

August 2023

## HALIFAX NEWS

### DVFIBER ARRIVES IN HALIFAX

– David Jones, Halifax, Vermont

Halifax is finally getting real high-speed internet. In the coming months, we will see bucket trucks and crews working on utility poles to construct the DVFiber network to every on-grid location in town. This is a state-of-the-art fiber optic network, as good as any available anywhere in the country. Connections to Halifax customers will begin this year and continue into 2024.

Having real high-speed internet means you can go to school, see a doctor, attend a meeting or event, shop, work remotely, and visit your friends and family online from your home. The network won't slow down, and there is no limit on how much data you can consume. Best of all, we own it. DVFiber is a Communications Union District (CUD) that owns the network and sets the prices. The district is governed by representatives appointed by the Selectboards of 24 member towns including Halifax. There are nine other CUDs covering most areas of the state. Construction is financed primarily through grants of federal funds administered by the Vermont Community Broadband Board.

Pricing is simple with no hidden fees. The price for Internet ranges from \$75/month to \$130/month, depending on the speed of connection you choose. There is an optional Wi-Fi Extender (about \$8/month) and an optional landline telephone service (about \$20/month). If you use the telephone service to call outside the US and Canada there will be additional per-minute charges. There are no federal or state taxes on Internet charges, but applicable federal and state taxes and fees will be added to telephone charges.

Halifax's Broadband Committee and similar committees in other towns worked for many years to get broadband delivered here but with limited success. In combination, these efforts showed that the poor quality of service was a statewide problem requiring a new solution. State legislation in 2015 established the legal structure for CUDs and additional legislation co-sponsored by Representative Laura Sibilgia in 2019 and 2021 provided funding, technical assistance, and state oversight of federal grant funds.

You can go to <https://dvfiber.net> to learn more and get on the list to be contacted when DVFiber is ready to connect to your home or business. Click on the "Check If Service Is Available" / "Check Availability" box to provide your address and contact information. You can also call (844) 383-6246. For further information, visit the DVFiber tent at the Halifax Fire Department Clambake on August 5 (Old County Road, Halifax Center) or come to a Halifax Broadband Committee meeting – dates are posted on the town website and on the bulletin boards.

### TOWN NEWS

**The Clam Bake is Saturday, August 5! Buy tickets IN ADVANCE from any fireman or the Town Clerk: \$20 for half a chicken, coleslaw, corn on the cob, potato salad, and watermelon; \$50 adding lobster & clams (pictured).**

Clam Bake: Serving 1-3pm on Sat. Aug. 5th at the old Cody Farm on Old County Road in Halifax, by the Whitneyville Cemetery (1470 Old County, Halifax).



**HALIFAX CAFÉ.** The Café in the Community Hall is proving to be a welcome gathering spot for Halifax residents and visitors on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Initiated by Laurel Copeland, the Café is co-led by Andrea Underwood Jones. Andrea's husband, David Jones, sometimes helps set up and clean up. Diana Conway is often putting about, keeping the Café tidy and arranging flowers for the tables; she is also a fine baker. The Café is staffed entirely by volunteers and funded by donations; proceeds go to the nonprofit Halifax Community Club which manages the building (<https://czresearch.com/halifax/>).



In the photograph, several people sit around chatting in the Café while the Halifax Historical Society prepares for their annual meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Coffee and teas are always available with a changing selection of edibles. While Andrea bakes regularly (Laurel, not so much!), guest bakers contribute their bars, brownies, scones, biscuits, fruit, nuts, cookies, and muffins. We've had macaroons, brownies, blondies, sticky toffee bars, chocolate chip cookies, cheese & pepper biscuits, cheese & crackers, banana bread, mini-cheesecakes, Congo bars, and Cranberry-Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookies from Barb Waldron as published in the Halifax Cookbook. Got a favorite? Let us know!

In addition, Donna & Pete Silverberg contribute a variety of packaged snacks. The Silverbergs have also donated a new Bunn coffee brewing station, a dozen comfy seat cushions, box fans, and essential supplies, among other things. Lynda Copeland (Laurel's mom) donated comfy seat cushions, tablecloths, a card table, and a microwave oven. The Café has been open on Thursday and Saturday since June 1. The plan is to adapt times / days to people's preferences and activities, so if you have a suggestion, let me know.

**NOTE: The Café will be closed for the Clam Bake on Saturday, August 5.** Hope to see you on Old County Road where you can find me in the Ice Cream Wagon!  
- Laurel Copeland

**HELP WANTED** – We need one or more people to volunteer to open, run, and close the Café from time to time. Your two primaries, Andrea & Laurel, need a break. Email [LaurelACopeland@gmail.com](mailto:LaurelACopeland@gmail.com).



