

April 2024

HALIFAX NEWS

A CHAT AT THE CAFE

– Laurel Copeland, Halifax, Vermont

Listening Session on Aging

Julie Holland came to the Café from Windham Aging on March 9th. She led a Listening Session, presenting some information about Vermont’s demographics and values on aging, and eliciting our ideas and questions. She ran a video that explained how Windham Aging got started in 2021. We learned that “Vermont has more people age 65+ per capita than any other state in the nation, except Maine,” that “Windham County has more people 65+ per capita than any other county in Vermont,” and that the Older Vermonters Act passed in 2020 (Act 156) set guidelines to help Vermonters age in place (at home), to coordinate developing services for optimal health and wellness, efficient services, and housing and transportation.

Although we as a town just voted to give \$1900 to VNA (Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice of Vermont & New Hampshire), VNA no longer provides services to Halifax residents. They do not have the capacity. Given this reality, communities are finding a variety of responses. Some offer plow and shovel services to seniors, some utilize Adopt-A-Neighbor, some are developing a cadre of volunteers who are retired from their careers, and many rely on the Sheriff’s office “Are You Okay?” calls. “Are You Okay?” is a free program where county dispatchers call each enrolled household on a set schedule. If “Are You Okay?” cannot reach you, a deputy sheriff or police officer comes to check on you. Information about getting into this program is online here <https://windhamcountyyvt.gov/page.php?id=10>, at the Windham County Sheriff’s office at 185 Old Ferry Road in Brattleboro, or by calling 802-365-4942.

Suggestions from us included sharing a town nurse with nearby towns, setting up a Cares program, and having a comprehensive directory of available services. Are you familiar with SASH and HomeShare and the two hospice organizations in our area? HomeShare seeks to place a helpful person in your home with you <https://www.homesharevermont.org/>. SASH offers support services to people on Medicare living at home; <https://sashvt.org/>. Brattleboro Hospice (<https://brattleborohospice.org>) provides non-medical hospice while Bayada Hospice (<https://bayada.com/hospice-care>) provides medical hospice services. I asked about the CARES program, then looked it up online. VtCares.org describes Vermont CARES programs as services for all ages to improve lives and community well-being. CARES programs were set up during the pandemic and address opioid overdose, harm reduction, and such, but many Cares programs, such as the one in Guilford (<https://www.guilfordcares.com/>), have existed for decades and provide food pantry, community nurse, medical equipment loans, rides, senior support group, and so on. So, CARES and Cares programs are not the same thing.

We look forward to the comprehensive directory and to an update on how Vermont will manage to ensure that all seniors have a safe place to live, access to healthcare, and coordinated services. Lesley Pollitt will lead the effort to organize and deliver a directory of services for the elderly in Halifax and keep it updated.

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SUMMER NATURE CAMP 2024

Join Wildlife Biologist & founder of Trust for Wildlife, Marshal T Case, Joanne Case, Naturalist, and Merritt Youmell, Teacher and Naturalist, for FIVE HALF-DAYS of Nature Adventure at the Halifax Sanctuary.

When: July 8-12 Monday through Friday / 9:00AM-NOON

Where: Halifax Nature Preserve, 704 Woodard Hill Road, Halifax, VT

Who: Ages 6-15. Limit: 15 campers.

What: We will explore nature on the 115-acre sanctuary. Nature adventure will focus on exploring woods, fields, and waterways, and examining native plants and animals.



All children of the Deerfield Valley are invited to attend. The camp is sponsored by Trust For Wildlife, Inc., <https://trustforwildlife.org>, and is offered free of charge.

To enroll your child and for directions please contact JOANNE CASE at ffwVermont@gmail.com or call 802-442-2999.

Trust For Wildlife: In 1982, Pat Johnson donated a cabin and 115 acres of field and forest in Halifax Center to Trust For Wildlife (a 501(c)3 nonprofit founded by Marshal T Case) in memory of her husband, Norris Johnson. The Johnson Memorial Nature Preserve manages the forest as stipulated by Pat Johnson, allowing half the land to grow untouched while selectively logging the other half. Students and researchers can visually understand how the “management” of our forests and fields impacts flora and fauna, negatively and positively. Marshal Case dreamed of establishing a nature preserve and education center. The cabin has turned into a mini-nature center complete with aquaria, natural history posters, a small resource library, and all the tools necessary for a nature sanctuary. The fields and forest are the children’s classrooms.



