



PLASTIC BAGS & WRAP: RECYCLABLE!

What to recycle? Where does it go? The answers to these questions in southeastern Vermont change from time to time. I have read that only 5% to 6% of plastic waste is recycled in the US. But in Vermont, we are recycling about 35%. That puts us in 2nd place for recycling, second only to Maine. Aluminum foil, aluminum cans, and tin cans (which are made of steel) are recycled into cans and other metal objects. Cardboard and paper tend to end up as cardboard boxes and paper-based packing material. Plastics are a diverse group, though. The containers and bottles made from #1 and #2 are most often recycled. (Be sure to clean out and wash them.)

But **Alex Lacy** at **Windham Solid Waste Management District** posted an interesting column on *FrontPorchForum* on March 4, 2025, about recycling plastic bags (you can see the original post here: https://frontporchforum.com/halifax/forum/archive/1684#post_3577163). Take-aways include (1) DON'T put this in with your other recyclables; (2) DO clean and dry them and save them up; (3) DROP them off at Shaw's, Market 32, Hannaford, Big Y, Stop & Shop, Walmart, Target, and other supermarkets.

So, where does film plastic go? One major place is NexTrex, the company that makes Trex Decking. Trex also stresses the importance of turning in **CLEAN and DRY plastic film** so it can be recycled. The dirty stuff is just trash. <https://nextrex.com/view/educate> Plastic film includes all the stretchy plastic bags & wraps:

- The plastic wrapper around toilet paper & paper towels & napkins (overwrap)
- Plastic bread bags (clean out, wash, dry!)
- Plastic wrap
- Ziploc bags (clean! dry!)
- Bubble wrap and air pillows—please POP all the bubbles
- Drycleaning and garment bags
- Plastic compost bags

Here is a visual of what film plastic is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lc0EgxVnoV8>

Alex Lacy will be presenting at Halifax Café on **Saturday, May 3 at 11AM, on Green-Up Day**. Pick up Green-Up bags and choose a route at the Town Office parking lot starting at 9AM, clean your roadsides, drop off your full bags down by the school, then come to the Café to talk with Alex and have a bite to eat.



THE REWARDS OF WINTER

Last month I started musing on the season: the orange cat wakes me up with her purring and kneading. She is ahead of schedule: 3:54 a.m. I rub her fur and hug her to my face. She purrs ever more loudly. Time to get up! The morning routine unfolds—dress, brush teeth, build the fire, feed the cats, refresh their water, set up coffee, plan breakfast. Sitting before the glowing woodstove sipping cup of coffee #1, I think, this is a treat, two hours of quiet darkness and gathering warmth. But it's February. The days are lengthening. The dark mornings are shrinking. The darkness by the quiet fire is a gift of winter.

Well, it's mid-March now and we still have several inches of snowpack on the yard. But things are emerging—blown down pinecones & twigs, pieces of firewood that were caught by a winter snowstorm, and here and there a bit of bare ground. We've successfully navigated the full moon (on Pi Day 3.14) with its full eclipse, and the equinox (on 3.20 at 5:01 AM <yawn>...hello, spring). And I'm watching the crescent moon scud along the horizon never reaching the treetops. Why so low? The altitude of the daily meridian when the moon reaches its

highest position in the sky for the day is about 19 degrees above the horizon today, March 23. Down low in the trees, from my point of view. In contrast, the moon was high when it was full 9 days ago, reaching 50 degrees. You can find out day-to-day local lunar meridians at <https://www.timeanddate.com/moon/usa/brattleboro>.

PI DAY – GRADES 7/8 VISIT THE HALIFAX CAFÉ

Halifax students in grades 7 and 8 came to the Halifax Café for lunch and numerical amusements on Friday, March 14th. March 14 is Pi Day, because we can represent the date as 3.14, and that happens to be the value of pi to two decimal places. Pi is the number you need to calculate the circumference of a circle from its diameter. Pi times the Diameter equals the Circumference. That is, if your circle is 8 inches across, the circumference is a bit more than 3 times that and is precisely pi times 8 inches. On Pi Day at the café, a lot of round food was served (photo).



