OCTOBER 2025

Halifax News



HALIFAX CELEBRATES 275 YEARS – SEPTEMBER 2025

The 4-day celebration of Halifax's 275 years as an incorporated town enjoyed wonderful weather and great events. Here are a few photos from the final day's parade. More images are captured in this 10-minute video made by Kelly Otis Hazen for her sister, Carol Otis. Carol attended the celebration and hosted the 17th century slate-carving demonstration by David Gillespie of South Carolina, mirror technique of gravestone illumination, and cake and beverages in Whitneyville Cemetery as well as the Walk to the Otis Cellar Hole. Carol and Kelly are descendants of Elisha Otis, inventor of the safety elevator. https://youtu.be/tYxH fvSu64











Brady Youmell led the parade on his bicycle – Len Derby with Veterans Appreciation banner – Edee and Randy represented our Selectboard – Fairbanks family photos of 5 generations in Halifax – great floats and many marchers!







1 Halifax Newsletter October 2025

THE END OF THE LINE FOR AN OLD BARN IN HALIFAX CENTER



The barn at the corner of Jacksonville Stage, Old County, and Stowe Mountain Roads in 2024 (Photo: Andrea Underwood Jones)





The razing of the barn by an excavator is captured by photographs and then in color sketches by David Brewster, a near neighbor. In the mid-1970's my sister Heidi ran the Blue Giraffe Café in the house, a former stagecoach stop and kept chickens in the barn. To fend off the rooster, she used an old wooden golf cart from the barn! *-Laurel Copeland*













2 Halifax Newsletter October 2025

SENIOR MEAL IN HALIFAX – Bettye Roberts

Senior Meal for September was held during the 275-year celebration of the Town of Halifax. Seniors from several surrounding towns attended. The menu for October 17th is: choice of Roast Lamb with Mint Jelly or Roast Pork with Applesauce, along with Pea Salad, Roasted Potatoes and Vegetables, Cheese Bread and Dessert.

To help with the absence of Senior Meals in Jacksonville for the month of October, Halifax will serve a second meal on Hallowe'en. The October 31st menu will be: Pumpkin Soup (Butternut Squash), Bat Wings (Fried Chicken), Shrunken Heads (Potatoes), Pickled Organs (Pickled Beets), Witches' Fingers (Green Beans), Candy Corn (Roasted Corn) and Dessert. Wear your costume and Trick or Treat for Creepy Dollheads (Apple Crisp with Ice Cream)!

All Seniors welcome! \$4 asked. Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax.

Photos: Linda Swanson making fruit salad, friends enjoying lunch, Ronna Brandt taking a minute off her feet.







80 80 80 80 80 80 80 * 03 03 03 03 03 03 03

CAFÉ CRAFTS. Join us in crafting on first Saturdays at the Halifax Community Hall starting at 10:00 AM. I will teach you how – you pay the cost of the materials you use. If my featured craft is not your thing, bring any craft, mending, or knitting you are working on. Let's fix things!

- Bettye Roberts

BD BD BD BD BD & COR COR COR COR COR COR

JOAN'S SIGHTINGS. Still not a lot of birds at the feeders but the number seems to be picking up. Blue Jays, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Sparrows, Cardinals, Grosbeaks, Purple Finches, Goldfinches (one still sporting his yellow feathers), Woodpeckers. I attended the bird-banding event at Hogback Mountain. There seem to be fewer birds there, but some are headed south. I enjoy going there and seeing the birds and sometimes getting to hold one and release it; hopefully more will arrive soon.

I am sad to tell of one of my chickens dying (nearly 7 or 8 years old). I did not think I got attached to them, but I sure am sad to lose her. Wayne says I get attached to all animals! I guess he is right. I am down to only 2 chickens and a rooster.

The Halifax Celebration Days were really wonderful days for Halifax. Many people came. So many events going on during the day, and the dance in the evening was well attended and enjoyed.

- Joan Courser

Up on Hanson Road the butterflies are numerous, and the leaves are changing. We see Grey Foxes, Raccoons, Red Squirrels, Chipmunks, Crows, Ravens, Blue Jays, Flickers, Common Yellowthroats, Goldfinches, many caterpillars and wasps, and Field Voles. I heard a red-shouldered hawk.

- Laurel Copeland

80 80 80 80 80 80 80 * 02 02 02 02 02 02 02

BIRDBANDING ON HOGBACK MOUNTAIN - FALL MIGRATION

Bird-banding has been lovely this migration season although some days the birds were scarce. The first day, Sept. 11, I noticed the leaves were much advanced in color and loss compared to around us. That is over an altitude change of about 500 feet, from 1700' to 2200'. We netted, banded, and released about 50 birds including Chickadees (these do not migrate), Blue-Headed Vireo, Red-Eyed Vireo, Slate-Colored Juncos, Black-Throated Blue Warblers, Black-Throated Green Warblers, a Northern Parula (pictured), Yellow-Rumped (Myrtle) Warblers, Tennessee Warblers, and Black and White Warblers (pictured).

