#### SEPTEMBER 2025

## Halifax News

### HALIFAX CELEBRATES 275 YEARS – SEPTEMBER 18-21

**Thur. Sept. 18, 4-8:00 PM**: Family Fun Evening at the Goudreau Farm, 1518 Pennel Hill Road. Donkeys, alpacas, sheep, goats, mini pig, and other animals in the petting zoo. Halifax School 8<sup>th</sup> Grade will sell hot dogs & hamburgers. Hayrides through the State Forest! Cornhole & ladder ball games! Ice cream on us! Bring chairs/blankets.

Fri. Sept 19: Note that Branch Road will be closed from Halifax School to Community Hall

**4:00 PM at the School Playground:** Disc Golf Tips & Tricks! **5:00 PM:** Light dinner of Rice Bowls & Nachos at the Firehouse.

7-10:00 PM: Live music with Midnight 30 at the Firehouse.

### Sat. Sept. 20:

**All day:** hay-wagon rides, yard games, bouncy house, face painting, Halifax Historical Society open featuring Yesteryear Photo Exhibit **7-9 AM** Breakfast at the Community Hall – suggested donation \$10

9:15 AM Opening Ceremony!

9AM-Noon Disc Golf Tournament at Halifax School

9:30 AM Cane Defense demonstration and instruction

**10:00 AM** 2k Walk/Run

**10:00 AM-Noon** on Community Hall lawn – David Gillespie, author of *Tomb & Grave Stones of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century*, gives a slate-carving demonstration; see also <a href="https://youtu.be/FTOxhWejOoQ">https://youtu.be/FTOxhWejOoQ</a>.

11:00 AM-on Pottery Demonstrations, Woodturning Demonstrations

12:00 Noon Pie-eating Contest

1:00 PM Pinewood Derby on Branch Road

**1-3:00 PM** at Whitneyville Cemetery – Otis family birthday celebration with cake & beverages courtesy of the Otis Family. David Gillespie demonstrates mirror technique for reading gravestones

1:00 PM and 2:30 PM Bus Tours of Historic Halifax sites

2:30 PM Old-Time Games

3-6:00 PM Cornhole Tournament

**4-6:00 PM** Dinner options available (bring your own beverages)

**6-9:00 PM** Music by Classic Connection playing hits from the 60's & 70's with dancing & treats

#### Sun. Sept. 21:

7:30 AM Coffee & pastries at the Halifax Bible Church

10:00 AM Worship Service

12-1:00 PM Taco-style lunch

1:30 PM Parade on Branch Road

2:00 PM Closing Ceremonies at Community Hall with apple crisp & ice cream

**3:00 PM** Hike to the Otis Homestead

The schedule is online: <a href="https://czresearch.com/halifax275/halifaxvt275years.pdf">https://czresearch.com/halifax275/halifaxvt275years.pdf</a>

**PARTICIPATE IN THE PINEWOOD DERBY!** Drop by the Town Office for an official car kit and the official rules.

QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS NOW ON SALE – Support the Town of Halifax 275-Year Celebration and get a chance to own this beautiful quilt (pictured at right) handmade by Halifax's own Andrea Rand! Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 in the Town Office and on Saturdays in the Café. Raffle date is September 20<sup>th</sup>.







SENIOR MEAL IN HALIFAX – Bettye Roberts

What a wonderful turnout we had last month! On August 15<sup>th</sup> we enjoyed antipasto, two kinds of lasagna, garlic bread, and fresh fruit salad ending with three flavors of cupcakes. Mmm! September Senior Meal occurs during Halifax Old Home Days celebrating 275 Years (1750-2025). **Friday, Sept. 19** come to the Community Hall arriving around 11:30 or so for convivial gathering and our starter course of Spinach-Cranberry Salad. Then dine on Fresh Veggie & Chicken Stir Fry, Wild Rice Medley, Mixed Fruit Salad (berry harvest willing), and a Dessert Surprise. All Seniors welcome! \$4 asked. Halifax Community Hall, 20 Brook Road, West Halifax.

