

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

Tribunus



Plebis

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume I, Number 9

December 2010



by Val Coleman

It's a little complicated. In the last edition of *The Sandisfield Times*, Rhee Kasky reported that a "Tax Classification Public Hearing" was held on October 13 and promised that we would explain the different tax classifications in a story in the December issue. I shuffled on down to the Town Hall Annex and talked to Jacqueline Bitso, our most remarkable Assistant Assessor who understands everything and tried to explain it to me. Here's a quick (hopefully uncomplicated) summary:

The five classes of taxable property in Sandisfield are as follows: Residential, Open Space, Commercial,

Industrial and Personal Property. They add up to a total of 1612 parcels. Here's the Sandisfield inventory and a parenthetical description of the categories.

RESIDENTIAL: 1108 parcels (where you live)

OPEN SPACE: 0 parcels (not applicable in Sandisfield)

COMMERCIAL: 9 parcels (small businesses) and 122 parcels of so-called "Chapter" land which can be recreational, forested or agricultural/horticultural

INDUSTRIAL: 4 parcels (manufacturing)

PERSONAL PROPERTY: 369 parcels (machinery used in the conduct of business, all owner's non-domicile furnishings and utilities.)

These present arrangements and classifications were presented by Assessor Elaine O'Brien and approved by the Board of Selectmen at the October 13 meeting.

May I add that the Assessor's office in the Town Hall Annex is a busy, welcoming place filled with very nice people, charts and documents, including an especially colorful map of Sandisfield which graphically shows the various 3-year sales and reduced taxation and exempt parcels of the town.

I also got a ready answer to the question that many folks might want to ask: *The Town of Sandisfield expects to take in \$2,289,587.25 in real estate taxes in 2011.* ♡



Photo: Brenda Olivieri

BECKI OLIVIERI:

A GRANT RECIPIENT OF THE BILL CROFUT ARTS FUND FOR CHILDREN

Becki Olivieri lives in Sandisfield and is a student at Mt. Everett High School. She has been a repeated grant recipient of the Bill Crofut Arts Fund for Children. The following is her story.

For the past nine years of my life, I have been a proud member of Chorus Angelicus, a traveling performance youth chorus based in Connecticut. Every Monday and Thursday I have gotten to escape reality and drift away in the music of many lands and many centuries. I have had the opportunity to sing in gorgeous cathedrals all over New England, gone on tour to Florida and Boston, made lifelong friends and have become a part of the Chorus family. I've sung in Latin, German, Russian, Italian, Serbian, French, Old English, even Gaelic. I've gained an appreciation of classical, secular, gospel, baroque, and ethnic music, as we've performed wonderful pieces from all of these categories. It has been a remarkable experience.

I was lucky enough to become a member of the Senior Choir when Paul Halley, the Founder of Chorus Angelicus, was still the conductor.

Cont'd p.3

COMING SOON: SANDISFIELD ON THE WEB



New Town website banner

Thanks to funding from the former *Sandisfield Newsletter* and the efforts of several dedicated volunteers working closely with town clerk Dolores Harasyko, Sandisfield is about to have a web presence. The Town of Sandisfield website, www.Sandisfield.info, will be rolled out in phases, with the first phase being made available online sometime this month. The initial version

will feature town information presented in an attractive and easy to use format. The site will include essential contact information for every town office, committee, and service. Downloadable forms and documents will also be included.

Thank you to the volunteers who have made this possible including: Jean Atwater-Williams, Patrick Barrett, Elaine O'Brien, Bethany

Perry, and Chapin Fish. Special thanks go out to Tina Sotis, who designed the website banner art (including a beautiful new digital version of our town seal) and to

Richard Migot who has generously supplied his striking photographs of Sandisfield to be used on the site.

Future plans for the website include expanded content for each town office and service, plus a photo gallery.

Check it out. Your feedback and suggestions are welcome! ♡

Sandisfield Comes Out to Vote in Force!

Wow! Election Day 2010 was a mid-term election and yet there was strong voter turnout throughout Berkshire County and the State of Massachusetts. And Sandisfield was no exception. This mid-term election brought 55% of Sandisfield's registered voters to the polls. Of the 590 registered voters, 323 voted.

What were the results? Sandisfield election results were fairly consistent with the rest of Berkshire County. Although Question 1, to repeal the sales tax on alcohol

was narrowly passed by 52% of the voters in the state of Massachusetts, Berkshire County voters registered a 3-1 vote against the repeal. In Sandisfield, 59% of our voters voted not to repeal the sales tax. Sandisfield (and Berkshire County) were consistent with the decision not to roll back the State Sales Tax and not to change the procedure for low and moderate-income housing. Here is how Sandisfield voted:

GOVERNOR:

Democrat	Patrick and Murray	185
Republican	Baker and Tise	107
Independent	Cahill and Loscocco	22
Green Party	Stein and Purcell	5
Blank		3

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Democrat	Martha Coakley	184
Republican	James McKenna	132
Blank		6

SECRETARY OF STATE

Democrat	William Galvin	190
Republican	William Campbell	110
Independent	James Henderson	14
Blank		8

TREASURER

Democrat	Steven Grossman	189
Republican	Karyn Polito	126
Blank		7

AUDITOR

Democrat	Susanne Bump	188
Republican	Mary Connaughton	113
Green Party	Nathanael Fortune	11
Blank		10

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

Democrat	John Olver	192
Republican	William Gunn	106
Independent	Michael Engel	16
Blank		8

COUNCILLOR

Democrat	Thomas Merrigan	187
Republican	Michael Franco	115
Blank		20

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

Democrat	Benjamin Downing	234
Blank		77
Write In		11

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

Democrat	William "Smitty" Pignatelli	223
Green Party	Lee Laugenour	73
Blank		25
Write in		1

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Democrat	David Capeless	231
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SHERIFF

Democrat	Thomas Bowler	240
Blank		82



BALLOT QUESTIONS:

QUESTION 1

Repeal the Massachusetts sales tax on alcohol

Yes	127
No	181
Blank	14

QUESTION 2

Repeal the law on low/moderate housing applications

Yes	110
No	178
Blank	34

QUESTION 3

Reduce State Sales Tax


Yes	132
No	169
Blank	21

MESSAGE FROM DOLORES HARASYKO, TOWN CLERK

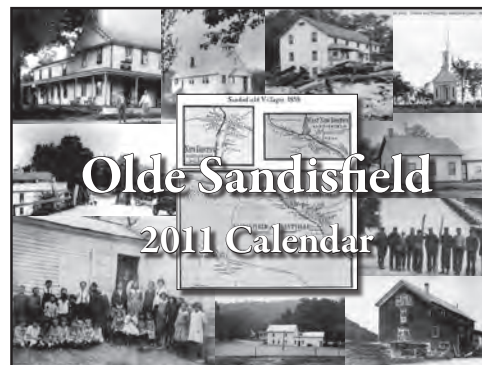
If you'd like to help further the work of our town, you may be interested in joining one of our boards and committees. Just call the Selectmen at 258-4711 and ask to be placed on a meeting agenda, or, if you prefer, send a letter of interest to PO Box 90, Sandisfield 01255.

There are openings on the following:

- Board of Health (1 opening)
- Board of Registrars (2 openings)
- Zoning Board of Appeals (2 openings)
- Historical Commission (5 openings)

Also, be on the lookout for your 2011 Dump Sticker renewal form. I will be mailing notices out in December and if you do not receive yours, you can still renew by mail. Send a check for \$20 to the Town of Sandisfield and include a self-addressed stamped envelope and I will mail them to you. Recognizing the difficult economic climate, the Selectmen have voted to keep the fee the same as last year. 

VINTAGE SANDISFIELD FEATURED IN 2011 CALENDAR



The Sandisfield History Book Committee is offering a calendar for 2011 featuring black and white historical photos of Sandisfield. (See our ad on page 7.) Some of the photos date back to the late 1880's and highlight important buildings and landscapes as well as images of days gone by. Horse & buggy, charcoal kilns, Suicide Hill, the New Boston Inn – each month features a slice of history complete with captions and notable historical dates scattered throughout.

