

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



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SANDISFIELD TO BE INTERNET PIONEER IN “LIGHTING UP” THE BERKSHIRES

By Simon Winchester

Photos Setsuko Winchester

Despite briefly losing some aides to our unfamiliar back roads, Massachusetts governor Deval Patrick managed to make an unprecedented visit to the beating heart of Sandisfield at the end of last month to make an historic announcement: that as he had pledged, the Berkshires will now be connected and formally “lit up” with lightning-fast fiber-optic internet cable in less than two years’ time.

At a star-studded noontime Tuesday event held in blazing sunshine at the Route 57 firehouse, the Governor announced to cheers from a large crowd of townsfolk that work would begin immediately on the \$100 million task of laying more than a thousand miles of cable, “the critical final step in delivering broadband access to everyone.” What Governor Patrick called “the digital divide,” which has for years kept western Massachusetts at an economic and educational disadvantage from the rest of the internet-connected state, is, he declared “about to close.”

He then pointed to a group of Sandisfield children holding up signs proclaiming, among other things, “Broadband Rocks,” and said, “This is for you. This is your future.”

Standing beneath a ceremonial archway of the white and yellow cherry-picker trucks that will be used to deploy on utility poles the finger-thin cables – each holding scores of tiny glass fibers, a single one of which could accommodate all the telephone calls made in this state at one time – the Governor, on his first-ever visit to Sandisfield, formally inaugurated what is to be called the MassBroadband 123 project. Under the plan, more than a hundred Berkshire County towns and villages, and a score more in remote corners just south of the Vermont line, will now have cable brought directly to key buildings.

“We will be bringing it to you from the closest point where fiber currently has a presence, and that is Springfield,” explained Judith Dumont,

the director of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, the state-funded body charged with expanding internet connections through the Commonwealth.

“Over the last three years we have conducted the surveys, we have dealt with any possible environmental impacts, we have negotiated the permissions to put the lines on utility poles, and we have selected the partners who will do the engineering work. We are good to go.

“It was just left to the Governor, whose campaign promise this was, to make the announcement today.

“And it is so good to do it here, in a small rural town – a beautiful town, by the way – that is, in essence, just the typical kind of place that needs and deserves to be fully connected.”

As with all the connections to be made under the MassBroadband 123 initiative, fiber optic cable will be brought, on existing utility poles, to a number of what are called anchor institutions, places said to be of crucial importance to the life and running of each town. In the case of Sandisfield, the new cable will be brought directly to six places - the Town Hall and its annex, the Town Library, the home of police chief Mike Morrison, and the two fire stations, on Rte. 57 and Rte. 8.

With Governor Patrick pledging to “hold everyone’s feet to the fire” to be certain the deadlines are all met, the first cables are due to arrive on our poles by the autumn of 2013 - sweeping Sandisfield very suddenly into the technological vanguard of the 21st century.

Funds for the giant project come from three primary sources – from the Obama government – which gave a \$45.4 million grant of Recovery Act money, funneled through the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, part of the Department of Commerce; from Deval Patrick’s State government, which provided matching funds from its Information Technology Division; and from the Calgary-based company, Axia *Cont’d p.2*



Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick



Sandisfield Selectman Patrick Barrett speaking as Governor Patrick looks on.

SANDISFIELD'S 'LIGHT-UP' MOMENT



Clockwise from top left: State Rep. Smitty Pignatelli; Governor Deval Patrick addressing his audience; Brandon and Shane Messina and Alec Morrison of Sandisfield and Lizzie Sarnacki of East Otis; News crews in attendance; Audience at the Massachusetts Broadband Institute meeting; State Sen. Ben Downing; MBI Director Judith Dumont; Sandisfield resident Val Coleman. Below, Governor Patrick speaks with some of his younger constituents.

"LIGHTING UP" THE BERKSHIRES Cont'd from p.1

The work on the ground – soon to become familiar, as installation trucks will be seen in increasing numbers on our roads over the coming months - will be performed by a company called G4S, based in Omaha, Nebraska.

The arrangements announced by Governor Patrick do not, however, bring fiber optic cable into our homes – it will come only to the community access points. The final mile, as the length of cable that comes into our living rooms is generally known, will have to be brought to us by another, as yet unselected company.

WiredWest, about which *The Times* has written in previous months, is one of the leading contenders in this venture; and a Special Town Meeting, due to be held on August 4th, will have Sandisfield townspeople formally vote on whether to give this company the rights to bid for connection business in Sandisfield and some 46 other small hill towns.

But there are questions still to be answered. Economics is one. As to who will fund

these final mile efforts, and what percentage of Sandisfield residents will want the blazing-fast connection that will be on offer, remains to be seen (currently about 30 percent of most residents say no – which drives the cost up for those who want it). And dog-in-manger behavior, too. As to whether Verizon, who owns most of the utility poles (others are owned by Western Mass Electric and National Grid), will readily give permission for a communication-competitor like WiredWest to suspend their cables from them – that also remains to be seen.



The pole-owners do not have the right to refuse (there is still government regulation in the business of utility-pole use), but they do nonetheless have the ability to obfuscate, and delay. And many fear that may be the case, especially with Verizon (which had nonetheless sent a representative to the firehouse meeting).

Governor Patrick, who promised at the Sandisfield meeting to ensure that Verizon in particular cooperates with the MassBroadband 123 project (which makes use of no fewer than 35,000 poles, most of them Verizon's), said it was im-

perative the giant firm help remove any roadblocks from construction of the final mile project too. "We're still going to be working hard to make sure everyone who wants high-speed internet, get it," he said. "I am optimistic now. I firmly believe that no one will stand in the way."

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

THE DOG DAYS OF AUGUST

It is August, that bittersweet month when summer no longer stretches out before us and winter is not far ahead. Daylight wanes and hot days give way to colder nights.

There *is* something different about August. It is a time of change; the very air rustles with the tension of waiting. Second homeowners begin plans for return to their workaday lives, children anticipate the coming school year with dread (or excitement), gardens, so recently abundant and lush, begin to lose their bloom, summer romances end. "These are strange and breathless days," quotes the prologue from the children's classic, *Tuck Everlasting*, "the dog days, when people are led to do things they are sure to be sorry for after."

It is a month of anticipation, change and letting go. It is a restless time.

Sandisfield is going through its own growing pains. Within four days of this writing, the Governor of Massachusetts, along with other state representatives will convene here to announce that our town has been chosen by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute to be the first of the Western Massachusetts towns to install fiber optic cable at select anchor institutions (like towns halls, fire houses, libraries, etc.) The impact of such a coup represents a great leap into the future for our town.

But a harsh reality threatens to overshadow the joyous news about broadband for the town: Just a few weeks ago we had to choose between the school's financial needs and those of our own. The result: we had to dip into our Cash Reserve to balance our budget. The funds that we used to depend on are getting much tighter and we can no longer afford to pay for things we once took for granted. And we cannot sustain an annual drawdown on our savings.


How do we adapt to fiscally desperate times like these?

One answer is to increase the tax roles by new development - more residents equal a higher tax base. (And maybe now that we are on the brink of being one of the first towns to have fiber optic we might be more attractive to prospective homebuyers and businesses). But we might need to alter our thinking about keeping this small town, well, small.

There is some talk about the regionalization of local Boards of Health. Recently an effort was made to combine into one the police coverage in a couple of towns in Berkshire County. We already share a school with Otis. Some think this trend of pooling resources may lead to towns like ours disappearing into the maw of a larger municipality. Imagine if Sandisfield, Tyringham, Monterey, Otis and Becket became one town - using the towns' initials, what would we call this new entity - STyMOBistan?

The Town would like to position itself to qualify for state and federal grants for special projects. This could mean more money for roads, for example. In order to qualify however, we would need to have a Master Plan and be shovel ready for the projects for which we are seeking funds. Are we ready to put a Master Plan in place, Sandisfield?

Finally, we may have to accept that country towns may either be abandoned altogether or they will be places only for those wealthy enough to afford them.

August, a time then, to reflect on adaptation and things to come. It is also the month I was born. I came into the world, my father once told me, at a time "when the shadows began to lengthen." And as we watch the Canada Geese overhead flying south we all sense these annual harbingers of autumn are upon us. The cycle continues - making way for change, the one thing we can count on. 

