

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

Tribunus



Plebis

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume I, Number 11

March 2011

A LEGAL RIGHT TO FARM? THE BENEFITS—AND THE RISKS

Sandisfield is one of the few New England towns that does not thus far have a Right to Farm by-law on its books. Debate on the issue will begin in earnest when a proposal to write such a law appears on the warrant for our May 14th Town meeting – debate between those who welcome a by-law for offering protection for family farming and those who fear it will open the doors to allowing Kansas-style feedlots on our spacious meadows. LARRY DWYER sorts out the main issues.

Before the Right to Farm laws were enacted, many courts would shut down farm operations because the noise and odors would disturb their new neighbors. As urbanites migrate to rural areas, the intrusion of city life into the rural life inevitably leads to conflict. The former city dwellers, expecting to wake up to a refreshing warm sunny day to hear the chirping of birds and breathe the crisp country air, would instead rise to the noise of roaring machinery, the early morning crowing of a rooster or the wafting smell of manure. Irritated, the new residents would file

complaints with town officials and, if not satisfied, their arguments would invariably wind up in court.

Some judges tried to find middle ground and ended up applying restrictions that would let farming operations continue, although residents would not always reach a suitable compromise. Such was the case in Wilmington, Massachusetts in 2008. Residents there complained that they had been subjected to unbearable odors from the Krochmal Farm, a 900-pig factory operation, in neighboring Tewksbury. The pigs sat in pens, above a half-million-gallon manure pit – yet according to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources, the farm was operating within normal acceptable practices. The town finally approved tough new regulations in 2008, but final approval was required by the state legislature.

Andy Snyder, owner of “When Pigs Fly Farm” in Sandisfield, is in favor of adopting the Right to Farm by-law. He received a complaint from a former neighbor, and his story is a perfect *Cont’d p.4*



Photo: Old Sturbridge Village

Our Oldest Quilt Comes Home at Last. Maybe.

By Debbie Harris

A quilt is defined by *Webster's College Dictionary* as “a coverlet for a bed, made of two layers of fabric with some soft substance between them and stitched in patterns through all thicknesses to prevent the filling from shifting”. This art form, which was probably introduced to Europe by the Crusaders in the 12th century, was still rare in late 18th and early 19th century America. At that time most women were busy making cloths for their families, and bed covers were more economically commercially purchased; only the wealthy had the time to engage in the art of quilting.

One such quilt was made in Sandisfield in the late 1700's. This quilt is made of blue wool wholecloth (i.e., made from a solid piece of fabric as the top layer). It contains three strips of dark blue calamanco (a glossy woolen fabric with a checked pattern on one side) and is stitched in the rococo style with an all over floral vine with leaves and cross-hatched flowers; there is a pineapple motif at the center bottom. The background is filled with diagonal, parallel lines ½ inch apart and there is a feathered vine motif along the edges. It measures 82 ¼" x 81 ¼".

The quilt, according to an attached handwritten label, was made by one Miss Elizabeth Mather. Miss Mather was married to Constant Bosworth, Jr. of Sandisfield in 1795. She died in Lowville, NY in 1811. The quilt was handed down to *Cont'd p.2*

Shoveler on the Roof. It's Snow Joke!



Adam Manacher sped home from Boston to take care of his barn roof.

Photo: Setsuko Winchester



Photo: Michael Lutynski

Please Sir, Can I Have Some More? Porkey Comes A-Calling *By Michael Lutynski*

As autumn was turning into winter, two porcupines were busy cleaning up the apples on two of our trees in the back yard. One of the critters, the smaller of the two and I'm guessing a female, had a sore left front paw and wasn't able to climb the trees. She happily ate the fallen apples on the ground while the bigger guy - Porkey - was able to climb and get first pick of the harvest. Gradually all the apples were eaten and they decided to hang out under our front porch. Porkey learned that if he behaved like a cute little beggar a human just might take pity on him and spare some food. Both of them were getting by on our handouts until the female was out in the woods when the first big January snow storm hit and she got stranded - or hopefully found her way to some woodland shelter. Porkey wasn't so adventurous and remains until today reaping the rewards of a successful cute little beggar. He likes bread - sourdough, whole wheat & Italian . . . and of course apples. When he meets up with his critter buddies in the spring I'm sure he'll get loads of compliments - "Hey, you look GOOD! . . . quite plump, great looking fur and nice sharp quills. Where have you been?"

SANDISFIELD QUILT

Cont'd from p.1

Elizabeth Mather Bosworth's descendents for the next century, and thereby traveled from New York to Pennsylvania to Wisconsin. The handwritten history ends with the quilt being passed down to a Frances Elizabeth Peck (who was born in Chicago in 1894 as the great, great granddaughter of Elizabeth Mather). The handwritten label attached to the quilt also indicates that the family is descended from Cotton Mather, but this reporter could not verify that claim with an online search of genealogical records.

What happened to the quilt in the 20th century is unknown, although it was apparently well preserved. In 2004 it was purchased by Old Sturbridge Village from somewhere/someone in the South. According to Rebecca Beall, textile collections curator at Old Sturbridge Village, the quilt is very fragile and very heavy.

Recently our Sandisfield quilt was part of a display of quilts at Old Sturbridge Village and has now been rotated off the exhibit (the quilts, because they are fragile, can only be exposed to constant light for 3-4 months at a time). Although it is not known when this quilt will again be displayed at the Village it can still be seen by Sandisfield residents. The entire exhibit (including the Sandisfield quilt) is available online at www.osv.org/quilts. Also, a special viewing can be arranged by calling Old Sturbridge Village and talking to Ms. Beall. It is further hoped that we can arrange a loan of the quilt for our 250th anniversary celebration so that all of our residents can see this beautiful and historic product of Sandisfield.

LET THERE BE LIGHT! A CRUCIAL DECISION FOR THE TOWN

By Jean Atwater-Williams

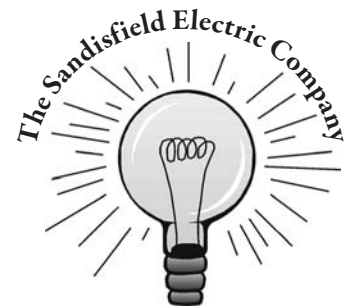
At our annual town meeting in May 2011, voters will be asked what may at first seem a very odd question. We will be asked to vote on whether to establish a "municipal lighting plant". Municipal Light Plant legislation was created over 100 years ago to enable towns to form their own electric departments. In the 1950s, community television was added, and in the 1990s the law was amended so towns could provide telecommunications.

WiredWest, the community organization that has been working on our behalf to build a municipal fiber-optic network in Western Massachusetts, came up with an innovative solution: create a public cooperative comprised of member Municipal Light Plant (MLP) towns. In order to participate in the Wired West Cooperative, our town must form an MLP by passing the warrant article with a two-thirds majority of voters present at each of two town meetings. If we fail to pass the warrant at either meeting, by law we must wait two years to try again, a delay we cannot afford.

Creating the MLP incurs no cost to the town. There does not need to be a town "plant" nor does the town need to provide electricity. If the MLP elects to join the WWC, there will be a membership fee of not more than \$1,000. Participation in the WWC is voluntary, and towns may choose to leave the cooperative at any time up until the point of project financing.

Wired West has set a deadline of June 30, 2011 for participation in the cooperative as a founding member town. Unfortunately, because our first vote will not be until the annual town meeting in May and our second vote must take place at least 60 days later, we may not be able to participate in the earliest stages of the organization. We may also not be one of the first towns to be cabled. But passing the warrant is the critical first step to getting every student, citizen and business in our town connected to state of the art high speed internet, phone and TV.

If you have any questions, please contact Jean Atwater-Williams at 413-269-0012 or atwaterwilliams@gmail.com. (Jean is Chair of the Sandisfield Technology Committee and the Town Delegate to Wired West.) For more information about Wired West and the MLP legislation, visit www.Wired-West.net.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*With Love, From Sandisfield's
Village Green to Cairo's Tahrir Square*

One of the facts of Sandisfield life, or for that matter life anywhere in the Berkshires, is that you find yourself spending a lot of time driving the car. From January 25th and on through most of February, I have driven through snow storm after snow storm while transfixed to the car radio as the Egyptian people took their country's future into their own hands.

It was a drama like few others. One day a crowd gathered in Tahrir Square and the next day the crowd grew. The next day it grew some more. Military action only brought more determination for non-violent and sustained protest. The people made demands which were met by a tepid government response. Just when you thought it was all for naught and the energy of the people's movement would dissipate, an unlikely hero emerged and reinvigorated the charge.

As the tensions rose, the stakes and expectations grew higher. When rumors that the President would step down did not materialize, one could almost taste the disappointment and anger of the crowds. The sense that things could go horribly wrong at any moment for thousands, maybe millions, was deeply distressing. Then Hosni Mubarak, a dictator who ruled Egypt under a permanent state of emergency for thirty years, suddenly stepped down. The country was elated. The world was stunned. The people had spoken and found they were able to effect change. A people hitherto thought powerless found that, against all odds, they actually had power, and they wielded it with what turned out to be unimaginable consequences.

Now you may wonder, what do events in the Nile River Valley have to do with those of us who live by the Farmington and the Clam? Well, listening to the precious words, we want a "government of the people, by the people, for the people," the words of Abraham Lincoln in his Gettysburg Address, words I grew up hearing in school as quintessentially "American," now being voiced by Egyptians in Tahrir Square, I couldn't help but contemplate what it means to have a democracy, with the power and the responsibilities it brings and reflect on how it functions right here in Sandisfield and the many little villages around New England.

Being a small town, one can see just how directly the whole mechanism works, but to be honest, I don't think I really appreciated the weight of it all until we started the paper and began attending some town meetings. You realize that government is not some distant, bureaucratic machine that takes care of things from afar, nor is it a coterie of slick and well-fed politicians with a pat answer for everything. In Sandisfield, the chair of the board of health is your neighbor down the road who borrows your freezer when she's filled up all the space in hers after the harvest. The Town Clerk used to be the gardener at the house next door and seems to know how to do everything



Photo: Setsuko Winchester

from making delicious jam to running heavy farm equipment. The head Selectman is a local school teacher. Another Selectman is the alpaca farmer on the other side of town. In other words, in a democracy, those who govern are you, me, your neighbor and his neighbor.