The cost of the 8 1/2 x 11 calendar is \$20 (includes postage), with all proceeds going to the creation of *Sandisfield Then and Now: 1762-2012*, a comprehensive history of Sandisfield to be published in time for the Town's 250th birthday the year after next. You can find calendars at local restaurants. To order by phone, call evenings or weekends (413) 441-9542. To order by mail, send your check to: Town Of Sandisfield History Book, PO Box 770, Otis, MA 01253.

Email inquiries to info@sandisfieldthenandnow.org. 



Photo: Molly Hubbard

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Musings from Quill Hill

Patricia Hubbard

I love the holiday season. I love the beauty of a decorated tree. I love the elegance of candles in the window. And anyone who knows me knows that I love to cook and feed people. What better excuse to fill my house with incredible smells than the joy and food of Chanukah and Christmas (and I am lucky, since I get to celebrate and cook for both holidays). I love to fill my house with people I love and listen to the sound of their laughter. I am a terrible romantic who weeps when I sing Christmas Carols with a group of friends. I believe, treasure and revel in the magic and the joy that the days of December bring.

But I am also a realist who knows that many of us have been hit hard by the recent economic downturn and some of us can't fill the kitchen with an abundance of food and joy. I know how hard it can be when

you can't provide good food and hot meals for your family. I have worked at local soup kitchens and am constantly amazed at how many people depend on the generosity of others to help them through these hard times.

So I thought that this might be the time to remind everyone - those who might need some assistance - and those more fortunate who might be looking for a way to "do good", that there are many organizations in Berkshire County that provide either groceries or a hot meal to our neighbors in need. Since we, in Sandisfield, are a bit isolated we have to look to the larger neighboring communities for help. If you wish to donate, these organizations will accept cash or non perishable items.

LEE - the First Congregational Church serves meals during the school year, from September - June, on Wednesdays at 5:30PM at 25 Park Place. The Church also has a Community Pantry open on Saturday mornings from 10AM-Noon. It is located on Railroad Street in the former Senior Center and is stocked year round with food and can provide all forms of groceries to anyone in the community. They also accept donations of non-perishable items and cash. The cash donations help underwrite the hot meals and are used to purchase grocery items for the pantry. For more information you can call 413.243.1033.

HOUSATONIC - Guthrie Center, 4 Van Deusenville Road, Housatonic, 413-528-1955. Provides free lunch each Wednesday from Noon - 2PM to anyone who needs a nutritious meal.

SHEFFIELD - The Kiwanis Club of Sheffield sponsors Breaking Bread. Food is provided by a rotating group of religious and civic organizations. Meals are served from 5:30 - 7PM on Thursday nights.

GREAT BARRINGTON - People's Pantry at St. Peter's Parish Center 413-528-2037 located at the corner of East and Cottage Streets. They offer bags of groceries to anyone in need of food on Thursdays, 11:30AM - 1:00PM (Please use the lower entrance off Russell Street and do not park in the Center's driveway.) There are also hot meals served for anyone in need on Thursdays at 5:30PM

This is the ninth issue of the *Sandisfield Times*. Our aim is to be a newspaper that meets the needs of our community. Striving to be true to our motto, "Reliable, Regular and Relevant," while respecting and responding to our readers, we hope that we are achieving our goals. Once again we encourage all of you to participate in the paper. Send us your ideas. Send us your articles. And if you are so inclined, please send us a donation to help keep us going. This winter we will issue two combined issues January/February and March/April and then begin our monthly issues in May.

My resolution for the coming year is: "Be kind to your neighbors, always hug your children, and call your parents more often!"

I wish you all a very happy and healthy new year.

Stay in touch,

Patricia 

BECKI OLIVIERI:

A GRANT RECIPIENT OF THE BILL CROFUT ARTS FUND FOR CHILDREN

Cont'd from p.1


He was perhaps the most influential man I have ever met, a true musical genius. Paul set his goals high and pushed us to reach our fullest potential. He brought an element of magic into the music. I remember attending Senior Choir concerts with my parents, listening to the wonder and beauty that filled the church. I remember how the songs stuck in my head, some of which still remain there. Paul was sometimes a strict taskmaster. He was very serious about the music. He created Chorus Angelicus with a goal of achieving perfection and often reminded us of the motto, "It's not about me; it's about Chorus Angelicus".

I can't even begin to explain what being a member of the organization means to me. Chorus Angelicus taught me responsibility, respect, discipline, and how to persevere. It gave me confidence in myself. I know that these are skills that will be with me for the rest of my life. I am definitely a better person for this experience.

Without the generosity of the Bill Crofut Fund, I would not have been able to spend so many years as a part of this organization. It seems that every year, the

tuition increases, and every year, it becomes harder for my family to manage the amount. Looking back, I can't remember a single year where there wasn't a possibility of my parents saying "You can't go back to Chorus this year." Thankfully, each year the Bill Crofut Fund came through and always granted me a generous amount of money. The financial situation might have been tight, but there was always hope.

This year, I was named Head Chorister in the Senior Choir. I couldn't have been happier. Suddenly other members of the Chorus were looking at me with admiration and respect. I remember when I was six, in the Training Choir, looking at the Junior Choristers in awe, wishing I could be like them. I remember being a Junior Chorister, watching the Senior Choir, watching my sister interact with other choristers, listening to the beautiful sound they made, longing to join them.

It seems that every story I tell begins with the words, "One time in rehearsal..." or "Once, at Chorus Camp..." constant reminders of how lucky I have been to be a part of Chorus Angelicus and how grateful I am to have the support and generosity of the Bill Crofut Fund. 



A MESSAGE TO ALL SANDISFIELD CHILDREN




Do you like to draw, paint, work with clay, sing, play an instrument, dance, act? The Bill Crofut Arts Fund for Children has funds available for you.

This fund, created in memory of Sandisfield resident and beloved folk singer Bill Crofut, was established to provide awards for the children of Sandisfield to encourage their interests in the arts.

Deadline: January 15, 2011 for the winter 2011 awards.

Who can apply: residents of Sandisfield under age 18 for financial help for programs or materials that foster arts training such as music or art lessons, camp tuition, educational trips and instruments. Teachers, instructors and organizations may apply for expenses directly related to arts training for Sandisfield children.

To apply, send a letter or an email requesting support for the particular activity or item. Explain the cost, the applicant's background, dreams and ambitions to Antonia Grumbach, 50 Sage Road, Sandisfield, MA 01255, or by email to amgrumbach@gmail.com. 

NEXT STOP SANDISFIELD

by Lorraine German

A tourist driving up Route 8 through Sandisfield would never suspect that this winding country road was once a major 19th century highway. What had begun as a simple path that followed the banks of the Farmington River was transformed soon after 1800, into the Lenox Turnpike, part of an interstate stage route that routinely carried mail and passengers between Hartford and Albany. In fact, Sandisfield had the good fortune of having two of its roads included in the larger turnpike systems of the early 19th century. The Lenox Turnpike passed through New Boston on its way to meet the Albany Road in Pittsfield, while the Sandy Brook Turnpike met the Waterbury Turnpike at the Connecticut line and passed through South Sandisfield and Sandisfield Center on its way to Great Barrington.

Turnpikes were roads that were financed, built and maintained by groups of private investors who formed turnpike corporations. The tolls were paid at designated points along the turnpike, called gates, and the type of vehicle determined the amount of the toll. After the toll was paid, the gate was moved and the traveler continued on his way.

One such gate, on the Lenox Turnpike, was located near Hawley's Inn, about two miles south of New Boston. Zina Hawley, like many other landowners along the route, was also an investor in the turnpike corporation, and therefore had a stake in its success.

As more and more turnpikes were built, they began to connect and intersect, creating larger turnpike systems. One of the most widely traveled routes in southwestern New England was the Hartford & Albany Turnpike, which wasn't a single turnpike at all, but a series of several smaller turnpikes connecting

Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York State. The Lenox Turnpike formed the Massachusetts leg, passing through New Boston, Otis, Lee, Lenox and Pittsfield.