Tina Sotis
Editor, July and August issues



Northern Lights, 1938

It must have been August.
Mom had closed Swann's Way that afternoon
With the soft sound of a book's breath.
The first Concord grape was about to bloom
To flag the summer.
As it turned out, the sunset was an overture.
From the White Mountains
Orange colors geysered up
To paint the clouds.
So it was that I went to sleep
Thinking of porcupines
And my mother by the grey wood well.
Sleep at six or seven can be plain and deep.
All of the sudden, my father waked me up,
He smelled like a pine tree.
And he took me in his arms
And he ran out the screen door
And he stood me on the grey wood well
And said, "Look!"
And there, above... boiling out of the zenith
Was every color I had ever seen
Racing to the edge of the world.
It was all around me, all of the flags and fires
And radiance!
There were reds, noble and velvet,
Yellows and whole waterfalls of blue.
And above all, white!
Darting, moving curtains of white
Stretching down from heaven out to dry.
Oh my God it was beautiful!
And I was six or seven and struck dumb.

That was the last summer in Maine before the war.
Nothing then or since has moved me more.

Val Coleman

PERMETTEZ-MOI?

by Rhee Kasky



Have you ever thought about doing something different with your residential property? Changing how you use it, enhancing it in some way? If you

have, you may need a Special Permit. We're taking a look at what Sandisfield residents need to do to obtain a permit that changes the use of their property. While Town Clerk, Dolores Harasyko, reports that throughout all the years she's worked for the town there have only been about eight requests for a change of use, it happens that two such applications are presently under consideration. The following is a quick overview of the steps to be taken.

Sandisfield is zoned for residential and agricultural use. It is not necessary to obtain a Special Permit

for either of these property uses. According to Town Bylaws you may place a business sign in front of your house but, if you have equipment, employees or customers on the property, you will need a Special Permit. Why? Because you've changed the nature of your property from residential to either commercial or residential/commercial.

Here's an example of a situation that requires a Special Permit. Let's say you're a landscaper. You started small, you had a sign in front announcing the business and soon your business began to grow. You added equipment and hired employees, you stocked up on mulch and plants and other supplies. You still live there, but now you've got a commercial operation running from your home. You need a Special Permit that allows you to change the use of your property.

Your first step is to request a permit application from the Town Clerk. Complete it and turn it back to the Town Clerk who confers with the Town Counsel and then hands your completed permit to the Selectmen. In some instances, the Planning Board needs to be involved and perhaps even the Zoning Board of

Appeals (as in the case of a family that purchased a piece of land here - zoned residential - upon which they want to establish a commercial-only enterprise). After the preliminary paperwork is done and the various boards have been involved, the Selectmen establish a date for a Public Hearing. Abutters to the property, as well as abutters to the abutters within 300 feet of all points of the property, are notified by certified mail. All four abutting towns (Otis, Tolland, Monterey and New Marlborough) are notified as well. Notice of the hearing is advertised in local newspapers and posted at Town Hall at least 14 business days before the hearing.

The hearing is opened by the Selectmen and anyone in the room has an opportunity to speak. Some may have concerns while others may be there to support the permit. When the hearing is over there is a 20-day period during which appeals may be filed. After that the Town Clerk confirms whether or not there have been any appeals. The Selectmen then make a decision and it must be unanimous. If the decision is to approve the permit, the

Cont'd p.8

TAKE A HIKE

Yanner Park

by Larry Dwyer

Occasionally, I'll do a little trailblazing in Sandisfield, but when you get off the beaten path you have to be well prepared. For navigation, some prefer using a hand held GPS, but I still prefer an old fashioned map and compass. I enjoy reading maps, always have, and I like spreading out a map on the dining room table and plotting a route while in the comfort of my home with a good cup of coffee. I'm no technophobe, but I still feel it's safer to know where you're at, the old fashioned way. I can't rid myself of the anxiety of the GPS batteries going dead, or the device being dropped on a rock or into a stream. Working with a map gives me greater peace of mind and, I feel, a greater awareness of the terrain.

The easiest time to trail blaze is in the late fall or early winter when visibility is enhanced after the foliage has fallen from the trees, and before the snow gets too deep. However, you have to be careful during the hunting season, and the best precaution is to wear a blaze orange hunter vest or cap in order to attain high visibility.

For some time now, I've been fantasizing about creating a trail that goes from York Lake to Route 8 and beyond, but it's not likely that such a trail can be created, because after all, it has to be maintained, and parts of the trail would have to cross private property. So far, I've plotted a trail from York Lake to Hammertown Road and have hiked portions of it, but it's slow going since you're walking over fallen trees, beaver dams, swampy terrain, through heavy brush and woodlands.

There has been some talk lately about what to do about Yanner Park, and last winter I hiked through the woods from Yanner Park eastward. I found an interesting location that would make a nice trail from Yanner Park to the top of a ridge, overlooking the new dam built at Clam Lake Reservoir, which is just off Hammertown Road.

The ridge is slightly more than a 1/3 of a mile from Yanner Park and from this vantage point there is a nice view of the valley below and the reservoir beyond. The deer seem to favor this ridge as was evident by the

abundant deer droppings. I suppose the ridge gives the deer a clear 360 view of the surroundings, to watch for any approaching predators. This short walk from the park would give visitors a nice place to take in the view. There is also an old road that was once used to reach the summit, but there is heavy brush to cross to get to the woods before continuing to the ridge.

From the ridge to Clam Lake Reservoir, it is a steep drop down to the valley. It's too extreme to hike straight down, so it would require a rope, but preferably a zigzag path, called a switchback, would have to be created to safely hike down the hill. Creating a switchback would be quite an undertaking, but clearing a strait trail from the park to the top of the ridge wouldn't be all that difficult. I've only hiked to the top of the ridge and haven't hiked all the way to the reservoir because I wasn't prepared to descend the sharp decline.

Here is some basic information about hiking from Yanner Park:

- Distance from Yanner Park to Hammertown Road: 1.5 miles.
- Distance from Yanner Park to the ridge: .4 miles
- Difficulty: Very strenuous.
- Estimated time to walk the entire trail: approximately 1 1/2 hours.
- Terrain: Heavy brush with many obstructions and steep strenuous grades.
- Scenery: Lakes, woodlands and a scenic hilltop view.

Directions: Start at the parking lot at the Yanner Park entrance. Walk east through heavy brush, and continue straight into the forest. When you get into the forest, you will walk uphill to the top of a ridge. At this point there is a very steep drop towards Clam Lake Reservoir and you can exit at Hammertown Road. Please note that there is NO trail and there are NO markings whatsoever.

When hiking from Yanner Park to the Clam Lake Reservoir, I would recommend the following basic equipment:


- Hiking shoes, hiking socks, and walking stick.
- Water and trail mix.

The following additional equipment might be required:

- Rope for climbing.

- Map and compass.
- Machete for brush clearing.

The entire hike is extremely difficult so prepare well if you're planning to make the trip. I'm planning to hike all the way from Yanner Park to the Clam Lake Reservoir, but I'm looking for a partner to accompany me. Are there any volunteers? Don't all jump up at once.


See you on the trail. 



Second Municipal Lighting Plant Vote August 4th

By Jean Atwater-Williams

A Special Town Meeting will be held at Old Town Hall on Thursday, August 4th at 7:00 pm for the purpose of conducting a second MLP (Municipal Lighting Plant) vote. You may recall at the Annual Town Meeting that the town voted "to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take all necessary and appropriate action to establish and to maintain, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 164 of the General Laws and in accordance with the rules, regulations and orders of the Department of Public Utilities and the Department of Telecommunications & Cable, a municipal lighting plant for all purposes allowable under the laws of the Commonwealth, including without limitation the operation of a telecommunications system and any related services, or to take any other action relative thereto." The article passed handily, but by law requires a 2nd vote before the MLP can actually be formed. If the article should pass again on August 4th, the town of Sandisfield will be properly positioned to join WiredWest, whose mission is to bring state of the art fiber optic broadband to homes and businesses in all of the underserved towns in western Mass. Although it will still likely be several years before such a network is up and running, many feel that WiredWest is the best hope for bringing the information super highway to rural towns such as ours. If the article should fail, then Sandisfield would be prohibited from forming an MLP and joining WiredWest for at least 2 years. The will of the people at our upcoming Special Town Meeting will determine whether Sandisfield could be among the founding towns of the WiredWest Cooperative when it incorporates on August 13th, 2011.

NOTE: WiredWest should not be confused with the MBI (Massachusetts Broadband Institute), whose announcement on Tuesday, July 26th claimed to have brought broadband to Sandisfield. While technically true, the MBI is only bringing fiber to select "anchor institutions" which include town halls, fire houses, police stations and libraries. **The MBI will NOT bring fiber to your home or business. MBI is a "middle mile" provider. WiredWest is a "last mile" provider, and is the only provider who has promised to bring state of the art, "future proof" fiber optic cable directly to your home or business.** 

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DOUG ROCCO *Speed Demon*

Article and Photos by Susan van Sickle

By the age of seven, when most kids his age were busy playing baseball and soccer, Doug Rocco was fascinated with motor sports. He began racing motocross, otherwise known as all terrain motorcycles, at fifteen and eventually ended up racing cars. Following his college graduation in 1981, Doug was involved in an accident which left him with no car, but with a team that was racing at Lime Rock, CT. In Great Barrington for some R & R following a day of events at the park, Doug met Katie, his future wife, as she was pumping gas for herself at Cumberland Farms, and that chance encounter would steer his life in a somewhat different direction.

