

December 2023  
**HALIFAX NEWS**

- Laurel Copeland with Joanne Bourbeau

A few weeks ago I was walking with our tree warden, Sue Kelly, DVM, and Ruth Hart, wildlife rehabilitator, on Hogback. We were checking on two vernal pools I monitor as a citizen scientist with Vermont Center for Ecostudies. We got to talking about VDART, the Disaster Animal Response Team in Vermont that takes care of pets during a disaster response. VDART had been activated during the July 2023 floods. Sue commented that many people did not know that their household pets would be taken care of if they had to evacuate their home. So I drafted the article below then contacted Joanne Bourbeau, northeast regional director for the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), to round out the piece. We hope you find it informative. The photos at the beginning of the article are Halifax pets. Those within the article are VDART photos from this past July.

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**What Happens to My Pets If I Have to Evacuate My Home in a Disaster?**

Flooding this summer proved disastrous for many Vermonters as homes and businesses were rendered unusable by the floodwaters. Household pets were additional victims of the rising water. While the Red Cross helps people displaced by an emergency, the Vermont Disaster Animal Response Team (VDART) will take care of their companion animals.



VDART deployed in July during the horrific floods in central and northern Vermont. They set up a shelter for pets next to a Red Cross shelter for people. Providing for the evacuation and care of people’s pets is a required part of national emergency response efforts under current FEMA rules, as revised after Hurricane Katrina (Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006).



In July, VDART set up a pet shelter in Barre, VT, and volunteers racked up more than 1,700 hours during the 26-day shelter response. VDART’s actions were the topic of a WCAX report on July 18, 2023. You can read about the experience of volunteers here: <https://www.wcax.com/2023/07/18/volunteers-help-care-pets-vermonters-displaced-by-flooding/>

VDART would love to have you on call for animal care during emergencies. The regional team that serves our area, the Windham Disaster Animal Response Team (WinDART), is looking for veterinary and animal care professionals, but also business owners and animal lovers of all types to volunteer. WinDART holds regular meetings and provides free training





## **FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

October 31 three men responded to a medical call on Reed Hill Road.

October 31 twelve men and two trucks responded to Marlboro; all were turned back en route.

November 3 nine men and two trucks responded to a call, sending one truck to the scene and one to 'cover' the Marlboro station.

November 13 two men went to a rescue call on Hatch School Road.

November 14 five men and one truck responded to a CO detector sounding at a residence on Old Stage Road.

November 20 two men responded to a residence on Collins Road for a man experiencing leg problems. He was transported to Brattleboro hospital. Our men assisted him into the ambulance.

November 21 five men responded to a residence on Brook Road. They examined the patient, assisted with splinting and lifting, and helped get her into the ambulance.

November 22 one fireman assisted a patient on Hatch School Road who fell out of bed and hit their head on a radiator causing a laceration. The patient was bandaged and turned over to Deerfield Valley Rescue.

November 27 seven men and two trucks responded to a mutual aid call to Guilford for a house fire.

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

**OTIS FAMILY.** Carol Otis, our host for the Otis Family weekend September 8 & 9 last summer, arranged for several Halifax residents to receive DAR America 250 recognition. DAR America 250 celebrates the 250<sup>th</sup> or sescentennial anniversary of the establishment of the United States in 1776. Markers for Revolutionary War Veterans are being distributed (<https://blog.dar.org/introducing-new-dar-america-250-patriots-marker>). Carol Otis reiterated her profound thanks to all who helped prepare Whitneyville Cemetery and West Halifax for the Otis Weekend.



**HALIFAX HISTORICAL SOCIETY.**, Tristan Roberts hosted a fundraiser for the Halifax Historical Society at his Quill Nook Farm. One of the highlights was seeing the carefully piled-up cairns of stones that were there when he acquired the property. These are possibly from unusually tidy farmers or communally? spiritually? motivated indigenous people. Tristan showed us stone walls, cellar holes, and a spring. Another highlight was when Tristan gathered us around a certain stone, about 16”x24”x8”, and described lifting it to reuse in a stone staircase. We gasped in surprise as the 8-foot well was revealed! He didn’t use it for a staircase after all. The stone remains, covering this old water source. In the photo, you can see the glimmer of water at the bottom of the well shaft.



The new year is coming, and the Halifax Historical Society has assembled photos of Halifax into a **2024 Halifax Calendar**. The calendars will be for sale at the Halifax Craft Fair for **\$15**. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the HHS at [HalifaxVtHistoricalSociety@gmail.com](mailto:HalifaxVtHistoricalSociety@gmail.com). See you at the School on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9 am to 4 pm!



Sunset in late November

A Christmas tree in the woods



November's full moon rises behind a dark cloud (left) while Jupiter shines through a high, white cloud (upper right)

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# Halifax News

DECEMBER 2023

## CALENDAR

- Nov. 30 (Thursday):** Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Dec. 2 (Saturday):** **Halifax Holiday Craft Fair** at the **School** (9:00 AM to 4:00 PM)
- Dec. 2 (Saturday):** Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Dec. 2 (Saturday):** 2:00-5:00 pm: **Wrap Fest!** Free wrapping paper and fun in the Hall, Shop at the **Halifax Holiday Craft Fair** at the school (9 AM to 4 PM) then come to the Hall to wrap your gifts (2 to 5 PM)! Bring your holiday spirit. Snacks available.
- Dec. 7 (Thursday):** Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Dec. 9 (Saturday):** Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 2:00 pm **\*\*Extended Hours for Soup\*\***
- Dec. 9 (Saturday):** **Soup Saturday!** Support Halifax Cemeteries. Serving until 2:00 PM
- Dec. 14 (Thursday):** **GMP on Grid Reliability** 10:30 to 11:30 AM
- Dec. 16 (Saturday):** Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Dec. 16 (Saturday):** **Talk with the Sheriff, Mark Anderson** 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM).
- Dec. 17, 2023, through Jan. 5, 2024:** Café **closed** for the holidays.
- Jan. 6, 2024 (Saturday):** Halifax Café reopens, open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

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Archives: <https://czresearch.com/newsletter>

## - Happening This Weekend! -



Halifax Community Hall  
20 Brook Rd, West Halifax

# Holiday WRAPPING PARTY

2 DEC '23  
Saturday from 2-5pm

20 Brook Rd, West Halifax  
Bring your own tape | Donate a canned good | Cocoa and treats for sale

Contact Laurel at  
[LaurelACopeland@gmail.com](mailto:LaurelACopeland@gmail.com) or  
Pam at 802-451-9593



## Happy Holidays

### HALIFAX HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

December 2, 2023  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Halifax Elementary School  
Multi-purpose room

Get some last-minute holiday shopping done  
With our LOCAL ARTISANS!!!

### Come for lunch!!

If you're interested in selling your wares  
Send me an E-mail at: [Tblaiser2@gmail.com](mailto:Tblaiser2@gmail.com)  
Or Call the Halifax Town Office  
802/368-7390  
Vendor applications also available at the Halifax Town Office