Now, unless you are born here, many people come to Sandisfield and its endless forests and lazily meandering gravel roads precisely to get away from the tensions at the office or the pressures of the perfectly manicured lawns to commune with the ramshackle, untidy beauty of mother nature. The last thing they want to do is get involved in town business and politics - but perhaps that's precisely the lesson we can learn from what just happened in Egypt. Whether you want change or whether you want things to remain as they are, a healthy democracy stays healthy as long as the average guy cares enough to maintain its vigor. And probably one of the best ingredients for ensuring a healthy democracy is an informed public. The ST will try it's best on that front. We may not get everything down perfectly, but we'll try to be there on time and keep you apprised. Even better is an engaged citizenry. This could mean a lot of things from just getting your voice heard (you can always write a letter to the editor), to attending an occasional Selectmen's meeting, to showing up to vote, to running for office in the town elections in May.

For those interested in taking the next big step, the following offices are up for election: Moderator, Town Clerk, Selectmen, Treasurer, Auditor, Board of Assessors, School Committee, Board of Health, Planning Board, Library Trustee and Constable. If you like what the folks in the job are doing, vote to keep them there. Or perhaps you would just like to give it a go. March 21 is the last day to obtain nomination papers and March 23 is the last day to submit nomination papers.

Even though the crisis that grew up around a river called the Nile that led up to the changes in Egypt is not just physically, but also politically, distant from our lives here in Sandisfield, sometimes it takes outside events to help us appreciate what we have right here by our own Farmington and Clam Rivers and perhaps, just for a little while, we were all Egyptians.

Setsuko Winchester
Editor, The Sandisfield Times 

ODE TO VOLUME I

If Bach's contrapuntal
Then so are we....
Our runaway headlines
Mixed with fiddle-dee-dee!

The time has come
To thank everyone
The founders, the writers
For endless all-nighters,
The editing scrum.

Consider the content...
A gaggle of words.
There's Randy's stars
And Margaret's birds.

There's Jerry with graveyards
And Dassy with plants....
Susie....Liana's
Editorial rants.

There's the hardworking Kasky
Who paid me a fee
To tell all the world
She's not Rita, she's Rhee!

Copy to Tina:
A wink and some nods..
The paper comes down
From the digital Gods.

We love Sets-ko the editor
Even though it's a shame
She made a two syllable word
From her three syllable name.

Thank you Patricia,
Our sail and our mast.
Adam did food
And Ron did the past

No, I didn't forget
The old puppeteer
A limey turned yankee,
He's the reason we're here!

*(if I left out your name
you'll see it next year)*
Val Coleman
January 31, 2011

Mystery Solved!

By Sandisfield Times Reporter

Ah, the good old Law of Unintended Consequences! Who would have ever thought that the organization of a high school video project in Great Barrington last winter would have produced the solution to a mystery that had dogged the Sandisfield Highway Department since last October.

But it did – and here's how.

Sometime over last Halloween a handsome blue-and-white road sign at one end of our long and winding artery known as Beech Plain Road disappeared. Clearly someone had taken it – though just who, and for what purpose, remained a puzzle. Both the Highway and Fire departments expressed their anxiety – for the loss of a road sign has safety implications – and the Finance Committee grumbled about the price of a replacement.

So the Police Chief was ordered to investigate. For weeks there were no leads, and eventually the loss of the Beech Plain Road sign went into Sandisfield's Cold Case file. But then, cut to the internet phenomenon of YouTube, and the sudden appearance there last January of a six-minute long video of a "lip dub" performed by students at Monument Mountain High School. Lip-synching to the Black-Eyed Peas hip-hop number called "Let's Get it Started," some 200 students took part in a performance that took some three months to prepare – and one long tracking shot with a hand-held camera. The result was great fun, and a tremendous technical and popular success:

more than 50,000 people have viewed it, and the local Albany TV station has featured it on the news. (Readers can see the video at www.youtube.com/user/MMRHSLipDub)

However, sharp-eyed Sandisfield residents noticed something all-too-familiar at precisely one minute and 51 seconds into the tape – a young lad coming out of nowhere, triumphantly brandishing in his hands our missing Beech Plain Road sign. Aha! said the Sandisfield selectmen. Busted! – and the wheels of justice started to turn.

Within days, our fearless Police Chief called the school. No weapons were necessary, no handcuffs either, no

SWAT team. Everyone was good-humored. Excuses were offered ("we found it"), and promptly discounted. There was some gentle chiding, a modicum of pleading – and finally the sign was brought out of its hiding-place, and handed back over. It was returned home, and was firmly screwed and bolted back onto its pole. The residents of one of our longest roads can now rest easy that should their house catch on fire, our firefighters will once again be able to find their way to it.


And as our photo captured from the film clip shows, we may not know who took it, but we certainly know who "found" it. All we now ask is - Please don't take it again! 

Photo: MMRHS



RIGHT TO FARM BY-LAW

Cont'd from p.1

example of why the Right to Farm by-law was envisioned in the first place. He said, "I had been farming for many years before my former neighbor built a house next door to me, and then he decided he didn't want to live next door to a farm."

Andy experienced harassment and then unanticipated expenses. "First he said my greenhouse was illegal. Then he said my peacocks were too close to his well, and then he complained the pig was too close to his well. He called the Board of Health, and then the Animal Inspector, and they didn't find that I was doing anything wrong. Then he accused me of using chemicals and I don't use chemicals, because I raise organic vegetables. I had to jump through hoops to satisfy this guy. Finally, I had to hire a lawyer and that was an expense that I shouldn't have had to incur. If we had a Right to Farm by-law in this town, he would have been given a piece of paper when he bought his property, that says he lives in a Right to Farm community and I wouldn't have had to worry about anything."

In Sandisfield, there are at least nine small businesses that would benefit from the Right to Farm by-law, and it would be difficult for a factory farm to open up operations in Sandisfield as they would have to overcome local opposition. However, this doesn't

lessen anxiety for some residents as the Sandisfield Right to Farm by-law comes up for a vote again.


George Riley, a resident of Sandisfield, cautions that the Right to Farm by-law has a major loophole that needs to be closed. Recently he said, "The Right to Farm is a two-edged sword, being promoted all across the country by Farm Bureau trade associations. Sandisfield is one of the few towns that still doesn't have a law. The Farm Bureau is behind the ordinance, and the big agricultural corporations want them passed. It does protect small farmers, but it also protects the large corporations as well."

George used to live in Pennsylvania and said, "In central PA, towns were being ruined by factory farms and people were getting sick from the sewage."

The towns then revised their by-laws. "Hundreds of towns have now prohibited corporate ownership of farms in their community. In order to operate in these towns, a farm has to be family owned and can't be owned by an absentee corporation," he said.

But there is another concern George said, "Recent ordinances now have to deal with contract farming. Contract farms are family owned farms that contract with corporations. They raise the animals and then sell them to the corporation. The corporation still runs the processing plant, but the farmers take all the risk, essentially becoming indentured servants to the corporations."

Margaret O'Clair, who served on the Board of Health for more than twenty-five years, was asked if corporate farms could operate in Sandisfield. She said, "Sandisfield wouldn't attract a large corporate farm because the land and labor are too expensive. They go to places like Nebraska and use cheap immigrant labor to work in their plants. They would need a special permit to operate in the town, and Sandisfield has no easy access to interstates and there isn't enough electricity. In order for a corporate farm to set up an operation, they would have to be invited. The towns in Pennsylvania were probably desperate for work and allowed them in, and after the plants went into operation they realized their mistake. That's not going to happen here. This is the Berkshires. Do you think a plant would open up in the Hamptons? Use common sense. It's a red herring. We need a Right to Farm by-law to protect the small farmers from the New Yorkers who might hear a chain saw at nine o'clock in the evening."

Is it a "red herring" or are there real concerns to worry about? Either way, voters will have to decide on May 14, 2011 whether to accept or decline the Right to Farm by-law. 



TOWN BUSINESS

Debbie Harris & Rhee Kasky

THE SELECTMEN IN SUMMARY

Because this issue of The Sandisfield Times covers the two months past we are just going to present a synopsis of the Selectmen's minutes.

In several of the following synopses the "Rule of Necessity" is mentioned. This rule states that if an elected member of a town or city board has a conflict of interest with respect to a matter before the board that involves his own financial interest or that of a partner, family member or a business organization with which the board member has certain affiliations, that member will be disqualified from acting as a board member on that matter. In some cases, especially when more than one member is disqualified, a board cannot act because it does not have a quorum or some other number of members required to take a valid affirmative vote. In these circumstances, the board may be able to use what is called the Rule of Necessity to permit the participation of the disqualified member(s) in order to allow the board to act.

Minutes of December 13, 2010

Kathy Jacobs, Finance Committee chair, discussed the format for the All Boards meeting. The Finance Committee is recommending level funding for FY 2012 (beginning July 1, 2011). However, if increases cannot be avoided, supporting documentation must be provided and, if necessary, a Proposition 2½ override (requiring a warrant asking voters to approve a tax increase above the 2½% cap) would be necessary.

Highway Department: The Machinery Maintenance account needs to have more realistic numbers because of the amount of necessary repairs and replacement of machinery. Steve Harasyko suggested transferring money from the Machinery Earnings account (a reimbursement fund from FEMA and MEMA), which would result in no increase in the tax rate. County bids for the Route 183 project are being discussed with Geri Porter from the Berkshire Region Group Purchasing Program. Steve also asked for some "no thru traffic" signs for impassable roads. Scott Worcester was hired as the truck driver for the Highway Department. Steve will use his personal laptop for Highway Department business until the computer issue is resolved.

There was discussion of bringing the Yanner Park line item back to the budget to keep momentum going at the park.

Elaine O'Brien was appointed to the Board of Registrars.



Minutes of January 3, 2011

Highway Department: The department is working well under new Highway Superintendent Steve Harasyko. Steve reported on a number of repairs that have been completed, are in the process of being completed and/or need to be undertaken. Where possible these repairs will be done in-house. Permission was granted to replace the entrance door at the town garage with funds from the Operation and Maintenance of Town Buildings fund. Safety equipment for the highway staff, including ear protection, high visibility shirts and vests, and other related items were discussed.

Doug Segrin volunteered to fill the vacancy on the Board of Health. However, because Doug is married to a paid employee of the Board, the Selectmen will follow up with Town Council regarding possible conflicts.