As travel conditions improved, the U. S. government signed lucrative contracts with the stage companies to carry mail along their rapidly expanding routes. Because of its enviable location on two major turnpikes, Sandisfield became a bustling crossroads as several different stage lines brought passengers, mail and goods into town six days a week. Enterprize, Rice and Baker, Skinner's, Citizens' and Red Bird were just some of the names on the stages that came into Sand-




(Above, legendary Sandisfield stage driver, John G. Hall (1855-1931) at a stop in Monterey, c.1890. Sandisfield Historical Society collection).

isfield on a daily basis during the 19th century. Newspaper advertisements for stagecoach service through South Sandisfield, Sandisfield and New Boston first appeared about 1810. Competition for customers was fierce and stagecoach companies tried to outdo each other by touting better coaches, cheaper fares and faster routes.

As it turned out, the one thing that the stagecoach companies couldn't compete with was the railroad. Mile by mile, the iron tracks worked their way through the Housatonic and Farmington River valleys. By the 1850s, the stagecoach's heyday was over,

as trains carried passengers from town to town in less time and greater comfort. The role of the stagecoach was reduced to meeting passengers at the train station and to carrying mail to the post riders in the rural areas. Realizing that the future of transportation was with the railroad, a group of businessmen from New Boston and the surrounding towns met in Hitchcockville, CT in 1847. The purpose of their meeting was to investigate the possibility of extending the New Haven Railroad from Collinsville, CT north to Pittsfield, providing a link with the Western Railroad. The group hoped to provide transportation for passengers and freight between Pittsfield and Collinsville and to use the waterpower from the local rivers to encourage manufacturing. Backers of the proposal tried for more than 30 years to get the railroad built and Sandisfield was among the many towns that put up money for the venture. The railroad never materialized, however, and Sandisfield became isolated in its corner of the Berkshires as manufacturing and commerce moved elsewhere. An attempt was made to bring an electric trolley through Sandisfield in 1902, but that effort also failed. The result was that Sandisfield remained dependent on stagecoaches to provide mail service well into the 1920s.

The era of turnpikes and stagecoaches had brought a long period of prosperity to Sandisfield, making it one of the most important towns in Berkshire County. Although the loss of the railroad was a bitter disappointment, it turned out to be a blessing in one respect. Sandisfield's isolation was the key to its resurgence in the 20th century, as tourists and summer residents discovered that its untouched beauty was a welcome escape from the city. 

Lorraine German and her husband Steve are the owners of Mad River Antiques, LLC in North Granby, Conn. Steve's mother, Sylvia German, has lived in Montville since 1922.



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THE TOWN HAS BEEN BUSY...

By Patrick Barrett

The Sandisfield Board of Selectmen is pleased to announce the hiring of Steve Harasyko as the Town's new highway superintendent. Steve has spent the past twenty years working for the Bloomfield (CT) Public Works Department. In addition to a wealth of knowledge in road design, construction and plowing, Steve brings six years of supervisory experience to his new post. Prior to his tenure in Bloomfield, Steve spent two years working for the Sandisfield Highway Department; his extensive experience, coupled with local knowledge of our roads, will surely prove invaluable to the Town in the years to come. Please join us in congratulating Steve on his new appointment which will commence December 13th.

We would like to thank Joe Zeller for his extended stint as acting Highway Superintendent which began in July. Joe jumped right into this position with both feet, forging a solid working relationship with the Selectmen as well as working hard to meet the many needs of Sandisfield's residents with a reduced crew. We would also like to thank Bill O'Brien, Billy Perry, and David McCuin for their dedication and hard work during this challenging time.

On October 20, State Board of Health member Charlie Keniecki, along with Sandisfield Board of Health members Margaret O'Clair and Kathleen Segrin, successfully petitioned the Pittsfield Housing Court to tear down the Gross House at 95 South Main Street. We would like to thank Rick's Auto Parts of Torrington, Connecticut for hauling away the old camper in front of the Gross House. It is difficult to find companies willing to take junk campers and Rick not only did this for the Town, but also at an extremely reasonable rate. We appreciate the work Selectman Richard Campetti did in organizing this removal. On Monday, November 15, the Sandisfield Board of Selectmen awarded the demolition of the Gross House to Tryon Construction Company of Monterey. Tryon Construction not only submitted estimates to help us put forth a dollar amount for the Annual Town Meeting, but also did a wonderful job tearing down the Wilber House. We anxiously look forward to seeing this project through to completion as the transformation of our downtown area continues.

It is with great regret that the Sandisfield Board of Selectmen accepted the resignation of Sandisfield Board of Health member Margaret O'Clair. Margaret has been an integral member of this important Town board for years, and most recently via her countless hours of work cleaning up the Route 8 houses. We thank her for her years of service to the Town of Sand-

isfield. We owe her a debt of gratitude for helping to clean up our downtown area.

This month the Town of Sandisfield's new website will be up and running. Jean Atwater-Williams has spearheaded this project for the Town, and thanks to her efforts we will have a professional website at a fraction of the cost of our surrounding communities who are also on-line. Tina Sotis generously donated her time and talents in sprucing up the Town seal and using her design skills to produce a cover page for the website that the whole Town can take pride in. Putting her many years of public service to good use, Elaine O'Brien has spent numerous hours working with Jean to make certain that the website has all of the informational categories needed by a municipality. Richard Migot was nice enough to allow his professional photos to be used by the website committee. We would like to thank members of the former Sandisfield Newsletter for donating the \$3,500 needed to put this website together.

Thank you to Sandisfield Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko for all of her hard work in preparing for the November election. And we also thank all of the Sandisfield Election Officials for their part in helping carry on our democratic responsibilities. Thanks as well to all of the voters who participated in the election. Voter turnout was high as Sandisfield residents made their voices heard.

Cont'd p.9

FLORA BRIGGS RHODES (1923-2002)

By Ron Bernard

Flora Rhodes was born in East Greenwich, Rhode Island to Walter Briggs and Ruth Lowery. The Rhodes family moved to Sandisfield in 1958 and bought a place on Viets Road.

Flora wasted no time in contributing to her adoptive town, serving on numerous committees and boards. She was active in the Historical Society and the Sandisfield Taxpayer's Association as well as many state and county organizations. Flora served as an election official for nine years. She was a notary, a Justice of the Peace and a correspondent for the Berkshire Courier and Berkshire Eagle. But most of all she was an exemplary Town Clerk for 24 years.


At that time, Town Clerks were primarily concerned with record keeping, although they had to be involved in everything that was going on. Flora took the job very seriously and devoted her life to recording anything that had ever happened in town. She left us a priceless collection of vital cemetery records, family genealogies and piles of scrapbooks packed with news stories about fires and accidents and hard times. She also documented the town's progress, as well as all the positive family and human events. No mention of Sandisfield in any Connecticut or Massachusetts newspaper escaped her.

Flora was known as a positive happy person who only saw the best in people. She loved everything about the town and was its biggest cheerleader. At her surprise retirement party at Daffer's Restaurant in June, 1996 she said: "I find everything going along just fine, just like it always has. We haven't had a lot of controversy other towns have."

She transcribed arcane 18 and 19th century handwritten records. She opened a file on every family and attempted to complete each one's genealogy - by hand. She

meticulously recorded every marriage, birth and death on hundreds of index cards and then cross referenced each. Everything was manually typed, perfectly—no mistakes or cross-outs.

