



# OUR TOWN

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

VOLUME XVIII  
ISSUE IX  
SEPTEMBER 2008

**INFORMATION \* NEWS \* OPINIONS**

## 2ND ANNUAL THREE VILLAGE DAY SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Blanchette park

Main street sprague



Magician , 11 a.m.

KIDS' BICYCLE RACE, 5 p.m.

LITTLE MISS SPRAGUE PAGEANT\*

LITTLE MISTER SPRAGUE PAGEANT\*

CUTE BABY PHOTO CONTEST\*

ADULT ARM WRESTLING

PUMPKIN COLORING CONTEST

PIE EATING CONTEST

SCARECROW MAKING CONTEST

(You bring the clothes)

Presentations by life star,

army and national guard

Karate demonstration

Amber alert bracelet ids

FOOD \* GAMES \* Coloring contests



### FUN FOR EVERYONE!!!

*Sponsored by sprague park and recreation and community businesses  
Volunteers welcome*

Contact: Noreen Foley at (860) 822-1829 or e-mail [noreenfoley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:noreenfoley@sbcglobal.net)

\*See forms in OUR TOWN

## OUR TOWN

### TRANSFER STATION PERMITS

The new 2009-2010 permits will be issued starting in December 2008. These new permits are required to be displayed on your vehicle and must be present starting on January 1, 2009. Remove any older permits anywhere from your vehicle before attaching the new permit. All vehicles are required to have a permit on the windshield passenger-side-lower-right. If you do not have a permit displayed, you will be asked to get one. If you refuse to get a permit and/or display it in the proper area on the windshield, you will be asked for driver's license and vehicle registration, and/or directed to the Town Hall, and/or denied access. If you continue to refuse to display a permit, access will be denied.

Gate hours, Monday and Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

### OUR TOWN STAFF

Sprague ~ Our Town is a free monthly publication of the Town of Sprague, serving the communities of Baltic, Hanover and Versailles. Primarily funded by the Town, support is also provided by paid advertisements. Opinions expressed in Sprague ~ Our Town are not necessarily those of town officials or the community at large, but solely reflect those of the writer. Submissions may be edited for clarity and format as necessary. Libelous or obscene materials are not permitted.

**Editor:** Amy Lynn Reifsnnyder  
**Editorial Assistant:** Colette Hoffman  
**Production Staff:** Jeannette Bastien; Al Hoffman, Rita Grenier, Al Grenier, Barbara Robitaille, John Ellis, Joe Osowski, Richard Waterman, Ruth Clark, Dennison Allen, and whoever else wanders through the room the day we collate. Feel free to volunteer! Good storytellers welcome. Information: (860) 456-1082; OurTownNews@gmail.com.

## Branching Out..... Notes from the Tree Warden

Here we are again in the midst of caterpillar leaf-munching season. The Gypsy Moth, Orangestriped Oakworm and Forest Tent caterpillars are in full chomping form. The gypsy moths are not ravaging the area like they did in the 1980s and so far this year they are predominately north and west of Sprague. The dry spring weather prevented the fungus that normally attacks the larvae during development from thriving this year and allowed the larvae to mature to 'infestation' levels. The orangestriped oakworm is back again this year after a major defoliation of many local oaks last year, but not, apparently, as heavy as last year. Unfortunately, many of the young oaks that were stripped of leaves last August and September may not survive defoliation for a second consecutive season. I have already sprayed the small oaks by the transfer station – the smallest only lost about half of its leaves, so it may survive. The forest tent caterpillars are around this year but not at the devastating levels of past years. These pests are the least selective about what types of trees they use as a host and can actually appear to cause the most damage because of the large numbers of any trees they can strip of leaves. All of these pests can be controlled very effectively using bio or bacterial insecticides when the larvae are very small. These infect the young larvae and prevents their maturity. At this time of year the most that can be done is to use a pesticide, such as Sevin or Durasban, that actually kill the caterpillars by poisoning them. Unfortunately, pesticides may also kill various other insects and affect birds and area mammals. You may have noticed the large birch tree in front of town hall is 'missing'. Sadly, this 50+ year old tree had to be cut down. About half of it had died and although the remaining part if the tree appeared healthy, it would have presented a safety hazard to persons using the sidewalks around town hall (It would have looked pretty 'ugly', too). A pleasant and 'majestic' tree should be planted in front of town hall by now to replace the birch. Two new trees have also been planted in the playground behind town hall (the large maple split in a storm) and should provide lots of shade in time.