Andrew Snyder reported on the progress of the hearing for Francis Deming's farm stand permit. Because of a conflict of interest, Selectman Richard Campetti has recused himself from these discussions, but this created a situation where the Board of Selectmen could not act because at least three Selectmen must vote on the issue. After several court opinions it was determined that Mr. Campetti can vote by invoking the Rule of Necessity. There will be a Public Hearing scheduled for this purpose. At that time the issue of Roseanne Hoekstra's bed and breakfast will also be taken up.

A motion was made and approved to increase the Revolving Dump Sticker account to \$25,000. Also, work to be done at the dump during the spring and summer was approved. Kudos to Forrest for the great job he is doing at the dump.



Minutes of January 10, 2011

Highway Department: Steve Harasyko met with a representative from Miller Petroleum regarding reprogramming of gas keys and repair of the gauge on the gas pump. The highway crew has been doing most repairs in-house and continues to work well together.

The warrant for the Special Town Meeting was discussed. It will include articles for transferring monies from one line item to another, general government and information systems support.

Selectman Jeff Gray reviewed the Routes 8 and 57 bridge replacement project and is working on a list of concerns to send to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

Selectman Gray presented a version of the "Right to Farm" by-law, including an article on how to create an Agricultural Commission. This will be reviewed by the Planning Board.

Margaret O'Clair was appointed to the Board of Registrars.

Permission was given to the 2011 Connecticut Stage Race for their June bike race.

Selectman Campetti will check with Robbin Campetti about the opening of the ice skating rink.



Minutes of January 17, 2011

Chris Rines apologized for spending money from the Selectmen's budget without permission when the Board of Health and the Planning Board moved into the Old Town Hall; these boards would like to have a phone, internet service and bottled water at their new location, as well as a post office box for the Planning Board (the Board of Health has its own box). Selectman Campetti stated that as far as the post office box is concerned, it should come out of the Board of Health's budget. As for the bottled water, the well that supplies the Old Town Hall is new and the water has passed inspection. Both Boards should stay on top of their budgets.

The O'Briens were called to shovel snow off the roof of the Old Town Hall and chop the ice dams because water has backed up behind the ice and leaked onto some Board of Health equipment.

Kathleen Segrin would like to be able to leave checks for the Treasurer in the file cabinet by the back door. However, Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko explained that all monies must be turned in directly to the Treasurer; the person turning over the checks or money is liable until the Treasurer personally receives such funds.



Minutes of January 24, 2011

Steve Harasyko reported that the Highway Department is busy plowing and repairing equipment.

The Rule of Necessity was discussed regarding Doug Segrin's application to be on the Board of Health. Chris Rines then volunteered to fill the slot in order to avoid a conflict of interest. The Selectmen thanked Doug for coming forward, and then voted to approve Chris as a member of the Board of Health.

Selectman Patrick Barrett suggested that there be an article on the town warrant at the May Town Meeting regarding the use of straight salt on paved roads. While the Selectman is not necessarily in favor of this, there are many facets to the issue (both environmental and fiscal) and the Town Meeting would be a good place for a general discussion.

Discussion was had involving the highway department's laptop computer. Selectman Gray would like to continue to follow the advice of the town attorney and keep the computer locked up, while Selectman Barrett would like to allow Steve Harasyko to use the computer now. There will be an article on the warrant for the special Town Meeting to pay for technical support to reprogram the computer if that option is chosen.

With many members of the

The Gardeners' Almanac

Sue Tarasuk



BEHOLD— A SOWER WENT FORTH TO SOW

Gardening catalogs are taking over my living space. I have seed catalogs, bulb catalogs, and perennial plant, tree and herb catalogs. Besides all the catalogs, I receive a good bit of material on gardening in general and being in the business of gardening. I receive the latest “trends”. This year I hear is The Year of the Vegetable.

I love the vegetables I have grown in my own garden. They are fresh, organic and I pick them to my preferences (small zucchini and thin beans for example). This month’s gardening column will talk about starting and growing your own seedlings. In my greenhouses at Snow Farm, we start literally thousands of seedlings a year, and what I have learned is that patience is of utmost importance. Do not be tempted to start your seedlings too early or put them outside too early either. They will truly suffer for it. So, with that said, I will go through the best and easiest way we have come up with to have success in starting your own plants.

The first thing to do is buy the best seeds you can through a reputable source. You want viable seeds that are true to species.

Secondly, as I said earlier, do not start your seeds too early. Read the back of the seed catalog and it will give you some very good information. Some seeds you can plant directly outside (e.g., beans, beets and carrots) and some should be started inside (e.g., tomatoes, peppers). Count back from our last frost date – I use May 31st as ours. If, for instance, the seed packet says plant inside 4 – 6 weeks before last frost, then you will

be planting your seeds in mid April.

Next, you want to have some good medium to plant your seeds in. At Snow Farm we use what is referred to as “Soilless Mix”. It is a combination of vermiculite, perlite, sphagnum moss and other non-soil ingredients depending on the brand you purchase; there are many different brands. In a pinch you could use potting soil, but it tends to be a bit heavy and holds moisture too long. Never use soil from outdoors; you can very easily bring in some contaminants that could kill your seedlings. We put our soilless mix in plastic trays that have tiny compartments and we put one seed in each compartment or “cell”. You can use anything to start seeds in at this point. I used to use egg cartons or tiny flower pots. The reason we use cells is so that when we have to transplant we do not disturb the roots by untangling them from each other. Just be sure your choice of container has good drainage.




So, you have your seeds, you have put your medium in a small pot and now you will have to water the soil extremely well. We wet the cells at least three times to be sure it is saturated. With a few pots you would be best to put them in a bucket holding water and let the pot and the medium absorb from the bottom up. Remember, we have not planted our seeds as of yet. After the soil is saturated, let the pot drain and now you can plant the seeds. Again, a good source of information is the back of the seed package. This will tell you how far apart to plant them and how deep.

Generally, you plant a seed twice the depth of the size of the seed. Therefore, a ½” seed will be planted 1” deep. If planting in a pot, be sure to spread the seeds out, do not be tempted to sprinkle them. You will be happy you took the time to plant them correctly when it is time to transplant. Cover them finely with soil – if directions tell you to. Some seeds need light to germinate. Read the package!

Our greenhouse is extremely humid and so we do not worry about the seeds drying out very quickly. When planting at home, you should cover your seeds with plastic, glass or even Saran Wrap. This keeps the moisture in and if you soaked your planting medium well, you will not have to water again until your seeds are up. At this point your seeds will want to be somewhere warm, but not necessarily sunny. On top of the refrigerator is a good out-of-the-way spot. Just be sure you check your seeds daily.

This is my favorite part. We inspect our seeds daily and search for germination. As soon as you see germination, you should uncover your tray or pot and put your plants in the sun. Check to see that they are moist and now keep them moist, but not soaking wet. You will have to check them daily if they are in the sun. If they start to look leggy, you are not giving them enough sun. Start watering with a diluted mix of fertilizer made specifically for seedlings, but any fertilizer will work. Put ¼ teaspoon in a gallon jug of water and use this mix each time you water your seedlings. When two true leaves appear (true leaves are the leaves that form on the seedling after the cotyledon or seed leaves), you can transplant your seedling. Put them in the same soilless mix in a small pot. Do not put them in too large a pot as the soil will not dry out enough between watering and may rot the seedling. Water when dry to the touch.

Just before (about 1 or 2 weeks) you are ready to plant them outside, acclimate them to the outdoors. This is called “hardening them off”. You start by putting them outside in a shady location for a few hours a day and work up to all day in the sun, bringing them in at night. This is a very important step in successful seedling transplanting. Then – go plant.


Enjoy your garden! 

250th Birthday CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS



The Town of Sandisfield’s 250th Birthday Committee is looking for volunteers to help plan the big anniversary celebration in July 2012. Chaired by Steve Harasyko, Kathy Jacobs and Elaine O’Brien, the Steering Committee identified 7 committees to organize a three-day weekend of events on July 27, 28 and 29, 2012.

Planned events include a block dance, country fair, games, contests, races, barbecue, fireworks, pancake breakfast, parade, antique car show, tractor pull, and talent show. We hope to get 5-10 people on each of the following 7 committees: parade, evening events, country fair, food, games/contests, car show/tractor pull, and marketing.

We only get to throw a town-wide party once every 50 years. Many of you have fond memories of the 1962 event! Please join in the fun by coming to the next meeting on Thursday, March 17 at 7pm at the Town Hall Annex. For more information call Elaine at 269-4465. 

*A float from the 1962 200th Anniversary parade.
Do you recognize any of these young ladies?*



A Walk in the Woods

By Tom Ryan

SWEET DREAMS ARE MADE OF THIS

The other day, as I was shoveling off my roof for the sixth time this winter, I started day dreaming of spring and the coming maple sugaring season. Now I am by no means an expert at sugarin', but I have stood by my fair share of boiling vats of sap waiting vigilantly for the sweet rewards and have learned the lesson that the success of a maple season is entirely up to the whim of Mother Nature and a lot of hard work and dedication. The daily freeze-and-thaw cycle of spring stimulates the sap to rise and flow anywhere between February and April – a flow which can last for weeks or, like last year, only a few days.

It takes about forty gallons of sugar maple (known as rock- or hard-) sap to make a single gallon of maple syrup. You can get sap from other species of maples such as red, silver, swamp, the exotic Norway and even various birch species, but the sugar content is less than that of sugar maple, with sap to syrup conversion ratio upwards of a hundred to one! Sap can be collected by buckets or hose systems with storage tanks or any creative means one can think up. The water then needs to be removed from the sap to make maple syrup, cream, or even sugar; thus can be done by boiling off the water or a technique called reverse osmosis. There exists a whole cult of entrepreneurs who are devoted to making maple syrup and coming up with new creative products to collect sap or make syrup.

Referencing my copy of *Sandisfield, Biography of a Town* by Anne Hoffman, I learned that our village was a leading producer of maple sugar back in the day, until huge numbers of the trees were sacrificed to the greater demand to produce charcoal. Luckily, sugar maple trees are resilient and have re-grown throughout Sandisfield and we could once again be a big producer of maple syrup. Oddly enough, though, I don't know of anyone that currently taps sugar maples in Sandisfield for a business - even though there are a number of maple producers in the surrounding towns. If there are people interested in starting up a maple sugaring business on their property this is a good time to do so (likewise any farm or forest based business for that matter).