Katie and Doug ended up owning a horse farm together in CT where they trained and boarded horses. While trying to sell the farm, they put it into the hands of a manager who wanted to live at the farm, and they ended up renting their house on Rood Hill Rd. from Lynn Friend, whose family had owned the house for many years. The Roccos eventually bought the house and have now been living in Sandisfield for seventeen years.

Here, Katie continues to train and board a limited number of horses. The house that they live in, dating to 1769, is considered by Ron Bernard, Sandisfield's resident historian, to be one of the oldest, if not the oldest in Sandisfield. Because of the high bushes growing in front of it, the house escaped the last "old house" survey, so its discovery has been somewhat of a surprise.

In addition to Doug, Katie and their daughter, Cailin, there has long been thought to be a fourth inhabitant of the house: a ghost discovered while Katie's mother was living with them. The smell of burnt toast at night is what Katie's mother said was

the tip off for her. This pungent smell is said to be a sure sign that a ghost is inhabiting a dwelling. A friend of Cailin's, while spending the night, reports having been awaked by the rustling sound of glass beads, as in a beaded curtain, and thinking that it was Cailin, he opened his eyes to see a woman's torso gliding towards him. Needless to say, a light stayed on for the remainder of the night.

When Cailin was born in 1988, Doug began designing and producing mailboxes. This decision to branch out not only allowed him to be a stay at home dad, but also generated additional income so that he could continue racing. It was at this time that Still River Designs was born. To this day, Doug handles orders for his line of embossed copper wrapped boxes available on the internet at stillriverdesigns.com. Several of his most famous customers include L.L.Bean, Eddie Bauer, Restoration Hardware and the Black Dog Restaurant on Martha's Vineyard.

Summer is the high season for Doug's racing and the races take him to Ohio, New Hampshire, Lime Rock Park (CT), Watkins Glen (NY), and the Poconos. Doug races with the SCCA (Sports Car Club of America) which is a class of open wheel single seater road racing cars. At the present, Doug is third in the northeast in formula continental and second in regionals with his teammate, Dennis McCarthy. The end goal for the two of them is to qualify to be able to go to runoffs in Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin in September. Gentlemen, start your engines! 🏁



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Forrest's Fun Facts *The Importance of Recycling*

by Forrest Hull

Nationwide, beer and soda cans are the most recycled consumer product. But their rate of return fell from a peak of sixty-five percent in 1992 to a twenty-three year low of forty-four percent in 2003, when 820,000 tons of aluminum cans were put into the trash. The Container Recycling Institute estimates that more than a trillion aluminum cans have been buried in landfills since 1972 (which takes eighty to one hundred years to decompose) when the industry started keeping records. Sadly, we have not recovered from our nationwide high in 1992.

According to the GrassRoots Recycling Network, Americans trash more than forty million plastic soda bottles a day.

Glass takes over 1,000,000 (one million) years to decompose in a landfill. Recycled glass can be turned into jars, jewelry, bottles, dishes, drinking glasses, coffee mugs, and many other items, while saving the environment from millions of pounds of greenhouse gases. 🏠

DAVE SHADE

INDUCTED INTO THE BOXING HALL OF FAME

Articles and Photo (top left) by Larry Dwyer

On June 12, 2011, Dave Shade was posthumously inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame at a ceremony at Canastota, NY. He was inducted in the "old-timer" category, and was one of six posthumous inductees. Receiving the award was his grandson Bob Shade, who is the Vice President of Marketing, and sports director of WBRK radio in Pittsfield. Bob was accompanied by Dave Shade's great-grandson, Kyle Shade. Bob and Kyle both reside in Pittsfield.

Dave Shade ran a boxing camp in Sandisfield during the 1920s after he was sent to Sandisfield to recover from an illness he contracted while swimming in Long Island Sound. The boxing camp was located at the intersection of Sullivan and Shade Roads. A house now stands on the same foundation where Dave Shade's cabin once stood, and the road where the boxing camp was located was subsequently named after him.


Born March 1, 1902, Dave Shade was one of the five top contenders, during the 1920s and 30s, for the Welterweight and Middleweight boxing class. Originally from Vallejo, Calif., he began fighting in 1918, at the age of fifteen, and fought 219 recorded fights. If you were to count his 3-round circuit fights, he would have then fought more than 270 fights.

Shade fought twice for the Welterweight championship, once in 1921 and then again the next year, against the champion Jack Britton. Both fights ended in a draw. He fought again for the Welterweight championship against Mickey



Walker in 1925. Shade fought Hall of Famers Jack Britton, Mickey Walker and Maxie Rosenbloom. Early in his career, he fought on the 4-round circuit, in which he developed a deceptive and difficult offensive style where he would weave, twist and bob in front of an opponent, presenting a moving target that was hard to hit solidly. In a spectacular upset, (*Ring Magazine* called it the Upset of the Year) against light heavyweight Jimmy Slattery, who was knocked out in three rounds on July 2, 1925, Slattery said that Shade's "...peculiar crouching and weaving style presented too difficult a problem for him to solve." Shade was not a big puncher, but he was only stopped twice during his career. In 1930 and 1931, Dave Shade was the top-

ranked middleweight in the world, but he was never given a shot at the title. He beat five men who later became world champions, leading to his nickname, "Uncrowned King of the Welterweights."

Shade retired from fighting in 1935 and lived in Pittsfield for a number of years where he was part owner of the East Street Café that later became the Boulevard Café. In 1951 he moved to New Smyrna Beach, Florida, and ran a motel. He died on June 23, 1983 at the age of 81. 



Adam Manacher

VEGAN HEAVEN

Last month I had the pleasure of cooking for some friends. One guest followed a very specific, special diet. She eats only vegan and she can eat no gluten. Meals without meat are not unusual for me to prepare. Preparing a meal without any meat, eggs or dairy (vegan) and without any flour (bread, pasta) was a more unusual challenge.

For most meat eaters, a plate of "only vegetables" leaves them with a wanting look and an overwhelming question of "where's the beef?" I find that presentation goes a long way to easing this anxiety. "Fill the plate and make it look filling." And of course make it taste great!

For my friends I prepared something similar to vegetable lasagna without the pasta (gluten). Often this dish is called a "tian" of vegetables. Each vegetable is prepared individually and then layered in a rectangular casserole dish for reheating in the oven.

Separately cooking each vegetable first gives you more control on the doneness and texture of each item. A variety of vegetables can be used successfully in this dish depending on the textures and tastes you prefer. The ingredients I used are as follows.

Vidalia onion: slice thinly and sauté in a little olive oil on high heat, stirring until they become a light caramelized color. Add clove or two of crushed garlic and sauté 5 more minutes.

Portobello mushroom: brush with olive oil and cap side down. Roast in a 400° oven until soft (about 35 minutes). Retain any liquid that gathers in the cap for later use!


Eggplant: preferably one of the smaller, Asian varieties with thinner skin. Slice into 1/8 to 1/4 inch rounds and sauté in olive oil until brown on each side. Set cooked pieces on paper towel and pat lightly to remove excess oil.

Fennel: slice thinly 1/8 to 1/4 or dice. Place in sauté pan with white wine, not quite to cover, and a tablespoon of olive oil. Add the saved liquid from the roasted mushroom. Simmer until soft and tender. Add more liquid (water) if necessary.

Red pepper: roast pepper in a 400° oven for 30 minutes or place on open flame to char. Cool and peel off skin or lightly wash off charred skin. Slice pepper into 1/4 inch strips.

Basil and parsley chopped coarsely. Kosher salt.

Once all the above are prepared, lightly oil your casserole dish. Lay down a layer of each vegetable and repeat, alternating vegetables. Cover with foil and reserve until 30 minutes before you are ready to dine. Then reheat for 30 minutes in a 350° oven. Using a sharp knife, gently cut through the layers and using a spatula serve as you would a lasagna.

In addition to our vegetable "tian," I added another item on the plate: Thin, crispy potato pancakes (made with no flour or eggs) served over a bed of lightly wilted spinach. And as a tip of the hat to those at the table who were not vegan I offered a poached, farm fresh egg on top of the potato pancake! *Bon appetite!* 

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AVIAN NOTES

By Margaret O'Clair

The Assault of Number 5, Fighter Squadron

I have half a dozen Bluebird nest boxes dotted around the garden and every year the one on the lawn above the flower garden has been occupied by a pair of nesting Tree Swallows. This year was no exception. The male arrived in early June, did a little reconnoitering and settled atop the box. Soon a female arrived, I saw them mate and the nest-building began. Then everything went wrong with the intrusion of a second male. Fierce flying flights of dives and swoops began. Every time I thought things had sorted themselves out the interloper reappeared and the chaos continued. Like so many ménage-a-trois this situation was not working out. After ten days all three birds were gone and an inspection of the nest box revealed a half built nest of grass and feathers.

