



OUR TOWN

SEPTEMBER 2010

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

INFORMATION & NEWS

Sprague Summer Recreation Program A Success!

Our Summer Recreation Program was a great success. The children and youth kept busy and fit throughout the entire summer program. A big thank you to the coaches for their time and dedication to this program.

July 31st was our last day of recreation. The day was hosted by, "The Party Barn" who opened its doors for the children as they enjoyed the petting area, moon bounce, and eating cotton candy, popcorn, and hotdogs. It was an enjoyable finale to the children busy summer!

Also, a special thanks for the time and help of the Summer Recreation Teen Committee: Selena Calderson, Shannon Foley and Kyleigh Manfredi.

Noreen Foley
Sprague Parks and Recreation

Sprague Garden Club

The club will hold a 2010-2011 business meeting on September 2nd at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center. The new program will be reviewed and yearly \$10 dues will be collected.

We welcome Janis Moore as our new President and thank Carol Fontaine for serving as our President for many years. We also welcome Mario and Debra as our newest members.

If you are interested in joining, come meet us and get to know what the club is all about. Sprague residency is not a requirement.

Please call Jan to confirm the meeting date and time at 860-822-6520. Refreshments and friendship will be served.

Ladies Auxiliary

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 14, 2010**, at 7 pm at the fire house. 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 Dept. to join.

Sincerely,
Jeannette Deschamps,

RIVER PARK SUMMER CONCERT



September 18, 2010

6 P.M. – 9 P.M.

Music by:

*"The Elm Street Project
Band"*

Sponsored by the

The Board of Assessment Appeals

Will meet on
September 14, 2010
at 6 pm
in the Sprague Town
Hall
to hear
motor vehicle appeals.

Sprague Conservation Commission September Update

Hello Fellow Sprague citizens. This is an update to let you know once again what is going on with the SCC.

At our last two meetings we received a report from Eric Wold from the Sprague Rod and Gun Club on the success of the hunting regulations up at the Sprague Preserve. We vote to recommend to the Board of Selectman to continue with the hunting regulations and practices that are currently used with a report each year on its effectiveness. We also discussed other conservation items at the Preserve and work done at the River Park. It all looks better every year. Thank you to all of the volunteers and Cathy Osten for her continued support.

Another big item coming up is we should have an announcement soon from the state about the award of Land Acquisition Grant. The announcement is due sometime in September. We have the opportunity to preserve another piece of property adjacent to the Sprague Preserve that will be important now and forever for us and our children. In an effort to answer any questions, I am inserting the informational flier that was handed out at the last town meeting. If there are any additional questions, please write them down and bring them to one of our future meetings on this subject.

The Watson Heritage Farm Frequently Asked Question/Answers

How many acres? About 230 acres. Price: \$430,000 Who will pay for it? CT Dept. of Env. Land Acquisition grant monies.

Cost to Sprague: About \$20,000 for appraisals /closing costs," paid for from money developers set aside for Open Space.

Projected cost of maintenance: \$0 Where is it? SW side of Sprague Land Preserve (also known as "Mukluk")

Is it all in Sprague? No. About 58 acres are in Sprague, about 172 in Franklin.

Why no cost of maintenance? Nothing to maintain. No roads, no buildings, just forest and fields. Franklin will maintain access road. Farmers will continue to tend existing fields.

Can Sprague own land in Franklin? Yes. Why does Sprague want to own land in Franklin? (1) That's where the land is. The part in Sprague is connected to the part in Franklin. (2) Preservation there will prevent development alongside Sprague Land Preserve.

Why doesn't Franklin buy the land? The Watson family wants to see their heritage farm land preserved the way Sprague Land Preserve has been preserved. They offered the land to the town of Sprague. The only way to buy the piece in Sprague is to buy the whole thing. Franklin supports the idea of Sprague owning it. The State will pay for it. They could develop this piece and make more money, but that is not what they want to do.

How does this help Sprague? (1) It helps preserve and protect Sprague Land Preserve (2) It prevents development that would cause taxes to increase. (3) It helps preserve the rural and farming character of this part of Connecticut. (4) It protects the watershed of the Shetucket River and The Last Green Valley. (5) It supports property values in Sprague.

How does this affect Sprague tax revenues? Sprague loses taxes on the acreage in Sprague, currently \$165.83 per year.

Will Sprague have to pay taxes in Franklin? No. There is no tax on Open Space.