~ Dave Gustafson

### Helping Hand Neighbor to Neighbor

As each of you sit down with your budget you know how the CL&P, fuel oil or propane prices have affected you. There are many who have lost their good jobs and are living on a smaller income. There are too many in town who have not stayed up to date on rent or other essentials.

This will be a very hard year for all of us to stay in the green with our budgets.

I ask you to look and see if there is some way you can give a little to the Salvation Army Upper New London County Unite, which serves Sprague.

This money will help your neighbors here in Sprague. An evaluation is done so we can be sure to provide the best help to get them back on their feet.

Please send your check (whatever you can spare) to 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

## Sprague Conservation Commission

Hello again fellow Sprague Citizens. The most important thing that I would like to say to all who participated in the July 22 Referendum is thank you so much for your support. Even those of you who weren't so convinced that it was the best decision for the town. What a great example of civic participation on everyone's part. When we care so passionately about an issue, it's important to participate in the process. No matter what side of the issue that you are on. It is the hope of the SCC that we can now move forward together to continue the good work that has begun. There is so much more to do.

We decided to not have any community-led hikes, just for the month of August. I hope that many people have continued to enjoy the property for the rest of the summer. If you need a map, stop by and see Claire at the town hall. If you have any questions, e-mail me at donaldboushee@sbcglobal.net. We wanted to give members a break for this month from hikes and workdays so they can enjoy the rest of the summer with their families. But the plan is to begin again in September with new goals and a refreshed energy.

We will also be having another workday soon at the River Park. Please contact me or another member if you would like to help with future projects. We can make a huge difference together in our town. Thank you again so much for your continued support for your town volunteers, on this commission and on all the others.

Our next hike will be **Sunday, September 14 at 11 a.m.** Meet at the Grist Mill and I'll give you the guided tour.

Also we are working with First Selectman Cathy Osten to help bring the reservoir back on line. There will be tree clearing and planting for a leaf screen of various species of pine trees to replace all the red pines that the town had to cut down because they were diseased. As usual, our monthly meeting is held on the second Monday of each month at the town hall. Please come.

~Donald Boushee, SCC Chairman

## Summer Concert

**BALTIC GAZEBO**

**5 TO 8 P.M.**

**September 20**  
The faded Love Band

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

**American Legion: Members Needed  
to Continue Post**

The meeting of American Legion Post 85 will take place on **Tuesday, September 23 at 7 p.m.** The results of the August 26 meeting will dictate whether to continue as a Post or turn in the charter. Election of officers will take place on September 23. Failure to meet the 40 person roster by September 1 and hold elections on September 23 will result in non-compliance to maintaining an American Legion Post status. If the charter is lost, all members will be given the choice to transfer to local Posts in the area of their choosing or to be placed on the Department 200 active list for the Department of Connecticut American Legion.