Pi is not exactly equal to 3.14 because that is rounded off at two decimal places. Pi is a non-terminating non-repeating decimal number. The decimal places go on forever. That is totally irrational, so we say that pi is an irrational number. (Does this make up for the tediousness of the moon's daily meridian?)

Some people like to know the value of pi more precisely, so they invent phrases whose word lengths tell you the value of pi. You can memorize pi to 7 decimal places by counting the number of letters in each word in this phrase: "how I wish I could calculate pi" – this comes out to 3.141592... Eight digits are memorized from "may I have a large container of coffee?" 3.1415926 (At this point, we all need coffee.) My dad, a mathematician, taught me the 15-digit one: "How I want a drink, alcoholic of course, after the heavy lectures involving quantum mechanics," coined by Sir James Jeans (1877-1946). Maybe we should stick to 8 digits. My grandfather Art Sr. was also a mathematician, and he took my dad and grandmother Dorothy on a 6-month visit to Europe in 1935-36. This was Art Sr's sabbatical designed to let him meet all the mathematicians working in his field (probability) at that time. My dad had some funny stories of being a 10-year-old kid on this trip. And we have a photo of him sitting on a park bench with a rather large lion cub draped across his lap. He is smiling beatifically.



Speaking of numbers...2025 is no average year. It is a "perfect square" year, a year that is the product of a squared integer — in this case, 45 times 45. These squares don't happen often. The next one is in 2116, so babies born this year will be in their 90s before they will enjoy another perfect square year. Enjoy being square!

PARIHUELA! Remember our story about The Essence of Parihuela? The recipe for Parihuela, a Peruvian fish dish in broth, is now online at <https://www.amarugourmet.com/about-1-1>. Happy cooking!

🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸 *TOWN NEWS* 🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸🌸

HALIFAX MUSIC JAM – LET’S DO THIS EVERY MONTH

Irish Music Circle – Bekka Eowind and Kurt Shellenberg hosted five other musicians for a lively music circle on March 15th. In honor of St Patrick’s Day, which was 2 days off, they focused on Irish tunes. The Café offered Irish foods to keep in the spirit of the season: a lovely green Pistachio Cake, Irish Colcannon (mashed potatoes & green veggies), Irish Seafood Chowder, Gur Cake (aka Donkey’s Gudge), Irish Soda Bread, Scones, Irish Brown Bread, Corned Beef & Swiss on Rye, and Shepherd’s Pie. The cooks for this mighty feast were Ronna Brandt, Diana Conway, Donna Silverberg, Donna Sumner, Laurel Copeland, and Andrea Underwood Jones. If you missed this one, there will be another music circle on **April 19th**, starting at 12:30 pm in the Café.



HALIFAX HISTORICAL SOCIETY –PERSONAL HISTORIES

On **March 22**, the Halifax Historical Society held its annual meeting in the Halifax Community Hall. Wendy Musiak, HHS President, invited people to sit in a big circle and tell stories of growing up in Halifax. It was a lively presentation with stories about school days, road crew, and personalities. Jeff Musiak ran the remote connection and recording. ** We heard about Floyd Canedy watching a car with a ski rack stop by. The driver got out and walked down to Floyd. What’s the best way to Hogback Mtn? asked the man. Floyd replied, the best way is to put those skis on your car & ski on over there! Floyd talked real fast so you didn’t always catch what he said, someone commented. Yeah, came the rejoinder, but he said everything 3 times so you always had another chance! ** Malcolm described how the fire company got started in August 1930 at a meeting at Dave Gaither’s house where Gaither proposed the idea. The men who met then bought \$986.75 worth of equipment

