN TOWN COMMITTEE

In September the DTC met several times to plan the election campaign. Though confident that we have a strong team of qualified individuals who are genuinely dedicated to improving Sprague, the committee plans vigorous efforts to bring the Democratic message to town residents.

The committee decided that the best campaign message for Cathy Osten and Edward "Buddy" Meadows, running for First Selectman and Selectman, is their very impressive list of accomplishments over the past two years.

Voters are expected to be most appreciative of the tax reduction in 2008-9 and taxes remaining down in 2009-10. In both those years, Cathy and Buddy kept expenditures below the budget.

Despite the lower taxes and tightly controlled spending, the town has seen unprecedented improvements: new sidewalks, the River Park, roads repaved in Baltic, Hanover, and Versailles, a more dependable public water supply, progress on the Baltic Mill site, bus service to Norwich, winterization of town hall, trees planted on Main Street and around Baltic Reservoir, handicap access to the Grist Mill and plans for major improvements to the building, and many, many other improvements.

Many of these improvements were financed with almost \$3 million in grants that the town received through town hall efforts.

The DTC urges 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 town hall. Registered voters interested in serving on a town board or joining the DTC should contact Glenn Cheney at (860) 822-1270.

The team on the Democratic slate this November are

Cathy Osten, First Selectman
 Edward "Buddy" Meadows, Selectman
 Claire B. Glaude, Town Clerk
 Jeannette Deschamps, Town Treasurer
 Mary Chartier, Tax Collector
 Catherine Tiffany, Board of Finance
 Christian Mueller, Planning and Zoning Commission
 David Held, Planning & Zoning Commission
 Thomas Knowles, Planning & Zoning Commission
 Arthur Spielman, Planning & Zoning Commission
 Terri Woronecki, Board of Education
 Susan Zimmerman, Board of Education
 Richard Douville, Board of Assessment Appeals
 Patricia Deslandes, Board of Assessors
 Christine Jablonski, Board of Assessors

By the time you read this we will be a month away from the November election. I had reached out to my counterpart on the other side of the aisle in the hopes of arranging a couple of debates so the people of Sprague could see the potential candidates who were running for the office of First Selectman and Selectman and ask questions that they thought were relevant to the issues that are facing our town not only today but in the coming years. I have always believed that it was important for the people to have the opportunity to not only ask a prospective candidate what their plans might be, but to also ask an incumbent what theirs were and perhaps question some of the things they have done since they have been in office.

As a party we have always answered the bell when asked to participate in such a forum, however my counterpart felt that their incumbent's record could be used as "*a touchstone as what the people of Sprague could expect in the future*". So it would appear that the residents of our community will not have the opportunity to hear or question the candidates as to their ideology or to what their vision may be for our town. That, to me, is unfortunate as there seem to be more and more limited opportunities for us to speak to our elected leaders. I can't remember the last time we had a town hall meeting and since the Board of Selectman meetings have been moved to 5:30. I, like most of you, am unable to attend because I'm either still at work or just getting home.

However our candidates will be out there talking to you, one by one as time allows and hopefully they will be able to meet with most of you before Election Day, so that you will at least have the opportunity to ask our candidates the questions that you feel need to be asked.

We will also be holding a Comedy Night in the near future (look for the flyers) with some of our community business leaders as well as a couple of surprise guests, which will also provide you an opportunity to meet with our candidates. While we are indeed running out of forums to ask these questions, there is a blog that perhaps you may find some of the answers you are looking for, if not perhaps you can pose a question or two yourself ... www.news.spraguenews.org. If you haven't registered to vote, please do... and don't forget to vote Tuesday, November 3rd...it really does make a difference!!

~Michael W. Smith, RTC Chair

ELECTIONS TO BE HELD

Elections will be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2009, at the Baltic Fire House, Route 138, Baltic. Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

On or after October 5, absentee ballots will be available for the November 3 election. Please call or stop into the Town Clerk's Office (822-3000 Ext. 220) to request an application or for more information.

~Claire B. Glaude, Town Clerk

OUR TOWN

SCOUTING FOR FOOD DRIVE

Pack and Troop 19 will be distributing food bags for their annual food drive on Saturday, October 31. The bags will be picked up on Saturday, November 7 starting at 9 a.m. Residents are asked to place the bags with non-perishable food items on their front steps where it is visible from the road. In the event that you do not receive a bag and would like to donate, leave the food in a bag on the front step.

All food will be kept at the Town of Sprague Food Bank for use by any resident of Sprague. Those in need of food can contact anyone at town hall.

The troop would like to thank everyone who has participated in this event in the past, and to welcome new supporters this year. Last year's food drive was the troop's largest one ever. Many thanks to Amgraph and Federal Paper.

It is great to see how you have supported this endeavor considering the hard economic times we are in.

If by chance we miss your house, donations can be dropped off at Town Hall during the week, or arrange for pick up by calling (860) 822-6235.

Again, thanks for your support.

~Harry A. Segerstrom, Sr., Troop 19

ANNUAL BOY SCOUT AUCTION
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10
BALTIC VOLUNTEER FIRE HOUSE
ROUTE 138, BALTIC
Viewing 5:30 p.m. Auction 6:30 p.m.
Auctioneer Nelson Courtemarche

Items include

Handmade Fishing Pole * Stainless Steel Cart * Handmade Adirondack Chair * Brewery Memorabilia * Tickets to Area Events * Kasey Kahne Banner * Garden Stepping Stones * Budweiser Collector Steins * Pitcher and Bowl Set * New England Patriot Banner * Theme Baskets * Gift Certificates * Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Posters * 4-Burner Camp Stove

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

Many items still coming in. For more information contact Harry Segerstrom Sr. at (860) 822-6235.