– Joanne Case

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COMMUNITY CENTERS CONNECT!

Trey Wentworth of the Marlboro Community Center (MCC; <https://www.marlborocommunity.center/>) invited Andrea and me to attend a gathering of community center primaries. MCC is my model for the Halifax Café, and I still frequent it. Seven of us met at the Governor Hunt House at 322 Gov. Hunt Road in Vernon, down by the nuclear power plant; this was the first I knew of the Governor Hunt House although it was built in 1764 (<https://www.governorhunt.org/>).



Ruby McAdoo, Ada Brown, Shelli Harvey, Nancy Olson, Trey Wentworth, Andrea Underwood Jones, and Laurel Copeland discussed community centers at the Gov. Hunt House in Vernon. Photo by Ruby McAdoo.

Our host Shelli Harvey gave us a tour of the historic house at the end of our meeting—definitely worth a look-see. Ada Brown from Broad Brook Community Center in Guilford (BBCC; <https://www.broadbrookcommunitycenter.org/>), Nancy Olson from Putney Community Center (<https://www.putneycommunitycenter.org/>) and Ruby McAdoo from Putney Community Cares (<https://www.putneycommunitycares.org/>) – two independent but highly cooperative organizations in Putney, comprised the rest of the gathering. Visit them! – Laurel ☺

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SENIOR MEAL IN HALIFAX – Friday April 19 is the next Senior Meal in Halifax serving at 12 noon in the Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax. Menu: **baked ham, macaroni & cheese, vegetable, roll, and dessert.** All seniors are welcome. Free-will donation of \$3.00 is asked for age 60 years and up, \$4.00 for under age 60. Hope to see you there. A call ahead to Joan is appreciated 802-368-7733. – Joan Courser

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TOWN MEETING 2024 – About 60 registered voters attended Town Meeting on March 5th. The meeting concluded in record time around 11:05 am.



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JOAN’S SIGHTINGS. Some spring birds have arrived. I am seeing Robins (I feel bad for them now as the ground is covered with 4 to 5 inches of snow, more on higher elevations). I put out mealy worms for them but will be glad when the ground is bare and thawed. I think they came too early, and the weather is not cooperating! But I like seeing them...a real sign of spring! I think some are ‘winter Robins’ – I have heard there is such a bird. I have a few Chickadees, Blue Jays, Sparrows, Cardinals male and female, a couple of Evening Grosbeaks, Purple Finches – one must have hit the window below my feeder as I found it dead on the ground...that made me very sad. I still have a couple of Goldfinches – one male all yellow! Mourning Doves, Sparrows (one in a birdhouse), Woodpeckers small and large, and I came face to face with a Bluebird on a suet cake....I was so, so surprised! But it did not stay, and I don’t blame it! I hope it comes back, but I very seldom have them here. Laurel and I went to the Brattleboro library to see slides of the bird-banding project that happens on Hogback Mountain in the spring and fall. It was very interesting, and Eric Slayton, the fellow who does the banding, did a great, great job of putting it on. He is so, so knowledgeable about birds. I have learned so much from him! I look forward to going this spring.

– Joan Courser

ELSEWHERE AROUND TOWN. “The sun is shining through the rain. This is the time when foxes have their weddings,” a mother tells her child in Akira Kurosawa’s movie Dreams. We are seeing deer, racoons, and grey foxes and listening to the bobcat in the wee small hours of the morning. Geese honk as they fly north, and we have juncos, robins, chickadees, titmice, eastern bluebird, blue jays, crows, hawks, white-breasted nuthatches, brown creepers, pine siskins, red-winged blackbirds, owls, winter wrens, and a Carolina wren. A pale-bellied raptor flew over me at the intersection of Hanson and Collins Roads; I recorded its “ack-ACK!” call. Later at the March Southeastern Vermont Audubon Meeting in the Brooks Library, ornithologist Eric Slayton identified it as a Red-Shouldered Hawk.

