

January 2025
Halifax News



On Saturday, December 14th West Halifax was the site of a Craft Fair at the school, Soup & Grilled Cheese lunch at the Café, and a **GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST** also at the Café. There were 8 entries in the Gingerbread House contest, and 30 people cast ballots, voting for their favorites in suggested categories—and adding categories the houses inspired in them!

Drum roll, please



...and the winners are:

Most Amusing: Numbers 1 and 7

Most Colorful: Numbers 5 and 3

Most Likely to Appeal to a Squirrel: Numbers 6 and 3

Most Spirited: Numbers 3 and 5

Most Detailed: Number 1 (by a landslide!)

Most Where I'd Like to Stay for a Week: Number 8

Most Adorable: Number 4

Most Just ... Wow! Number 1

Most Where I Want to Live: Number 8

Most Historical, Warmest, Best: Number 1

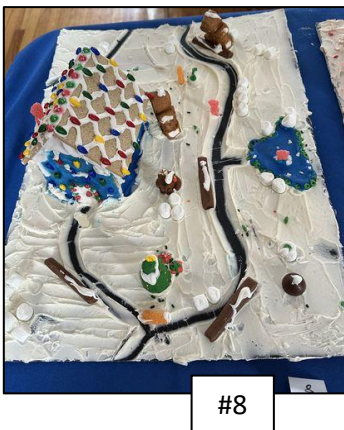
Most Exemplary: Number 2

Most Traditional: Number 6

Most Vermont: Number 5

Most Edible: Number 7 and 8

Most Cozy: Number 2



TRUST FOR WILDLIFE

Trust for Wildlife sent a lovely report on their activities this past year. Marshal and Joanne Case reported, “TFW’s headquarters at our founder’s home, Bobolink Meadows Farm [pictured at right], is a sanctuary for wildlife, particularly grassland birds. We counted a substantial number of bobolinks this summer. They arrived ‘on time’ but migrated south earlier than last year.... We are working with the Bennington Conservation District to obtain a conservation easement to guarantee this property remains forever undeveloped.... In addition to protecting our headquarters, Joanne and Marshal are gifting 240 acres of woods and wetlands in the Green Mountains to the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife. The land abuts a 1032-acre Wildlife Management Area. The land will be open to the public and managed for conservation.... Trust for Wildlife is in the process of partnering with Wetlands America Trust to acquire 243 acres in northern Vermont to add to our sanctuary holdings. Ducks Unlimited is restoring this agricultural land to its natural state through their wetland mitigation program. We hope to complete the land transfer in 2025.... **Trust for Wildlife Biodiversity Scholarship** was established this past year and is listed in the 2025 Vermont Student Assistance Corp. (a public nonprofit organization) scholarships booklet. This scholarship will support aspiring naturalists in the pursuit of higher education and a career focused on protecting the environment. We look forward to supporting the next generation of naturalists.”



And of course they reported a wonderful time at the Halifax Summer Camp. Some pictures from the week are below.



Trust For Wildlife is a 501(c)3 non-profit located at 408 Ehrich Road in Shaftsbury. Donations are always welcome (<https://www.trustforwildlife.org/donate-to-our-cause>).

LUIS SANCHEZ, CHEF – AMARU GOURMET

David Jones has written about some delicious meals enjoyed at Amaru Gourmet, the Peruvian restaurant in Brattleboro at Exit 1. Luis also participated in the 2nd Dinner On Glass, a fascinating dinner at Fire Arts on Route 30 where all the food is cooked on or in molten glass. It's a crazy meal! Now, Luis has offered to share his thoughts and recipes developed from around the globe. His introductory letter follows. And coming up on Valentine's Day, he and Chef Lana will present "Two Chefs, Two Cultures, One Kitchen!"

FROM A GLOBAL CULINARY JOURNEY TO THE HALIFAX COMMUNITY

– Luis Sanchez, Halifax, Vermont

It is with great excitement and a warm heart that I introduce myself to you. My name is Luis Sanchez, and I am the proud owner and chef of Amaru Gourmet, a Peruvian restaurant located in the vibrant town of Brattleboro. As your neighbor here in Halifax, I am thrilled to share my culinary journey and embark on this new adventure alongside you. Peruvian cuisine is an incredible global gastronomic phenomenon; it is a fusion of diverse cultural influences that have developed into a rich culinary tapestry. I am excited to share authentic recipes that beautifully apply the essence of Peruvian cuisine to American cooking.