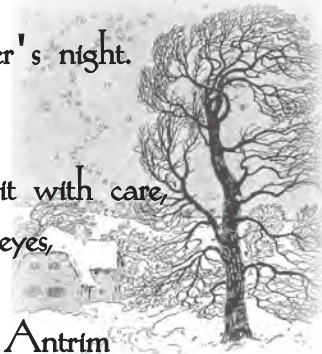
But there was more to her. Flora always made herself available, took an interest in everyone and actively helped other people to succeed. Roberta Myers recalls that Flora urged her to run for Selectman. Roberta did, and in 1977 became the first woman to hold that office in over 200 years. Flora was a walking encyclopedia about Sandisfield. Noel Nilson, long time Assessor, told a reporter: "Flora was the source of all knowledge for everything in Sandisfield and she was a great teacher." Current Town Clerk, Dolores Harasyko said it best: "Because of Flora's devotion and her impeccable attention to detail we have as complete a history as is possible of our town going as far back as 1738. This was more than a job to her. It

was her life and she truly enjoyed it. Flora is an inspiration to us all." She died in November, 2002 in Great Barrington and rests in Sandisfield cemetery. 



Brew me a cup for a winter's night,
For the wind howls loud
and the furies fight,
Spice it with love and stir it with care,
And I'll toast your bright eyes,
my sweetheart fair.

Minna Thomas Antrim





Recreation Committee

(The Scariest Folks in Town and more!)

by Rhee Kasky

Grown up folks don't usually get scared and scream and carry on. Unless of course they go to the Sandisfield Recreation Committee's Annual Haunted House at the American Legion Hall on Halloween weekend. Everyone told me that going to the Halloween party would be a whole lot of fun so I thought,


why not give it a shot? There we were, on October 30th, ushered in by the indomitable Robbin Campetti, who, along with her Recreation Committee members Tina Ferry and Lisa Leavenworth, engineered an event worthy of a Broadway production. And get scared, scream and carry on....we did.

From our first step into the "corn maze" I knew we were in trouble. All of a sudden from out of nowhere popped a very scary character who frightened me so much that I jumped back and stomped right on Bill Cohn's toe. He in turn scared the daylights out of Jean Atwater-Williams and Ron Bernard who were right behind us. Then we turned and found ourselves in a foggy cemetery with eerie grave stones and corpses. Next we then moved onward into the hall where at every turn there was a really spooky character. At one point there was a "person" who asked "Where is Alice?" Since Alice is my mother's name, I said, "She's in Florida" (which is true). Why did they want to know where my mother was?



There was more, much more, including hot chocolate and cupcakes as a reward if you managed to get to the end! So why don't you plan to come next Halloween and see what Robbin and her crew cook up? Suffice it to say, it was a wonderfully orchestrated event, held on both Friday and Saturday nights, and a lot of folks attended. Earlier in the week an event for the kids was equally terrific.



The Sandisfield Recreation Committee operates on a \$5,000 line item in our town budget. In addition to skillfully managing the Halloween Haunted House event, they produce the annual Easter Egg Hunt, march in the Memorial Day Parade, put together an End of the School Year Party and set up an Ice Skating Rink at the American Legion Hall. What a terrific bunch! Do try to attend their events – they're for all of us! 

Photos by Rhee Kasky and Jean Atwater-Williams

THE SANDISFIELD LIBRARY NEWS

Tara Beardsley, Library Trustee



Great news for our children! CHP has offered to sponsor a new program at our Library! Every Monday from 9:30-11:00 there will be story time followed by a craft. The program will be run by our very own Laura Messina. Those of you who know her, know that she is incredible with children, so all who attend are sure to have a great time.

And don't forget about our monthly "Story Hour" with Laurie Greene sponsored by the Friends of the Sandisfield Library! It is scheduled this month on the 18th at 12:00. Hope you can make it! Please be aware that the program follows the school calendar, so in the event that school is closed, the program will not run.

What's new at the library? More great titles including:

Christmas Morning by Margaret Maron
Coming Back by Marsha Muller
Full Dark No Stars by Stephen King
Our Kind of Traitor by John LeCarre
Hell's Corner #5 by The Camel Club-David Baldacci
The Hidden, A Novel of Suspense by Bill Pronzini
Crescent Dawn by Clive Cussler

And what about for the children? Here's what's new...

Chick 'n' Pug by Jennifer Sattler
Stanley's Little Sister by Linda Bailey
Oscar and the Very Hungry Dragon by Ute Krause
Merry Christmas, Mary Crow by Kathi Appelt
Super Snow Day by Michael Garland
 ...Just to name a few!

And as always, feel free to let us know what other titles you would like to read. We'll make it happen!

In the near future, we will be upgrading our Library system to an automated system called MassCat. It is a system designed to enhance resource sharing throughout the state. This will give us access to virtually unlimited resources. Our budget, however does not afford the ability to purchase patron cards to further simplify the system. For this reason we are

hoping that some generosity may be shown to answer the call of our wish list item: "patron cards." The cost to present all patrons with a library card is estimated at \$500.00.


Below you will find our current "Wish List"

- Computer Task Chair
- Patron Cards \$500.00
- DVD's (new titles can be purchased at Big Lots for as little as \$4.00)
- An "OPEN" flag with pole
- A Boot Scraper (to help keep our new rug clean!)

As a reminder, once again, our hours are:

Monday & Tuesday: 9-12:30
 Wednesday: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 Thursday: 2:30-5:30
 Saturday: 9-12:00
 Closed Friday and Sunday

**** Please note: in the event of inclement weather please call the library at 258-4966 to confirm they will be open during normal business hours. ****

Thank you! 



TOWN BUSINESS

Rhee Kasky

OCTOBER 18: Selectmen attending: Patrick Barrett, Richard Campetti, and Jeff Gray. Also attending: Joe Zeller, Acting Road Foreman. Absent: Dolores Harasyko (Town Clerk).

HIGHLIGHTS:

Interviews conducted with three candidates for Road Superintendent position.

Applicants: Steve Harasyko, Scott Worcester and Robert O'Brien, Jr. Chris Rines and Gary Bottum attended interviews and provided input to the Selectmen. The consensus was that each of the three candidates was well qualified for the position, and that Steve Harasyko with twenty years of experience in a similar position was a very strong candidate.

Elizabeth Pachulski's request for a cemetery deed was reviewed and signed.

Patrick is going to follow up on the state's Small Town Roads Assistance Program (STRAP) grants that make funds available to towns for critical road reconstruction programs.

Joe Zeller provided an update on the Highway Department:

- Gravel arriving for work on the dirt roads
- Leigh Tryon hopes to start work on Rte 57 culvert next week
- Sandisfield Highway Dept completed work on Abbey Road culvert
- Beaver problems on Roberts Road turned over to Victor Hryckvich/Board of Health, and a permit was issued to move the beavers.
- Joe recommended hiring two part-time drivers to fill the position of truck driver and then give the position to the person who does the best job.
- Joe reported two incidents of how the Highway Department and the Fire Department are working together. 1) Ralph Morrison asked the Highway Dept to replace a mailbox taken down in an accident involving a fire truck. 2) The Fire Dept and Highway Dept worked together during the storm drainage project.



OCTOBER 25: Selectmen attending: Patrick Barrett, Richard Campetti, and Jeff Gray. Also attending: Joe Zeller (Acting Road Foreman), Dolores Harasyko (Town Clerk).

HIGHLIGHTS:

Library Trustees Clare English and Tara Beardsley discussed a request from Community Health Program (CHP) about sponsoring story time/arts and crafts program for preschoolers on Monday mornings at Sandisfield Community Center. CHP would provide materials and there is no cost to the town. A motion was made, seconded and approved for the program to take place.

A request was made for new carpeting for the library.

Lowest quote for industrial strength carpet is \$1,650. Request was approved.

Selectmen discussed candidates for Road Superintendent. (Dolores excused herself for this discussion). Job awarded to Steve Harasyko who met all the qualifications and had more experience than the other candidates. He currently serves the town of Bloomfield, CT in this field of work.

Bidding will be set up for snow plowing of Tannery Road and two fire stations.

Gross Property (Rte. 8): Board of Health and Dept. of Public Works had court hearing with Mrs. Gross. Court ruled that house has to come down. Conservation Commission will set up Public Hearing. Demolition bids will be held on November 15.

Need handyman for odd jobs on town buildings.