**HALIFAX HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEEDS A NEW ROOF.** The Halifax Historical Society maintains the historical Plumb School building in the middle of West Halifax. They also curate a collection of historical artifacts relating to Halifax. But the old building badly needs a new roof. Please send contributions to: **Halifax Historical Society, P.O. Box 94, West Halifax, VT 05358.**

#### **FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

On July 2nd six men and two fire trucks responded to a structure fire in Marlboro. They were turned back en route; the incident was downgraded.

On July 10 four men responded to a residence on Route 112 for a flooded basement.

On July 10 four men responded again to a flooded basement at the same residence.

On July 17 five men responded to a medical call in Halifax as did Deerfield Valley Ambulance. No transport.

On July 20 nine men responded to a mutual aid call in Marlboro; they were turned back en route.

On July 20 three men responded to a medical call on Reed Hill Road. Deerfield Valley Ambulance transported to Bay State Hospital (Greenfield, MA).

**Burn Permits are Required – call before you burn. Dennis (802) 368-7809 or Malcolm (802) 368-2484**

**HERBAL WALKS WITH TARA BILLS**

Tara Bills announced a new series of Herbal Walks, excursions to connect with plants, the Earth, yourself, and each other. The group meets every **Monday evening at 5:30 pm** at the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax. The series extends 6 weeks through Monday, August 14<sup>th</sup>. Tara explains, “We will focus on identifying and discussing many of the local medicinal herbs present in our community. Through our relationship with the herbs and one another, we can establish community and begin to heal ourselves physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Please bring your **walking shoes, bug spray (!), and a notebook**. Herbal teas will be served. Please join me!” \$5 per person donation is suggested.

**SENIOR MEAL IN HALIFAX – NO Senior Meal in Halifax in August.** See you on September 15: same place, same time...Halifax Community Hall serving at noon. Enjoy your summer...between the rain drops! – *Joan*

**HALIFAX ICE CREAM TRAILER –** The Community Club ice cream trailer will be at the Blueberry Festival at the Municipal Center in Jacksonville (by the library) on July 28th from 4 to 7 PM. Stop by for some delicious ice cream. We will also have the ice cream trailer at the firemen’s clambake on August 5 at the Cody farm.

**Elsewhere Around Town.** We had a visit from a bobcat the other evening. We were relaxing on our screened porch when a cool cat wandered by less than 8 feet from me. I yelped and it scampered off a bit, then sauntered into the woods. Meanwhile my daughter, KC Ferris, snapped several pictures of turkeys including this family strutting along the road.



The **Halifax Beaver Working Group (BWG-Halifax)**, a collaboration between the Halifax Conservation Commission and Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center (<https://beec.org>), recently examined half a dozen beaver dams and related wetlands in Halifax with river engineer, Denise Burchsted. Pictured: a large culvert on Deer Park Road.

The BWG-Halifax will present a **seminar, stories, and field trip to a beaver pond on Saturday, July 29, from 1:00-4:00 PM (poster at right)**. All ages welcome! Wear good hiking shoes/boots, bring bug repellent, and dress for the weather. Meet at the Community Hall (20 Brook Road) in West Halifax at 1:00 PM on 7/29/2023. More info at: <https://www.beec.org/halifax-beaver/>

BEEC and the Halifax Beaver Working Group bring you:  
**A Beaver Year: Presentation and Field Trip**

**Saturday, July 29 from 1-4**  
**Meet at the Halifax Community Hall**

Join Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center naturalist Patti Smith to learn about the seasons of beavers' lives. Patti has spent 15 years studying a beaver colony and will share photos, videos, and stories about the beavers and other animals she has met along the way. The presentation will be followed by a field trip to a local beaver pond.

<https://www.beec.org/halifax-beaver/>

## CALENDAR

- Jul. 28** (Friday): **Jacksonville Blueberry Festival**, 4:00-7:00 PM. Ice Cream Wagon on site!
- Jul. 29** (Saturday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.
- Jul. 29** (Saturday): **Beaver Day in West Halifax**. Patti Smith presents. Meet at the Hall at 1:00 PM.
- Aug. 3** (Thursday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.
- Aug. 5** (Saturday): Halifax Café CLOSED for Clam Bake.
- Aug. 5** (Saturday): **Halifax Firefighters' Clam Bake**. Serving 1-3pm at the Old Cody Farm on Old County Road in Halifax. **Tickets must be purchased in advance** from any fireman (\$20 for half a chicken, coleslaw, corn on the cob, salad, and watermelon; \$50 adding lobster & clams). Ice Cream Wagon on site!
- Aug. 7** (Monday): 5:30 pm **Herbal Walk with Tara Bills**; gather at the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax in your comfy shoes, with a notebook & bug repellent.
- Aug. 10 & 12** (Thu & Sat): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.
- Aug. 14** (Monday): 5:30 pm **Herbal Walk with Tara Bills**; gather at the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax in your comfy shoes, with a notebook and bug repellent.
- Aug. 17 & 19** (Thu & Sat): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.
- Aug. 24 & 26** (Thu & Sat): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.
- Aug 31 & Sep 2** (Thu & Sat): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.
- Sep. 7** (Thursday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm.
- Sep. 8** (Friday): **Otis Family Events** 9:30 am – 11:30 am.
- Sep. 9** (Saturday): Halifax Café CLOSED for Otis events.
- Sep. 9** (Saturday): **Otis Family Events** 9:30 am – afternoon.