Will Sprague have to insure the area for liabilities? No. The State covers liability on Open Space.

Why is it important to preserve this land? Protecting nature and preserving our rural heritage is a good thing to do for ourselves and future generations. The Watson farm extends a protected area that also includes Sprague Land Preserve, Mohegan State Forest, and Salt Rock Campground.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Boushee, Chairman of the Sprague Conservation Commission

The Board of Assessment Appeals

Will meet on
September 14, 2010
at 6 pm
in the Sprague Town Hall
to hear
motor vehicle appeals.



Bus Schedules

Reminder:

Bus schedules are posted on the doors at Sayles School and the Town Hall. Schedules are also located at SaylesSchool.org

Updated Contact Information for Animal Control

The towns of **Lebanon, Franklin, Bozrah and Sprague** have formed a Regional Animal Control Service. There will be two animal control officers covering this District as follows:

Weekdays	William Paul	<u>8AM – 5PM</u>	27 Quinley Way Waterford, CT 06385
Nights	Michele Kellough	<u>5PM – 8AM</u>	28 Old Plains Rd., Willimantic, CT 06226
Weekends	Michele Kellough	<u>24 hrs.</u>	28 Old Plains Rd., Willimantic, CT 06226

The telephone contact for both of these employees is through the:
Edwards Answering Service
1 (800) 236-1987. Please refer only emergencies to this telephone number.

Routine calls should be to the Regional Animal Pound at (860) 642-6379.



Save the Date!



3 Village Fall Festival

Saturday, October 2nd at Babe Blanchette Field in Baltic

Live Music!

Battle of the Bands Competition

Backus Hospital's Life Star

CT Humane Society (*bring a donation for the animals!*)

Pumpkin Painting

Little Mr. & Little Miss. Sprague Pageant

Various Vendors, Rides, Games, & More!

Three Village Sports Challenge!

3 on 3 basketball, 2 person team horseshoes & 4 on 4 mixed volleyball.

The winning village will receive a trophy!

More than 1 team from each village is acceptable, the more teams the better the village's chances of winning. Any questions, contact Craig Staggs 860-822-133

Come & enjoy a variety of foods and see what some of the local vendors and businesses have to offer! For more information, if you would like to be a vendor, or if you would like to volunteer,

contact Noreen Foley at 860.822.1829



“Book” a Trip to Space Camp

Sprague Public Library Summer Reading Program 2010

Eight hundred twenty one is the magic number this summer. That’s how many books our kids read in the Library’s Summer Reading Program. We had 44 children from birth to entering grade 8 who completed the program by reading and reporting on at least 8 books over the summer.

On Wednesday, August 18 at 6:30 PM these children attended an Awards Ceremony and Ice Cream Sundae Party held behind our library. Each child received two books compliments of the Sprague Garden Club, two toys donated over the year by many local businesses and families, and an ice cream sundae donated by the Ejchorsz Family and the W. Main St. Norwich Dairy Queen.

Congratulations to: Kelsey Allen-McQuade, Gabriel Ryan Carr, Noah A. Carr, Quentin Louis Carr, Kaleb Carrion, Makenzie Crouch, Bridget Crowley, James Crowley, Joseph Crowley, Katie Crowley, Libby Crowley, Nora Crowley, Hudson Drew, Eamonn Feeney, Germaine Feeney, Malachy Feeney, Maria Feeney, Matthew Feeney, Therese Feeney, Kyle Genest, Chloe Herrick, Lilly Hauser, Julia Hauschild, Trevor Hoelk, Tessa Hospod, Zosia Hospod, Brian King, Hannah King, Julie King, Lily Lacy, Alexis Lewis, Amanda Lumpkins, Annmarie Mulkey, Johnathan Mulkey, Marytherese Mulkey, Taha Norman, Cole Patnoad, Eva Patnoad, Lucas Schaefer, Jack Spellman, Abigail Staggs, Kristine Staggs, Kayla Suchomel, and Michael Suchomel

The grand prize winner for 2010 with a total of **85 books** was Annmarie Mulkey. She won an astronaut flight suit in her size donated by Space Camp at the US Space and Rocket Center.

Five teenagers also completed our second annual Teen Reading Challenge by reading a combined total of **9,900 pages**. Their names were entered into a raffle for many exciting prizes. Prizes included ice cream gift certificates, movie tickets, books, and posters. Congratulations to: Kaela Bohara, Micah T. Carr, Joseph Feeney, Thomas Mowan, and Barbara Richard.