on on Sep. 4 although the fire company did not exist yet. Finally on Sep. 9 they had an official meeting at the Community Hall where the men volunteered, giving their names & telephone numbers. These were odd compared to modern phone numbers, such as 21-14 and 6-5. ** Wendy’s mom was attending remotely. She described being told as a child to take dinner up to Old Mrs Chase. The kids did as they were told. Mrs Chase would thank them and give each kid a cookie. They’d take those cookies home & set them on the ground & watch the worms come out! The kids knew those cookies were old and yucky. ** Halifax got electricity in the early 1940s. Then the US got into WW II. The electric company said, the wire has to be up or it will be recalled for the war effort. So someone went on horseback and got it off the ground, tacked it right up! Not necessarily on the poles, but up off the ground. ** The Gerdes family bought the house on Reed Hill in 1938. They wanted electricity in the house so asked the electric company to connect them. A letter came from the electric company with all their neighbors names: we can connect you if you get enough houses wired, so please ask your neighbors to wire their houses. ** And Wayne described sanding the hills by hand: ouch!

☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ * ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

FIREMEN’S NEWS.

March 5th 10 men and one truck responded to a single motor vehicle crash with entrapment on Green River Road. Access was made into the vehicle, and the patient was stabilized. The windshield was cut out, and she was walked out.

March 5 one man responded to a call of an unresponsive man; the patient had regained consciousness when help arrived. He did not want to go to hospital, so he signed off.

March 12 seven men and two trucks responded to a call to a structure fire in Colrain. MA. They were redirected to cover the Colrain station.

☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ * ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

FLAG AT HALF MAST FOR LOST FIREFIGHTERS.

We will be flying the flag over the Community Hall at half mast on May 4 for National Fallen Firefighters Day. The United States Congress created the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation in 1992 to lead a nationwide effort to remember America’s fallen firefighters. The nonprofit Foundation has developed and expanded programs to honor our fallen fire heroes and assist their families and coworkers. The 2025 National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service will be held Sunday, May 4, 2025, to honor the 70 firefighters who died in the line of duty in 2024. In accordance to Public Law 107-51, the American flag should be lowered to half-staff on May 4th from sunrise to sunset in observance of National Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service. Visit <https://www.firehero.org/> or <https://weekend.firehero.org/> for more information on the events of the Firefighters Memorial Weekend. And remember to thank our firefighters for their service.

The 70 firefighters who died in 2024 do not include 11 forest firefighters who perished in the line of duty. Keep these firefighters, medical personnel, and pilots in mind when expressing gratitude for those who serve us. Details on the 2024 fatal incidents involving forest firefighters can be found here:

<https://lessons.wildfire.gov/blog/2025-01-17/2024-year-end-infographic-wildland-fire-fatalities>.

☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ * ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

OUR VERMONT REPRESENTATIVE EMILY CARRIS-DUNCAN. Emily Carris-Duncan will be at the Halifax Café from **10:00 AM to 11:00 AM on Saturday, March 29**. Come ask questions and tell her what is on your mind. She plans to return to the Café on Saturday, May 3, 10-11 a.m.

☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ * ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺

SENIOR MEAL IN HALIFAX – the next senior meal is Friday **April 18** in the Halifax Community Hall at noon. Bettye Roberts assisted by Linda Swanson will prepare the **Menu: Pork Chops with Applesauce, stuffed baked potatoes, carrots, and dessert**. All seniors welcome! A donation of \$3 is suggested. - Bettye Roberts

Things are different concerning senior meal now as Joan retired after the March meal after 25 years. Joan’s last meal as cook was bittersweet.....they had planned (unknown to me) a retirement party that was so, so special to me. They had invited folks from town and had a money tree for me and so many wonderful things going on. A gift of a beautiful ‘box’ with birds on the front that lights up: I absolutely love it and turn it on each evening as I

relax and just watch it. They all know how much I love birds. I was made to feel so very special that day! Thank you, everyone.....I also got lots of calls thanking me. I can't begin to tell you how beyond pleased and special I felt!!! I enjoyed feeding the seniors and getting to know them and will miss it, BUT I am so looking forward to just attending the meal and sitting down with everyone and eating a good meal!! It sure does not feel like I have done it for that long!