~ Tom Coletti, Post #85 Member

## OUR TOWN

### SAYLES SCHOOL BUS SCHEDULE

~Sprague School District, 25 Scotland Road, Baltic (860)822-8264

#### Elementary School Morning Bus Schedule

##### Bus 1 Van

Leave lot

7:55 a.m. – Main St-Versailles  
7:56 a.m. – Versailles Post Office  
8:05 a.m. – Westminster Rd  
8:12 a.m. – 57 Potash Hill Rd  
To Sayles School

##### Bus 2 Van

Leave lot

8:12 a.m. – Pick up aide(s)  
8:14 a.m. – Wall St  
8:17 a.m. – High St  
*Rest of Run Pending*

##### Bus 3

Leave lot

7:47 a.m. – Park Drive  
7:50 a.m. – Odd Side of West Main St  
7:55 a.m. – Lucier Heights  
7:58 a.m. – Willimantic Road,  
Rose & Marion St  
8:05 a.m. – Franklin Rd  
8:07 a.m. – Upper Pautipaug Hill Rd  
8:10 a.m. – Whitehall Dr., Pinecrest Ln.  
8:15 a.m. – Upper Pautipaug Hill Rd

8:20 a.m. – Lower Pautipaug Hill Rd  
To Sayles School

##### Bus 4

Leave lot

7:39 a.m. – Odd Side of Scotland Rd.  
before Salt Rock Rd  
7:43 a.m. – Baltic-Hanover Rd  
7:51 a.m. – Main St –Hanover  
7:53 a.m. – Pearl St  
7:54 a.m. – Upper Main St- Hanover  
8:05 a.m. – Parkwood Rd  
8:08 a.m. – Lower Main St – Hanover  
8:11 a.m. – Potash Hill Rd  
8:16 a.m. – Inland Rd  
To Sayles School

##### Bus 5

Leave lot

7:37 a.m. – Even side of Scotland Rd  
7:40 a.m. – Hazelwood Dr  
7:43 a.m. – Waldo Rd  
7:45 a.m. – Odd side of Scotland Rd up  
to Saltrock  
7:49 a.m. – Salt Rock Rd  
7:56 a.m. – Hanover Versailles Rd  
8:06 a.m. – Bushnell Hollow Rd  
(dump end)  
8:08 a.m. – Riverside Dr

8:15 a.m. – Main St – Versailles  
To Sayles School

##### Bus 6

Leave lot

8:00 a.m. – High St  
8:15 a.m. – West Main St  
To Sayles School

##### Bus 7

Leave lot

7:57 a.m. – Main St  
8:08 a.m. – River St  
8:14 a.m. – Wall St  
8:16 a.m. – Fifth Ave  
To Sayles School

##### Bus 8

Leave lot

7:43 a.m. – School Hill Rd  
7:50 a.m. – White Plains Rd  
7:54 a.m. – Plain Hill Rd  
8:03 a.m. – Even side of West Main St  
8:05 a.m. – Bushnell Hollow Rd  
8:06 a.m. – Grandview Dr.  
8:10 a.m. – Sunrise Dr.  
8:13 a.m. – Bushnell Hollow Rd  
To Sayles School

### PARK & REC OFFER KARATE CLASSES

Park & Rec and Hidden Dragon Karate III of Franklin are proud to offer a 6-week Karate program beginning Sept. 5 and ending Oct. 24. The cost for the program is \$40 (payment must be made to Sprague Park & Rec. at sign up). Uniforms (not required) can be purchased through the school for \$40. T-shirts, also not required but recommended, are available at the school for \$15. Class times: new students ages 4-8 years old, either Fridays from 5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. or Saturdays, 10:15 a.m. to 11 a.m.; Pre-teens ages 9-12, Fridays 7 p.m. to 7:45 p.m., or Saturdays, 11:15 a.m. to noon. Choose only one class. Sign up at the Town Hall. Questions? Contact Noreen Foley at (860) 822-1829 or e-mail noreenfoley@sbcglobal.net.

Recently, a class from Hidden Dragon Karate III demonstrated proper karate moves

and showed participants in the summer recreation program moves they have learned. Instructor Bob McKenna taught at Park & Rec's summer program for three weeks. Participants included Ray Flegert, Angela Flegert, John Flegert, Andrew Gluck, Cynthia Gluck, Devin McKechnie, Chad McKechnie, and Leonard Camidge. Hidden Dragon Karate school was voted 2008 National Martial Arts School of the Year.