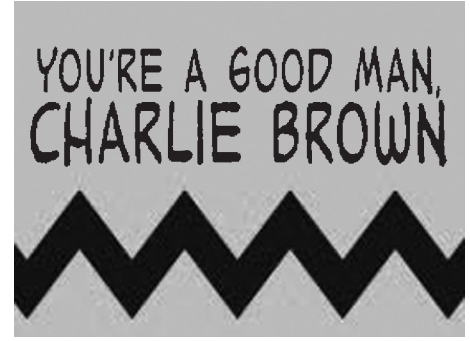
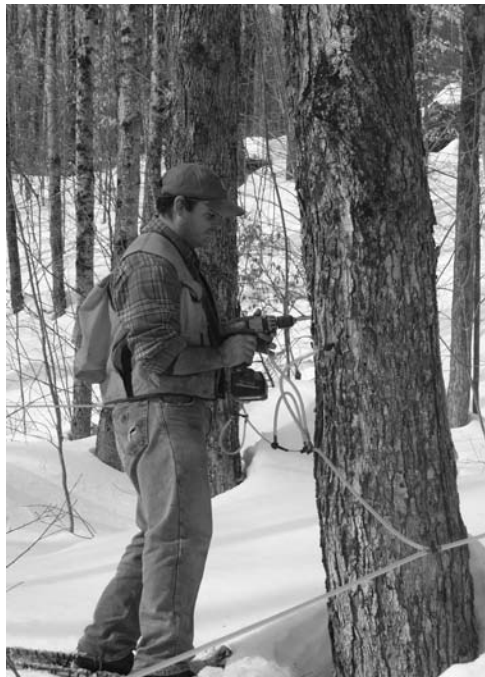
Currently, there is a lot of public interest in buying local food and forest products as well as government assistance to get people interested in working the land. Check out the MA DCR [Working Forest Initiative](#) which can provide grant monies to be used to develop a forest management plan on your property or to procure funding for a business plan and grant

monies to jump-start such a land based business endeavor. Or you can also look into the USDA NRCS for funding opportunities such as the [EQIP](#) programs.

I hope I have inspired you to try and produce some sweet amber gold from your land using good old fashioned hard work and Yankee ingenuity. Keep in mind, should you find yourself running out of patience into the umpteenth hour of boiling, your eyes red from smoke and you don't have anything close to syrup, that you can always switch course and make an excellent beer with this sweet water. Contact me and I'll send you a few recipes for batches I've made in the past such as "Smokey the Beer" brown ale. At the very least, I encourage you to try tapping a sugar maple tree at least once to simply try drinking some sap. Rock maple tonic is some of the best tasting sweet water you will ever encounter...Hmmm, maybe there's another new business idea, bottling sweet maple water.

Tom Ryan is a Service Forester for the State of Massachusetts and a resident of Sandisfield. If you have any questions or comments about what lurks in our forests, you can either write to us, or you can contact him directly at his office at 413-784-1828 ext. 123 or email him at Tom.Ryan@state.ma.us

Photos: Tom Ryan



Sandisfield Students Will Take to the Stage

Mt. Everett Regional High School presents the musical *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* this month. This musical comedy with music and lyrics by Clark Gesner, will be their spring musical at the Thomas A. Consolati Performing Arts Center in Sheffield, MA from Thursday, March 17th – Sunday, March 20th.

Inspired by the Charles M. Schulz comic strip Peanuts, which introduced the famous character of Charlie Brown, *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (new revised version) opened on Broadway in 1999. It is a fresh approach to the all-time 1967 classic. Sally Brown joins Charlie Brown, Linus, Lucy, Schroeder and Snoopy in this version. Two new songs, Beethoven Day and My New Philosophy, have been added to the twelve wonderful numbers of the original version, such as My Blanket and Me, The Kite, The Baseball Game, Little Known Facts, Suppertime and Happiness. *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown's* cast and crew feature over 30 students from the 7th-12th graders including three students from Sandisfield; Samee Swartz, Kayla Hudson and Becki Oliveri. The show is staged and musically directed by Ralph Petillo.

The Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evening performances are at 7:30pm and the Saturday and Sunday afternoon matinee's are at 2pm. General admission tickets are \$8.00. Tickets for students and seniors are \$6.00. There will be a brief intermission during which concession items will be available. There will also be a silent auction throughout the run of the show. All ticket sales and proceeds from the silent auction and raffle will benefit the Southern Berkshire Regional School District's Arts Programming. Tickets for the performance will go on sale Monday, March 8th and can be purchased in advance by calling (413) 229-8754 ext. 127, or at the performances. For more information call (413) 229-8754 ext. 127.

We're Up and Running

All winter a heroic team of folks have been working feverishly behind the scenes, and are now ready to announce the good news - that our town website is finally up and running.

We'll have a detailed report on it - and a critique - in the April issue. But for now, be sure to visit www.sandisfield.info and watch our little town as it emerges, finally, into the 21st century.

AVIAN NOTES

By Margaret O'Clair

THREE BIRDS OF WINTER, SELDOM SEEN

It has been a hard winter for us, and if it has been hard for us, just imagine what it has been like for the wildlife. Everyone who feeds the birds has been kept busy filling the feeders with seed and suet, and just as important, keeping the pathways to them clear. And we have been rewarded with a steady supply of what I like to call Winter Warriors. We have had Black-capped Chickadees, Dark-eyed Juncos, Nuthatches, Tufted Titmice, all kinds of Finches, together with the occasional Cardinal, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers (which love the suet) and many more.

We have also had some *uncommon* (to use the accepted technical term), visitors this winter - and although none are listed as rare, they are birds not seen every year in Sandisfield.



Probably the most uncommon sighting was the small flock of Redpoll that descended last January on Kim Spring's feeder in Montville. (There were sightings in Pittsfield and Lanesborough reported in *The Berkshire Eagle* at about the same time.) The Redpoll is a small, brown, nondescript member of the Finch family that sports a jaunty red yarmulke on its head and thus is easily identified. It is probably the hardiest of our songbirds, nesting in the Arctic tundra and wintering in the Canadian coniferous forests where it is seen in quite large flocks gleaning grain and seeds. It also visits feeders where it appears unafraid of humans. The Redpoll does not usually cross the Canadian border - one map shows northern New England as its southernmost winter range - so its presence in Sandisfield is indeed uncommon.



Just as Kim's Redpolls suddenly appeared, hung out, then just as suddenly vanished, I had a similar experience with a small flock of Pine Siskins. Earlier this winter, I glanced at my feeder and saw a group

of birds displaying typical finch-like behavior, fussing and fluttering about the feeder trying to win a perch. A second look confirmed they were not like my regular finch visitors. The Pine Siskin, another small, brown bird, has a heavily streaked face and upper and lower body and a yellow bar across its wings which is very noticeable in flight. Even though it is a finch and does indeed eat seeds, it lacks that family's typical wedge-shaped beak, but has a slender, pointed one. Like its Redpoll cousin, the Pine Siskin breeds and nests north of the Canadian border, although it is found year round in some coniferous forests of the Rockies. For some reason these little birds are attracted to road salt. As you drive along any winter roads, and see a flock of small birds scattering into the undergrowth, they are probably Pine Siskins.

A few years ago, Simon and Setsuko Winchester planted a few ornamental crabapple trees around their house, obviously to enjoy the beautiful spring blossoms. However an added benefit has been the large crop of crabapples the trees produced this winter, which attracted flocks of Cedar Waxwings to the property. The Cedar Waxwing is a handsome bird with a black mask, a prominent crest, buffy yellowish underparts and a straight, yellow-edged tail. They are named for the shiny red tips of their secondary wing feathers which is caused by a wax-like excretion from these feathers - a unique feature of this family.



The Cedar Waxwing is a picky eater, more of an Old-Inn-on-the-Green type than Chinese take-out bird, and as a result, it has to wait for nature to produce its favorite fruits and berries before it can nest and raise its young. However, because of the increase in urban and suburban landscaping and thanks to the likes of Simon and Setsuko, the food available to the Cedar Waxwing is rapidly expanding and the bird population has responded by increasing in range and numbers. An interesting note; if you see a flock of waxwings lurching around on your lawn like a battalion of tiny drunks, don't be alarmed. They have over-indulged on fermenting berries and will be quite normal when they sober up.

And winter-weary readers, take heart. Katie Rocco swears she heard a red-winged Blackbird (a harbinger of spring)! Warm weather is coming. Maybe. ♡



Our Representatives - What are They Doing for Us?

By Susie Crofut

As citizens of Sandisfield we have two representatives. Democrat John Olver is our Congressman in the House of Representatives in Washington, DC. He represents the first district of Massachusetts which includes Sandisfield. He has held this office since 1991 and has recently announced that he will run again in 2012.



Sandisfield's other representative is William "Smitty" Pignatelli, also a Democrat. He is our State Representative to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in Boston (4th District). He was first elected to this office in 2002.

I contacted the offices of each of these men and asked them what programs they have been working on that affect Sandisfield. It was interesting to note that both cited Broadband Expansion.

On a Federal level, Congressman Olver has been active on this subject. Massachusetts Broadband Institute's MassBroadband 123 project was awarded \$45 million in federal stimulus funds on June 30, 2010 to expand broadband access across western Massachusetts. The project will connect 123 communities in western MA to broadband, delivering comprehensive economic, educational and public safety benefits.



Representative Pignatelli, aware that parts of Sandisfield have limited high speed Internet or none at all, has been working with the Wired West Initiative to help bridge the gap between towns and the state in bringing the Internet to everyone. The Massachusetts Broadband Institute also recently awarded a federal grant to begin laying down the groundwork for high speed Internet in western Massachusetts.

Representative Pignatelli cited that one of the most important issues he is concerned with is finding ways to reduce health care costs for towns and residents, the single biggest item in everyone's budget (and the costs continue to rise). Last session, the MA Legislature passed a bill to try to help contain some of those costs and included a provision to allow small businesses to form cooperatives with the idea that they would be in a better position to negotiate lower rates with the insurance companies. This program is still in the works and hopefully, by the summer, it will be up and running.