Joe Zeller provided Highway Dept update:

- Culvert at Silverbrook Café is complete
- Culvert at Tuffy Campetti's will be completed this week.
- Joe will get quote from John Fields to remove the tops of the trees along Rte 57 and Cold Spring Road.
- There was a complaint about leaning trees on Fox Rd. but Highway Dept. had already removed them.



NOVEMBER 1: Selectmen attending: Patrick Barrett, Richard Campetti, and Jeff Gray. Also attending: Steve Harasyko, Road Superintendent, Joe Zeller (Acting Road Foreman). Absent: Dolores Harasyko (Town Clerk)

HIGHLIGHTS:

Steve Harasyko, new Road Superintendent, informed Selectmen that his first day will be December 13, 2010. He understands that he will be a salaried employee. He will receive two weeks vacation based on the fact that he will be providing his own benefits and his twenty years experience.

Steve would like to meet with Jeff Gray to review Rte 183 options. Will review core testing, options for better drainage, re-pitching the ditches, creating better shoulder cuts, culvert replacement. Joe Zeller stated that since August 15, the highway crew has been working continuously on road maintenance and are still behind. Steve will prioritize the work to be done on the roads. He will discuss the truck driver position with David McCuin.

Herb Burtis complained about the logging on Rood Hill Road. Patrick abstained from the discussion. Joe Zeller will follow up with Marty Cormier who is overseeing the job.

Received Mass DEP file number for Gross House.

Reviewed and signed annual Cultural Council Grant.

Reviewed and signed Mass211 Emergency contract information.

Berkshire Trail Riders Association is presenting check to emergency services. Patrick will represent Selectboard.

Discussed Route 8 and 57 bridge replacement project. There are concerns about the crosswalk, and the Tannery Road retaining wall. There was discussion about sidewalks, catch basins, overhead wires, drainage, and full depth reclamation, as well as traffic concerns. Jeff Gray will write up a list of concerns for submission to Mass DOT.

Cont'd p.8

Olde Sandisfield 2011 CALENDAR



REV. DOOLEY, NEW BOSTON 1909

APRIL 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Good Friday	2 Easter Sun	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1 May Day	2	3	4	5

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or mail a check made out to:

Town of Sandisfield History Book

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Otis, MA 01253.



AVIAN NOTES

Margaret O'Clair

FEED THE BIRDS ...OR NOT

To feed or not to feed wild birds is actually a good question. If you are thinking about starting, here are a few caveats and suggestions to help you make up your mind.

First of all it's not cheap. A twenty-pound bag of sunflower hearts runs between \$25 and \$30 and you will be surprised how quickly the birds go through it. Shell sunflower and supermarket mixes are less expensive and, wouldn't you know, less popular with the birds. Secondly, if you are a neat freak don't even think about setting up a feeder. Some birds, such as the nuthatches, are neat little



eaters, flying up to the feeders selecting a seed and flying away, but most birds are really messy. The Finch family stay perched at the feeder pulling out seed after seed before deciding to eat one. The seed is not wasted because birds such as cardinals and juncos are strictly ground feeders and do, to an extent, clean up the mess. Then there is the accumulation of seed husks, which by winter's end can be quite a pile. Snow and rain usually take care of the "poop" factor, but if you feed wild birds expect a certain amount of unsightliness around the feeding area. Last, if you are going away later in the winter and are not able to make arrangements to keep your

feeder stocked, it is not fair to the birds to start feeding now. They will be dependant on you and they will be abandoned when winter is the harshest and their need the greatest.

Not discouraged yet? Here are some suggestions to attract a variety of birds to your back yard:

Have more than one feeder with more than one type of food. I have six feeding stations on my patio, which I admit is a bit over the top. In order of popularity they are suet, sunflower hearts, black sunflower, safflower, Agway Berkshire mix and black thistle. All but the mix are in hanging tube type feeders. I have found that the little round seeds of milo and millet in the mix act like ball bearings in a hanging feeder, rolling over each other and pouring out on the ground, so I put the mix on a tray on the table. Avoid the fabric style "sock" feeder, even little birds have sharp claws and the material always rips open.



Photos: Audubon

The variety of feeders on the market is huge with prices from \$5 to \$45. I have put bird feeders and wine glasses in the same category. They are bound to break so there is absolutely no point in buying expensive ones. The birds aren't fussy so it is a matter of individual choice. It is important to place the feeder where there is nearby cover, shrubs or trees, but not so close a predator (the house cat) could hide and pounce.

If you have a young person on your holiday gift list, a bag of seed, a feeder and a beginner's bird book make a nice present.

Happy Holidays, readers. 🍷

The
Extravaganza
SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER
Saturday, December 11, 7PM
Adults \$5
Children under 14 Free!!
413-258-4100
info@sandisfieldartscenter.org

TOWN BUSINESS *Cont'd from p. 7*

NOVEMBER 8: Selectmen attending: Patrick Barrett, Richard Campetti, and Jeff Gray. Dolores Harasyko (Town Clerk), Also attending: Steve Harasyko, Road Superintendent, Joe Zeller (Acting Road Foreman).

HIGHLIGHTS:

Patrick reviewed progress on town website. Basic website should be up before Thanksgiving.

Steve Harasyko, Road Superintendent, discussed openings in Highway Department. David McCuin will take position of Junior Equipment Operator. (David is applying for hydraulics license) This will leave opening for Truck Driver Laborer. Ad for this position will run in Berkshire Eagle and Berkshire Record for two weeks.

Patrick discussed having "Meet and Greet" to introduce Steve to community.

Discussion regarding problems on the Board of Health. There are personnel issues and there was discussion about moving the Board of Health to the Old Town Hall. Margaret O'Clair was opposed to the move. It would require that the Planning Commission also move. Chris Rines, Planning Board Chairman was also opposed to the move. The move was necessitated by disruption caused in Town Hall during the Board of Health business hours. Victor Hryckvich was requested to attend the next meeting, along with the rest of the Board of Health to finalize the issue.

Discussion regarding grant for Yanner Park. Motion to proceed with the grant for forest assessment pending no fees required by the town was approved.

Gross House demolition was discussed. Richard has contacted company to remove the camper at a minimal cost of \$150. Bids have been requested by companies who can perform the demolition. There will be no rebuilding on this property.

Town will submit list of recommendations to Mass DOT regarding Route 8 and 57 bridge replacement.

Chris Rines commended Joe Zeller and Highway Dept for the good job they did on Viets Road.

Joe Zeller reported on highway projects:

- Discussed ice/storm today. Sandisfield was the first town in the area to respond, but there was a complaint by Barbara Riiska that they should have been better prepared.

- Culvert by Tuffy Campetti's house is almost complete. 🍷

THE SANDSFIELD WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Info: Charlene Peet - 258-4166.

The selections for meetings to be held at 7PM at the Sandisfield Library in 2011:

JAN. 19 *Did My Mama Like to Dance?* by Terry McMillan, Amy Tan, Barbara Kingsolver and others.

FEB. 16 *Seventh Heaven* by Alice Hoffman

MAR. 16 *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Nicholas Kristof and Sherry WuDunn

APR. 29 *The Sunflower* by Simon Wiesenthal

MAY 18 *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout

JUNE 15 *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* by Jamie Ford

JULY 20 *Sarah's Key* by Tatiana de Rosnay

FYI, the December book, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows, is at the Library.

Thanks to Rosanne for hosting the potluck.

**"SAVE THE DATE" FOR OUR 11TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA
AT THE OLD STONE HOUSE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2010 FROM 1PM ON.**



Adam Manacher

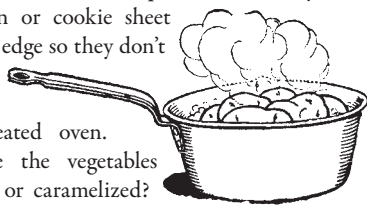
VEGGIES ROASTING ON AN OPEN FIRE!