- Joan Courser

~~~~~

### CAFÉ CRAFTS

- Bettye Roberts

Join us in crafting to build community ties and learn through sharing. The monthly craft sessions are offered on first Saturdays at the Halifax Community Hall starting on **April 5<sup>th</sup>** at **10:00 AM**. April's craft will be **Jewelry Making and Mending**. Got some jewelry that needs repair? Bring it in. Want to make a piece of jewelry? Learn how for the cost of the materials. If jewelry is not your thing, bring a craft, mending, or knitting.

~~~~~



The windy March weather brought many trees down. In the photo, deadfall weighs down the power lines while a broken branch dangles like the sword of Damocles over Hanson Road. A few hours later, it had been cleared away.

~~~~~



Q: What do Cemetery Commissioners do in winter?

A: Tree wrasslin'. Yup, that's our Gary Rand.

~~~~~

JOAN'S SIGHTINGS. Enjoying the birds...can't really say I have seen 'spring' birds as of yet. Still have many (perhaps too many) Bluejays, a couple of Cardinals, Juncos, Titmice, Chickadees, Sparrows, a Flicker, Woodpeckers – Downy and Hairy, Nuthatch White-breasted and Red-breasted, Starling, Red-winged Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbird, Grackles. I did see an Evening Grosbeak once, but I think it left for someplace with no snow. The Spring birds will arrive soon, and I will be happy to see them! - Joan Courser

~~~~~

**Up on Hanson Road** we have been seeing signs of spring all month, in spite of a deep snowpack and frequent snow squalls. Grey squirrels were chasing each other down near the stream crossing, a hairy woodpecker flew by and tackled a tree, and a large opossum came sniffing along seeking some seeds I had thrown out on the snow! I think it was a mother with babies in her pouch. The cats are fascinated by sparrows, mice, voles, insects, a porcupine, grey foxes, and deer. Grey squirrels and red squirrels are chattering and dashing. I hear woodpeckers, and the juncos, chickadees, robins, crows, and ravens are everywhere. Bird-banding on Hogback can't be far off.



Bears are out! Take down birdfeeders. Don't teach bears to come to your house.

# Halifax News

APRIL 2025

## CALENDAR

The Halifax Café\* is open on Saturdays only for the winter.

**We offer a delicious lunch menu every Saturday—soup, sandwiches, casseroles, dessert!**

|                                   |                                                            |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>March 29, 2025</b> (Saturday): | Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm                           |
| "                                 | <b>Emily Carris-Duncan talks with you 10-11 AM</b>         |
| <b>April 5, 2025</b> (Saturday):  | Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm                           |
| "                                 | <b>Jewelry Crafting begins at 10:00 AM Apr. 5th</b>        |
| <b>April 12, 2025</b> (Saturday): | Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm                           |
| <b>April 19, 2025</b> (Saturday): | Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm                           |
| "                                 | <b>Music Circle begins at 12:30 Apr. 19th</b>              |
| <b>April 26, 2025</b> (Saturday): | Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm                           |
| <b>May 3, 2025</b> (Saturday):    | Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm                           |
| "                                 | <b>Crafting begins at 10:00 AM May 3rd</b>                 |
| "                                 | <b>Emily Carris-Duncan talks with you 10-11 AM May 3rd</b> |
| "                                 | <b>Alex Lacy on Recycling at 11:00 AM May 3rd</b>          |

\* Contacts: Laurel [LaurelACopeland@gmail.com](mailto:LaurelACopeland@gmail.com) or 210-488-1701 (text/call),  
Andrea at [UnderwoodJones154@gmail.com](mailto:UnderwoodJones154@gmail.com)



Longe Sugar House on a Brilliant March Day

Getting this newsletter by US Postal Service? Check your address label for your expiration date!

Send \$9.00 for postage (73¢/month) for your mailed paper copy. Send a check made out to “Newsletter” to:

Laurel Copeland, P O Box 212, West Halifax VT 05358.

**NEWSLETTER STORIES – Got a Halifax story?** Send to Laurel at [LaurelACopeland@gmail.com](mailto:LaurelACopeland@gmail.com), or P.O. Box 212, West Halifax VT 05358.

Emailed newsletter is free. Archived issues are online at <https://czresearch.com/newsletter>