The top raffle prize was four tickets to the O’Neil Cinemas in Lisbon and five lunch coupons to Buddy’s Dugout in Norwich. It was won by Micah Carr who read an astonishing **4,600 pages!** Thank you to our supporters! We hope to see all of our readers next summer! -Rebecca Reyer

SPRAGUE COMMUNITY CENTER

“Serving the People of Sprague”

SCC GRAND OPENING: A GRAND SUCCESS!

Over 100 joyful people joined the gala celebration of the opening of the Sprague Community Center on August 1st! The red ribbon was cut by Pastor Ho-Soon Han with State Senator Edith Prague, and Sprague’s 1st Selectman, Catherine Osten, assisting in the symbolic ribbon cutting. Following the Grand Opening program, those in attendance had an opportunity to tour the Community Center, offer their suggestions for future programming, review the various programs set for the Grand Opening Week, submit a ticket for the bike drawing to be held at the conclusion of the week’s activities, and then all enjoyed an ice cream sundae!

After refreshments, other activities took place outside, such as face painting, caricature drawing, clowns making balloons animals, and much fun for the children as they jumped in the giant, colorful Moonbounce!

The Mad Science program was enjoyed by all, while others listened to our guest author, Normand Chartier. Community members took advantage of the Backus Health Van Blood Pressure Clinic while the children listened to Gillian Mosier, RN, MSN, Trauma Program Manager, discuss wearing a helmet when riding a bike in order to protect your brain. We are fortunate to have the Backus Health Van at the Community Center 4 times this year. The next visit will be on October 21st and there will be an opportunity for Bone Density Screening as well as assistance in obtaining Health Services. Special thanks to Keith Fontaine, Gillian Mosier, and the Van staff.

The Community Safety Night featured the Baltic Fire Department and the CT State Police. Those who attended got an up-close and personal view of the fire engine, an ATV, an opportunity to get finger-printed as part of the CHILD ID program, and hear a presentation on Computer Safety for children/youth, as well as observe the State Police Dog, *Scout*, in action.

Our final evening of programs featured “Grinder Night,” a Patriotic Concert for the Veterans of Sprague, and the Bike Drawing. Over 100 people enjoyed a grinder picnic (specially prepared by Sharky’s Pizza) with the sweet sounds of the “Old Possums’ Jazz Band.”

I want to take this opportunity to thank the many people of Sprague that assisted in the very successful Grand Opening of the Sprague Community Center. It has been a rewarding experience getting to know your town and the wonderful community members. Our next activity, “Family Movie Night,” is scheduled for September 17th at 6:00 p.m. No admission charge. We are looking forward to seeing you at SCC!

Brenda J. Keefe

Outreach Coordinator

Safe Halloween Program

The men and women of the Baltic Engine Company # 1 wish to remind everyone that October is fast approaching. This means that the fire department's popular Safe Halloween Program will soon be here!

Our Safe Halloween Program is run entirely donations of money and candy. In 2009, we were concerned that we would not have enough funds to allow the program to continue. However, thanks to generous people and many donations, we were able to continue this event.

The generous businesses that came through for us were: **AMGRAPH Inc.**, who was our # 1 sponsor, **Sharkeys Pizza** on High Street, who once again donated six bicycles; and Vinnie Malerba of **Malerba Farms in Norwich**, who has donated the pumpkins and gourds for the past three years. We also owe a big thank you to the **Senior Center of Sprague** and **Peg Campanelli and her husband**, who all volunteered many hours travelling to pick up candy and manning the tables of this event.

Last year we had 725 people attend our Safe Halloween Program.

This year we will be planning for the same number of attendees.

To support this event, we are asking for donations of money and or candy.

If you would like to donate a check, please make out checks to: Baltic VFD Safe Halloween Fund or write the check out to: The Baltic Fire Engine Company # 1 AND in the memo area or anywhere on the check, write, "Safe Halloween Fund." Please ensure the words Safe Halloween Fund are somewhere on the check so that the check goes to the correct account. For those that would like to donate candy, we ask that full bags of candy are donated and that your name is written on a label on the outside of the candy bag.

Thank you in advance to everyone who will make this year's Safe Halloween Program a SUCCESS!
We look forward to seeing all of the costumes march up to the firehouse this year!