Fire up the oven! Here's a way to turn those routine winter vegetables into something spectacularly delicious: roast them! People think of meat when they think of roasting. Vegetables can also benefit from a little kitchen magic that will transform them from the boring "side" on the plate to a flavorful accompaniment that will enhance the entire meal.

Roasting removes the moisture and maintains the flavors, which become more concentrated. Many vegetables can be roasted to a point where they begin to caramelize, gaining the added benefit of an appealing color and sweetness of taste.

Almost all vegetables roast well. Winter provides us with an abundance from which to choose: beets, carrots, celery root, fennel, hard squashes, mushrooms, onions, parsnips, potatoes and sweet potatoes, turnips and many more. Roasting is a very simple process that requires few steps and a little time for cutting. Prepare all vegetables by washing, peeling off any inedible outer layer (on the squashes and celery root for example) and removing any seeds (squashes). Do you want your vegetables to be wedges or just diced? It is up to you. Cut the vegetable evenly into the size you would like to serve. Be sure the pieces are relatively similar in size so that they cook evenly. And be sure the pieces are dry. Any additional moisture will steam the vegetable instead of the letting the dry oven heat work its magic.

In a bowl, lightly toss the vegetable with a little olive oil; just enough to lightly coat the pieces. Add a pinch of kosher salt to enhance flavor. You can also add a few crushed herbs such as rosemary or sage and even garlic for a more distinctive taste. Spread them evenly on a flat sheet pan or cookie sheet (with a raised edge so they don't fall off!) and pop them into a preheated oven. Do you like the vegetables soft, crunchy or caramelized? Again, you can decide and cook



them to your preference. Cooking time will vary. It can be as little as 10 minutes or as much as an hour. Oven temperature will dictate the time and finished product. The temperature you choose will depend on several factors such as the type of vegetable, how much time you have and the final product you want to serve. A slow roasting at 325° will intensify the flavor and will need added time. This works best with the hardest vegetables like beets, carrots and celery root. The temperature can be increased to 475° at the end of the cooking time to caramelize them. Cooking at a high temperature from the start will give a caramelized finish with a slightly crunchy al dente quality to the vegetable. Experiment with different vegetables and temperatures and find what you like best!

Planning to roast more than one vegetable? Then it's preferable to keep them separate on the cooking sheet as this makes it much easier to control how much each individual vegetable cooks. Need to prepare your vegetable ahead of time? Most roasted vegetables can be cooked the day before and quickly reheated in a 400° oven.

Here is a simple recipe for oven roasted root vegetable soup that can use any variety of winter vegetables. It's great for a cold winter afternoon.

Preheat oven 425°. One cup each of carrots, onion, butternut squash, fennel, beets, and mushrooms all cut into wedges or large cubes. One or two cloves garlic lightly crushed. Toss each vegetable separately with a little olive oil and spread out on one or two sheet pans. Roast for 25 to 35 minutes. Check frequently and with a spatula, gently stir the vegetables so that they brown evenly. Be aware that they start browning slowly but as they get closer to being done they brown quickly. Some vegetables should be removed before others as you do not want any to burn or they will be bitter. Remove to a platter. You will have about 4 cups of cooked vegetables. Transfer half the roasted vegetables to a blender and add 2 cups of chicken or vegetable stock or, if you prefer, water. Blend thoroughly until you have a smooth consistency. Add additional liquid as necessary to keep the puree liquid enough to run through the pureeing process. Transfer your puree into a heavy pot for reheating. Repeat the pureeing with the remaining vegetables. Heat gently and add salt to taste. To finish your soup you may add a tablespoon or two of dry sherry or sherry vinegar (such as vinegar de Jerez) for a more developed and intense flavor. And when you serve your soup, don't forget to add a nice dollop of sour cream or yogurt! 🍴

OUR BUSY TOWN

Cont'd from p.5

We would like to thank Barbara Colorio for welcoming the Sandisfield Recreation Committee to the ballroom of the historic New Boston Inn for the annual children's Halloween Party. The Sandisfield Recreation Committee did a wonderful job organizing this event and Barbara's generosity in hosting this event made for a special evening. We would like to thank Lisa Leavenworth, Tina Ferry, Robbin Campetti and everyone who worked to put on the Haunted Halls at the Sandisfield VFW. This event was well attended

by community members and was an important part of this year's Halloween experience. We would also like to extend a special thanks to everyone in Sandisfield who opened their houses to our trick-or-treaters. We are fortunate to live in a community that goes out of its way to support their children.

Last but not least we would like to thank the Sandisfield Historical Society for hosting their annual wine and cheese open house at their facility on Route 183. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet friends before the winter hibernation and to talk about our town's rich history. 🍴



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HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOLDS ANNUAL WINE AND CHEESE SOCIAL

On Sunday, November 7, the Sandisfield Historical Society hosted an open house reception at its headquarters in South Sandisfield, the former "Meeting House" built in 1909. The event started in the 1980s as a way for the membership to become better acquainted and for prospective new members to learn about the Society's aims and programs. About 50 people enjoyed the 2010 event, many bringing delicious homemade dishes and baked goods.



President Norton Fletcher said, "We really look forward to this every year. The turnout today is very encouraging and a good sign of the increasing interest in the Town's heritage as we approach our 250th anniversary in 2012." 

Photos of Wine & Cheese Party:
Jean Atwater-Williams



FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BULLETIN



Tara Beardsley

Two of Farmington River Elementary students' favorite annual events are coming up! The PTO will be opening it's annual holiday shop from Nov. 29th thru Dec. 3rd. Students are not required to buy, however the shop allows students the opportunity to purchase inexpensive gifts for their loved ones which they can surprise them with during Hanukkah or on Christmas morning!

The Scholastic Book Fair will be running from Dec. 13th thru Dec. 17th. Children will be allowed to visit the Fair in order to make a "Wish List" of the items that they would like. They will return to purchase their items on a future day.

Volunteer are always needed! Anyone willing to help out at the Holiday Shop or Book Fair is asked to contact Cathy Cardaropoli at frsppto@yahoo.com or call the school at 269-4466. Thank you in advance for your help!

FRES's first trimester is coming to a close. Report cards will be sent home with your child on December 13th. There will be a half day on Dec. 15th in order for the school to hold Parent/Teacher conferences. You may call the school at 269-4466 to arrange your child's conference after November 29th. Please note that no childcare will be provided. Also, the Book Fair will be open during conferences so you will have the opportunity to visit and purchase gifts for your child and/or donate a book to their teacher's classroom during that time.


FRES would like to thank all of the families who were able to donate items to our annual Food Drive. We were able to collect a lot of great items for the baskets which were distributed to Sandisfield and Otis residents in need this holiday season. Your generosity was much appreciated!

The school is also still looking for volunteers for the School Council. If you are interested please contact Mrs. Turo.



Below you will find a list of upcoming school events:

- Dec. 2nd Picture Re-takes
- Dec. 13-17 Book Fair
- Dec. 15: ½ Day Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Dec. 23-Jan 2 No School- Winter Break
- Jan 17th No School- Martin Luther King Day

Please visit the School's website at farmingtonriverelementary.com for other school related information. 



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Country Diary

Mick Burns

METACOM, 2.0.

This is the second of two installments of the story of Metacom (ca. 1639–August 12, 1676), also known as King Philip, a war chief (or sachem) of the Wampanoag Indians. Continual encroaching on his land by the Iroquois Confederation from the west and the Plymouth Colony from the east led to hostilities and the terrible battles of King Philip's War.

By December of 1675 the terror produced by the Natives' attacks among the English settlers of Massachusetts resulted in the raising of an army that included Connecticut, Massachusetts and Plymouth Colony volunteers. This army, over 1000 strong, was the largest force ever assembled up to that time. Gathering on the west side of Narragansett Bay, the Colonists by chance captured an Indian who offered to guide the force to a place called The Great Swamp where perhaps 3000 Indians were gathered in a fortified village on an island. On December 19, a cold and snowy day, the Colonists arrived at the village in the afternoon. After being briefly driven back by musket fire, the army gained entry to the village and a brutal fight ensued. As darkness came on, the Colonists torched the wigwams and the fight continued within the inferno until the Indians fled into the frozen swamp. Some 600 native men, women and children were, as the famous clergyman Cotton Mather later wrote, "terribly barbikew'd." The Colonists, having lost some 50 men of their own, regrouped in January, followed the trail of the survivors north to Massachusetts, then disbanded.