FIREMEN'S NEWS. On September 6 four men responded to Shearer Hill Road. The person was transported by private vehicle.

Message of the Messa





responded to a mutual aid call in Marlboro, but it was canceled en route. \times On September 26 three men responded to a call on Collins Road for a 60-year-old man with difficulty breathing and blood loss. He was transported by ambulance. \times On October 1, four men responded to a call on Tucker Road for a woman stung by a bee with possible reaction. Whitingham ambulance responded but the person refused transport. \times On October 1 two trucks and nine men responded to mutual aid call in Whitingham on Parsons Road to a reported structure fire.

80 80 80 80 80 80 * 02 02 02 02 02 02 02

FIRE DANGER Now. Fire Danger is still rated "HIGH" in Halifax. Neighboring
Guilford has "VERY HIGH" risk of fire. You can check the map from Vermont Agency
of Natural Resources, Forests Parks & Recreation, at this website: https://fpr.vermont.gov/forest/wildland-fire/monitoring-fire-danger

Call for a Burn Permit <u>before</u> you burn.

Dennis (802) 368-7809 or Malcolm (802) 368-2484

\$\infty\$ \$

CONSOLIDATED COMMUNICATIONS BUILDS FIDIUM NETWORK

-- David Jones, Halifax

Earlier this year, DVFiber completed the construction of its fiber optic internet network to pass virtually every home and business in town. Now Consolidated Communications is building its own fiber network, using the brand name "Fidium," following nearly identical routes as DVFiber. One might wonder why.

We can't know for sure what they are thinking but we do know the following:

- RDOF Award: Consolidated was awarded a federal "RDOF" subsidy in late 2020 to build fiber networks in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and four other states. Grants were awarded for specific locations, including roughly one-third of Halifax homes. Consolidated was required to build 20% of the total locations each year beginning in 2022 and ending in 2026. They had the option of deciding which areas to build first. They began work in Halifax near the end of the six-year window.
- Loss of Customers Here: Based on my interactions with dozens of Halifax residents, I believe that most customers that could subscribe to DVFiber chose to do so, and the large majority of these cancelled all of their Consolidated Communications services, including telephone service, due to repeated concerns with poor reliability, high cost, and unresponsive customer service. We can surmise that Consolidated is hoping to gain back some of the business they lost. A comparison of their construction work to the RDOF award map suggests that they are building to all locations, not just those that were included in the award.
- Limited Success Elsewhere: In the last publicly available report (3rd Quarter 2024) issued before a change to private ownership, Consolidated reported that it had gained fiber customers in less than 20% of the buildings passed by its "Fidium" network, well below its initial expectation of 33% after three years. Consolidated chose to focus initial construction in larger, more densely populated towns where it hoped to regain market share it had lost to cable TV providers. It would appear that they did not generate a groundswell of enthusiasm, even with the brand name change. Imagine not being an immediately attractive alternative to the cable company.

Will the "Fidium" service succeed in attracting any Halifax customers? There may be a handful of locations around town where the Consolidated product is the only good option for technical reasons that DVFiber can't easily overcome. Consolidated may also offer a low introductory price. My personal hope is that each of us will remember that DVFiber needs us as customers as much as we need it to provide first-rate technology, responsive customer service, and management that is focused on our long-term benefit, not on the benefits to shareholders and executives. Buy Local comes to mind.

Purple-flowered raspberries look showy at the end of summer, but the fruit is fuzzy. Ptheh!

Far right: Spitbugs adhere to goldenrod. The bubbles made of sap and the insects' secretions are the nymph stage of froghoppers and spittlebugs.



Below right: A bumble bee has a load of pollen on its leg ("saddlebags")



Below left: Chipmunks are gathering nuts and seeds to stash in their burrows where they will spend the winter, eating and sleeping







5 Halifax Newsletter October 2025

Happenings Around Town

OCTOBER 2025

CALENDAR

The Halifax Café* is open Saturdays serving a delicious lunch menu—soup, sandwiches, casseroles, dessert!

Oct. 4, 2025 (Saturday): Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm, delicious lunch!

Oct. 11, 2025 (Saturday): Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm, homemade soups & goodies!

 Oct. 17, 2025 (Saturday):
 Regular Halifax Senior Meal, 11:30-1:00. Come on in!

 Oct. 18, 2025 (Saturday):
 Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm. Come on in!

 Oct. 25, 2025 (Saturday):
 Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm – treats & lunch

Oct. 31, 2025 (Friday): Hallowe'en Senior Meal!

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

Andrea at UnderwoodJones154@gmail.com







Signs of Autumn – Hayride in Halifax Old Home Days; Last Glads; Monarch Butterfly

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; make checks out to "Newsletter": Laurel Copeland, P O Box 212, West Halifax VT 05358.

NEWSLETTER STORIES – Got a Halifax story? Send to Laurel at <u>LaurelACopeland@gmail.com</u>, or P.O. Box 212, West Halifax VT 05358.

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