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

**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 Our-TownNews@gmail.com, or mailed to Town Hall, P.O. Box 677, Baltic, CT 06330.

~Amy Lynn Reifsnnyder, (860) 456 1082

# SAYLES SCHOOL BUS SCHEDULE

~Sprague School District, 25 Scotland Road, Baltic (860)822-8264

## High School Morning Bus Schedule

### Bus 1

Leave lot  
6:15 a.m. – Parkwood Drive  
6:20 a.m. – Potash Hill Rd  
6:28 a.m. – Westminster Rd  
6:35 a.m. – Bushnell Hollow Rd  
6:32 a.m. – To bus lot to exchange students  
Bus to Windham Tech, Windham High

### Bus 2

Leave lot  
6:18 a.m. – Wall St  
6:35 a.m. – 121 Plain Hill Rd  
6:40 a.m. – 190 High St  
6:42 a.m. – to bus lot to exchange students  
Bus to NFA

### Bus 3

Leave lot  
6:10 a.m. – Scotland Rd  
6:15 a.m. – Hazelwood Dr  
6:22 a.m. – Corner of Waldo Rd  
6:27 a.m. – Saltrock Rd  
6:33 a.m. – Main St (Hanover)  
6:35 a.m. – Hanover-Versailles Rd

6:40 a.m. – Sunrise Drive  
6:41 a.m. – Corner of Grandview and Sunrise Drive  
6:43 a.m. – Bushnell Hollow Rd  
6:45 a.m. – Main St(Baltic) & Maple St, to bus  
lot to exchange Students  
Bus to NFA

### Bus 4

Leave lot  
6:12 a.m. – Baltic-Hanover Rd  
6:15 a.m. – Corner of Pearl St & Main St (Hanover)  
6:18 a.m. – Corner of Main St (Hanover)  
6:23 a.m. – Corner of Wendy Drive  
6:28 a.m. – Riverside Drive  
6:33 a.m. – Versailles Post Office  
6:35 a.m. – Church St – To bus lot to exchange students  
Bus to NFA

### Bus 5

Leaves lot 6:50 a.m.  
Bus to Norwich Tech

### Bus 6

Leave lot  
6:13 a.m. – School Hill Rd  
6:18 a.m. – Plain Hill Rd  
6:22 a.m. – Willimantic Rd-corner of Rose & Marion St.  
6:26 a.m. – Franklin Rd., Amber Dr., Country Club Drive.  
6:28 a.m. – Whitehall Drive  
6:32 a.m. – Pautipaug Hill Rd  
6:35 a.m. – West Main St  
6:37 a.m. – Baltic Post Office to bus lot to exchange student  
Bus to Montville High School

### Bus 7

Bus to New London Magnet School

### Bus 8

\*\*Bus information not available at this time.



## 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: Sarah Richardson  
(860) 822-1173**

## 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.

## OUR TOWN

### LEGAL NOTIC

In accordance with Connecticut General Statute 12-40, all persons who are liable to pay taxes on tangible personal property belonging to them on October 1, 2008, are hereby notified that they must file a declaration of their personal property on or before November 1, 2008, with the Assessor, or be subject to an estimated assessment and the statutory 25% penalty. Various exemptions are explained on the declaration and available if filed on time.

**NO DECLARATION IS REQUIRED FOR MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTERED IN SPRAGUE CT**  
**NO DECLARATION IS REQUIRED FOR REAL ESTATE**

Personal property includes, but is not limited to, unregistered motor vehicles (including junk autos), campers, all business machinery, equipment, tools, commercial furniture and fixtures.

The filing deadlines for various exemptions and classifications are as follows:

#### **PUBLIC ACT 490**

All applications for classification of forestland must be received by October 1, 2008. All applications for classification of farmland must be received by October 31, 2008.

