

August 2024  
**Halifax News**

– Laurel Copeland, Halifax, Vermont

**HALIFAX CELEBRATION DAY 2024**

The first Halifax Celebration Day was held in 2017. Who’s brainchild was this? Probably Patty Dow and Tina Blais. It is a way to promote neighborliness and celebrate our small-town life. There have been four more Celebration Days since then, one per year excluding 2020 and 2023. The day is held in late summer or fall:

- 2017 September 23, 2017 – Halifax Celebration Day #1
- 2018 September 29, 2018
- 2019 September 28, 2019 (3rd Annual)
- 2020 none
- 2021 August 28, 2021
- 2022 October 1, 2022 (pic: Wayne & Malcolm)
- 2023 none
- 2024 August 24, 2024



***CELEBRATE HALIFAX***

*Saturday, August 24, 2024*

**Location: Branch Road, West Halifax, Vt**

Celebration events are centered on the Halifax Fire House (118 Branch Rd) and the Halifax Community Hall (20 Brook Road). NOTE: Branch Road will be CLOSED to through traffic all day and evening 8/24/’24

**The following are some highlights!!!**

**(Subject to change)**

<b>Car Show</b>	12:00 Noon – 3:00 PM
<b>Bingo</b>	12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM
<b>Pinewood Derby Model Car Race</b>	2:00 PM – 3:00 PM (check-in 1:30)
<b>Cornhole Competition</b>	3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
<b>Foolish U Band</b>	8:00 PM – 11:00 PM

**Get your Pinewood Derby kit** from Town Office or Gary Rand (860-558-3565) for \$5. We have a small assortment of accessories to jazz up your car for \$1.00 each. You can also make your car on your own just make sure you comply with all the rules, [Facebook](#). You can order a kit from <https://www.pinewoodpro.com/> or [www.scoutshop.org](http://www.scoutshop.org). Store-bought cars are not allowed.

***Other Fun Highlights Include:***

- Cock-A-Doodle Poo raffle context (**\$100 cash prize. Get your tickets early! Message Tina Blais or stop by Town Office**)
- 50/50 Raffle (**tickets available at Town Office**)
- Chili Cook-Off!
- 40-foot Inflatable Bounce House Obstacle Course
- Extra Large Construction Sand Box
- Decorate-Your-Own Box for a “Drive-In Movie”
- Yard Games
- Hayrides (thank you, Malcolm!)
- Box lunches
- Ice Cream
- Supper options

All proceeds help to fund this celebration and future celebrations & community events.

Contact the Celebration Committee: 802-368-7390

**VOCA (VERMONT OLD CEMETERY ASSOCIATION) DAY IN HALIFAX.**



Many volunteers turned out to help clean gravestones in Taylor Stacy Cemetery on July 13<sup>th</sup>. This Halifax cemetery is in a woody field on Butterfield Road. While volunteers scrubbed lichen and mold off the old stones, Gary Rand ran the agile earthmover to lift out then reposition crooked stones while Pete Silverberg used the pry bar (see photos). After the morning's hot work, all repaired to the

Halifax Community Hall for grilled hotdogs and hamburgers with lettuce, tomato, onion, and condiments. It was a lovely day and much-appreciated effort!



In other cemetery work, the Halifax Cemetery Restoration Team engaged a surveyor to survey and plot donated land contiguous with the Niles and West Halifax cemeteries. We are now in the process of marking the plots with plot caps—metal disks atop a piece of rebar driven into the ground. Gary Rand has just finished numbering the caps shown in the photo below. Each set of 2 or 4 plots is numbered so that choosing and conveying the deed for a plot or set of plots is easier. Want to join us in our cemetery restoration and updating work? Contact Gary Rand at [GRand221@gmail.com](mailto:GRand221@gmail.com) or 1-802-558-3565.