This terrible event resulted in the Narragansets and Pocassets, eager for revenge, joining Metacom's force on a new round of raids. With renewed enthusiasm, the attacks on English settlements began again in the early spring of 1676. Many towns were abandoned as the Natives simultaneously staged attacks in various places in New England. The Towns of Sudbury, Groton, Medfield, Lancaster and Marlborough in central Massachusetts were attacked. In Rhode Island, Warwick, Wickford, then Providence, were burned. In western Massachusetts, Northampton and Longmeadow and then the Connecticut town of Simsbury were raided. The momentum seemed to be with the Natives; even the powerful Colony of Plymouth was attacked. It is likely that the "King Phillips Stockade" on the edge of Longmeadow (see last month's *Sandisfield Times*), was built and used as headquarters during this time.

Despite all their "success" during these raids, several factors would combine to turn the tide against the Indians. True, more than half the settlements in New England had been attacked, many completely destroyed. Certainly the Natives had instilled a deep and lasting fear into the English consciousness. But sustaining these attacks had come with a price. Supplies were low, traditional fishing and farming sites were abandoned and the Indians began to worry about their families starving. In addition, as hostilities escalated, the English forces were fortified by the addition of sympathetic groups of Mohegans, Pequots, Praying Indians and some of Metacom's warriors who had been won over to the whites.

The hopefulness of Metacom's forces slowly began to shift toward dismay. In April, Canochet, a Narragansett Sachem was captured and sentenced to be killed. A Pequot was allowed to shoot him. His body was then quartered and burned and his head was sent to the authorities in Hartford. By June, many of the Native warriors had been killed, captured and sold into slavery (this happened to Metacom's wife and children!), or had capitulated and joined the effort against Metacom. It was the treachery of his own people which led to Metacom's eventual demise. The victories began to accumulate for the English: in July in Rhode Island, 170 warriors were captured or killed, then 80 more. In a bizarre turn of events, a Nipmuc Sachem named Sagamore John, with 180 of his men marched into Boston with their war leader, Matoonas, securely tied in ropes. At the Common, Matoonas was publicly shot by Sagamore John.

In August, Metacom, now feeling the desperation of his plight, returned to his home in Mount Hope, Rhode Island (an English corruption of the word "Montaup"). When one of his men suggested that the Indians try to make peace with the English, Metacom had the man killed. The slain man's brother immediately defected to the English, and on August 12, 1676, after personally guiding the Colonists to the Wampanoag's hideout, shot twice into the heart of a fleeing Metacom, killing him instantly. The war was over except for the so-called "mopping up" of straggling bands. It was, perhaps, the last, most remote of the bands which, on the banks of the Housatonic River in Great Barrington were "overtaken and dispersed." The English detail coming upon the sleeping Indians in the early morning, had the element of surprise on their side, and after the slaughter, the bushes were "smeared with blood."

Metacom's body was also quartered and his head taken to Plymouth Colony and mounted on a pole where it remained on public display for 25 years!

Note: I came across parts of this history in various books over the years. The most complete and useful account appeared in a book called "The Patriot Chiefs" by Alvin M. Josephy, Jr. (Viking, 1961).

The Extravaganza! A Holiday Tradition



On Saturday, December 11th at 7PM, the Sandisfield Arts Center will present the Eighth Annual "Extravaganza!" Ticket price for adults is \$5, while children under 14 are admitted free.

Everyone is invited to come together to celebrate the season at this familiar and festive event, which will once again feature a diverse and delightful program.

There are dancers (rumor has it that there will be men in tutus!), Becki Olivieri and Sierra Labbe will entertain us with their beautiful voices and a chorus of perhaps 40 children from the Farmington River School will serenade us.

The program also includes two short dramas. One is about the problems of receiving "eight maids a milking" for Christmas. The second will focus on Father Christmas and the challenges he faces at the North Pole as he prepares to deliver presents.

In keeping with tradition, our beloved Val Coleman will read one of his memorable tales. And then we will raise the roof together, singing carols and songs to bring in the season!

So come, sample delicious holiday refreshments, mulled cider and mulled wine and join your friends and neighbors in the special joyous spirit of the season.

HEALTH BOARD CHAIR QUILTS AFTER CLASH

by Setsuko Sato Winchester

Margaret O'Clair, 64 years old, and long time member of the Board of Health has resigned. She has cited a "clash of personalities" with another member of the board, Kathleen Segrin, as the reason for her decision.

Ms. O'Clair has lived in Sandisfield since 1979 and has been prominent in town affairs for all of her residence here. She had a particular fondness for her duties at the Board of Health, where she played a central role in the debates concerning the houses on Route 8. Her other duties involved inspection of restaurants, businesses and homes to insure they met state and local sanitary standards. At a weekly Selectmen's meeting on November 15, the Selectmen accepted her resignation with great regret.



To The Editor:

I was driving towards Monterey, when I spotted a giant hawk across the road from the Oak Glen Farm (midway between West Street and the center of Monterey). I only got a passing glimpse, but it appeared to be a large hawk with a dark reddish breast, perched on the top limb of an old dead oak tree. When I stopped to get a better look, it took off, with wings spread wide. The wide flat wings contrasted sharply with the large round torso. When I returned home, I pulled out my Peterson Field Guide on Eastern Birds, to see if I could identify what I had seen. I thought I had identified the bird, but decided to call Margaret O'Clair, as I thought she might be interested in my hawk sighting. I had just finished reading *The Sandisfield Times* and Margaret's monthly column, *Avian Notes*, and thought, "What better person to call?"

I identified myself to Margaret and said:

"I've been reading your column and I wanted to tell you that I enjoyed it very much."

"Well...why thank you...Thank you very much."

I described the bird that I had seen.

"Was it low to the ground?" she asked.

"Well, it was perched on the top branch of a dead tree, across the road from the old farm on the way to Monterey."

"But was it low to the ground or was it high in the tree?" she asked again.

"Well...I guess it was only about twenty feet off the ground, so I guess I would say it was low to the ground."



"Okay, that sounds like a Northern Harrier. They have a dark red breast. Another one was spotted recently and that's most likely what you saw."

I looked in my Peterson's Guide again and the side

view showed a dark red breast.

"Yes that's it...I'm looking in the guide...It might be the same one I saw. Are they common around here?" I asked.

"No...not too common." And that was that - it was a Northern Harrier Hawk that I saw. In the past when I've spotted an interesting bird and have tried to identify it, I have never really been sure that I was correct. This time, with the help of Margaret, I'm certain it was a Northern Harrier Hawk that I spotted.

So, thank you, Margaret.

Larry Dwyer, West Street



To The Editor:

I want to thank Liana Toscanini for her very enjoyable article about Henry Manley in the October issue of the *Sandisfield Times*. I especially appreciated seeing the accompanying photograph, the first I had ever seen of the man and his goatee and handlebar mustache. He also wrote wonderfully humane articles about Sandisfield for the *Winsted Evening Citizen*.

According to the 1909 Town of Sandisfield Annual Report, Hen Manley juggled several jobs besides newspaperman including inspecting slaughters, driving the hearse, and constable!

Thank you, Liana.

Charlotte Westhead

Liana's reply: Thanks Charlotte – but credit for the photo goes to Ron Bernard who is unearthing wonderful vintage images every week in the process of doing research for the forthcoming book, "Sandisfield Then & Now."