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.

- Bettye Roberts

જા જા

JOAN'S SIGHTINGS. I still have four Orioles; they should be heading south soon. Lots of Blue Jays! I think a new family has arrived—they are consuming lots of grape jelly and bugs. Also, they are very vocal! I still have a few Hummingbirds; I'm thinking they will be leaving soon, too. Soon the fall birds will arrive. I had an injured young bear here. I personally did not see it; someone walking by told me about it. They contacted a game warden to try to help the bear. I lost lots of sleep thinking about the poor thing. Probably got hit by a car. Folks need to slow down. The speed limit in the Village is 25!! Very few do it! - Joan Courser

Up on Hanson Road a coyote wandered into our backyard in August. Inside the house we exclaimed, that's a

coyote—it stopped, stared at the window a moment, then turned & trotted away. Huh! Around the corner, Diana Todd captured this striking image of a snowy egret by their pond, and a bit farther down the road, Linda Lyon spotted a tiny frog in her garden. Evening visitors include two Grey Foxes, Raccoons, two Coyotes, two Porcupines making noises at each other for over an hour, Whitetail Deer, and a Black Bear. Days we have Crows, Ravens, Blue Jays, Flickers,

Robins, Common Yellowthroats, Hermit Thrushes and veeries, as well as Monarchs and Swallowtails, Mourning Cloaks, and fritillaries. Plus pesky mice.

- Laurel Copeland

ം ഉള്ള ഉള്ള പ്രത്യായ പ്രത്യ പ്രത്യായ പ്രത്യ പ്രത്യായ പ്രത്യ പ്രത്യായ പ്രത്യായ പ്രത്യായ പ്രത്യായ പ്രത്യായ പ്രത്യായ പ്രത്

Eric Slayton is again leading his bird-banding project on Hogback Mountain this September. Eric started the project in spring 2020 to provide a safe, outdoor social and ecological project at the start of the pandemic. Volunteers sign up with Eric for one or more early mornings of unfolding the mist nets,

walking the route to check for captured birds, learning how Eric extracts birds from the nets and puts them in a carrying bag, then weights, measures, and examines the bird at the base

station. Volunteers learn how to accept a bird in their hand from Eric and how to release it so that it is unharmed. In the photo, Joan Courser examines a Yellow-Rumped Warbler (sometimes referred to as a Butterbutt) in her hand prior to releasing it. Contact: <a href="mailto:Eric.Slayton@me.com">Eric.Slayton@me.com</a>

80 80 80 80 80 80 \* 03 03 03 03 03 03 03

FIREMEN'S NEWS. On August 3, four men responded to a medical call. On August 3, six men responded to a call of smoke in the area. On August 5, three men responded to a medical call. The ambulance transported the person to a hospital. On August 8, four men and two trucks responded to a mutual aid call in Colrain, MA. On August 21, there was a medical call. On August 22, eight men responded to a call of smoke; someone was burning stumps. Please remember to call Dennis, or Wayne, or Malcolm if you want to burn. It is very, very dry, and the fire danger is very, very high!



Call for a Burn Permit before you burn. Dennis (802) 368-7809 or Malcolm (802) 368-2484





#### SOUTHERN VERMONT YOUTH PROFESSIONALS ANNOUNCE REMAINING 2025 ACTIVITIES

Young professionals! Meet other young professionals in the area, learn new skills, socialize, and find new opportunities. Registration required for all events.

**Sat. September 6**, 10:00am-Noon at Brattleboro Subaru, 1234 Putney Road. **How To Change A Tire!** 

**Sat. October 11**, 10:00am-Noon: **Volunteering**; meet at Vermont Museum of Natural History

**TBD November date: Meet-up at High Thai** (7 High St, Brattleboro)

**Sat. December 13**, 11:00am: **Meet-up at Valley Craft Ales**, 18 N Main St in Wilmington, plus Bright Lights Craft Fair in Wilmington's Memorial Hall Register online <a href="https://brattleborodevelopment.com/sovtyps/">https://brattleborodevelopment.com/sovtyps/</a>

80 80 80 80 80 80 80 % of of of of of of of

This time of year is wonderful for its light effects. At left, the trunk of a maple tree catches the first light of morning.