The swallows found in New England are usually named after their nesting habitats. The Tree Swallow likes to use old woodpecker nests or hollows in dead trees. Barn Swallows tend to make use of manmade structures. Their cup shaped nests are made of mud and would be flooded out if exposed to the elements so they like to build in a well sheltered area. After my disappointment with the Tree Swallows I was delighted to see a pair of Barn Swallows checking out the drip edge above the window by the kitchen door. Sure enough little blobs of mud were being deposited along the shelf. They didn't seem to know what they were doing at first but slowly the base of a bowl appeared and they quickly finished the nest attached to the clapboards and resting on the drip edge. During this construction period I followed the birds' flight path to a wet muddy area in front of the barn

and watched them select tiny dollops of mud. This was the area Charlie Pease kept his cows in over the winter so calling this a mud nest is being polite.

In spite of this I enjoyed having the birds by the kitchen door. I talked to them and looked up at them and they looked down on me and everyone seemed happy with the situation. All this changed June 19th. My neighbor Cynthia came over to see if I had any chicken eggs. I heard screams at the back door and ran to find a scene straight from "The Birds." Cynthia was crouching on the doorstep, an empty egg carton over her head and these two swallows swooping and dive bombing her relentlessly. The swallows' eggs had hatched and the sweet little forked tail flyers had become fierce fighters in defense of their young. No one was spared their assaults, shrieking and flying directly into the head of anybody approaching their nest. Their feathers would touch faces and ruffle hair. It was quite alarming.

This went on until a rainy July 8th when the five young left the nest and fluttered around the patio. Once they could fly the attacks stopped. I saw the family around the barn on several occasions and every night they came back to the nest. At first the young went into the nest, and the last time I saw them they were all lined up along the drip edge, and I could not tell the young from the adults.

July 13th came and no birds, gone, on their way to Argentina.

Do they stay together as a family, or do they join huge flocks? Do the parents teach the young the migration route, where to stop and rest? Will they return to my drip edge next spring? We shall see. ♡



Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Sandisfield Historical Society Cookbook Update

by Josephine Freedman

The cookbook project is well underway. We now have over 200 recipes with more than 100 people contributing. Gathering the recipes has been a major task and we are now only accepting a few of the remaining promised recipes. We are in the process of reviewing the recipes and memoirs that have been submitted to verify ingredients and directions. There is still a great deal of work that will have to be done before the book is submitted to the publisher this Fall.



As was stated in previous articles to this paper, the book will be called *Sandisfield Eats* and will contain food stories, recipes, and some historical information about the society and some old houses. The book will also contain some old photographs on the divider pages. This project will complement all of the activities and events planned for the 250th celebration of the town next year. The book will be ready for sale at the March 2012 celebration at a cost of \$15 per book. We are planning to do some advance sales for the cookbook at community events in the latter part of 2011. The advance sale price will be \$13, so we hope that you will support the Society and the 250th with your purchase of the book. ♡

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TOWN BUSINESS

Debbie Harris

Board of Selectmen Meetings Summary

Ed. Note: We are publishing the minutes from the May 23 and May 31 meetings in this issue because they were just made available.

Selectmen's minutes of meeting of May 23, 2011:

Present: Selectmen Richard Campetti, Patrick Barrett, Jeff Gray; Highway Superintendent Stephen Harasyko, Administrative Assistant Dolores Harasyko

Called to order at 7:07 p.m.

First order of business is to congratulate Jeff on his re-nomination to the Selectboard. Next is to re-organize the Board. Motion by Patrick, second by Richard to nominate Jeff as the Clerk of the Selectboard; passed unanimously. Motion by Richard, second by Jeff to nominate Patrick as the Chair of the Selectboard; passed unanimously.

Council on Aging representatives Linda Riiska and Barbara Cormier present to discuss the Senior Tax Work Off Program. They feel that this program will help save the town money. Linda reviewed the program. They discussed some jobs they felt they could to for the town, such as painting, gardening, maintenance work, mechanical work and some office work.

The COA will form a subcommittee to look into the Tax Work Off Program and present a plan to the Selectmen for approval. This would then have to be voted to adopt it at a town meeting. Patrick explained that we are very busy at this time but do want to move forward in helping them with this. The COA will come back to the Selectmen with a proposal.

There is some confusion as to the assistant positions at the Town Hall Annex. Dolores reviewed that no new jobs have been created. The Treasurer's office has always had an elected official, which is the treasurer, and an assistant. The Assessor has always had 3 elected officials, an assistant and a clerk/secretary. The Selectmen's office has always had one secretary/administrative assistant. The Town Clerk does not have an assistant.

Discussed the school budget. Present are Jo Ann Austin, Jane Gleason and school committee member John Skrip. Dolores reviewed her findings from Town Counsel and the DOR regarding the non-passage of the school budget and prop 2½. Reviewed options for funding if we choose not to revote the 2½. We can transfer from Free Cash or Stabilization. We would need to have a Special Town Meeting by June 30 because, as of July 1, Free Cash is unavailable until sometime in October, when it is certified by the DOR. Patrick addressed needs of the school. Discussed the problems when we consistently level fund budgets. John Burrows from the Finance Committee suggested deferring this year's Stabilization payment. He also suggested asking the Assessors if we can transfer \$100,000 from the Overlay Account. Discussed the school's union contract. They only received a half a percent for a raise for the first year, 1 percent for the second year and 1½ for the third year. John reviewed the salaries and insurance. Kathy Jacobs asked the school if they could maintain the costs next year. Jane responded that it is impossible to say they will level fund. It all depends

on the number of students and cost of utilities. Richard suggested getting in touch with Berkshire Regional Planning to have public information meetings on Prop 2½. Discussed the timeline for having a Special Town Meeting. Jo Ann stated that if forced to cut the budget, the only area she could cut would be the Maintenance Budget and risk vehicle and equipment failure. If they cut tuitions for additional students they will need to come back to the town for a Special Town Meeting when new students move into town in Otis or Sandisfield.

Discussed the History Book Committee and the 250th Committee. The Book Committee is actually a subcommittee of the 250th Committee and shares the same budget. There is some confusion as to who the members are. They will meet and re-organize and come back to the Selectmen.

Steve Harasyko presented Highway Department updates. They are mowing and cleaning up the parade route. The Route 183 project will begin the first week of June. Discussed the Mass. Highway request for a "right of entry" on the former Wilber property. We will place this on next week's agenda.

Discussed the overhang at the Library front door. The frost lifted the supports for the overhang. Richard requested quotes from three businesses, only received one quote from Tolland Mountain Builders. Motion by Richard, second by Patrick, passed unanimously to award the job to Tolland Mountain Builders for \$2,814.

Discussed the Lessor special permit; no response as of this date. Will follow up with a phone call and then a letter.

Patrick presented website information for the Selectmen.

Jean Atwater-Williams presented an update on the website. We are starting phase 2. The Technology Committee met on this date; they have appointed Kathy Jacobs and Deborah Harris as webmasters. They will train a few people on how to update the website. Liana is working on a template for managing the site.

Dolores discussed the vacation time she has left. It has been such a busy year that she has not been able to use it and does not want to lose the time. Motion by Patrick, second by Richard, passed unanimously that due to extreme circumstances we will allow Dolores to carry a week of vacation time into the next fiscal year.

Motion by Patrick, second by Richard, passed unanimously that due to the extreme weather this winter and spring we will allow Steve Harasyko to carry a week of vacation time into the next fiscal year.

Mail reviewed. Warrants reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 pm.



Selectmen's Minutes of Meeting of May 31, 2011

Present: Selectmen Patrick Barrett, Jeff Gray; Highway Superintendent Stephen Harasyko, Administrative Assistant Dolores Harasyko

Called to order at 7:06 p.m.

Patrick asked the Finance Committee to review the meeting they had with the DOR followed by a recap from the school regarding their budget.

Permettez-Moi

Cont'd from p.3

Registry of Deeds is notified and the change in the use of the property is recorded. The property owner applying for the permit takes on the costs attached to the process. There are fees involved: advertising fees (announcements of the hearing in the local papers); a \$50 one-time Special Permit fee; a \$25 annual business license fee; \$75 to the Registry of Deeds; \$20 for a DBA (Doing Business As) license and the postage fees for the certified mail to the abutters.