Sincerely, Reg Patchell, Secretary,

Baltic Fire Engine Company # 1 P.O Box 314 Baltic, CT. 06330

reginaldpatchell@sbcglobal.net 860 917 5064 cell

ATTENTION HUNTERS! Sprague Land Preserve

You **MUST** have your permit on your person at all times in the Preserve

Hunting Hours M – F: ½ hour before Sunrise to Sunset Sat.: ½ hour before sunrise to 10AM

NO HUNTING ON SUNDAY.

CLOSED TO HUNTING October 9, 10, 11 (Columbus Day weekend)

ALL DEP Regulations apply to hunting in this Preserve

Bow Hunting (by permit only) from **September 15 –December 31**

No permanent stands

No tree spikes or damage to trees

Must use fall arrest system

Pheasant Hunting (by permit only) from **October 16 – November 27**

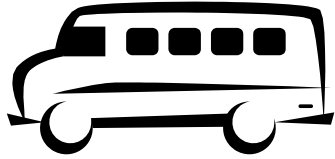
October 16th (only) starts @ 7am all other days start ½ hour before sunrise

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 times. If you see a wounded deer: (860) 822-6895 (Sprague Rod and Gun Club). Permits are available through the Sprague Rod and Gun or through the Town Clerk's office. Permits for bow hunting are issued in the same fashion as permits for pheasant hunting.

SENIOR VAN SCHEDULE



Lisbon Super Wal-Mart and Kohl's

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

Norwich Big Y/Wal-Mart by request.

Norwich Stop 'n Shop Plaza

Thursday, 1 to 3 p.m.

BUS SCHEDULE

Shetucket Village: 8:45 a.m., 9:45 a.m., 11:45 a.m.

Playground Brookside and High Street: 8:52 a.m.,
9:52 a.m., 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., 12:10 p.m.

Return

Stop as needed for return trip

Express Return: 3:15 p.m. to Senior Center

Create "Fairy Houses" at the Sprague Preserve on Sept 26th

The fairies that live on the property of the Sprague Preserve are in need of shelters!

Come hike with us on Sunday at 1pm on September 26th. Meet at the Grist Mill across from the Town Hall @ 12:45 or at the cabin on the Preserve at 1pm.

We will be helping our homeless friends and creating great family memories! Bring the kids to help us to design and build. For more information call or email Don 860-822-9808 or donaldboushee@sbcglobal.net

Message from our First Selectman

I hope everyone's had a great summer and managed to stay cool 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. A bang up end to summer will be held on Saturday, September 18th with a River fest canoe, kayaks, and tubing down the Shetucket, a yard sale at TJ's and a concert completing the day at the River Park.

As you know, we're again allowing permit-only hunting in the Land Preserve this fall all information can be found in the Town Clerk's office. 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—the town crew spent a couple of days there cleaning up (when you see them let them know how much you enjoy seeing the town spruced up as they have worked very hard). 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.

Over the next month, work will be completed on Riverside Drive, Hanover Versailles Road, Inland Road and Potash Hill Road. This work is paid for in part with FEMA funds.

All roads have been mowed once; a second run is being completed as of this writing.

Roadside sweeping will be completed over the next month.

We have received and are in the process of reviewing the draft report on the Baltic Mill

VNA East September Health Screenings

Blood Pressure Screenings:

Tues	Sep	7	Hebron Senior Center	10:30-11:30
Wed	Sep	8	Chaplin Senior Center	9-10
Wed	Sep	15	Scotland Town Hall	12:30-1
Wed	Sep	15	Ashford Senior Center	1:30-3
Thur	Sep	16	Marlborough Town Hall	2-3
Fri	Sep	17	Columbia Beckish Senior Center	12:30-1:30
Mon	Sep	20	Marlborough Senior Center	1:30-2:30
Tues	Sep	20	Lebanon Senior Center	12:30-1:30
Tues	Sep	28	Franklin Senior Center	10:30-11:30
Tues	Sep	28	Sprague Town Hall	11:45-12:45

Adult Health Screenings - including blood pressure, Cholesterol, HDL Cholesterol

Scotland's 23rd Annual Highland Festival

Sunday, October 10th, 2010 from 9 am to 5 pm.

Dancing, piping athletic competitions, sheep dog demonstrations, pipe bands, Scottish foods and wares, folk music. Call 860-423-1880 or see web site for more information: www.scotlandgames.org. **NO** pets please!

Georgia Stauffer, Highland Festival Committee