SPECIAL NOTICE FROM THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS

The Assessor's office reminds you that every year a Data Verification Program is conducted in order to accurately assess the homes in our town. Mayflower Valuation, Ltd, an outside contractor, was hired to work on the program for us this fall. Their inspector carries a letter from our Assessor's office and he or she has a copy of your property report card. The purpose of the Data Verification Program is to conform to the Department of Revenue's standard guidelines for all municipalities. Every third year the DOR monitors our data by performing a random data quality check, requesting samples from between 2%-5% of the properties in each classification and performing on-site investigations to verify the accuracy of our reports. If, for any reason, the samples are in excess of 10% incorrect, that would signal that corrective action needs to be taken. Such an action could include a full, community-wide data verification inspection prior to the establishment of the town's tax rate. To avoid this costly expense, the Assessor's office has a 10-year cyclical program in order for the town to comply with the guidelines. The selection of the organization (this year, Mayflower Valuation, Ltd) is non-biased so there is no favoritism and your privacy is protected. If you are approached for this survey, your cooperation would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions about these inspections, please do not hesitate to call the Assessor's office at 413-258-4701.

History's Mysteries

Photo is early 1900s labeled as "Windy Crest Residence of Edward Manntey New Boston"
If you can identify this place, contact Ron Bernard at info@SandisfieldThenAndNow.org
or call 413-269-0012.



Now Hear This!

If you have an event that you would like to see listed here, please email Liana Toscanini at calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org or call 413-441-9542. We reserve space for those events that involve Sandisfield residents or that take place in Sandisfield and neighboring communities.

DECEMBER EVENTS

Wednesday, December 1, 7PM, Sandisfield History Book Committee Meeting, Library. All welcome. 269-0012

Saturday, December 4, 10AM-2PM. Annual Christmas Fair sponsored by the Sandisfield Historical Society. Fire House No. 2, Route 57. Craft and tag sale, baked goods, lunch, raffle, vendors and Santa!

Saturday, December 11, 7PM THE EXTRAVAGANZA, Sandisfield Arts Center. Adults \$5, Children under 14 Free. In the Gallery: CATA Art Exhibit through Dec 11. 258-4100.

Thursday, December 16, 7PM Town Hall Annex. 250th Birthday Committee Meeting. All welcome.

Saturday, December 18 Noon-12:45PM. Story Hour. For Children pre-school to Age 8. Sandisfield Library. Info: Laurie Green at 258-4966.

ONGOING EVENTS

Town Meetings (Info call 258-4711)

SELECTMEN, every Monday at 7PM. Town Hall Annex.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION, third Tuesday of the month at 7PM. Town Hall Annex.

BOARD OF HEALTH, first Wednesday of the month at 9AM. Town Hall Annex.

PLANNING BOARD, second Monday of the month 6PM. Town Hall Annex.

BOARD OF ASSESSORS, second Wednesday of the month 5PM. Town Hall Annex.

COUNCIL ON AGING, every Wednesday 11AM. Town Hall Annex.

Every Monday, 9:30-11AM. Story Time followed by a craft. Sandisfield Library. Led by Laura Messina. Sponsored by CHP. Info: 258-4966.

1st Wednesday of every month, 11AM-2PM, Council on Aging, Town Hall Annex. Monthly birthdays celebration, Pot luck lunch and Bingo.

3rd Saturday of the month through December, Noon-12:45, Story Hour for Children preschool to Age 8. Sandisfield Library. Info: Laurie Green at 258-4966.

4th Wednesday of every month, 11AM-2PM, Council on Aging, Town Hall Annex. Free blood pressure screening.

3rd Saturday of the month through December, Noon-12:45, Story Hour for Children pre-school to Age 8. Sandisfield Library. Info: Laurie Greene at 258-4966.

1st Sunday, 9AM New Boston Congregational Church worship service and communion.



Edmund Hamilton Sears (April 6, 1810 – January 14, 1876) was an American Unitarian parish minister and author who wrote a number of theological works influencing 19th century liberal Protestants.


Born on April 6, 1810, the youngest of three sons of Joseph and Lucy (Smith) Sears, Edmund grew up on a farm within sight of the Berkshire Hills, in Sandisfield, Massachusetts. Sears is known today primarily as the man who penned the words to "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" in 1849. 



Photo by Richard B. Megot

*It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men
From heavens all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing...*

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We welcome advertising and offer an ad rate sheet which can be downloaded off of our website or please email advertising@sandisfieldtimes.org and we will be happy to send you one.



SANDISFIELD TOWN DIRECTORY

AMBULANCE: 911 Non-Emergency: 258-4742

ANIMAL WARDEN / DOG OFFICER
Kim Spring: 258-4450

ASSESSORS OFFICE: 258-4701
Office Hours: M-Th 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Meets second Wed every month at 5 PM

BOARD OF HEALTH: 258-4053
Meets first Wed every month at 9 AM

BOY SCOUTS (Local): 258-4460

BUILDING INSPECTOR Eric Munson Jr.: 258-4590

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: 258-4712
Meets third Tues, 7pm

CONSTABLES
Nazario Sanchez: 258-4705 Joseph Zeller: 258-4836

COUNCIL ON AGING
Mary Slater 258-4778
Wed: 11 AM – 2 PM Senior Center/Town Hall Annex

DUMP HOURS
Wed: 1 PM – 4 PM Sat/Sun: 9AM – 3 PM

FINANCE COMMITTEE Kathy Jacobs: 258-4487

FRIENDS OF YANNER PARK Robbin Campetti: 258-4615

FIRE DEPARTMENT Emergency: 911
Ralph Morrison, Fire Chief: 258-4742

FARMINGTON RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOL
North Main Street, Otis, MA
Jo Ann D. Austin, Superintendent: 413 269-4466
FRRSD **SCHOOL COMMITTEES** meets first Mon, 7 PM

GIRL SCOUTS Tara Beardsley (413) 717-1427

HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PO Box 513 Meets 2nd Saturday of every month
Norton Fletcher, President: 258-4520

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Elaine O'Brien: 258-4701 John Skrip: 258-4788

LIBRARY: 258-4966
Monday & Tuesday: 9-12:30
Wednesday: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Thursday: 2:30-5:30
Saturday: 9-12:00

MA. POISON CONTROL CENTER 800 682-9211

OLD TOWN HALL, Silverbrook Road - 258-4170

PLANNING BOARD
Meets second Monday every month @ 6 PM

POLICE – LOCAL _Emergency: 911
Michael Morrison, Police Chief
258-4742 Non-Emergency: 258-4742
POLICE – STATE Lee Barracks: 413 243-0600

POST OFFICE: 258-4940
Window Hours:
Mon – Fri: 8 AM – 12:30 PM & 1 PM – 4 PM
Sat: 9 AM – 11:30 AM
Lobby Hours: M-F: 8AM – 4:30PM Sat: 8AM – 12 PM

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT: 258-4979 Steve Harasyko

SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER
5 Hammertown Road
PO Box 31 258-4100 www.sandisfieldartscenter.org

SELECTMEN: 258-4711
Mon at 7 PM except July & August on alternate Mondays

STATE OFFICIALS
Benjamin B. Downing, State Senator: 413 442-4008
Email: Benjamin.Downing@state.ma.us
Smitty Pignatelli, State Representative.: 413 637-0631
Email: rep.smittypignatelli@hou.state.ma.us

TAX COLLECTOR: Edna Leavenworth: 258-4977
Mon – Wed: 9 AM – 12 AM

TOWN CLERK: Dolores Harasyko
PO Box 163 sandisfieldtownclerk@wildblue.net
Town Hall Annex: 258-4075
Mon-Thurs: 8AM – 2PM Mon: 6PM – 7pm

TOWN GARAGE: 258-4979

TOWN HALL ANNEX: Mon – Thurs: 8 AM – 2 PM
Secretary: 258-4711; Fax: 258-4225

TOWN TREASURER: Clare English: 258-4712
Mon, Wed 9 AM – 3 PM

VETERANS SERVICES Paul S. Edelman
Great Barrington Town Hall: 413 528-1580
Mon – Thurs: 7 AM – 3 PM

(December 1, 2010)

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



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