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**CLEARWING HUMMINGBIRD HAWK-MOTH**

Have you seen a Clearwing Moth, also called a Hummingbird Moth (*Hemaris thysbe*)? This large moth flies during the daytime, hovers like a hummingbird, and even makes a slight humming sound. My son in law described them to me and shortly thereafter pointed one out on my mom’s hummingbird bush! I had never noticed them before. They are busy in broad sunlight but also treasured for their twilight work, pollinating flowers that only bloom then. A photo of the Hummingbird Clearwing is below, taken on Hanson Road. It really does have clear, see-through wings. In Massachusetts, there is another variety, the Snowberry Clearwing, which sports black-and-yellow bumblebee colors as well as the signature clear wings. Mass Audubon comments, “Depending on the species, these caterpillars may eat the leaves of viburnums, honeysuckles, snowberry, blueberries, and members of the rose family. They pupate in a thin cocoon in leaf litter, where they remain during the cold months, emerging as moths in late spring or early summer to visit flowers during the warm months.” <https://www.massaudubon.org/nature-wildlife/insects-arachnids/hummingbird-moth>, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hemaris\\_thysbe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hemaris_thysbe)

**SENIOR MEAL IN HALIFAX – PLEASE REMEMBER....**there in NO Senior Meal in Halifax in August. Joan plans to be sitting on the beach at the Jersey Shore with family. See you in September when I will serve meatloaf & potatoes & veggies – and dessert, of course! – Joan Courser

**JOAN’S SIGHTINGS.** Enjoying the many birds at my feeders. I still have four Baltimore Orioles coming for jelly and hummingbird food. They probably will be leaving mid-August or sooner. I will miss them! I laugh every time I see the Woodpeckers on the Hummingbird feeder. That is the reason I have to fill it so often. Guess they have a sweet tooth! I also have Blue Jays, one or sometimes two Chickadees, a Goldfinch still in his beautiful yellow, a few Sparrows, a Downy Woodpecker, a Mockingbird, one Red-Winged Blackbird, Titmice, a Nuthatch, a Catbird for a while, and there are Robins, Cardinals, and Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks. Many will be leaving for warmer climates in a month or so, but the cold weather birds will be coming!! - Joan Courser

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## JACKSONVILLE BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

The gathering in Jacksonville on Friday, July 26, at the kickoff event for the Deerfield Valley Blueberry Festival was a really good time. There was a good crowd, and the weather was very nice. The Halifax Ice Cream Wagon was quite busy. The next stop for the Ice Cream Wagon is the Firemen's Clam Bake on August 3<sup>rd</sup> on Old County Road in Halifax. See you there!  
- Joan Courser

## FIREMEN'S NEWS

On July 2 nine men responded to motorcycle accident on Collins Road; there was no transport by ambulance.

On July 8 eight men responded to a motorcycle accident on Green River Road. The fellow had multiple injuries, and he was transported by ambulance to a landing zone then flown to Dartmouth Hitchcock.

On July 9 five men responded to Rowe, MA, for a mutual aid call.

On July 13 ten men responded to a call of a woman fallen with an injured thumb; she was transported by private vehicle to hospital.