Another issue he thinks is of particular importance to the Berkshires is raw milk and agriculture in general. Rep. Pignatelli has been working with other Legislators and state agencies to come up with language for a bill that would address the current situation with raw milk sales and try to create a safer way to sell and consume raw milk. He says this is very important because not only does it help the local economy, it also helps to preserve open space and supports our local farmers. ♡

SKI STORY: FILM MAKERS COME TO TOWN

By Sandisfield Times reporter



Photo: Bernard Drew

The Norwegian documentary filmmaker Geir Krekens and videographer Christer Fasmer came to Sandisfield in February (staying at the New Boston Inn) to shoot footage for a Flimmerfilms documentary about the pioneering female ski jumper (and native of Norway) Johanne Kolstad (1913-1997). They interviewed several area residents, including Doris Hrykvych of New Boston.

After the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, New York in 1932, there was a sudden upsurge in interest throughout New England in the new sport of ski-jumping, and jumps were built all over the region to lure the stars to perform and enthrall visitors. One of the largest and most spectacular was built – for \$7,000 – in Sandisfield.

Johanne Kolstad, known, after her country's stellar performance in the Olympics, as "Queen of the Skis" (but who could not compete at home because of her sex) came to our neck of the woods in the mid-Thirties, together with her trainer Karl Thomlevold. She competed first at a ski jump in Norfolk and then at the Winsted Ski Club's jump near the Colebrook River on Route 8. But there was a row about money – Kolstad didn't think she was getting adequately compensated by the Winsted Ski Club, and so she aligned herself instead with Bill Simmers and Nathra Nader (Ralph Nader's father), who organized the New England Ski Club.

This club promptly built a new jump here in Sandisfield on what was then known as Suicide Hill, with a notoriously precipitous eastern face that ran directly down towards Rte 8 and the Farmington River. The take-off point was 425 feet up and the run was 1050 feet long – with a dangerously short landing zone, which helped lure some 4,000 spectators to come to watch those skiers who dared attempt it. Although Ms. Kolstad did not win – her 146 foot best jump was eclipsed by the 181 feet jumped by John Erkkila of Detroit – she had "the best form of all" according to the Berkshire Eagle.

Remains of the Suicide Hill jump can still be seen - a berm and some rusting ironwork - just south of the Villa Mia parking lot.

And why Suicide Hill? The Berkshire Courier explained on Jan. 30, 1936 "Most of the skiers landed on various and sundry parts of their anatomy shortly after coming back to terra firma, very few using their feet for landing purposes. This, however, seems to be one of the things that people go far into the wilderness of New Boston to see. Just like fans watching automobile races — no spills and the customers go home dissatisfied."



Photos: Flimmerfilm

wm. BROCKMAN
berkshiresforsale.com real estate

413.528.4859
Offices in Monterey & Great Barrington

We earn the trust of our clients and customers;

We value and contribute to life in the Berkshires;

We give honest advice honed by our over 35 years of experience.

Chapin Fish - Broker/Managing Partner, Bill Brockman, Kirsten LaBaree, Fredsall, Timothy Donnelly

Country Homes, Estates & Land
info@wmbrockman.com

Buying or Selling:

Personal, Professional, Outstanding Service.

"Be true to your word and your work and your friend"
Henry David Thoreau

WHEN THE NORTH POLE CAME TO SANDISFIELD



Photographs
Susie Crofut
Jerry Herman
Patricia Hubbard
Richard Migot
Setsuko Winchester



Town Business

Cont'd from p.5

Planning Board present, Chris Rines stated that a majority of the Board does not feel we need a "Right to Farm" by-law as Sandisfield is already zoned as residential agricultural. However, Bridget Ruthman, who has received notice that the State of Massachusetts is trying to shut her down for selling raw milk, opined that (according to Representative Pignatelli) such a by-law would be helpful to small farmers who are fighting the State.

The Planning Board also presented a revised driveway permit by-law involving width requirements and paved curbs, common driveways and mother-in-law apartments. A camping by-law and permitting process, requested by the Selectmen two years ago, will be on next year's agenda.




Minutes of January 31, 2011

Chris Rines was present to decline the appointment to the Board of Health effective immediately; Doug Segrin was appointed and sworn in.

Chris, who is the former road superintendent, discussed the Highway Department's laptop computer. He accidentally erased the data from the flash drive for this computer. He tried and was unable to recover any of the data. He said there should be paper backup for most of the documents there were on it. Chris expressed his desire to move on now with no animosity between him and the town. He would be willing to help the current road superintendent if that is desired. Selectman Patrick Barrett thanked Chris for all he does for the town fire/ambulance departments. He also explained the importance of understanding the amount of lost time spent on computer work, phone calls, follow up, etc. Chris stated clearly that he is not going to take any legal action against the town.

Discussed MEMA Snow Emergency Submission for the snowstorm of January 11-12, 2011. Based on information supplied by the Road Superintendent, Dolores estimated and submitted documentation amounting to \$14,422. The town could potentially receive 75% of this amount.

Jeff reviewed the 75% complete plans from MassDOT for the Routes 8 & 57 bridge replacement project. He reviewed a list of concerns including the blacktop/dense grade of Tannery Road. Reviewed the light signals by the stone house and New Boston Store. A list will be compiled and submitted to MassDOT for their review.

Discussed having a town representative attend the Veterans Services monthly meeting. 

ALL ABOARD – AND SHOW US THE MONEY!

Every so often a meeting is called of everyone who, in effect, runs our town. It is called an All-Boards Meeting – a modern-day equivalent of the old-time Tribal Councils. This winter's discussion was almost entirely related to a pressing need for more money, as this summary will show.

The Meeting was called to order December 20th, 2010 at 7:10 pm.

Members present: Richard Campetti, Patrick Barrett, Jeff Gray, Steve Harasyko, Dolores Harasyko, Gary Bottum, Rhee Kasky, Kathy Jacobs, John Burrows, Kathy Burrows, John Skrip, Mary Turek, Tara Beardsley, Teresa DellaGuistina, Bethany Perry, Ralph Morrison, Elaine O'Brien, Debbie Harris, Bob Greenfield, Robbin Campetti, Mike Morrison.

Patrick opened the meeting with a welcome to the new Road Superintendent, Steve Harasyko. Patrick reviewed Steve's 22 years of work in this field.

Patrick summarized some of the town's accomplishments this year:

The removal of the Wilbur and Gross houses on Rte 8.

The hiring of the new Road Superintendent.

The hiring of Scott Worcester for the Highway Department.

Library building improvements.

Yanner Park work in preparation for the town's 250th anniversary in 2012.

The website.

The Fire Department's work – training on forest fires, practice burns, new EMTs.

250th Anniversary Committee and the "Then and Now" book.

High speed internet at Town Hall Annex.

Education on the Conflict of Interest and Open Meeting laws.

Primary and state elections, with thanks to our election workers.

Bill O'Brien's retirement from the Highway Department, thanking him for 11 years of service.



2011-2012 Budget Discussion

Finance Committee Chair Kathy Jacobs reviewed the 2011-2012 budget packets for each department. The Finance Committee is requesting documentation from departments that are seeking increases for that budget cycle. Over the past three years the Committee has requested level funding or reduced budgets. Discussion regarding how difficult this has been since the cost of everything continues to rise. Some of

the current budgets are already over the 50% funds expended mark with more than six months left to go before new budgets go into effect.

Library Trustee Tara Beardsley talked about a line item in the library budget for membership in Mass Cat. Our library no longer has the use of the bookmobile as that program has been discontinued.

Board of Assessors member Bethany Perry said the assessors do not anticipate any increase in their budget.

Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko explained why she will need to increase her budget. She will need to budget for the presidential primary in March 2012 and for a Proposition 2½ Override vote. She will also need another fireproof filing cabinet as the two she has are packed with town records. This will be a separate line item in the budget.

Highway Department – Steve Harasyko explained the need to replace Joe Zeller's truck and would like to budget it through the Stabilization Fund. The Machinery Maintenance account needs to be increased because equipment is getting older and in need of repairs.

Police Chief Mike Morrison does not expect any increase in the police expense budget.

Fire Chief Ralph Morrison talked about the Tufts Book Computer system that needs to be installed in the ambulance. The State will no longer accept handwritten reports – they must all be submitted electronically. John Burrows has been attending classes on how to operate the system. The cost for this project is \$7,000. The Fire Department is forming a committee to research paying the volunteer fire and EMT personnel. The committee will contact neighboring towns to see what they pay. Ralph also explained that the Fire Department is redoing its communications system at Fire Station #2. They determined after the 2008 ice storm that it needed updating.

Tech Committee – no one present to report.

School Committee. John Skrip reported that the committee would not be able to level fund. The school district has new students as well as a special needs student and the costs have gone up. The district is in the process of union contract negotiations.

Recreation Committee. Robbin Campetti would like to increase the budget by \$1,000. They have been level funded for at least the past five years but the cost of supplies and services has gone up. They need more funds to maintain the skating rink.

There was a brief discussion regarding salaries for 2012. The Selectmen and the Finance Committee will discuss this matter further to be sure there is consistency when budgets are being prepared.

The Selectmen thanked Dolores for all of her dedicated work this past difficult year.

Discussed Prop 2½ override and separating those budget items that will necessitate the override so they can be voted on separately.

Website update. Patrick explained the progress to date. Each town department will be asked to come up with information for their page. The former Sandisfield Newsletter made a contribution of \$3100 to

offset the cost of creating the website.

250th Anniversary Committee. Elaine O'Brien reported on progress to date. The committee has met with Donna Thomas from Otis who reviewed the process Otis followed for their bicentennial. Our lobster dinner made a good profit and that money will be used to purchase bumper stickers, t-shirts and town flags. Boards and committees are invited to sponsor an event.

The Town Clerk reviewed the Open Meeting Law. Dolores, Elaine O'Brien and Jackie Bitso attended a class in South Hadley reviewing the law. Dolores reviewed some of the revisions in the law, reported that conference calls are never considered a meeting, and advised that deliberating outside of a posted meeting is not allowed. Meeting notices must reach the Town Clerk 48 hours before the meeting; this excludes Fridays (Town Hall is closed), Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. The posting becomes effective once it has been time-stamped by the Clerk, not once an email has been sent or if someone leaves it on the desk. While this does require more planning, it is the law. Most boards are doing a very good job adhering to the law.

Discussed the revised "Conflict of Interest" handout. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.



