

JULY 2019

HALIFAX NEWS

COMMUNITY CELEBRATION AT HALIFAX UNION SOCIETY ON JULY 20

The Halifax Union Society will host a Community Celebration on Saturday, July 20 at 4PM.

The event, led by Rev. Dr. Marcia Dorey and members of the Society, is intended to celebrate the completion of the exterior restoration of our historic building and to express our great thanks to the many community members whose contributions made this possible. We will place the restoration into the context of our 128-year history as a non-denominational group that has served the community as a religious center, cultural venue, and community supporter.

After the service, we will serve some of the finest homemade baked goods that Halifax has to offer. Most likely, these will not trigger a blowout party, but they will be a very tasty and sincere expression of our great thanks to the community.



Deteriorating paint before the restoration



Thorough scraping removed old paint

We will also express our appreciation to the Cooperative Insurance Companies and its agent, Burns Insurance, for a Community Grant they awarded in January 2018 to support the restoration. We will also thank Momaney Painters and their crew for a very helpful attitude and a wonderful finished job.

Summer Services Continue Through September 1

The summer season of Sunday evening services at the Union Society began on June 16 and will continue through September 1. Each service starts at 6PM. On most Sundays this year, the Rev. Dr. Marcia Dorey will lead us on a tour through the Old Testament

Book of Exodus. Merrilyn Courser leads the musical portions of the service playing request hymns on the Carpenter reed organ. There will be no service on July 21, the day after the Community Celebration event.

The Union Society is located at 44 Stowe Mountain Road in Halifax Center, close to the mailboxes at the junction of Jacksonville Stage, Old County, and Stowe Mountain Roads.

No collection is taken at any service, but we do accept donations of non-perishable groceries for the Deerfield Valley Food Pantry.

For more information, please call Merrilyn Courser at (802) 368-2455 or contact HalifaxUnionSociety@gmail.com



Finished exterior after restoration of steeple, windows and siding

~ David Jones, Halifax, Vermont

TOWN NEWS

7/6/2019: ANNUAL FIREMEN'S AUCTION is **Saturday, July 6** at the **West Halifax Fire Station starting at 10AM**. Come browse the offerings and help support our fire department! Food and ice cream will be available for purchase to carry you through the event.

7/13/2019: HALIFAX COMMUNITY CLUB ICE CREAM WAGON will be selling ice cream at the Rowe Fireworks the afternoon and evening of **Saturday, July 13, 2019**, at Pelham Lake State Park in Rowe, MA. Want to get certified to serve food in Massachusetts and help out? Contact Joan (JWCinVT@gmail.com, 802-368-7733) or Laurel (LaurelACopeland@gmail.com, 210-488-1701 text, 368-2439).

8/3/2019: CLAM BAKE AT THE OLD CODY FARM on Old County Road is the 1st Saturday in August (**Saturday, August 3, 2019**, serving 1-3PM; buy tickets from Fire Department in advance).

9/28/2019: HALIFAX CELEBRATION DAY, SEPT. 28, 2019

SAVE THE DATE! Halifax Town Celebration will be on **Saturday, September 28, 2019**. This is a celebration of small-town life, kicked off with a delicious early morning **pancake breakfast** and ending after dark with **dancing in the street at the Firehouse to Groove Prophet**. Celebration Day is a fun time for the entire family. Watch here every month for more details. And we will see you there!

Want to help? Got ideas? Contact Patty Dow: 802.368.7390



FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

May 28 five men responded to Marlboro station for a cover call.

June 6 two men responded to a call on Thomas Hill Road. They had to "stage away" until police arrived.

June 8 nine men and one truck responded to Route 112 in Jacksonville. They were turned back en route.

June 9 eight men and one truck responded to a call on Deer Park Road to a strong smell of smoke. Oven set too hot!

June 16 two men responded to Amidon Rd for a possible heart attack.

June 16 four men responded to a lift assist on Collins Road.

June 16 four men and one truck responded to an automatic alarm on Collins Road; cooking set off the alarm.

Ours is an all-volunteer **Fire Department** that raises their own money for trucks and all other equipment.

Donations are very welcome. Be sure to catch these two big annual events: **Auction at the Fire Department** on the **1st Saturday in July** (starting at 10AM) and **Clam Bake at the Old Cody Farm** on Old County Road on the 1st Saturday in August (serving 1-3PM; buy tickets in advance: call Wayne 802-368-7733).

SENIOR MEAL (CELEBRATING 20 YEARS IN HALIFAX)

July 19 ~ Indoor Picnic! Hamburgers, cheeseburgers, hot dogs, rolls, homemade baked beans, macaroni salad, potato chips & ice cream sandwiches: serving at 12 o'clock noon at the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax VT. All seniors are welcome. \$3 requested (\$4 for their non-senior guests). If you are coming to Senior Meal, a call to Joan the day before is greatly appreciated 802.368.7733.