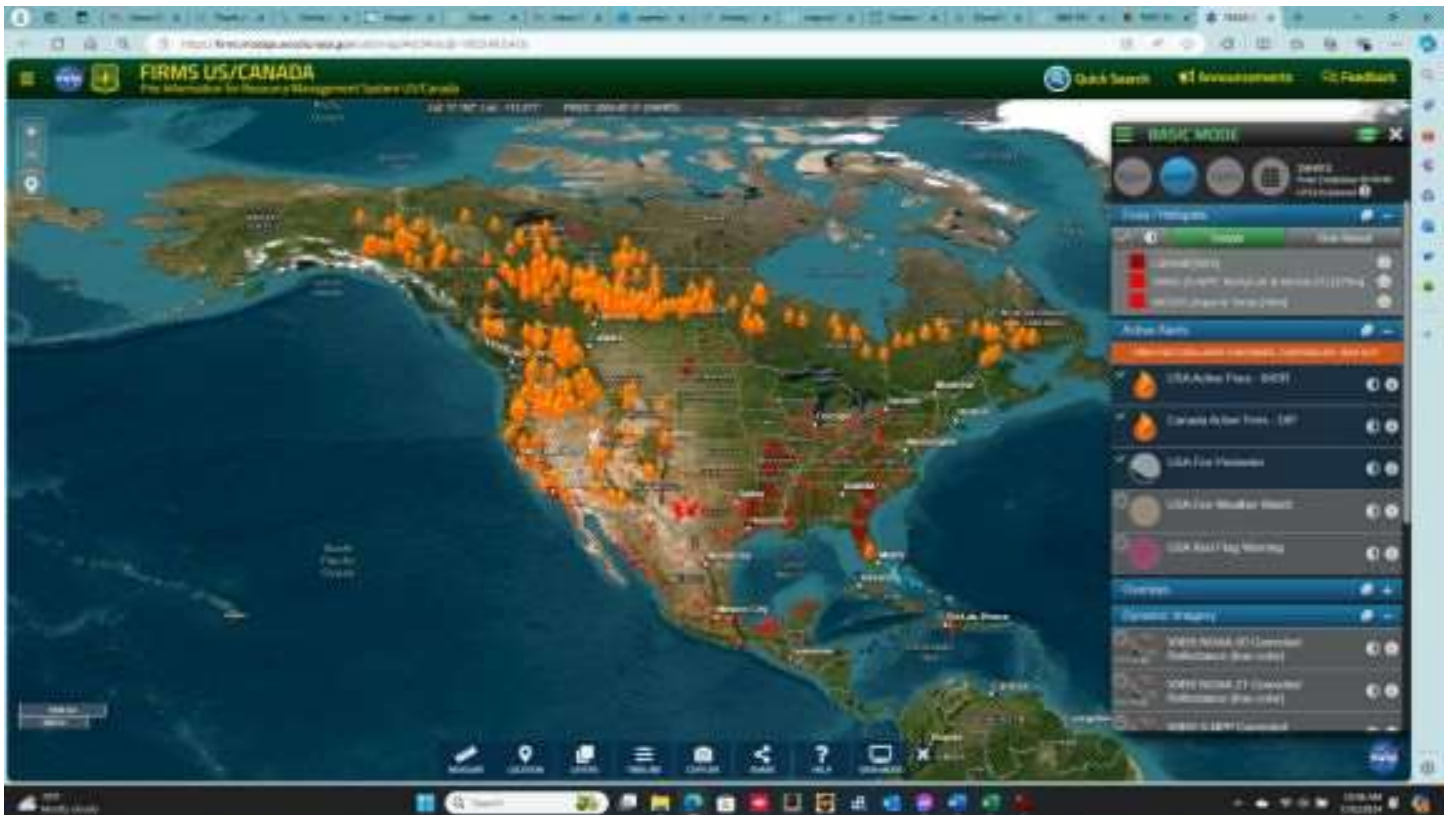
On July 17 four men responded to a call of a woman having seizures. They monitored her then turned her over to Deerfield Valley Ambulance.

On July 25 four men responded to call of a man having a panic attack and asthma problems. He was transported by private vehicle.

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

Below: Current Large Forest Fires Map, North America, July 31, 2024  
From Fire Information Resource Management US/Canada

<https://firms.modaps.eosdis.nasa.gov/usfs/map/#d:24hrs:@-100.0,40.0,4.0z>



**FIREMEN’S CLAM BAKE**

Firemen’s Clam Bake is the first Saturday in August, **August 3, 2024, serving 12:30-3:00 pm**. Advance purchase required – \$20 for chicken dinner (half chicken, corn on the cob, potato salad, cole slaw, watermelon; \$10 for ages 6-12; under 6 free), \$50 for lobster dinner (lobster, clams, half chicken, corn on the cob, potato salad, cole slaw, watermelon). The Halifax ice cream trailer will be there. Check out their facebook page, [Halifax Fire Company Inc.](#) See you Saturday on Old County Road! No dogs allowed.