Farmington River Regional School District

Meeting #264 - Farmington River Elementary School 555 North Main Road, January 3, 2011 - 7:00 PM

Summary of Minutes

Members Present: Nick DellaGiustina, Carol Lombardo, Laurie Nikituk, John Skrip, Roberta Sarnacki, Susan VanSickle, Mary Turo, Jo Ann Austin, Jane Gleason.

Guests: Kathy Jacobs

Second Reading of Face Book & Social Networking Policy: Reviewed the Face Book and Social Networking Websites Policy as recommended by MASC.

Motion: To accept the Second Reading and adoption of the Face Book and Social Networking Websites Policy as presented. Moved John Skrip, Seconded Nick DellaGiustina. Voted Unanimous.

Field Trips: Superintendent Austin distributed copies of the Field Trip Policy. She discussed the need to address several issues that are not covered in the current policy. Discussion followed about liability concerns, travel issues and staff concerns about student safety. Superintendent Austin will be surveying staff and parents for their input on this issue.

Motion: To enter Executive Session in accordance with Chapter 30A, Section 21-Part 3: to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining. Will reconvene in General Session only to adjourn.

Conservation Commission Meeting

January 27, 2011

Present: George Green, Mary Turek, Karen Cooley, Richard Campetti. Absent: Susan Bubenas

Richard opened the public hearing for Sable (406/64) on her Request for a Determination of Applicability. The plans for the septic system were perused and a short discussion followed. Unanimous vote to grant a negative determination with conditions. Public hearing closed at 7:25pm.

Clare noted that the budget for FY12 is due and it was decided to level fund while giving Clare a 2% raise.



Library Committee Report

Meeting of January 27, 2011

Present: Clare English, Anita Wirth, Sadie O'Rourke, Tara Beardsley

Discussion and concerns regarding the front entrance of the building.

Discussion about procedures if emergencies occur in the library.

The 2012 budget was determined: salaries - \$9,464; supplies - \$400; classes and mileage - \$200; purchase of books, audios and DVDs - \$2,000. Total expense budget: \$12,064.

The library has received \$550 from the Sandisfield Cultural Council and it will be used as follows: \$300 for a projector and DVD player; \$100 for games; \$150 for summer reading supplies.

Cost for the purchase of the Audubon books: \$165.97. Tara will make the purchase and be reimbursed.

Donation received for Gift Fund from WMRLS and Durkin Fund, to be used for purchase of books and audio only.

Budget for MassCat library system accepted. \$2,650 for the first year and \$900 every year thereafter.

**FARMINGTON RIVER
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL
BULLETIN**



Tara Beardsley

Farmington River Elementary continues its "Character Counts" program and will be focusing on FAIRNESS during the month of March and into April. The program has been running well. The students have been responding very positively to the program.

State Police Trooper Mark Nowack from Lee has been visiting our school periodically as part of a State Police Community Outreach Program. He pops in from time to time, usually during the children's lunch or recess times to chat with the children as well as the staff. The hope of the program includes being able to reach out to the children to get them used to seeing an officer in an informal setting. We are encouraged that for some this will raise awareness and increase the comfort level of being around someone in such a position.

As a reminder, CHP has started a playgroup that is held in the pre-school room on Mondays from 9:30-11:30. In the event of school closing or delay due to weather, the group will not meet. If you are unsure, please contact the school or CHP directly. The program has started out strong with a nice group of parents and children attending. Bring your little ones and come join the fun!

The PTO would like to thank the following for their generous donations to our current "March Cash Calendar Raffle" fundraiser:

- KRM Office Equipment
- Tolland Mountain Builders
- A&M Auto
- Ameriprise Financial
- Myers Group Realty
- Berkshire Woods Realty
- C.W. Nelson Landscaping
- The Otis Farmer's Market
- Legacy Banks
- Dana Beardsley Carpentry
- Jody's Floor Sanding
- Ron Cardaropoli Carpentry
- Buck River Farm
- Tucker's
- Otis Poultry Farm
- L&M Auto/Papa's
- Red Barn Alpacas
- When Pigs Fly Farm
- Silverbrook Café
- FRRS Kitchen Staff
- A.C.S. Inc.
- The Grouse House
- New Boston Crane
- The Book Loft
- Villa Mia Restaurant
- New Boston Inn
- Granville Scoops
- New Boston Store
- Summer House
- Riiska Orchard
- Price Chopper

Proceeds from this raffle will be used to fund school events such as our annual field day. Without the help of these fine donors this event may not have been possible! With this, we ask that you please patronize our local businesses!

Please make note of the following important dates:

- Mar. 14 Report Cards will be sent home
- Mar. 18 Professional Day - **No School**
- Mar. 22-31 ELA Testing - Grade 3-6
- April 18-22 April Vacation - **No School**
- May 10-24 Math Testing - Grade 3-6
- Science/Technology Testing - Grade 5

You may find additional school information at farmingtonriverelementary.com.

*Beautifying homes
in the Berkshires*

**INTERIOR & EXTERIOR
PAINTING SERVICES**

413-269-8948 Len Mandile

QUALITY PAINTING SERVICES

MASS. REG. #147903
FULLY INSURED

NICK ELTON – MASTER BUILDER

By Dassy Herman

Our neighbor, Nick Elton, came to Sandisfield with his wife Barbara about twelve years ago in search of rural beauty and cultural enrichment. By his account he found all that and more. He has lived in and travelled to a lot of places in the world and developed many interests along the way. Since he has been here he has also been expanding his already thriving architectural practice.



Born in England, Nick immigrated to the United States with his father when he was four years old. He grew up in Queens, NY and got a B.A. in international business, followed by an M.B.A. from Indiana University. He then did a stint on Wall Street as a financial consultant. He hated it! He decided to join the Peace Corps because of his long-standing interest in building community. He already spoke German (his parents were originally from Germany) and now he added Portuguese because he was to work in Brazil in the Peace Corps organizing fishermen into a cooperative and bringing electricity to an island off the coast. When he left the Peace Corp he went to work for CARE in Chile, adding Spanish to his list of spoken languages. It seems that CARE was sending food to schools in Chile, but the schools had no place to prepare the food, so Nick was hired as an administrator to put kitchens in

schools. While he was there he had many adventures, including learning to fly a plane and sky dive. He learned on an Aronca Champion, an American made, two seat, open cockpit plane (can't you just see him, goggles down, scarf flying in the wind?). He also linked up with architectural students from Catholic University and was motivated to go back to school to study architecture. Though he was accepted at Catholic University he decided to go to M.I.T., which accepted him at the ripe old age of 28.

Nick's architectural career moved in a steady direction toward affordable housing because of his interest in sustainable architecture that is first and foremost community based. Early in his career he designed the first intergenerational day care center for children and/or parents of employees of the Stride Rite Corporation. It was a natural next step to working on projects that would provide livable, sustainable, attractive housing. In Massachusetts, municipalities are required to devote 10% of all building to affordable housing. These projects are administered by Community Development Corporations that plan and carry out alternative and affordable housing using a combination of private and public funds. Nick partnered with Bruce Hampton, an architect who focuses on saving energy, to form the firm Elton + Hampton Architects. Though affordable housing is often built in depressed neighborhoods and the public fears that this sort of project further weakens an area, it is Nick's goal to always improve a neighborhood by integrating practical, durable, safe and clean housing with aesthetic excellence. In the Mission Hill/Roxbury neighborhood of Boston he did just that. Soon after that project was finished, the area began to gentrify.

Since coming to Sandisfield, Nick has completed two projects in Pittsfield. The first was a 71 unit conversion of a former hotel into housing for the elderly and the second was a project called 'Soldier On', built to house homeless veterans. This 39 unit complex is a limited equity cooperative, so the vets

will have a share of ownership and a say in their governance. Each unit has a small outdoor area and there are horseshoe and bocce courts in the complex. Nick is now working on projects in Agawam, Great Barrington, North Adams, and Leeds (a suburb of Northampton), including other projects for 'Soldier On'.

There are many other interests which vie for Nick's attention. While growing up he rode horses in summer camp in North Carolina every year from the ages of 6 to 14. It was always his dream to have horses of his own and so when he came to the Berkshires he got horses and started taking jumping lessons from Dina Sanchez, this when he was 60 years old. He is also an avid cyclist who thinks nothing of riding on our hilly terrain. In the summer of 2009 he rode in a fund raiser for multiple sclerosis, cycling from the Canadian border to Concord, New Hampshire, a distance of 250 miles. He trained for 4 months, riding from 80 to 150 miles a week, so you might see him riding from his home on West Street to York Lake and beyond.

On another note, Nick and wife Barbara decided, after years of swing dancing, to learn to Tango. They dance twice a week. On Friday nights they can be found at the church in Sheffield practicing with other, more experienced couples who have taken them under their wing. They find Tango complicated and difficult and at the same time, fun and challenging. Finally, Barbara was the president of the Arts Center for the past two years and Nick was kept busy helping out whenever he was needed.

In short, you might see Nick at any time building, riding horses, dancing or cycling on the roads of Sandisfield. If you do, stop and say hello – you'll enjoy spending time with him. 🍷

THE SANDISFIELD LIBRARY NEWS



Tara Beardsley, Library Trustee

My, what a long, cold, snowy winter it has been! But alas... spring is in sight! And hopefully with it, we will see more familiar faces at our library.

If you haven't visited in a while, you need to stop in and see what's been done! We've got a brand new foyer floor along with a beautiful new carpet in the perfect blend of blues to compliment the walls!

Along with our new look, we want to remind you of our new hours, which include being open Thursday afternoons from 2:30-5:30. Based on the repeated influx of visitors during this time, we are very pleased with the decision to incorporate afternoon hours. For more information call the Library at 258-4966.

We are still in need of volunteers to help at the library. If you think you may be interested in volunteering some of your free time to help our librarian, Laurie Green, where needed, or possibly

host a story-time event, please e-mail me at dtbear@gmail.com. Let me know when you can be available, and we'll try to work out a schedule that will work best for everyone.