Clearly this is just a nutshell version of the process. You may be interested in learning what happens if the process is interrupted along the way due to a debate about an application, or you may wish to learn about other instances in which permits of any kind are required. There's a lot of information available – a lot more than we can cover here, so check out the By Laws section of the Town website (www.sandisfield.info) as well as the website for Massachusetts General Law (www.masslegislature.gov) for an even broader understanding of the laws. And by the way, good luck! 🍀

STEAK ROAST

SATURDAY, AUGUST 13 5-7PM

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NEW BOSTON VILLAGE

A Tale of Four Families

By Ron Bernard

Between 1750 and about 1900 four families -- Brown, Twining, Clark and Northway -- shaped the village of New Boston we know today.

The story starts with Thomas Brown (1726-1811), the first to arrive in May, 1750. According to historian Elizur Smith (1948), "he built himself a log house on the Farmington River, probably where the New Boston Store stands today." The following year he was joined by his parents, Daniel & Mehitable, four other brothers and at least three sisters. Smith believed the family erected a cabin "on the site of the present New Boston Inn." The Browns originated near Boston, which accounts for the name of the settlement.

Daniel Brown Esq. was "an educated man" and an officer in the Colonial militia. He was the Town's first Moderator in 1762 and a true force. The Browns owned or controlled much of the land in "Township No. 3" and they essentially ran the show for the first couple of decades. They were soon joined in the settlement by the Smiths (Eastham, Mass.) and important Connecticut families including the Demings,



the Hawleys and the Denlows. (Above, "The Daniel Brown House," built about 1760 and current residence of Sandy & Flora Parisky. Richard Migot photo).

The Browns established the first mills, as well as the New Boston Inn and a tavern/store that evolved as the New Boston Store. Over the next 75 years Daniel Brown Jr. and then his son Sanford Sr. ensured the family's preeminence in the Village. Sanford Brown (1758-1839) was especially active. About 1790 he expanded the Inn to today's familiar profile. Patriarch Daniel Sr. built the house at 99 No. Main Street; it is one of the oldest buildings in town (above). He moved to Vermont (with a son) and he died in about 1783 at age 85.



About 1782 Elijah Twining, also of Eastham, Mass., acquired virtually all of the land on Tolland Mountain down to the Town line. Like the Browns, Elijah was attracted to New Boston by opportunities for trade and the mills. Although the Twining's farms and primary domiciles were in Tolland and Granville, they had significant commercial and real estate holdings in New Boston through three generations. (Right, c.1893. Twining House in background. "Picturesque Berkshires").

The house at the foot of Tolland Road, which is the current residence of Steven & Rosanne Hoekstra, was their first property. Elijah's son William took over the Brown's old saw mill and connected it to his "water works." In 1832 he built a three-story gristmill behind "The Old Stone House" (1843). Twining is also thought to have established the second general store about 1800. The building, which was opposite the family house on the corner of Main Street and Tolland Road, is seen here in about 1895 as the Wilcox Store. Many Twinings eventually settled in the Village. They owned or occupied most of the houses at one time or another in the 19th century. (Bottom right, Courtesy www.DeMarsImages.com).

After William Twining died in 1846, the family's economic prominence declined. But new, energetic and capable figures emerged: Joseph Norton, Joseph Clark, Dr. Samuel Parsons and Orlow Northway.

In 1845 Joseph Norton of Tolland bought the general store from the last Brown family proprietor, Lyman. Norton married into Sandisfield blue blood in the person of Maria Hawley. He heavily invested in the village, constructing at least two houses and expanding the New Boston Store, which he operated until 1869. Around the same time Joseph Clark, also of Tolland, moved to the village and married a local girl, Louisa Couch. Clark was a mill operator and engaged in the lumber trade. By the 1870s his family occupied all of the houses on and near the corner of Main Street and Tolland Road. He was a colorful character, best remembered for the remarkable séances he performed until his death in 1905.

One of these buildings was the home and store of a probable cousin, Wesley Clark (1851-1927). Besides being store proprietor for 52 years, Clark served as postmaster for 29 years and as Town Clerk for 25


years, among other offices. A fixture of village life, crippled from childhood, he was one of the most beloved figures of all time. (Left, 1858 Walling Atlas)

His store was established in 1835 by the incomparable Dr. Samuel Parsons. For most of his four decades here Parsons was simultaneously family physician for New Boston and nearby towns, store proprietor, a magistrate and a major landlord. The combination house/store is now the home of Laura Nardi Sanchez.

Dr. Parsons' retirement in 1872 cleared the way for his somewhat younger and friendly competitor, Orlow Northway (1820-92), to become kingpin. Sandisfield born, Northway came up from poverty to become the wealthiest man in town. For some years he owned the Inn and the New Boston Store, before buying Dr. Parsons' former properties. Later he financed the big Roosterville mill, the famous "Red Shop," and kept it operating for years despite the declining economy. Orlow and his son John built several houses on Tannery Road for mill workers. Northway was a reliable buyer of old farm proper-



ties all over town. He helped the less fortunate, never forgetting where he came from. Northway had been the champion and president of the ill-starred venture, the "New Haven & Lee Railroad Co." in the early 1870s. Even after he and the town suffered terrible losses when it did not materialize, Northway continued to invest and believe in his community.

Most of these self-made men and their families spent their entire working lives here. Because they created and maintained a vibrant economic center for the better part of 200 years, "New Boston" claimed its own identity. In the minds of many, the village was only vaguely connected to greater Sandisfield. Today, New Boston is still the town's economic hub, thanks to the legacy of the Browns, Twinings, Clarks and Northways. 



FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BULLETIN



Tara Beardsley

How quickly the summer break is vanishing! It's amazing to see all the "Back to School" supplies, catalogs and advertisements already. Please see the supply list below. Have your children been participating in the Great FRRSD Summer Reading Challenge? If so - great! If needed, you may find extra calendars and forms on our website. If not, please encourage your children to continue reading throughout the remainder of the summer. It is very important for children to continue reading to keep up their skills.

Also, any "math packets" sent home with your child should be completed and turned in on the first day of school.

The first day of school will be: August 31, 2011

*** Bus route information will be mailed to district families by the end of August.*

If you haven't been doing so, please clip those Box Tops for Education off your General Mills products and Labels for Education from your Campbell's items! (Please visit labelforeducation.com to see a complete list of eligible items. They are on more than just soup!) The money and merchandise our school earns from them can really add up. Have your child hit up your family, friends and neighbors. I'm sure they'd be happy to help! Those reading this who don't have any relatives in school are encouraged to donate your "box tops" at the deposit box in the Sandisfield Post Office, or offer them along with any labels to a neighbor. Thank you in advance for your help!

You may find additional school information at farmingtonriverelementary.com or by calling the school directly at 269-4466.

SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

Below is a list of supplies we are requesting that your child bring to school on the first day. Teachers may ask that students bring additional supplies during the school year.

Kindergarten

Backpack
Lunch Bag/Snack Bag
Blanket for rest time
Pocket folders (2)

First Grade

Backpack
Pencils/Erasers
Thin, washable markers
Pocket Folders (4 or 5)
Glue Sticks
Marble Comp. Notebook
Box of tissues for the classroom
Colored Pencils

Second Grade

Backpack
Box of tissues for the classroom
Crayons/Colored Pencils and/or Markers
3 Hi-Liters (yellow, blue, orange)
3 Thin-tip dry erase markers (low odor, please)
Clean sock/cloth for erasing white boards
Pocket Folders (4) orange, red, blue, yellow
Marbled Composition Notebook
One-subject notebook
Three-subject notebook

Third Grade

Backpack
Pencils/Erasers, Pencil Box and Pencil Sharpener
Children's Scissors
Glue Sticks
Compositional Notebook
Box of tissues for the classroom
Colored Pencils
Earphones (inexpensive - put child's name on them)
Pocket Folders (4) orange, red, blue, yellow

Grade 4

Backpack
Pencils/Erasers
Pocket Folders (4)
Glue Sticks
Colored Pencils
2 Composition Notebooks
3-subject notebook (wide ruled)
Notebook Paper (wide ruled)
Box of tissues for the classroom
Scissors
One 1 1/2 inch binder
Subject dividers

Grade 5

Backpack
Pencils/Erasers
Pocket Folders
Glue sticks
Colored Pencils
3 Composition Notebooks (college ruled)
3-subject notebook (college ruled)

Notebook paper (college ruled)
Box of tissues for the classroom
3x5 pack of index cards (2)
1 pack of colored Post-Its (3x3 inch)

Grade 6

Backpack
Pencils/Erasers
Pocket Folders (5)
Glue Sticks
Colored Pencils
2 Composition Notebooks (college ruled)
3-subject Notebook (college ruled)
Notebook paper (wide ruled)
Box of tissues for the classroom
3-ring binder 1 inch
7 tab dividers