WEST HALIFAX BIBLE CHURCH

On the weekend of October 18, 19 & 20, the WHBC will celebrate 25 years with Village Missions. Village Missions helps small rural churches pay their Pastor. The church provides a parsonage & health insurance; Village Missions covers the salary until the church can pay it on their own. We will have in attendance past Pastors and their wives, Village Missions district representatives present and past, and the head director of

Village Missions from Oregon. It will be a fun weekend, and we are very happy to honor these people for their support to our small rural church.

JOAN'S SIGHTINGS

Howard & Elisabeth Smith have had a great variety of birds and a bear sitting outside their window enjoying the bird food and sugar water from their feeders. Bill Dame has had many Blue Jays, Robins, Cardinals and lots more and probably the same bear visiting his feeders. I looked out the kitchen window towards the road and there were my chicken and rooster pecking away not three feet away from a 165- to 175-pound bear! They soon decided they did not like this fellow and headed under Wayne's pickup. I ran out with a ski pole in my hand, and the bear headed for less troublesome places. But not for long....Jean Hardgrove called to tell me she was outside filling feeders, turned around, a bear was about 3 to 4 feet behind her -- scared her very much. As I was talking on the phone with her (outside), the same bear showed up at our place. He/she went into the garage and grabbed a bag of garbage unbeknown to us. A few minutes later we looked in the tall grass between us and the school yard, and there it is tearing the bag open. Wayne grabbed an iron pipe, took a few steps towards it and hollered at it. It ran away BUT did not stay away for long. I looked down at the barn to see it had knocked over the garbage barrel and a small can of chicken scratch grains (he did not like it -- did not eat any of it). He must have headed to someone else's place not far away: Wayne said he heard someone shout 'get out of here'. This bear is not much afraid and must be pretty hungry to hang around the village so much. I am looking over my shoulder everywhere I go, especially the barn to care for the chickens; guess my ski pole will be my constant companion for a while.

The summer birds are numerous and so beautiful. I am enjoying each one of them so very much. I do believe I am feeding as much seed as in the wintertime!!! But I'm seeing Cardinals, Orioles, Catbirds, Sparrows, Chickadees, Woodpeckers, Blue Jays (not as many as before -- I sent them to other people's houses!), Nuthatch, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Purple Finch, Goldfinch, and lo and behold we had an Indigo Bunting for two days!!! and Yellow-Shafted Flicker. I was sitting on Sue Longe's porch with her when we saw two Cedar Waxwings and a Titmouse. I saw a House Wren checking out a bird house here; not sure it was to its liking as have not seen it lately. Very much enjoyed seeing them in NJ at my brother's place -- they have two nesting there. They sing so beautifully, I know they are at my place because I hear their songs. Just love all the birds!!!!



Send your animal sightings to Joan at: jwcinvt@gmail.com - Joan Courser



Laurel reports seeing 3 ravens circling and calling, "grok! grok!" while crows and blue jays squabbled up on Hanson Road. She saw a bluebird with rosy throat and creamy belly perching on a marking stick (pic). The phoebes nesting on the front porch are now feeding their babies with a nicely patterned little moth (pic), Frank Maltese caught our blockhouse porcupine on Hanson Road mugging for the camera (pic). Laurel's sister Heidi snapped pictures of a mama bear and her two cubs on Hanson Road on June 9th (pic). When Mama bear stood up, her paws touched the edge of the portico with ease. Becky Green's bear took a rest after bending the



shepherd's crook to get bird seed (pic). A little grey fox ran across Branch Road and over Hope & Patrick's bridge early one morning. There are little Pickerel frogs in the wetlands along the driveway; one sat on a red eft (pic). Heidi spotted a house finch with his pink head (pic)! ~Laurel



HAVING A COW AFTER LUNCH

Have you seen the COW signs on those large red or clear containers in the Halifax Community Hall and wondered about **Project COW**? Those are collection bins for Composting Organic Waste (COW; sometimes rendered as "Commercial Organic Waste"). Project COW is a program of Windham Solid Waste Management District to reduce what we put into landfill. Project COW lets residents, businesses, schools, and organizations such as the Halifax Community Club (HCC) recycle food scraps and soiled paper goods. No plastic or metal!

At the HCC, most Project COW material comes from Senior Meal, breakfasts, and potlucks. We use the COW bins for food scraps, paper plates, napkins, soiled cardboard and paper food packaging, and paper towels. Once or twice a month, a Club volunteer brings the Project COW bins to the solid waste transfer station in Brattleboro. Since diverting the compostable materials to Project COW, the Halifax Community Club has been able to cancel its trash service, saving \$20 each month. While that might not seem like much, over a year the savings equals the cost of about 90 gallons of propane.

Windham County residents can bring Project COW material from home to the transfer station. No need to stop at the weigh scale. Instead, drive to the left of the scale booth and then turn right toward the bins and Project COW dumpster. <http://www.windhamsolidwaste.org/index.php/composting/food-scraps-non-recyclable-paper>.

~ Linda Lyon, Halifax, Vermont

HALIFAX COMMUNITY HALL To rent our beautiful repainted, rewired, & insulated Hall, contact Joan Courser at (802) 368-7733 or JWCinVT@gmail.com. Resident-\$65.00; Non-resident-\$80.00; plus \$35.00 if heat is used. - *Joan Courser*

NEW LOOK FOR COMMUNITY HALL The rickety rail fence has been removed from the Hall yard to improve safety and appearance. Thanks to John Zeber, Laurel Copeland, and Wayne Courser.