Here are the newest books that have either arrived or are on order (feel free to call to check availability):

- *Death Echo*, by Elizabeth Lowell
- *The Lake of Dreams*, by Kim Edwards
- *Left Neglected*, by Lisa Genova
- *Caribou Island*, by David Vann
- *Week by Week Vegetable Gardening*
- *Heart Wood*, by Belva Plain
- *Midnight Caller*, by Leslie Tantler
- *Breach of Trust*, by David Ellis
- *A Heartbeat Away*, by Michael Palmer
- *The King of Lies* by John Hart
- *Private*, by James Patterson
- *Marrying Daisy Bellamy*, by Susan Wiggs
- *Emily and Einstein*, by Linda Francis Lee
- *Sing You Home*, by Jodi Picoult
- *Mystery (Alex Delaware)*, by Jonathan Kellerman
- *Started Early, Took My Dog*, by Kate Atkinson
- *Cold Wind*, by C.J. Box

Thank you! 🍷

DRINKA PINTA MILKA DAY? OWNA BITTA COW.

By Sandisfield Times Reporter

Sandisfield's raw milk champion, Brigitte Ruthman, is urging those who support the so-called Herdshare bill in the State legislature to write to Boston to say so. Herdshare, backed by our own Rep. Smitty Pignatelli, would allow people to buy shares in cows – thus making it legal for them to consume unpasteurized milk from what effectively would be their own animals. There are competing proposals in the arena, but Ms. Ruthman believes that public hearings planned for Herdshare will demonstrate the bill's unique benefits, for small farmers and consumers alike. She urges all who care to write immediately to Sen. Ben Downing, State House Rm 413-F, Boston, MA 02133, Benjamin.Downing@masenate.gov or Rep. Anne Gobi, 98 Mechanic Street, Spencer, MA 01562, Anne.Gobi@mahouse.gov saying "We Support Herdshare". A lack of public support, she warns, and the bill might fail. 🍷

Comings and Goings

FRANK DWYER
1922 - 2011



Frank Dwyer, a gifted raconteur, passed away quietly January 30, 2011. He was 88 years old. He first came to Sandisfield while on military leave during WW II and he always began the story of his first arrival with the following words, "I thought I

was in God's country."

survivors from the Liberty Ships that were blown up by U-boats. He said, "There were guys in the water, yelling for us to pick them up, but we couldn't stop, or we would be picked off by U-boats ourselves."

Later he worked for the NYC Transit Police where he worked on a pick-pocket squad and was proud of the fact that his team was cited by the FBI as the most effective pick-pocket squad in the country. His favorite TV police shows were "Barney Miller," and "Kojak." He also said the movie "Harry in Your Pocket", with James Coburn, was the most accurate movie ever made about pick-pockets. Frank retired as a First Grade detective after 20 years.

He finally became a full-time resident of Sandisfield in 1970 and was now able to pursue his other passions of woodworking and music. He liked to accompany his brother Jim who was an excellent piano player, with his banjo. Frank said, "My father told us to learn to play music," and his father said, "You'll never make any money at it, but you'll have a lot of fun."

Frank also served as Tax Assessor and then worked as the Town Secretary. He loved helping people and Liana Toscanini, who remembers Frank, said "Frank was Secretary when I attended my first Select Board meeting some 15 years ago. He seemed to be the only friendly face at the time. I was grateful for his kindness and professionalism. I've missed his presence since then." Frank served Sandisfield for more than twenty-five years.

He now joins his wife Ruth Dwyer, his one and only love, who passed away May 25, 2005. They were married 60 years. Ruth was also the town librarian for eighteen years.

He leaves one son, Frank, and his wife, Christine, of Becket, one daughter, Janet Adams, and her husband, Albert, of Sandisfield, five grandchildren, Melissa, Brian, SPC Jared, Meghan and Trevor, and two great-grandchildren.

PAUL LASCH
1952 - 2011


Paul Lasch, 58, passed away peacefully on Monday, January 31, 2011. He was the loving husband of Roberta Lasch for 36 years. Born on December 19, 1952 in Great Barrington, MA, he was the son of the late William and Helen Flint Lasch. He lived in Winsted, CT until 1963 when he moved to Sandisfield and attended Sandisfield Elementary and then Monument Mountain High School. Paul was a self-employed painter for 40 years. He was an avid gardener, golfer and outdoorsman. He enjoyed riding motorcycles. Friends writing to the family fondly recalled making snow with him at Butternut, playing

keno in the Silverbrook Café, and going on hunting expeditions. Most movingly, a lady in Westfield, MA wrote that "he was the first boy to ever give me a ride on his bike! Paul painted most of the rooms in my mother's house and did a beautiful job. He was always kind and respectful."

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two children, Paul and Nicki Lasch, both of Sandisfield; and a brother, William Lasch Jr., and his wife, Barbara, of Winsted, CT.


HELP IS ON ITS WAY

Now that this unusually harsh winter is finally winding down the US Department of Agriculture is telling local farmers that they may be eligible for help in the event their livestock were harmed by the extreme cold.

The Farm Services Agency's Massachusetts state director Richard Burke is urging all farmers and ranchers who have been affected to read the fact sheets available on www.fsa.usda.gov. "We encourage all who have suffered a disaster due to the recent cold weather and blizzards," said Burke, "to read the fact sheets and visit with their local FSA county staff, so they get a quick start in the recovery process." 



History's Mysteries



Picture taken circa 1910s. If you can identify any of these workers in Montville please contact Ron Bernard at www.SandisfieldThenAndNow.org or call 413 269-0012.

Photo courtesy www.DeMarsImages.com



"We do appreciate all of the hard work of you and your team!"

Laurie and Jeffrey Kanter
99 West Street



"Thank you for the wonderful job you do on the Sandisfield Times."

Mary Anne and John Grammar
Beech Plain Road



"We love the Times! Thank you for it. Please keep it up. I love the articles about Sandisfield citizens and Sandisfield history and about current Sandisfield issues. Thank you!"

Lou Friedman



"Dear News Staff,
I would like to extend my appreciation for all the volunteers who put in their time and effort in putting out the paper. I am an occasional resident but I dearly love that little piece of the earth called Sandisfield and am delighted to know what is happening there.

Josephine Davidson



"Love your newspaper. I spent many summers in South Sandisfield. How about including occasionally some South Sandisfield news?"

Rosemary Hyde



Dear Editor,
"I'm chiming in to thank some of our local heroes – the mail carriers! Mary and her colleagues have been doing a monumental job this winter, even in the absolutely worst weather. When I head up Silverbrook Road to my mailbox on a snowy, icy day, expecting nothing to have been delivered, I am always surprised that it's there. What a devoted crew. Thanks for being brave and loyal."

Rhee Kasky



And Many Thanks to all the Following –

for your wonderful generosity in responding to our year-end appeal. We have already thanked some of you, but then even more mail came in...

Marion Bernstein	Richard J. Maliawco
Jean Paul & Eva Blachere	Charles & Elizabeth Meier Jr
Dana Bledsoe	Dante & Gail Mele
Susan Bubenas	Edwin & Virginia Melkmann
Howard Burns Jr	Roy Metcalf
Mario & Laura Rogers Castro	Kate & Joel Millonzi
Val Coleman	Yuriko Mita & Dan Gerrity
Josephine Davidson	Margo Morrison
Ruth Dee-Friedman	Marvin & Judith Nierenberg
Barbara & Nick Elton	Margaret O'Clair
Thelma Esteves	Donald & Charlene Peet
Susan Fish & Robert Richardson	William Pinney
Norton & Julia Fletcher	Robert Rosen
Paul Folta	Helen & David Ross
Judith & Louis Friedman	The Sandisfield Newsletter
Ted & Judy Goldsmith	Linnea Scheck
Maryanne & John Grammer	Rebecca & James Spieler
Robert & Emilie Green	Carl & Rhonda Steeg
Antonia & Jack Grumbach	Julie Stefandl
Stephen & Judith Haveson	Michael Stephenson and the
Katherine Hein	Elizabeth W. Stephenson Revocable Trust
Margaret Howard	Ray & Kitty Stollerman
Rosemary Hyde	Thomas & Maura Sullivan
Jeffrey & Laurie Kanter	Nilda Torresola
Miriam Karmel & William Price	Susan & Paul Van Sickle
Sheila & John Kelly	When Pigs Fly Farm
Harriet & Robert Knox	Ellen & Eugene Wolfson
Jeffrey Lee	Leslie & Linda Wolfson
Marion & Irving Levine	Leroy & Patricia Ann Worthington
Laurie & Rodney Loring	
Allan & Karen Luks	

...we bless you all.

From everyone at

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



A MESSAGE FROM THE FOLKS OF THE SANDISFIELD NEWSLETTER

This issue of The Sandisfield Times is sponsored by funds from The Sandisfield Newsletter (1987-2007). The Newsletter board feels this is in keeping with the Newsletter mission:

"To promote interest and communication in our town without prejudice or favor."

We are proud of the efforts and success of The Sandisfield Times and delighted that once more there is a vehicle for news in this town we all love.

Connie Canty Donaldson, Chapin Fish, Kevin Indoe, John Yager, Roberta Myers

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.

MARCH EVENTS

Wednesday, March 2, 7PM, History Book Committee Meeting, Sandisfield Library. All welcome. 269-0012. We still have 2011 calendars for sale!

Saturday, March 5, 10:30AM – 12:30PM, Rabies Clinic for cats and dogs, licensing for dogs, Fire Station #2, Route 57.

Saturday, March 12, 5-7PM, Corned beef and cabbage Supper, Firehouse No. 2, sponsored by the New Boston Congregational Church. \$10 adults, \$5 kids under 12. Takeouts available, tickets at the door. All welcome.

Thursday, March 17, 7PM, 250th Birthday Committee Meeting, Town Hall Annex. All welcome. 269-4465

Thursday, March 17th – Sunday, March 20th, Mt. Everett Regional High School presents the musical “You’re a Good Man Charlie Brown” at Thomas A. Consolati Performing Arts Center in Sheffield, MA. Gen. Admission \$8. To purchase tickets call (413)229-8754 ext. 127

Monday, March 21 Last day to obtain nomination papers

Wednesday, March 23 Last day to submit nomination papers

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. Old Town Hall.

Planning Board, second Monday of the month 6PM. Old Town Hall.

Board of Assessors, second Tuesday of the month 5PM. Town Hall Annex.

Council on Aging, every Wednesday 11AM. Town Hall Annex. Potluck Lunch at Noon. Bingo at 1pm. Free Blood Pressure screening every fourth Wednesday.