LIST OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS - 2011-2012

Nick DellaGiustina (2014), P.O. Box 92, Sandisfield, MA 01255, 413-258-2821, 413-519-6065 (Cell)

Carol Lombardo (2013), P.O. Box 128, Otis, MA 01253, 413-269-0269, clharrington@aol.com

Laurie Nikituk (Chair) (2014), P.O. Box 433, Otis, MA 01253-0433, 413-269-4643, 413-269-6393 (work), 413-563-1849 (cell), lnikituk@aol.com

Roberta Sarnacki (2012), P.O. Box 30, East Otis, MA 01029-0030, 13-269-4063, sarnackir@sps.springfield.ma.us, rsarnacki@gmail.com

John Skrip (Vice Chair) (2014), 123 North Main Street, P.O. Box 544, Sandisfield, MA 01255, 413-258-4788, 203-233-0518 (Cell), johnskripjr@gmail.com

Anita Weinstein (2013), P.O. Box 582, Otis, MA 01253, 413-269-4984, 413-269-7399 (Fax), anitaw150@verizon.net

Susan VanSickle (2013), 30 Rood Hill Road, Sandisfield, MA 01255, 413-258-4577, 1-413-446-7218 (cell), Susanvansickle@yahoo.com

Principal, Mary Turo, 74 Frederick Drive, Dalton, MA 01226, 978-758-9080, mturo@frrsd.org

Superintendent, Jo Ann Austin, 50 Loudon-Bethlehem Road, P.O. Box 656, Otis, MA 01253, 413-269-4654, jdaustin@frrsd.org, bobjoastin@verizon.net

Assistant to Superintendent, Jane E. Gleason (Secretary), P.O. Box 628, Otis, MA 01253, 413-269-4094 (home), 413-269-4466 (work), 413-269-7659 (fax), jgleason@frrsd.org, jgleason954@verizon.net



Town News

Cont'd from p.8

Patrick read an excerpt from the Berkshire Eagle regarding the change in tourism in this area and the effect the economy has had on it.

Present from the Finance Committee: Kathy Jacobs, John Burrows and Lisa Leavenworth; from the school: JoAnn Austin, Jane Gleason, Laurie Nikatuc, John Skrip; Assessors Bethany Perry, Teresa DellaGiustina and Jackie Bitso. The Finance Committee reviewed the meeting with the DOR and options to fund the budget. John asked the school if the numbers are the same as last week. Reviewed options, Free Cash, Assessors' Overlay Account, Stabilization. Jane Gleason reviewed their request for a Special Town Meeting. Reviewed the revised school budget. They are very concerned that they have cut all funding for any new students that may

move into Otis or Sandisfield. They will have to come back to both towns for a Special Town Meeting for the additional tuition. They removed two items, the van and upgrades to the HVAC systems; they would like them to be paid for from other available funds. The reduction for Sandisfield is \$69,000, for a total budget of \$1,260,943. This puts us at \$99,367 over. Discussed the preschool program, they already have 36 students enrolled for next year. Discussed tuition for middle and high school; average costs per student are between \$6,800 and \$7,525.

Discussed the three options for funding: Free Cash, Stabilization and the Assessors' Overlay. Discussed forgiving the Stabilization payment this coming year or for deferring the payment for a year. John B. is not in favor of forgiving the payment. He recommends leaving the Stabilization Account alone. He suggested taking \$75,000 from Free Cash and \$75,000 from the Overlay

Account. Assessor Bethany Perry reviewed the Overlay Account. This is money that is added to the tax rate to pay for abatements, changes in tax status such as Chapter 61 or state owned land; benefits and discounts also come out of this account. There is only \$250,000 available in the Overlay Account at this time. Reviewed the fact that the taxpayers have not paid a true tax rate due to the offset from Free Cash. Patrick recommended trying for another Prop 2 1/2 override vote so that we can raise the levy limit to prepare for next year's budget. Kathy agrees with Patrick; when a budget is approved at the town meeting it should be funded. Discussed the cost associated with a Prop 2 1/2 override, as this would be an election rather than a Special Town Meeting. John's original thought was to pass on part of the funding to the tax rate and part from other available funds. Since Prop 2 1/2 failed by 2 to 1 it may be a waste of time and money to

Cont'd p.11



AUGUST EVENTS

THE SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER

5 HAMMERTOWN RD, SANDISFIELD, MA
413-258-4100
WWW.SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

Saturday, August 6 8 PM \$15

THE BERKSHIRE Ramblers

40 YEARS FROM THE HEART



Saturday, August 20 7 PM \$12

THE BTU


SPECIAL PERFORMANCE AT THE AMERICAN LEGION PAVILION



Saturday, August 27 7 PM
Adults \$5 / Free under 14

LOCAL HEROES

An evening celebrating the heroes among us. Local musicians. All Sandisfield service men and women, Fire, Police, EMTs and their families admitted free.




Town News

Cont'd from p.10

try again; we would have the special election and if it fails still have a Special Town Meeting. Discussed time frames. Discussed the fact that the tax payers passed the budget. The Finance Committee, Assessors and Selectmen unanimously agreed to support the revised school budget as submitted this day. The Finance Committee and Selectmen unanimously approved the budget. Motion by Patrick, second by Jeff to accept the revised school budget in conjunction with the Finance Committee; motion passed.

Everyone thanked the school for the hard decisions made and all the work on the budget.

We will have a Special Town Meeting to transfer \$75,000 from Free Cash and \$75,000 from the Assessors' Overlay Account.

Roberta and Ron Myers present to discuss a proposal from the Otis and Sandisfield Kiwanis Club to plant and maintain a garden and plaque at the former Wilber property that the town now owns. Sue Tarasuk would be hired by the Kiwanis Club to do the work. They understand that we do not own the Gross property next door. They also understand that they would not be able to start until the bridge work is complete. Motion by Patrick, second by Jeff to approve the project.

Highway Department Updates: Started work on Route 183; getting prices on the Route 57 culvert by York Lake. Work should be done by the end of June.

Reviewed and signed the "right of entry" from Mass Highway. Patrick will contact them and ask them to save the apple tree.

Discussed a letter from the Tureks regarding the culvert at the end of their driveway. They referred to work done at Ann Wald's property. We reiterated that the work was done because of a commitment made by a previous Road Superintendent and that when they tried to flush that culvert they damaged it. We are not in the habit of repairing culverts on private property and will continue to discuss this. We will readdress the Tureks in the fall. In the meantime, Richard will get in touch with them.

Reviewed and signed a one day wine permit for SARC. Anita Carr presented an updated Certificate of Insurance.

Minutes from May 16, 2011 read and signed.

Mail reviewed. Warrants reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned 10:15 p.m.



Selectmen's Minutes of Meeting of June 20, 2011

Present: Selectmen Richard Campetti, Patrick Barrett, Jeff Gray; Highway Superintendent Stephen Harasyko, Administrative Assistant Dolores Harasyko

Called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Steve presented Highway Department updates. The culvert replacement work on Route 183 is complete. The work went very well. Discussed the large double culvert by Rood Hill Road. Discussed options. He presented

Chapter 90 project reimbursements for gravel and culvert work on Route 183. Reviewed and signed. Everything is in place for the Route 57 culvert replacement by York Lake. The road will be closed for one day. Our Police Department will be rerouting the traffic. Received "pedestrian area" signs for River Road. Steve would like to temporarily place them by the Historical Society for an event they are having and will then place them on River Road. The Selectmen thought this was a good idea.

Reviewed and read aloud a letter received from the Board of Assessors regarding 18 acres of land owned by Robert Duffy on Richards Road, map 410, lot 20. Mr. Duffy would like to donate the land to the town. The annual taxes on the property are \$695. Motion by Patrick to graciously accept the property, second by Richard, passed unanimously. Will follow up with Town Counsel as to whether the town needs to vote to accept the land at a Special Town Meeting.

Reviewed a request from SARC for a one day wine and beer permit for an event to be held at the American Legion property on August 20, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Motion by Patrick, second by Richard, passed unanimously to grant the permit.

The annual contract for CET for participation in hazardous waste collection reviewed and signed.

Discussed the request from Berkshire Group Purchasing regarding fuel oil and diesel fuel. We will not lock in to an unknown fixed rate at this time.

Discussed next week's Special Town Meeting. If the school budget does not pass, the Director of Education will set the amount we have to pay for the school budget. That money will come from available funds, which excludes Free Cash as that fund is unavailable until it is certified by the DOR in the Fall.

Reviewed and signed minutes from June 13, 2011. Mail reviewed. Minutes reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 p.m.