HALIFAX COMMUNITY CLUB meets Monday, July 8, 2019 at Lynda Copeland's, 1581 Hanson Road, 6:45-7:45 pm. HCC is a 501(c)3 charitable organization charged with service to the Halifax community and care of the Community Hall. Contact: 368-7097 or

LaurelACopeland@gmail.com. HCC documents are online: <https://czresearch.com/halifax>



Summertime Travel - Moki Dugway in Utah, a 3-mile stretch of steep switchbacks climbing a mesa wall, and the valley far below it. No guardrail, of course. Also, me on a mule named Cobra riding down into the Grand Canyon North Rim. -Laurel

The Vermont Phoenix

And Other Sources

June 1939

- 80 years ago -

An article in the Brattleboro Reformer on June 10, 1939, noted the purchase of land and buildings in Reid Hollow in Halifax. "ARTISTS' COLONY TO OPEN JULY 1 - 25 Expected to Enroll at Reid Hollow Project in Halifax - NEW YORKERS BUY LAND, 4 BUILDINGS." The article went on to note, "Fifteen hundred acres of land in Reid Hollow, a chair stock mill, an old tavern, a former church, and an abandoned farm constitute the section of town that will become a summer retreat for younger artists from 14 years of age up. The property was acquired last winter by Mrs. Richard Campbell of New York, and the colony is a project of her son, Richard Campbell, Jr., a former Putney School student whose formal education was interrupted when an accident sent him to a wheel chair." The article goes on to give details about the buildings and proposed faculty of the school.

A brief notice appeared in the Boston Globe 10 days later: "An artists' colony is soon to be launched in Reid Hollow, Halifax, Vt., under the sponsorship of Richard Campbell Jr., of New York who by reason of accident is forced to use a wheeled chair, but who will act as associate director for the school, which will teach painting and drawing, music, and theatre practice. An old church will be used as a girls' dormitory while the boys will be housed in the farmhouse, and 25 students have already been enrolled." - The Boston Globe (Boston, Massachusetts) 20 Jun 1939.

Halifax Is Chosen

Selection of Halifax for an ambitious artists' colony project justifies faith in the town, hard hit by the flood of last September and suffering from abandonment of hill farms. The little hamlet of Reid hollow, where New Yorkers have acquired 1,500 acres of land and all the existing buildings and plan to operate a sizable summer colony, saw its best days half a century or more ago. It boasted two woodworking mills and a tavern then but for years has been largely deserted. It never had a postoffice—at least, records as far back as 1869 don't list one—but it once had a church.

Undertakings of such magnitude are not exactly new to Halifax, however. Down in the "Center" stands sagging, rotting Maplehurst lodge, which once was a summer hotel of considerable proportions. It even had a golf course and its register bore the names of persons of prominence but it didn't prove a profitable venture. Now for sale signs are growing weatherbeaten on its walls and it is leaning into its cellar hole.

Then there was the Deer park, a 2,000-acre game preserve that had the countryside agog 30 or 40 years ago. A large part of it was enclosed by a high, tight fence and was stocked with deer, elk and all manner of strange game that came to the express office here and always brought pop-eyed sportsmen staring around. At the time of its transfer from L. C. Houghton of Sheffield, Ill., to H. M. Ward of New York in 1904, The Reformer reported that it contained between 350 and 400 deer, about 30 elk, a trout pond of 50 acres and two miles of stream. The Deer park's fence is now falling down and the dam of its trout pond has been washed out but it has been hunted in up to recent times. It lies near Reid hollow, incidentally.

Halifax and its friends wish the new venture better luck than these. The town has need of new blood and new enterprise and we are pleased that it was selected, out of a great many locations inspected in Vermont, for the colony.

News from Bygone Days

~ C. Lancaster, Halifax Historical Society

Newsletter

P O Box 27

West Halifax VT 05358

Geese on Fisher's Pond in June



*** Announcements of **Town events** appear on the Town of Halifax website, <https://halifaxvermont.com>, Front Porch Forum <https://frontporchforum.com>, flyer postings here and there, and in this newsletter. Keep in touch!

*** You need a **permit to burn brush**. Call Fire Warden Malcolm Sumner @ 368-2484 or Fire Chief Wayne Courser @ 368-7733 for a burn permit.

*** **Other concerns?** Contact First Constable Andrew Rice (802-380-1986) and Second Constable Roy Richardson halifaxconstable@gmail.com.

*** The **Fire Department** has monthly 50-50 raffle tickets for sale. \$10 a month. Call Wayne at 802-368-7733 if you are interested. A great way to support your fire department. Every little bit helps. It's an all-volunteer department that raises their own money for trucks and all other equipment.

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NEWSLETTER - Got a great Halifax story? Write it up and send it over! Send your story to Joan at JWCinVt@gmail.com (802.368.7733; PO Box 27 05358) and / or Laurel at LaurelACopeland@gmail.com.

Editor LaurelACopeland@gmail.com. Color e-mail version