1st Monday, 7PM, Farmington River Regional School District meets. Public welcome. JoAnn Austin, Superintendent, 269-4466.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11-Noon, Aqua Wellness Exercise Program for Seniors and People with Disabilities. Kilpatrick Fitness Center at Simon’s Rock. \$3/each session. Even people on oxygen can participate. Dave Collopy, Facility Director, 528-7773. Email: dcollopy@simons-rock.edu or General information number 528-7777.

Every Monday, 9:30-11AM. Story Time followed by a craft. Farmington River Elementary School. Led by Laura Messina. Sponsored by CHP.

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30AM, Community Health Program Family Network Playgroup for Kids 5 and under. Toys, music, crafts! Parents must stay. All welcome. Old Town Hall. Call Alison Benedict for more information (413) 770-7517.

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

Tuesdays through May, Lunch for Seniors. A community service offered by the Farmington River Regional School with assistance from 4th-6th graders. \$2 per person. Call 269-4466 on the Monday before to reserve your spot!

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

Ice skating, American Legion Pavilion, Route 8 Sandisfield. Open all weekend and by appointment during the week. Free but donations gratefully

accepted to pay for electricity. Some skates available, mostly women’s and children’s. Donations of old skates appreciated. Call any member of the Recreation Committee for more information. Robbin 258-4615 Tina 258-4512 Lisa 258-4992.

1st Sunday, 9AM New Boston Congregational Church worship service and communion. Services suspended during the winter months! Services start up again in April.

KWIK^{Color} PRINT

INCORPORATED

EXPERIENCE • SPEED • QUALITY

- Full Color Digital Printing
- Full Color Envelope Printing
- Large Format Printing
- High Speed Copying
- Laminating
- Inline Bookletmaking
- Perfect Binding
- Folding
- Perforating
- Mailing Services
- Graphic Design Services

35 Bridge Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Ph: 413.528.2885 Fx: 413.528.9220

typesetting@kwikprintinc.com
www.kwikprintinc.com

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Sandisfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.



Massachusetts Cultural Council

FLOATS NEEDED FOR MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Take part in Sandisfield’s annual parade, Sunday, May 29th at 10am. Any decorated vehicles are welcome including floats, cars, ATV’s, and golf carts. The parade starts at the Old Town Hall on Silverbrook Road and ends at The American Legion on Route 8. Sandisfield’s four local restaurants have each generously donated \$50 gift certificates as prizes. First prize picks first and so on. Our Veterans will judge! Please present your float no later than 9:30 a.m. for line up. Call Robbin Campetti with any questions 259-4615.

SOME WORDS FROM OUR SPONSORS

ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE - BETSY POLATIN

Learn to recognize excess tension and change unproductive patterns of daily life.
Learn more at betsypolatin.com or call 617 277 2224 - 413 258 2820.

A&M AUTO

Complete auto & truck care
Import & domestic
24-hour heavy duty & light towing
258-3381

ANNECHARICO CONSTRUCTION Co.

General Contractors
Site work, septic systems & driveways
Mass licensed, fully insured
24 Stump Rd, Sandisfield 258-4801

BERKSHIRE WOODS REALTY, LLC

158 Sandisfield Rd. Sandisfield, MA 01255
Experience the difference LOCAL Realtors can Make!
Personalized & experienced service for buyers & sellers.
413-258-4430/don@berkshirewoods.net

BIZTECH ASSOCIATES

Your South County Computer Specialist
Networks ~ Data ~ Training ~ Troubleshooting
Jean Atwater-Williams, Owner
Call Toll-Free 877-857-2001

LEDGE FIELD FARM

Vitamins & minerals in their natural casings.
Organically grown without any animal fertilizer in raised beds.
258-4223

MASSWOOD FORESTRY Co., LLC

Sandisfield, MA 01255
Robert Liberman
654 Madison Ave., 1401, NY, NY 10065
Email: rliberman@theadlergroup.net

MEPAL MANOR + SPA

Full Salon + Spa Services
Massage, Facials, Body Treatments, Fitness
Thurs. - Sun. 10-5 413-229-3498
Please visit www.Mepalspa.com

RICHARD B. MIGOT

Carpentry, woodwork, painting
Custom furniture, bookcases
(413) 441-4775
Email: rmigot@aol.com

MUNSON SATELLITE TV

TV Antenna & Satellite Systems
DIRECTV/Dish Network
38 W. Hubbard Rd, Sandisfield
Phone/Fax 258-4887

C.W. NELSON LANDSCAPE DESIGN

& Construction/Looking Glass Gardens
Nurseries & Event Rental
19 Dodd Rd. www.c.w.nelson.com
Mon-Sat 8am-4pm 258-3375

NEW BOSTON INN

Restaurant Tavern B & B
Corner of Routes 8 & 57
Open M - Th: 12 - 8; F, S, S: 12 - 9
413 258-4477 www.newbostoninn.com

NEW BOSTON STORE

110 South Main Street
Grocery, gas, liquor, lottery
Deli, fax service, copies
258-4522

PATHWAYS FARM PERENNIALS

484 New Boston Rd. (Rt. 57), Tolland MA
413-231-2708
Hours: Tu -Sat 9-6 • Sun Noon-5
Excellent selection of Tolland-hardy plants

RED BARN ALPACAS

Jeff and Sonja Gray
24 Stump Rd 258-4905
Alpaca sales, fiber, felt, yarn
Hats, gloves, socks, etc.

SKI BUTTERNUT - A TRUE FAMILY MOUNTAIN

22 Trails, 10 Lifts, 1000ft Vertical, Tubing
Ski Shop, 2 Terrain Parks & We're Affordable!
Season Pass: \$275 Adults \$225 Jr., \$100 Kids
www.SkiButternut.com or 413-528-2000

SNOW FARM

Horticultural Services & Forest Mgmt.
Garden design, maintenance, tree work, firewood
16 S. Beech Plain Road, Sandisfield
(413) 258-4929

TINA SOTIS

Oil Paintings & Graphic Design
10 Stump Rd., Sandisfield 258-8166
Email: tinasotis@gmail.com
www.tinasotis.com

TUCKER'S PUB

61 South Main Street
258-4945
Good Food....Great Times

VILLA MIA

Restaurant & New York Style Pizza
Specializing in Italian Cuisine
Open Wed - Mon 11am - 9pm
88 S. Main St., Sandisfield 258-4236

WHEN PIGS FLY FARM

Andy & Sandra Snyder
222 Sandisfield Rd
100% organic plants, produce, flowers, herbs,
berries, eggs, meat and more.

WILD BIRDS COUNTRY STORE

783 Main Street, Great Barrington
www.wild-birdstore.com
413-644-9007
Unique bird and nature store.

WM. BROCKMAN REAL ESTATE

Country Homes, Estates & Land - A preeminent
Berkshire real estate firm with over 35 years of success
www.berkshiresforsale.com
413-528-4859 or 258-4777

PLEASE NOTE:

*We are no longer
accepting entries for this
sponsorship page.*

Those businesses who have already paid for their one-year listing will continue to be posted here until their one-year sponsorship expires.

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: Tu-Th 9:30 AM – 1:30 PM
Meets second Tuesday every month at 5 PM

BOARD OF HEALTH: 258-4053

Office hours Mon 11-3. Meets first Wed at 9 AM
Meets at the Old Town Hall, 3 Silverbrook Rd.

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
JoAnn D. Austin, Superintendent: 413 269-4466
FRRSD **SCHOOL COMMITTEES** meets first Mon, 7 PM

GIRL SCOUTS GS Council 1-800-462-9100 for troop & leader information

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, 3 Silverbrook Road - 258-4170

PLANNING BOARD

Meets second Monday every month @ 6 PM
Meets at the Old Town Hall, 3 Silverbrook Rd.

POLICE – LOCAL Emergency: 911

Michael Morrison, Police Chief
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@verizon.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 Laurie Hils

Great Barrington Town Hall: 413 528-1580
Mon – Thurs: 7 AM – 3 PM

(March 1, 2011)

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

P.O. Box 584

Sandisfield, MA 01255

www.sandisfieldtimes.org

To place an AD in
THE SANDISFIELD TIMES...

Please email
advertising@sandisfieldtimes.org
for info and a copy of our
Ad Rate Sheet!

The Sandisfield Times is an independent nonprofit organization staffed by volunteers from the Sandisfield community and funded by individual and business sponsors. Its mission is to connect the community through reliable, regular, and relevant information.

The Sandisfield Times does not yet have a 501(c)(3) designation, therefore donations are NOT tax-deductible at this time but **donations of all sizes are needed to ensure the continuation of this newspaper.** Please send checks to: *The Sandisfield Times*, P.O. Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255. For more information visit our website www.sandisfieldtimes.org.

Copies of *The Sandisfield Times* are available in Sandisfield at A&M Auto, the Dump, Post Office, Town Hall, Library, the New Boston Store, the New Boston Inn, the Silverbrook Café, Tuckers, and Villa Mia. Copies are also available in Otis at Katie's Market (summer months), Otis Library, the Farmington

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

To have the *The Times* mailed to your home, please complete the information below and send a check for \$25 (annual subscription fee) made out to *The Sandisfield Times* to:

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES
PO BOX 584, SANDISFIELD, MA 01255

Name _____

Address to where *The Times* should be delivered:

City, State, Zip _____

Elementary School (during the school year) and Terranova's. Other locations include the Monterey General Store, the Southfield Store and Bizalio's French Cafe.

The Times can be mailed to your home by paid subscription (see form below) or you can read it (free) online as a PDF document at www.sandisfieldtimes.org.

We welcome submissions, comments and suggestions, including letters to the editor **BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH PRIOR.** We may edit for space, style or clarity. We will try to publish Public Service Announcements when we have room, with priority given to Sandisfield organizations. No portion of the *The Sandisfield Times* may be reproduced without permission.

Editorial Staff for this issue:

Editor: Setsuko Winchester

Graphic Design: Myrna Carson

Contributors: Jean Atwater Williams, Val Coleman, Susie Crofut, Bernard Drew, Larry Dwyer, Debbie Harris, Dassy Herman, Jerry Herman, Patricia Hubbard, Michael Lutynski, Richard Migot, Simon Winchester, and our regular columnists.

How to Contact Us

Letters to the editor:letters@sandisfieldtimes.org

News, ideas, tips & photoseditor@sandisfieldtimes.org

Advertising questions:advertising@sandisfieldtimes.org

Entries for calendar of events:calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org