With this year's proceeds, the Boy Scouts hope to purchase an enclosed utility trailer for their camping gear.

CUB SCOUT RECRUITING HELD

Anyone interested in joining Cub Scout Pack 19 is invited to contact Dave Zamoider, (860) 822-1221, or e-mail fatfunnyman@comcast.net.

TROOPER PATTERSON'S REPORT (CON'T)

...assist me with eradicating these problems and getting rid of the people who commit these types of crimes. If you're one of those people who like to complain that the cops aren't doing anything in town to get rid of the drug dealers, you're part of the problem. Complaining isn't going to help anyone. If you want to get rid of the problem, tell your neighbor to stop selling drugs or you're going to call the police or write down the license plate number of the car the drug dealer is either driving or is a passenger in, or write down every plate on the vehicles that the buyers are driving, and give this information to the police.

If you're able to complain, I think you're quite capable of picking up a telephone and calling the police when a drug transaction is taking place.

Be part of the solution, not the problem. The Crime Hotline/Tipline is (860) 822-3000, ext. 207.

Respectfully,

~Trooper J. Patterson, Sprague Resident Trooper

BALTIC LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

The Ladies Auxiliary annual **Holly Jolly Bazaar** is scheduled for **Saturday, November 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.** at the fire house.

We have tables available for rental. Cost of table rental is \$25 for an 8 foot table, which we supply. Letters have gone out to those already on our list from prior years. If you are not on our list and are interested, give me a call at (860)822-8331 and leave your name, mailing address and phone number.

Please watch upcoming newsletters for any additional information on our activities.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13, at 7 p.m. at the fire house.

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.

~Sincerely,

Jeannette Deschamps, Secretary

HALLOWEEN COSTUME DANCE

With DJ Shawn

Sponsored by Park and Rec



For Youth in
Grades 5 through 8
Friday, October 30
Grist Mill
6 to 9 p.m.

POST 85 NEWS

At the last meeting, Chris Mueller (USA-Iraq) was welcomed as the newest member of the post. Congratulations and welcome, Chris.

Because a quorum was not present, no official business could be attended to. The Post encourages all veterans to come and listen to post proceedings. Discussion related to lowering the number of members required to be present to meet the quorum requirements took place.

Membership cards are still in the process of being corrected. A fee of \$20 was initially reported as due, but the correct fee is \$30. New cards are expected to be distributed after October 6.

Senior Vice Commander Will Zinavage led a discussion regarding a regional concept. The concept would include multiple posts joining in a regional area to pool their resources to build or purchase a veteran meeting place and carry on American Legion business. More on the subject will be discussed at the next meeting.

Nomination for new officers will take place at the next meeting, October 6, 7 p.m. at the Senior Center, 1 Main Street, Baltic.

~Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Coletti, Financial Officer

AVALONIA LAND CONSERVANCY

Avalonia Land Conservancy will hold its first Fall Frolic on Saturday, October 3, at the Preston Nature Preserve on Krug Road, Preston, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bring your own picnic to enjoy. Avalonia will provide beverages, games for children, music, guided tours and more. Fall Frolic is open to the public and to all Avalonia members throughout New London County.

SALVATION ARMY ACCEPTING DONATIONS

The Salvation Army Upper New London County is accepting donations. Checks can be mailed to Salvation Army Upper New London County Service Unit, PO Box 304, Versailles, CT 06383.

NEW PROGRAMS AT BALTIC UMC

The Reverend Ho Soon Han is organizing two new programs during her office hours. She is starting a get-together for anyone who wants to be with others and knit scarves.

The second program is a discussion group on a best-selling book called *The Shack* by William Paul Young. It is based on a true happening in a person's life.

These will be on Tuesdays each week from 9 a.m. to noon. This is a good time to meet other local people. Also you can bring a friend.

For information call the Norwich office at (860) 887-5886 or the Baltic office at (860) 822-6595.

Looking forward to these meetings.

OUR TOWN

**Notice to all users of the
Sprague Water & Sewer Systems**

Please be advised that we have made some recent modifications to our Water and Sewer Regulations. You can get an updated copy of these regulations at the Sprague Water & Sewer Authority Office during normal office hours.

Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

To all users who have been questioning when the Debt Service charge will be paid up. This bond is due to be paid off in June, 2016.

~Thank you!
Ward Eccles, Chairman

**HAND-MADE CARDS
FOR SALE**

Beautiful and unique
greeting cards
hand-crafted
by Sprague Seniors
are available for sale in
the Senior Center
1 Main Street, Baltic
Monday through
Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4
p.m.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT
GRACE EPISCOPAL, YANTIC

Saturday, October 3, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Vendor Fair and Bake Sale
Featuring Tastefully Simple, Party Lite,
Mary Kay, Pampered Chef and more!

Saturday, October 17
Chicken Pie Supper
5 to 7 p.m.
\$10 /adult
\$5/12 and under
Ages 5 and under Free

Information: (860) 887-2082

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. Info: (860) 617-2986.

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: Al Hoffman, Rita Grenier, Al Grenier, Richard Waterman, Anita Reguin, Shirley, Veronica Exley and whoever else wanders through the room the day we collate. Thanks to the EastCONN summer staff who helped.

Skateboarders, cyclists, walkers and others who share the road
are asked to wear lights and bright colored clothing after dusk
so you can be seen.

Safety helmets are also recommended for wheelers.

Also, be aware of the new curb cuts and
cross the road responsibly.

You are not alone. We like you, so take care of yourselves.