

MAY 2020

HALIFAX NEWS

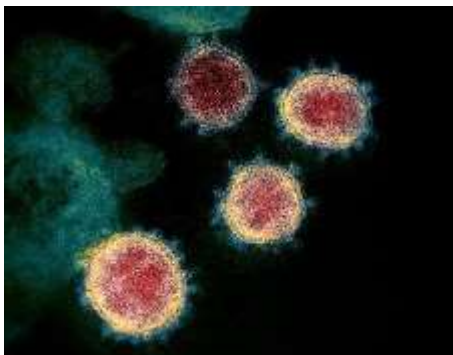
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

March 10th seems a long time ago, although it was only last month, today being April 30th. That was the last group dinner I attended, at my mom's, with 10 people around the big kitchen table. Time is stretching out through the surreal experience of living in this time of the coronavirus pandemic. I check the websites, <https://coronatracker.com> and Johns Hopkins' COVID-19 map at <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>, every morning to learn how far past 3 million cases the world has moved, with 1 million in the US. My Weather Channel app has a new icon of the coronavirus so I can check on the number of cases in Windham County (today, 71, with 2 deaths) and the State of Vermont (862 cases, 47 deaths). The first cases in Wuhan, China were reported in January: I remember hearing about a new kind of viral respiratory infection with 300 cases. At the time I wondered what would make a report of such a small number of cases important. All too soon we all learned the reasons – this is a virus with extremely rapid and often hidden person-to-person transmission a high fatality rate of 3% that is startling when compared to the annual influenza where about 0.1% die. And about 20% of persons who get sick with COVID-19 have a severe case where “severe” means they need to be hospitalized, put in intensive care, and, often, put on a ventilator. And there was no vaccine to prevent it, and no treatment to cure it.

No treatment. Therefore, prevention is king. We learned to wash our hands frequently from stark warnings and funny songs on YouTube. We learned to wear a mask, and to make masks to wear. We tried to learn not to touch our face or our mask. We learned to live without gatherings for sports, dinner, concerts, parties, science projects, exercise, and school. We took our jobs home or lost them. Our friends in retail, the restaurant business, hostelry, and other venues dependent on *people being there* suffered but also became innovative, trying to adapt to a contactless society.

And we lost people. In Wilmington, the Boyd brothers, Leon and Cleon, both succumbed to COVID-19 within a week of each other. Funeral processions honored their love of music and family. I knew them as teenagers the same age as me. How could they be gone?

The anxiety I felt when my daughter and son-in-law in Ohio reported coming down with COVID-19 symptoms was sleep-destroying. Luckily, they progressed quickly from painful fatigue, high fever, shortness of breath, digestive symptoms, cough and aches to mild symptoms and recovery within a week; their cases were not severe. And little 8-year-old Navia, housebound with them, had no symptoms. Although they called their health care providers, they were not allowed to be tested: not enough tests were available yet for mild cases.



Scientific investigation is moving at breakneck speed to develop and test vaccines, to find out whether having COVID-19 provides any immunity, to find drugs to treat those with severe disease. The first potential drug treatment may be remdesivir, if early trial results are upheld. The vaccine race has many months to go. We can now see our enemy through an electron microscope (photo). We will vanquish it. This spring, we can hope that recent decreases in new cases of COVID-19 will continue, and we will persist with our social distancing and masks and hand-washing until it is safe to get together again. May it be soon.

~Laurel Copeland, Halifax Vermont

TOWN NEWS

HALIFAX DIRECTORY

Feel the need to keep in touch? Get listed in the Halifax Directory! And your business. To be included, please send your information to LaurelACopeland@gmail.com (or mail to 1513 Hanson Road, Brattleboro VT 05301). Send the information you want published: Name, Business Name, Address, Telephone, Cell Phone, Email.

Feel free to share this request with other Halifax residents and other persons associated with Halifax. We would love to have your submission by June 1, 2020. We need a little money to print the directory. Ads can be purchased – ask us! – *Penfield Chester & Laurel Copeland*

VETERANS OF HALIFAX. The Halifax Honor Roll of U. S. Veterans will be updated to include the past 10 years of Halifax current or former residents who have served our country in the armed forces. Thanks for what you have sent so far! Help us update: send names of Veterans and current members of the military to Joan or Laurel.

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

April 5, five Halifax men, Whitingham rescue and Deerfield Valley ambulance responded to a residence on Collins road for a call of an ill woman. The ambulance transported her to Brattleboro Memorial Hospital.