## OTIS HISTORY WEEKEND – Friday & Saturday, Sept. 8 & 9, 2023

On September 8 and 9, the Otis family will host a series of events celebrating a famous son of Halifax and colonial Vermont. All events take place at or depart from the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax, VT.

**Friday, Sept. 8 – 9:30 AM** (Tentative schedule) Gather at the Community Hall in West Halifax to carpool up to **Whitneyville Cemetery** where fine hand-carved headstones will be revealed during the Otis Family Commemorative Headstones Dedication (10:00-11:30 AM, Whitneyville Cemetery, 1470 Old County Rd). Revolutionary War Patriot Stephen Otis & Mayflower Descendant Lucy Chandler Otis lived the last 20 + years of their lives in Halifax at the home of their son and daughter-in-law, Stephen Otis, Jr. and Phoebe Glynn Otis. They helped raise Elisha Graves Otis at the Otis homestead on the section of Perry Road that is now a trail. Elisha Otis' introduction of the safety elevator in 1857 enabled us to move safely to & from great heights and ushered in the era of skyscrapers. The ceremony will include a color guard, blessing by local pastor Doug LaPlante, and dedication by DAR members from Brattleboro. This celebration is hosted by their direct descendants, Carol Otis and Kelly Hazen Otis.

**Saturday, Sept. 9 – 9:30 AM** (Tentative schedule) Gather at the Community Hall in West Halifax to carpool up to the south end of Perry Road for the **Otis Homestead Hike** to the birthplace of Elisha Graves Otis and subsequent visit to the old Otis Mill on lower Perry Road, time permitting.

**Then at 1:00 PM at the Community Hall**, David Gillespie of South Carolina will demonstrate the traditional, 18<sup>th</sup> Century method of carving headstones (photo: D Gillespie) while Native American Crafters demonstrate flint knapping (photo: Wikipedia), bead artisanry, and porcupine quill artisanry. Final events and schedule TBD.

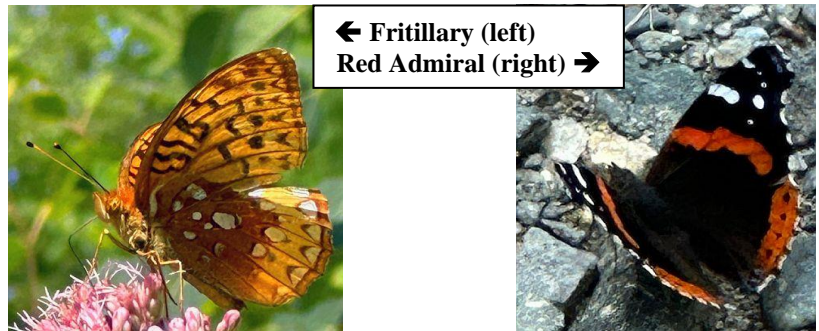


## JOAN'S SIGHTINGS.

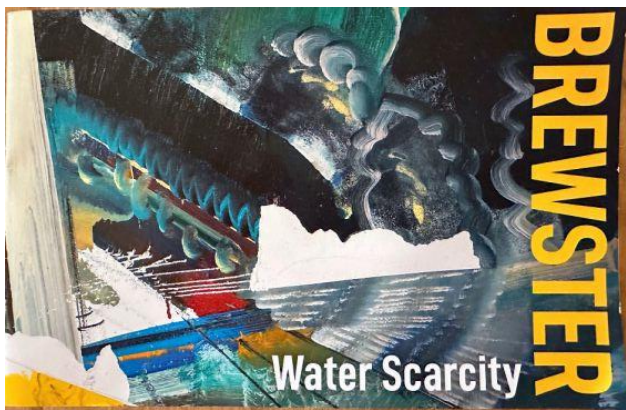
Some exciting sightings at the Coursers'. We had a bear visit. Wayne saw him first and told me. The first thing I thought of was smashed feeders so went running out with a broom. I rounded the corner, and the bear and I

were face to face. That was when I figured just maybe I acted too fast! I stood there and shook the broom, and the bear ran away! But the more I thought about it, the more I thought just maybe I should have given a bit more thought in the first place.....guess I was lucky it was kind of a small young bear. I will not act so quickly next time! We saw it again when we were eating supper, walking alongside the fire station, then it crossed the road and disappeared. Have not seen it since. Perhaps it thought....I am not going back to that place with that crazy woman with a broom!!!