- Laurel Copeland

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

3/1 Five men responded, assisted lady who had fallen, turned over to ambulance crew.

3/6 Three men assisted lady fallen on ice injured nose, knee, tailbone; helped load patient into ambulance.

3/9 Eight men responded to vehicle fire; driver was taken from vehicle by passerby; firemen helped load patient into ambulance; vehicle was a loss (photo R Groves).



3/10 Two men responded to a call of a male suffering possible seizures. Patient was put in bed by caregiver. Patient experiencing seizure activity, assisted to stretcher and turned over to Deerfield Vally ambulance crew.

3/13 Four men responded to tree and wires in the road and a broken pole. Called and waited for utility company to arrive.

3/26 Four men responded to a call to find a male very aggressive; left scene and contacted State Police...police not responding...all units left scene. Had been called there years before...man very aggressive at that call, too.

**Want to burn brush? Call for a Burn Permit before you burn.
Call: Dennis (802) 368-7809 or Malcolm (802) 368-2484**

Photos: March Snow... and Ice-coated Pussy Willow



Other activities in the area...

Governor Hunt House in Vernon VT



I recently learned of the Marlboro Studio School located on Potash Hill—the former Marlboro College campus. Marlboro Studio School offers community classes and residential workshops taught by visiting instructors and artists in residence. Visit <https://www.marlborestudioschool.org/> to explore and enroll; per course costs vary. Classes offered April 1-May 31 include “Ceramics for All!,” “Pouring Vessels: Wheel Throwing & Hand Building,” and independent study. “Learning to Work with Clay: Handbuilding for Ages 9-13” is offered in weekly classes on Sundays throughout April. A weekend intensive on “Botanical Contact Printing” is offered April 27-28, 2024. Week-long workshops on “Wax Carving & Lost Wax Metal Casting” and “Greenwood Chairmaking” are offered May 5-11, 2024. See website for full details.

Check your address label for your expiration date.
Send \$7.00 for postage for your mailed paper copy.
**Send check made out to “Newsletter” to
Joan Courser, P O Box 27, West Halifax VT 05358.**
NEWSLETTER STORIES – Got a Halifax story?
Send to Laurel LaurelACopeland@gmail.com or Joan
JWCinVt@gmail.com (PO Box 27, 05358).



Red sky in the morning, sailors take warning. We did, too, seeing this dawn sky on March 9th ahead of the storm that knocked out power all over town.



Above: Sunrise reveals a glittering ice coating on the trees (March 24, 2024).

Below: Full moon sets behind icy trees, March 25th.



David Jones got a lap-dog hug from Service-Dog-in-Training Gussy at the Halifax Café while Andrea Underwood Jones (left) and Linda Swanson (right) chatted. Gussy is about 1 year old. He is being raised by Linda Lyon, Everet Wilson, and Beth McKinney for Canine Companions (<https://canine.org/>).



Halifax News

APRIL 2024

CALENDAR

- Apr. 4, 2024** (Thursday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Apr. 6, 2024** (Saturday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Apr. 8, 2024** (Monday): **Solar Eclipse:** partial begins 2:20 pm (total ~3:24-3:32 in northern Vermont; see map at right)
- Apr. 11, 2024** (Thursday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Apr. 13, 2024** (Saturday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Apr. 18, 2024** (Thursday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Apr. 20, 2024** (Saturday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Apr. 25, 2024** (Thursday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Apr. 27, 2024** (Saturday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
- ...
- May 25, 2024** (Saturday): **4th Annual Edie Fenton Memorial Plant Swap** 9:00 am to 1:00 pm



Halifax Grades 7/8 observed Pi Day, 3/14, at the Café. Their teachers, Sean Sullivan and Joel Howes, accompanied them. We hope they come back soon!



Editor: LaurelACopeland@gmail.com. Email me for free color e-version.
Archives: <https://czresearch.com/newsletter>