April 12, six men responded to the area of Hubbard Hill Road for a man walking and having medical issues. He was transported to Brattleboro hospital.

April 13, eight men and one truck responded to a tree on wires burning on Stage Road.

Pictured: Wayne Courser is recognized for 50 years of service as Halifax Fire Chief



5/15: SENIOR MEAL (SERVING IN HALIFAX SINCE 2000)

Friday, May 15 is the next Halifax Senior Meal served at the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax. It looks like it will be another TAKE-OUT ONLY meal because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The menu is BBQ meatballs, baked potato, vegetable, roll and dessert. You may pick up the meals outside the Hall (weather permitting) **from 11 AM to 1 PM**. If the weather is bad, the take-out boxes will be just inside the foyer door for pick-up. Donations are welcome but not necessary. The cost is \$3.00 for age 60 & up (\$4 for younger companions: “We serve residents aged 60 and up, and the people who care about them”). Put exact change in the donation can on the table. **PLEASE DO NOT MAKE CHANGE** – don’t risk the contact with everyone else’s dollars. If you cannot make a donation, just take the meal. Meals will be packaged up and ready to go. **HOPEFULLY** next month we will be able to eat inside and visit with our friends, but either way there will be a Senior Meal available in Halifax.

Please call Joan to let her know how many meals you want: 802.368.7733.



OLD HOME DAYS celebrating Halifax's 270+ years: The Old Home Days celebration has been **postponed** from 2020 to 2021. If you have thoughts and suggestions, feel free to send them to: Patty Dow halifax@myfairpoint.net. Please stay safe and healthy, and we hope to see everyone eventually!

SORROW

The fire department has taken a fire truck or two, two different times, to Wilmington/Dover for a “showing respect and condolences” parade for the Boyd family for the tragic loss of Cleon & Leon Boyd to the coronavirus. In these ‘distancing from each other’ times, this was everyone’s way of showing respect and expressing their sorrow to the family and friends. There were hundreds of cars and equipment from many, many fire departments in the procession. It is beyond sad for the loss of these fine twin brothers.



I am sorry to report the death of long-time Halifax resident Steve Sanders, 92 years of age. Steve passed on April 13, 2020 in Brattleboro. Steve lived on Stark Mountain Road while in Halifax. Steve was born to Ben and Frances Sokalner in New York City in 1928. He married artist Mariette Tacke in NYC in 1957, and they raised four children. Steve loved to restore old things to their former beauty. It started with a wooden sailboat, which he traded in for a decrepit farm in Halifax, Vermont in 1967. Many summers and school vacations were devoted to the painstaking work, by the entire family, of renovating the 1762 farmhouse and restoring the old apple orchard and the surrounding fields, gardens and pond into an idyllic pastoral retreat. Steve and Mariette moved to Halifax full time in 1982; he and Mariette spent their latter winters in Santa Fe, NM. Steve loved history and was a contributing author to *Born in Controversy, the History of Halifax, Vermont*. Our condolences go out to Mariette and his family and friends.

FOOD IS AVAILABLE in Windham County. The Deerfield Valley Food Pantry has their food pantry open May 14 and 16 at 7 Church Street in Wilmington. For more information, call 464-0148.

JOAN’S SIGHTINGS

The spring-???-like weather is bringing new and interesting birds to my feeders and surrounding areas (the questions marks are there because as I type this on 4/27 there is snow in the air and on the ground). I am loving the beautiful bright yellow male Goldfinches; they sure brighten things up. I have lots of them, male and female. My Cardinals are still coming early each evening, and lots of Brown-Headed Cowbirds, Blackbirds, various Sparrows, Purple Finch, Chickadees, some Blue Jays, a pair of beautiful Wood Ducks on the brook down back, Nuthatches both Red-breasted and White-breasted. I also saw a Wren checking out a birdhouse here, Robins on the lawn, Mourning Doves, many Red-winged Blackbirds, and Titmice. Two pair of Evening Grosbeaks stopped by for a snack. I was excited to see a Yellow-Shafted Flicker here, and I was beyond excited to see a beautiful Eagle in Hinsdale, NH. I am still hearing the Pileated Woodpecker here and about, but have yet to see it. I keep looking hoping someday to spot it. Marion Canedy reported having Eastern



Towhee at her place!! Laurel has been watching foxes. Andrea Rand takes beautiful pictures of lots of different birds at her place – and a mink!