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**Up on Hanson Road** we hear the Hermit Thrush and Winter Wren, Veeries and Catbirds, Blue Jays and Crows, Canada geese and Chickadees, Downy and Pileated Woodpeckers, Mourning Doves, Sparrows, Warblers, Robins, and Hummingbirds. The Grey Fox kits



cavort around, and we saw Monarch butterflies, Tiger Swallowtails, Whitetail Deer, North American Porcupines, Raccoons, a Black Bear, and a Moose this past month. My daughter and family, visiting from the Netherlands, came across a coyote on the road into the village. One early morning I looked out the kitchen window and there was a moose! Another morning, we saw a bat. It flew off when the sun got hot. After we saw hummingbirds, my son-in-law Jason Ferris asked whether we had hummingbird moths. H’m...never seen one. But when we got to the house, Jason checked out the hummingbird bush—and there were three Clearwings!



**HALIGONIANS IN THE ARTS: JUVENTAS NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE** is a chamber ensemble that performs music by living composers, with a focus on emerging voices. Juventas will be performing at the Brattleboro Music Center at 72 Blanche Moyse Way in Brattleboro on Friday, September 13 at 7pm. Our neighbor, Oliver Caplan, is the Artistic Director and curator of programming (see photo). The 9/13 program “Studio to Stage” features five works and includes music by Mari Kotsky, Jonathan Shaffer, Libby Meyer, Erich Stem, and Oliver Caplan. Oliver’s piece, *Love Letters*, is particularly dear to him; he wrote it for his 2015 wedding to Chris Beagan.

- Calendar:
- September 13 “Studio to Stage” at the Brattleboro Music Center in Brattleboro, VT
  - September 14 “Studio to Stage” at the Multicultural Arts Center in Cambridge, MA
  - September 15 “Studio to Stage” at First Parish Sudbury in Sudbury, MA
  - November 11 *Cloud Anthem* at Carnegie Hall with The Oratorio Society of New York, a 200-person chorus.
- Oliver composed *Cloud Anthem* as a musical setting of poetry by Richard Blanco, the inaugural poet for President Obama’s 2013 inauguration. It envisions the day when we all “soften our hard edges” and “abide as one together in one single sky.”
- February 8, 2025 Brattleboro Music Center with a program of music inspired by New England places



[www.juventasmusic.org](http://www.juventasmusic.org),  
[www.olivercaplan.com](http://www.olivercaplan.com)



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## Halifax News

AUGUST 2024

### CALENDAR

**August 1, 2024** (Thursday): Halifax Café open 10:00 am - 1:00 pm, Ice Cream Wagon open!

**August 3, 2024** (Saturday): Halifax Café **CLOSED** for **FIREMEN’S CLAM BAKE**

**☛ August 4 through 23, 2024: Halifax Café closed for renovations ☚**

**August 24, 2024** (Saturday): Halifax Café reopens for **Halifax Celebration Day** a full day of events with **food, vendors, classic car show, pinewood derby, games, ice cream, hayrides, and a live band.** Box lunches will be on sale at the Café.

### NEWSLETTER STORIES – Got a Halifax story?

Send to Laurel at [LaurelACopeland@gmail.com](mailto:LaurelACopeland@gmail.com), 1513 Hanson Road, Brattleboro VT 05301-9227.

**Check your address label for your expiration date.** Send \$7.00 for postage for your mailed paper copy. Send a check made out to “Newsletter” to: Joan Courser, P O Box 27, West Halifax VT 05358.

Editor: [LaurelACopeland@gmail.com](mailto:LaurelACopeland@gmail.com).

Email me for free color e-version.

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

Monarch butterfly sipping from a Red Clover