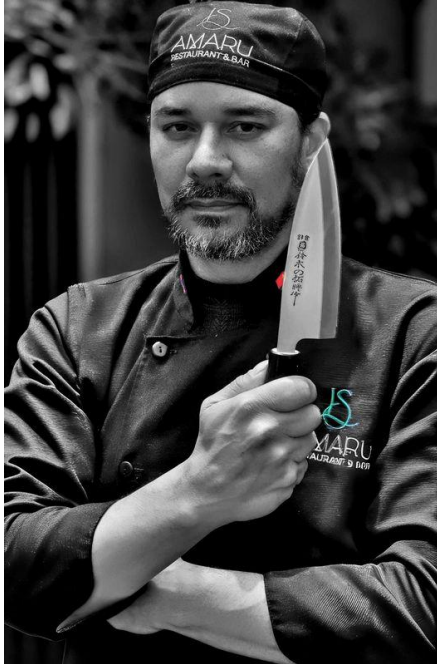


Photo by Amaru Gourmet

By incorporating local ingredients and condiments from our community, I will add a touch of culinary magic and a pinch of love to each dish. My goal is to provide knowledge and equip you with the right tools to create gourmet meals that are sophisticated yet accessible, allowing anyone with a sharp knife and a kitchen to embark on this delightful culinary adventure.

My culinary journey began in Lima, Peru, where I was immersed in the vibrant traditions and flavors influenced by my Italian mother and Peruvian father. This cultural foundation ignited a passion for food that blossomed during my 20 formative years in Switzerland, where I learned the importance of precision and sophistication in cooking. Throughout my travels, I have explored food: the kitchens of Dubai, the bustling food markets of China, and the culinary delights of Vietnam. Each experience

enriched my understanding of global cuisines and allowed me to discover unique ingredients and techniques that I now weave into my Peruvian culinary heritage.

My partner and fiancée, Chef Lana, who hails from Bulgaria, also brings a rich multicultural background to our endeavors. Together, we are committed to providing Halifax with an inviting space where locals can explore the fusion of flavors from our travels while embracing the essence of Peru within American cuisine.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Laurel and David for the opportunity to contribute to this collaboration with Halifax News. In my upcoming articles, we will explore the art of cooking together, transforming what seems complex into approachable, delectable dishes. My aim is to ensure that everyone can enjoy and create their own versions of these recipes, enriching their culinary skills and transforming everyday meals into delightful experiences at home.

I hope to inspire your culinary creativity and foster a passion for healthy eating that enhances your daily life. Here's to a delicious journey ahead!

Warm regards,
Luis Sanchez
Owner and Chef
Amaru Gourmet



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The Brattleboro Resource Assistance Team recently put out this flyer about Project CARE, a Brattleboro program to improve safety, such as escorting people to their cars at night and helping businesses deal with disruptive persons.

Project CARE offers services to those dealing with substance abuse disorders. Services include:

- Access to Recovery Coaches
- Assistance with transportation to inpatient and outpatient treatment facilities
- Assistance with identification and other barriers to treatment
- Overdose follow-up and community outreach
- Support for family members.

They are currently hiring more staff. They can be reached at 802-490-0344 and justin.johnston@vermont.gov



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FIREMEN’S NEWS

- On November 27 three men responded to a man with difficulty breathing.
- On November 28 twelve men and two trucks responded to a pellet stove fire.
- On November 29 three two men responded to a medical call.
- On December 13 four men responded to a medical call.
- On December 14 four men and one truck responded a mutual aid call in Dover.
- On December 23 eight men responded to a barn/shed fire in Marlboro.
- On December 23 two men responded to a man with difficulty breathing.