My latest bear experience: a bear tore off part of the wire from my chicken coop and took two of my hens! We now carry the chickens to a coop in our garage every night. We saw the bear the night after that first visit happened, and it is not a small bear....it has got some size to it!!!! We heard a noise

outside just after dark another evening so went out to investigate -- maybe not the smartest thing to do!!!???? To bring in my bird feeders, I walked under our pine tree out front, reaching to get the feeders from the windows facing the fire station.....I heard some funny 'scratching' noises, but with my poor hearing just kind of dismissed it...got my feeders in...got a flashlight and fanned it up in a tree, and guess what!?? There was the bear in the tree, maybe 5 to 6 feet up!!! I had walked under it three times. Guess that old saying, 'what you don't know, won't hurt you' is true. When I shined the light in its eyes, it growled!!! I gave it lots of space then! Now, I bring my feeders in each night right after carrying the chickens to safety. Good grief: we live in the village, and these animals are supposed to be in the woods, not the village! I love the wildlife, but.....that was just a little too close for comfort.

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

- Joan Courser

My mom had a visitor. My first clue was on my driveway. I backtracked the trail. Mm-hm...from the woods, to the bird feeder's former location, across the orchard, into my driveway. Nice toes, Little Bear.



NEW BUSINESS IN TOWN Friend and neighbor Gregg Orifici sent a flyer for his gardening business, The Gentle Gardener (contact: Gregg 413-695-6894).

20+ years' experience designing and maintaining gardens

perennials, trees, shrubs, annuals, eye-catching planters, as well as pruning, hedging, weeding, planting, dividing and rehabbing garden areas. For a project price that fits the budget or reasonable hourly rate, I work closely with you to identify the best, most-sustainable and low-maintenance opportunities to beautify your outdoor spaces.

I look forward to discussing your needs and making your property shine!

Gregg — 413 - 695 - 6894
GreggOrifici@yahoo.com

The Gentle Gardener



Experienced, Knowledgeable and Creative Gardening Services

Do you have a new business? Let us know.

Are you on the Town website?

<https://halifaxvermont.com/about/halifax-business-services/>

WHITINGHAM FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY in Jacksonville is closed to slow the spread of coronavirus. WiFi is still available outside the building 24/7. Whitingham Library has recently added RBDigital to our online resources! MORE Ebooks and Audio books free with your library card#. Whitingham Library barcodes to register begin with **2VTKM + 0's** in the middle and ending with your library card # for



a total of 14 digits.

For example if your library number is xxx then your barcode looks like 2VTKM000000xxx.

If you have a juvenile card then add a J before the number: 2VTKM00000Jxxx. Call the library if you need assistance: 368-7506. Register here: <https://vermontstate.rbdigital.com/> (copy and paste link). Enjoy!! "I continue to be available for resource questions, navigating information, community service questions or suggestions." -- Kristine Sweeter, Director 802-368-7506

THE PANDEMIC has not caused us to lose our sense of humor. Humor helps combat the isolation and anxiety of waiting to find out what will happen, and when it will happen. My e-mail box seems to think I have nothing to do but read jokes and look at pictures. It's to smile!



WITH THE ICE STILL ON THE POOLS, Sue Kelly and Grace Hedderman and Linda Lyon and I have been visiting vernal pools to set up small recording devices (to listen to the wood frogs), install HOBO monitors at the bottom of the icy cold pools, and finally, with the ice gone, to count egg masses. We saw a lot of wood frog eggs, some spotted salamander egg masses, and zillions of mosquito larvae. This is my second year monitoring vernal pools. The statewide project recruits citizen scientists to visit pools and collect data on the animals that breed in these temporary bodies of water. Interested? Visit Vermont Center for Ecostudies at <https://vtcostudies.org/projects/forests/vernal-pool-conservation/vermont-vernal-pool-monitoring-project/>. Or tag along with us next time we go! - Laurel

WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY -- HAVE YOU SEEN ANY OF THESE 5 ANIMALS CROSSING A ROAD? LET ME KNOW!

Thanks for your calls and emails so far! If you see one of these 5 mammals on or crossing a road, or if you see tracks/scat that suggest one crossed the road, let me know (LaurelACopeland@gmail.com, 368-2439). The 5 animals are Moose (tracks #9), Black Bear (tracks #35), Bobcat (tracks #7), River Otter (tracks #23), and Fisher.



Newsletter

P O Box 27

West Halifax VT 05358



Dwarf Iris reticulata on Hanson Road



Lichen, snow and tree in April

Halifax News

MAY 2020

NEWSLETTER - Send your Halifax story
to Laurel LaurelACopeland@gmail.com
or Joan JWCinVt@gmail.com
(802.368.7733; PO Box 27 05358).

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