Selectmen's Minutes of Meeting of June 27, 2011

Present: Selectmen Richard Campetti, Patrick Barrett, Jeff Gray, Administrative Assistant Dolores Harasyko

Called to order at 7:12 p.m.


Liana Toscanini in to present a grant proposal from Legacy Bank for the History Book. Liana completed the two page submission with aid with Dolores for \$1,000. Reviewed and signed by the Selectmen.

Reviewed encumbrances. Motion by Patrick, second by Jeff, passed unanimously to accept the following encumbrances: Library \$393.16; Town Clerk \$248.89; Highways and Bridges \$9,340.00; Operation and Maintenance \$4,893.90.

Motion by Patrick, second by Richard, passed unanimously to accept the contract from the Lee VNA.

Reviewed and signed minutes from May 23 and June 20, 2011.

Mail reviewed. Warrants reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m. 

Letter From The Selectmen

By Patrick Barrett

The Sandisfield Board of Selectmen would like to thank members of the Sandisfield Finance Committee, Sandisfield Board of Assessors and members of the Farmington River Regional School Committee for the hard work they put in to resolve this year's budget issues. The Farmington River Regional School Committee was able to reduce Sandisfield's school assessment by \$50,000, and at a June 30th Special Town Meeting an additional \$75,000 was taken out of our Free Cash account along with \$75,000 from the Assessors' Overlay Account in order to keep the town under our proposition 2½ levy limit. These measures helped to avoid a costly tax rate increase, but with continuing cuts in federal and state aid, this is a temporary fix and other alternatives will have to be discussed for next year. It is our sincere hope that come budget time next year, residents will come to the town and school budget hearings. We will give advanced notice on times and dates for these important meetings so that community members can have their voices heard.

On August 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., State Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli and State Senator Benjamin Downing will be taking a tour of Sandisfield with town officials. This is an opportunity to show our state officials some of the challenges and particular needs facing our town. At 1:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, the public is invited to meet and

ask questions of our visiting officials. Representative Pignatelli and Senator Downing are looking forward to this opportunity to explore Sandisfield and meet with residents. We hope you come out and take part in this unique experience.

There will be a Special Town Meeting on August 4, at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall in order to vote on Sandisfield joining the WiredWest initiative. Wired West is an organization that is working to bring high-speed internet access to rural communities. Bringing high-speed internet access to all of Sandisfield would greatly enhance the businesses currently operating in town as well as to put our community in a better position to attract future enterprises. Towns that lack high-speed internet access are at a distinct disadvantage for being able to attract new business growth, which is essential for helping to maintain a reasonable tax rate.

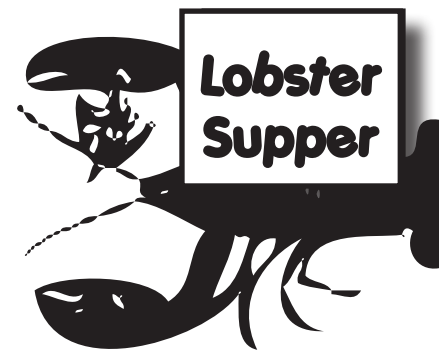
In July, we regretfully accepted the resignations of Gertrude Kelley and Cora Roraback from the Council on Aging Board. We sincerely appreciate their many years of dedicated service to this important organization. We wish them well in the years to come. We would like to thank Linda Riiska and Shirley Spring for continuing their leadership roles on the Council on Aging and appreciate Barbara Cormier for stepping forward to fill a vacancy on this important Board. Karen Cooley has decided not to seek re-appointment to the Conservation Committee after years of service to this board. We would like to thank her for her time and devotion to the Town of Sandisfield. A special thanks to Peter Levine for assuming the post of Veterans Representative. We have had a vacancy on this board for a number of years and look forward to having Peter give Sandisfield veterans a voice in the monthly meeting held in Great Barrington. We still have a vacancy on the Sandisfield Planning Board as well as the Sandisfield Conservation Committee and five open slots on the Sandisfield Historical Commission. Anyone interested in filling these positions should contact Dolores Harasyko at 258-4711.

The Sandisfield Board of Selectmen would like to thank Bob Greenfield and Debbie Harris for graciously hosting us at the annual Otis Wood Lands Fourth of July picnic. It was a wonderful opportunity for our board to meet Sandisfield residents who live in Otis Wood Lands. For over a year now Bob has been Otis Wood Lands' liaison to the Sandisfield Board of Selectmen. In this capacity he has advocated on behalf of Otis Wood Lands residents and has helped to open the lines of communication and understanding within this important Sandisfield community. We look forward to continued fostering of the positive relationship that Bob and Debbie have helped to create.

In July, Lane Construction Company, along with the Sandisfield Highway Department, completed the full-depth reclamation and resurfacing of 1.2 miles of Route 183 from the Connecticut state line to Rood Hill Road. Thanks to Lane Construction and the Sandisfield Highway Department for their work on this job, and to Sandisfield Highway Superintendent Steve Harasyko for overseeing the completion of this much needed project. Steve plans on hiring a company to paint/re-paint the lines on the entire Sandisfield

portion of this road. The Highway Department has also placed "slow pedestrian" signs on River Road to increase safety for the numerous people who use this bucolic road for walking.

We would like to congratulate the Sandisfield Historical Society for successfully hosting their Annual Fair. It is always nice to have an excuse to visit this historical venue and to catch up with the interesting people who participate in this organization. The Sandisfield Arts Center has a full slate of events this summer, so we would encourage residents to take advantage of the cultural offerings this organization sponsors. On August 13, the Sandisfield Fire Department will host its annual steak roast. This summer rite of passage not only brings members of our community together for an enjoyable evening, but also provides much needed funding for our town's emergency services. Summer in Sandisfield is a wonderful time and we hope everyone participates in the numerous events that help make our town so special. 🍷



LOBSTER SUPPER FUNDRAISER FOR SANDISFIELD'S 250TH BIRTHDAY

On Saturday, August 27, the Town of Sandisfield's 250th Birthday Committee will host a fundraiser -- a lobster supper at the American Legion Pavilion on Route 8 in Sandisfield. Proceeds from the supper will help fund the town's 250th celebration weekend July 27-29, 2012. The cost of the meal, which includes lobster (or ribs), corn on the cob, salad, coffee and dessert, is \$25 per person. A veggie burger meal and children's hotdog meal will be offered for \$8. Reservations are required for the two seatings at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Call (413) 258-4816 to reserve.

The 2012 town-wide celebration will feature an opening ceremony and country fair with craft and food vendors, games and contests, and demonstrations of all types. Other events include a barbecue, dance, pancake breakfast, antique car show, history lecture, and talent show. Also in production -- a comprehensive history of Sandisfield edited by Ron Bernard and Bernard Drew and a community cookbook organized by the Sandisfield Historical Society. For more information, visit www.sandisfieldthenandnow.org. 🍷

SOME WORDS FROM OUR SPONSORS

NEW BOSTON INN

Restaurant Tavern B & B
Corner of Routes 8 & 57
Open M - Th: 12 - 8; F, S, S: 12 - 9
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WILD BIRDS COUNTRY STORE

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www.wild-birdstore.com
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Unique bird and nature store.

PLEASE NOTE:

We are no longer accepting entries for sponsorship. We do however accept display ads.

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.



Last month Gail Palmer asked Selectman Patrick Barrett to clarify his interpretation of M.L.G. Chapter 71. Below is his response:

Dear Ms. Palmer,

Based upon my reading of your e-mail, especially the last paragraph, it seems like you have a good grasp of M.L.G. Chapter 71. With federal and state governments continuing to cut aid, more and more responsibility has fallen upon municipalities. This new economic landscape has placed undue stress not only on our local communities, but has also seriously stretched the ability of our citizens to keep up with rising taxes.

The Farmington River Regional School District budget is by far the biggest line item on the Otis and Sandisfield town warrants. As funding dries up more and more people are distressed over the increasing costs associated with the school budget. The main job of the Farmington River School Committee is to provide a quality education for the students of our respective towns. Cuts in transportation, underfunded federal mandates (No Child Left Behind Act), rising health care costs and the increased expenses for special education services have played a major role in driving up educational costs throughout the country. Having served two years on this important committee I am fully aware of the difficult challenges faced by this dedicated group.

The Farmington River School Committee meets once a month and more frequently during the budget process. These meetings are posted and open to the public. Two meetings were held where the school budget was gone through line item by line item. People who attended these meetings could not only hear the reasoning for each cost increase, but also comment on specific line items. At the first meet the FRSC was present along with Otis Town Manager Chris Morris, Otis Selectmen Don Hawley and Donna Thomas, and Otis Finance Committee Member Gary Thomas. I attended this meeting as did Sandisfield Finance Committee Chairman Kathy Jacobs. At the second meeting Sandisfield Selectman Jeff Grey and Sandisfield resident Tara Beardsley were the only two people who attended. The Farmington River School Committee was very responsive to the eight people who chose to attend these two crucial meetings.