**NO BURNING! Call for a Burn Permit before you burn brush.
Call: Dennis (802) 368-7809 or Malcolm (802) 368-2484**

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SENIOR MEAL IN HALIFAX – Friday January 17 is the next meal served at the Halifax Community Hall at noon. **Menu: corn chowder, crackers, carrot salad, rolls, and dessert.**

All seniors are welcome. A free-will donation of \$3.00 is asked.

March will be Halifax’s 25th year of monthly senior meals!

March will be Joan’s last as cook, but two very capable ladies that have been helpers are taking over. Joan is looking forward to just coming to sit down and eat senior meals from that time on.

It has been an honor to cook the meals for this town for so many years.

Thank you all who have supported me!

- Joan Courser

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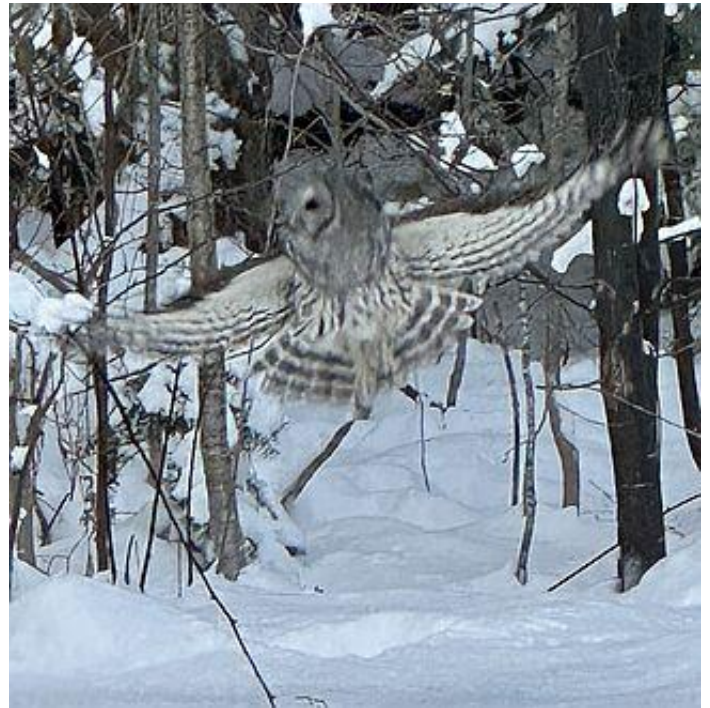


JOAN'S SIGHTINGS. Birds...the winter weather of snow has brought many birds. Lots and lots of Bluejays, a few Sparrows, one male Grosbeak, three Cardinals—a male and two females, one Hairy woodpecker, one Downy woodpecker, a Junco, one Red-breasted nuthatch, Chickadees, Titmice, one White-breasted Nuthatch, now and then a Purple Finch. Enjoying my birds; some days I throw out seed four times a day, and I'm using lots of sunflower seed! We have had some very cold weather, five below zero the coldest so far! Seems it snows some every day!

Wishing everyone a healthy, happy 2025!

- Joan Courser

Up on Hanson Road we have grey foxes, a short-tailed shrew, blue jays, juncos, crows, a great barred owl. It landed in the snow out back, stayed there for a while, hopping around, then took off. There are chickadees, ravens, turkeys, grey squirrels, and red squirrels. Up in the Center, we saw mouse, coyote, and bobcat tracks, fresh in the new snow. The cats get excited when the birds flit around but otherwise snooze by the fire.



The Lion from the Deerfield Valley Lions Club presented the Halifax Community Club with a check supporting the Jack-O-Lantern display set up on Hallowe'en outside the Café. Pictured: the Lion, Laurel, Diana, Andrea.

Halifax News

JANUARY 2025

CALENDAR

The Halifax Café* will no longer be open on Thursdays, as most people seem to be hibernating during the week.

We will serve an expanded lunch menu on Saturdays.

December 26 & 28, 2024: Halifax Café closed for the holiday break

January 1-10, 2025: Halifax Café closed for the holiday break

Happy New Year!!

See you January 11th 2025!

January 11, 2025 (Saturday): Halifax Café OPEN 10:00am-1:00pm

January 18, 2025 (Saturday): Café closed for private event

January 25, 2025 (Saturday): Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm

February 1, 2025 (Saturday): Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm

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



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