Have many birds. We are still enjoying the Baltimore Orioles. Last year they left on July 24<sup>th</sup>. So I am expecting them to leave soon. I sure will miss them and wish them a safe flight to their destination. I also have Blue Jays, one or two Chickadees, Mourning Doves, Evening Grosbeaks, Sparrows, Goldfinches, Purple Finches, a Rose-Breasted Grosbeak, Mr. & Mrs. Cardinal, a Brown-Headed Cowbird, a Grackle, Red-Winged Blackbirds, a Black-Throated Warbler (it had the tiny yellow spot in front of its eye like the bird book explained) for two days that was exciting to me; I think he was fueling up for the long trip to his winter home. , a few Starlings, some Robins, a Catbird (that eats lots of the grape jelly put out for the Orioles). I saw a House Wren using a birdhouse on our barn (that makes me happy), two White-Breasted Nuthatches, and one Red-Breasted one. I was excited to see Tree Swallows flying and sitting on wires near the Community Hall! I have two Woodpeckers; the Downy also likes the grape jelly! There is a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker and a couple of Hummingbirds. I am sorry to see some of the summer birds leave but the fall and winter birds will be arriving soon. Wayne and I saw a good-sized flock of young wild Turkeys. We also saw a deer way out in one of Malcom's hay fields. Sure do enjoy the wildlife!!  
 – Joan Courser



← Fritillary (left)  
 Red Admiral (right) →



Artist David Brewster of Halifax Center recently exhibited a commissioned show of his original paintings on Water Scarcity in Denver, Colorado. The exhibit will now travel the American West. The cover of the catalog—featuring a painting of David's—is shown at left.

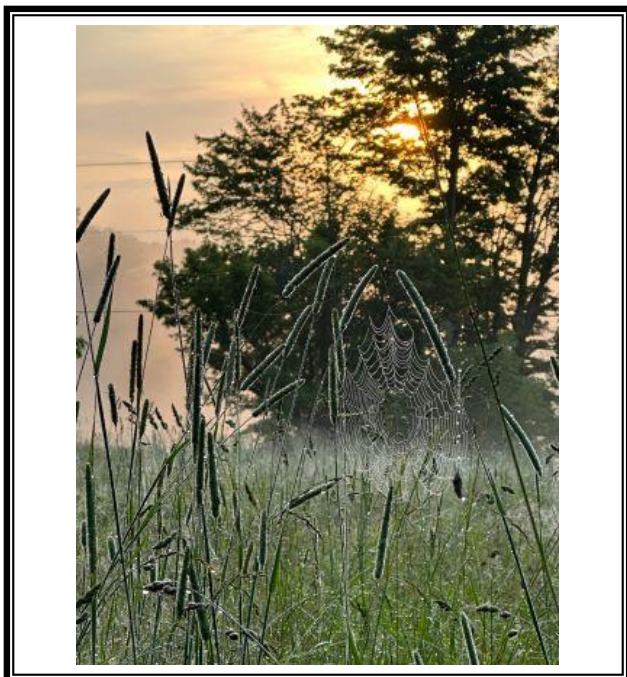


KC Ferris (Laurel's daughter) took this photo of the darkening sky on Shearer Hill Road during her visit.

Newsletter ~ P O Box 27~ West Halifax VT 05358



Pete Silverberg captured a great picture of a barred owl in flight with a game camera



Spider web at dawn

Editor: [LaurelACopeland@gmail.com](mailto:LaurelACopeland@gmail.com). Free color e-version by email; archive: <https://czresearch.com/newsletter>.

# Halifax News

AUGUST 2023

## **It's renewal time!**

Check address label for your subscription expiration date. Cost is \$7.00 to cover postage for your paper copy. **Send check made out to "Newsletter" to P O Box 27 West Halifax VT 05358.**

**NEWSLETTER STORIES** – Got a Halifax story? Send to Laurel [LaurelACopeland@gmail.com](mailto:LaurelACopeland@gmail.com) or Joan [JWCinVt@gmail.com](mailto:JWCinVt@gmail.com) (PO Box 27, 05358).