**At right**, a different kind of sunshine graces the West Halifax Post Office as Postmistress Cara enjoys a visit from Linda Lyon's therapy dogs, Kelso and Gussy. **Below**, a coyote caught in our yard gotcha light.

**Bottom**: Volunteers Fran Swanson and Raleigh Brown clean headstones in Bascom Cemetery on a Halifax Cemetery Restoration workday

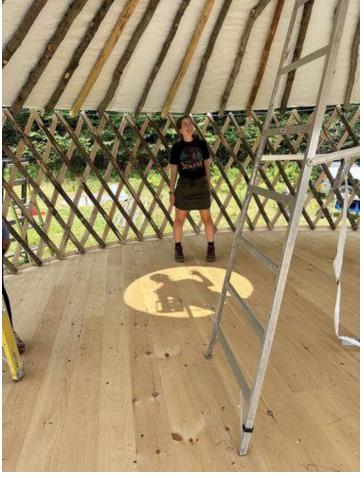
that saw 39 stones cleaned and 9 stones dug out and reset. Keeping up with our 22 cemeteries is a big job.











#### Houses!

I participated in a Yurt Raising in Whitingham in August along with fellow Halifax resident Mark Halverson. It was a fascinating process. Adriane of Two Girls Farm in NH brought the yurt components in on a trailer. She directed the corps of volunteers to unwrap and stand up the latticework wall supports pictured, raise the wagon wheel central support for the roof, install 56 beams, and complete the structure with insulation and exterior materials.

In the top left photo, Edward, brother of one of the owners, takes the top of the roof, then, in the next photo, grabs and spreads out the roof insulation, which is being pushed up from the outer edges by other volunteers on ladders on the ground. At bottom left, volunteer Katie admires the shadow play created by the circular skylight.



The next week, I volunteered at a House-Raising in Marlboro. This is like a barn-raising for a timber-framed house. After the site was prepared, the basement excavated and built, and the floor base installed, a lot of volunteers helped raise the heavy beam structures that will support the walls and roof. The picture shows this process, with contractor Hunter Jack supervising and knocking the beams into their receiving seats in the floor.

Hunter was especially excited with this project because it is being built for his mother-in-law, so he will get to see what it is like to live in one of his creations.





In Halifax, I see a house arising at the corner of Shearer Hill Road and Hatch School Road. Steve Bagley is building the new house.

And then, coming down Collins Road one recent morning, I saw that a new house had popped up overnight! It will be Francisco Cabas' home soon. Francisco already has a productive garden and is an enthusiastic participant in our annual Edie Fenton Memorial Plant Swap. The Plant Swap takes place each May on the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend. Next year the Plant Swap will be on Saturday, May 23, 2026.

# Halifax News

SEPTEMBER 2025

#### **CALENDAR**

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

Aug. 30, 2025 (Saturday):Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm, delicious lunch!Aug. 31, 2025 (Sunday):Toddler Yoga with Hailey at 10:00am in the HallSep. 6, 2025 (Saturday):Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm. Come on in!Sep. 13, 2025 (Saturday):Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm – treats & lunch

Sep. 17-21, 2025 (Wed.-Sun): Halifax 275-Year Celebration! Buy a hat - Town Office

Sep. 27, 2025 (Saturday): Halifax Café open 10:00am-1:00pm. Hot soup!

\* Contacts: Laurel <a href="mailto:LaurelACopeland@gmail.com">LaurelACopeland@gmail.com</a> or 210-488-1701 (text/call),

Andrea at UnderwoodJones154@gmail.com









Signs of Autumn - Black Swallowtail Caterpillar; abandoned Bluebird Eggs; Fall Phlox



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