#### **VETERANS**

All property owners claiming exemption due to military service must file their DD214 form with the Town Clerk by September 30, 2008. Veterans claiming disability exemption must submit proof from the Veterans Administration annually. PA 85-573 allows veterans an additional exemption if their income is within the approved limits. This application must be filed by October 1 bi-annually.

#### **DISABILITY**

Persons totally disabled receiving SSD benefits may be eligible for a \$1000 property exemption. Proof of award and application must be submitted by January 31, 2009.

#### **HOMEOWNERS & TOTALLY DISABLED**

Residents 65 years of age or totally disabled may be eligible for a tax credit on real estate, income guidelines apply and are adjusted each year. You must request an application in February 2009 and file it on or before May 15, 2009.

#### **RENTERS**

Residents 65 years of age or totally disabled may be eligible for the State Renters Rebate Program. Guidelines and applications are available May 15, 2009 through September 15, 2009.

***The Assessor's Office is open to receive the above declarations and applications Monday 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Tuesday 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.***

Robert G Coates  
Assessor

## PLANS UNDER WAY FOR BAZAAR

An informal meeting of the Baltic Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary was held on Wednesday, August 6.

The main topic of discussion was the **Holly Jolly Bazaar** which is scheduled for **Saturday, November 29, 2008**. Once again, tables will be available for rent. Cost for an 8 foot table is \$25.

Letters will be going out early September to those on our mailing list. If you are not on our mailing list but are interested in renting a space, please give me a call at 822-8331. Leave me your name, mailing address and phone number and a letter will be sent to you.

Also, members will be contacting businesses in town and the surrounding area for prizes for our raffle table. Our goal for this effort is to begin in late August and early September.

Our next regular meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 10** 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.

~Jeanette Deschamps

### 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

Order forms in last year's calendar or at Town Hall

Calendar cost: \$5 Order deadline late November

Calendars available in Town Hall in December

### 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.

### Sisters of Charity

Bottle and

Can Drive

September 6

East Main street

Baltic

### SIDEWALK RECONSTRUCTION UNDER WAY

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

### NOTICE

The Sprague Water and Sewer Authority has a vacancy on its board. This is a commission that has the responsibility to determine the direction of developing, financing and construction of, and oversee the operation and maintenance of the water distribution system, water filtration plant and sewer disposal facilities. The board meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Authority office.

Any resident wishing to serve on the board should address their interest to the Board of Selectmen, PO Box 677, Baltic, CT 06330 by September 8, 2008.

~Ward Eccles, Secretary-Treasurer,  
Sprague Water and Sewer Authority

### 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 landowner permission when hunting on private land.

Private land deer and turkey hunters must carry a permit, signed and dated for current season. This is required for both archery and firearm hunters.

Hunting license number must correspond to the season for which permission has been granted.

Landowners who allow, without fee, the recreational use of their property are protected from liability by Connecticut Law, C.G.S. 52-557g.

Properties must be at least 10 acres in size for rifle use to be authorized.

Landowners must designate calendar year, seasons and choice of hunting implements.

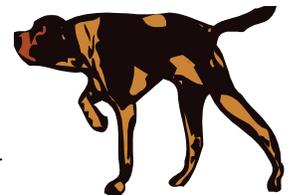
Copies do not need to be sent to DEP.

PLEASE HUNT RESPONSIBLY.

NOTE: Hunting in the Mukluk is prohibited at this time.

Also, no motorized ATVs or motor bikes are permitted.

Friendly hikers and sociable dogs are.



### PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS CHARTER

**A Public Meeting** to discuss the draft of the Town of Sprague Charter will be held Tuesday, September 9, 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Copies of the DRAFT are available at Town Hall; hours:

Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**What is Phytoremediation?** Copies of the Environmental Protection Agency's Citizen's Guide to Phytoremediation are available at Town Hall. There is no charge.

## 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.