Thanks for reading the Sandisfield Times and taking an interest in town affairs.

Sincerely,

Patrick W. Barrett, Chairman Sandisfield Board of Selectmen

Editors:

I truly enjoyed the recent article "Where Did Our Downtown Go?".

To that, I add the question: where was it? Neither the text nor the map contains any clue to this equally important question . . . except for those of us (of you) who know the location of "present-day Walter Lincovich's property" -- the only clue I could find.

I look forward to more articles like this, but please include some road intersections by their present-day names. Geography is important.

John Yaeger (Sears Road)

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed reading Ron Bernard's article "Where did our downtown go?" in July's issue. His local history articles are always fascinating and enlightening. One small puzzle, however: nowhere in this detailed article does Mr. Bernard ever tell us actually where in Sandisfield this vanished town center was located. He even provides a detailed map, but on closer inspection not a single road on this map is identified, and the layout does not correspond exactly with any location in town - (could the lower left road be Shade Road? -if so, several roads have disappeared since 1858). Maybe the author planted clues intended to launch us on a historical scavenger hunt, but I'm afraid I came up empty-handed in attempting to solve this mystery. Will we see the puzzle's solution printed in August?

George Riley, Cronk Road

Response from Ron Bernard: *George Riley's and John Yaeger's fair questions about just where is/was "Sandisfield Center" illustrates just how utterly the place has disappeared, both geographically as well as from living memory. One of five discrete little "villages," the Center included two components. The core was where the town's early economic, social, political, and religious activities took place. It is the barren, rocky spot at the top of the big hill at New Hartford Road where Route 57 (Sandisfield Road) turns sharply west towards New Marlborough. All of the original roads leading to and near the Center have been redesigned or eliminated, and renamed. Those who live within an area about one mile in circumference from this point are considered to be residents of Sandisfield Center.*

Dear Editor,

I've lived up here for 22 years and I've never really have been inside the Berkshire Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center. On Wednesday, on assignment from the Sandisfield Times, I discovered it is a beautiful, sensible place... clean and robust and staffed by thoughtful professional nurses, cooks, housekeepers, therapists..... taking care of 57 older guys, most of whom came here from the battlefields of Korea, Vietnam and Iraq. It's an extraordinary story. I plan to tell you all about it very soon.

Val Coleman

Dear Editor,

On Tuesday July 5th, my first day as a newly-naturalized American citizen, I went down to the Town Hall to register as a voter - one of the principal reasons for my wanting to become an American.

I was received with customary grace by Dolores Harasyko, our redoubtable Town Clerk, who processed the necessary paperwork. And sitting in the same room there just happened to be her husband, Steve Harasyko, who as we all know - especially in the wintertime - is in charge of our town's immense maze of roadways.

Half-joking, I said that perhaps now that I was a fully-fledged American, he might take a look at my sad little laneway, Silverbrook Road, which around where I live has the texture of the back of an alligator, and regularly threatens the axles of those brave souls who visit Setsuko and me.

The very next morning, no less, I was awakened by the roar of heavy machinery. All day my road then saw a procession of graders, York rakes, gravel trucks, rollers, smoothers, Brazilian waxers, mustache trimmers and cologne applicators - until today I can report that Silverbrook Road has the texture of a baby's bottom and the flatness of a billiard table.

So bravo!, Steve Harasyko, and all who sail with you. I really must become an American more often.

Sincerely, and gratefully,

Simon Winchester, Citizen and Voter



To the Editor:

Bill Williams, of West Hubbard Road, recently died of a stroke at the too young age of 60. We worked in the same building in Great Barrington which is how we met originally, finding out only later that we both lived in Sandisfield. Bill loved Sandisfield, his house and working outdoors on his property. A handsome and impeccably dressed man in town, he was equally at home in our neck of the woods with a chain saw accessory. He always had a bright smile for me in the hallway of our office building and put his heart and soul into a design project for Community Access to the Arts, the organization I work for that serves people with disabilities. He traveled extensively and between our busy lives, we never got around to having that drink we talked about so often. After attending a celebration of his life, presided over by Sandisfield's own Reverend Don Peet, a comforting presence to be sure, I learned that Bill loved life, God, practical jokes, and fancy cars, didn't hold a grudge, and liked to help people, often without them even knowing what he was up to. I'm sorry I didn't make more room in my life to get to know this exceptional man a little better.

Liana Toscanini



Comings and Goings

Nelva "Nell" May Linkovich Cronin

March 31, 1931 - July 1, 2011

Nelva May Linkovich Cronin, 80, of Lower West St., died Friday, July 1, 2011, at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield. Born in Great Barrington on March 31, 1931, daughter of Edward and Myrtle Davis McLaughlin, she grew up in New Marlborough and attended the New Marlborough Village School and was a 1949 graduate of the New Marlborough Central School. She worked at the former Endicott Johnson Shoe Store and the former Melvin's Drug Store, both in Great Barrington. She was a member of the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary and the Sandisfield Grange. She enjoyed gardening and reading.

Her first husband, Stanley Linkovich, died in February 1976. Her second husband, James Cronin, died in November 2000. Nelva leaves one son, Stanley J. Linkovich, of Lyndonville, Vt., two stepchildren, James Cronin Jr., and Linda Charland, both of Bellingham; one sister, Arlene Finkle of Great Barrington; three grandchildren, William and Allison Linkovich, and Danielle Stoveland; a brother-in-law, Walter Linkovich of Sandisfield, and a sister-in-law, Helen Kokoszku of Meriden, Conn. Besides her husbands, Nelva was predeceased by two daughters, Larinda Stoveland, who died in April 2006, and Teresa Linkovich, who died in December 2010, and by a stepson, David Cronin.

Her funeral was held on July 9, 2011, at 1 p.m. at the Sandisfield Center Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy in Nelva's memory may be made to the S.B.E.T.A. in care of the BIRCHES-ROY FUNERAL HOME, 33 South Street, Great Barrington, 01230, which is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be made through birchesroyfh.com.

William P. Williams

April 29, 1951- July 13, 2011

William "Bill" P. Williams, 60, of West Hubbard Road passed on to be with the Lord on Wednesday, July 13, 2011, at Hartford Hospital in Hartford, Conn. Born on April 29, 1951, in Dallas, Texas, he graduated from Abilene High School in Abilene, Texas, after which he attended Tarrant Community College and the University of Texas - Arlington. A talented designer, Bill owned and operated Williams Home Fashions in Great Barrington for the past 15 years. Previously, he operated the business in New York City for 18 years.

Bill was a very gifted artist, designing his own home and landscaping. He enjoyed nature, being outdoors and hiking. Bill was a devout Christian and loved scripture. He is survived by his mother, Junell Baker Palmer of Arlington, Texas; his sister, Pamela, and her husband, Gene Sprague of Helotes, Texas; two brothers, Ronald Williams and his wife, Lynn, of Heber Springs, Ark., and Leslie Palmer, Jr. and his wife, Lanna, of Waco, Texas; five nephews, Jim and Kevin Landers, Shane Sprague and Landon and Logan Palmer; two nieces, Karrabi Malin and Dawn Adamek, and his associate and friend, Alexandra Moritz. He was predeceased by his father, Leslie Palmer, Sr.

His funeral was held July 16, 2011. Donations in his memory may be made to CATA (Community Access To the Arts) 40 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230 or online at www.communityaccesstothearts.org. Remembrances, memories and reflections may be sent to the family through www.finnertyandstevens.com.

Richard Moreau

? - July 13, 2011



Ed. Note: Mr. Moreau's passing was not cited in any publications we could find. The Sandisfield Times wanted to ensure that this war veteran received a proper memorial, so we asked Val Coleman to visit the Berkshire Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center to get some information about Mr. Moreau. This is what he wrote:

Richard Moreau died last week in the Berkshire Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center down on Route 57 across from the New Boston Church. All we can tell you is that Richard was a gentle soul, everybody's friend, a fisherman and a veteran. We can't tell you his age, his war or his favorite stream.... and that's nobody's fault. There is a law called "HIPPA" (Health Information Portability Privacy Act) that prevents those remarkable women who run the Rehab Center from telling us any personal details about Richard Moreau. We suppose there is a sound reason for that law (and Richard was honored in a prayer service) but we wish we could describe his life, his service to his country, his family, his thoughts and his dreams. But we can only tell you that a gentleman, beloved by everyone we spoke to, has passed on.

Cheers, Richard.



NOW HEAR THIS!

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

AUGUST EVENTS

Wednesday, August 3, 1-6 PM, Bloodmobile. Berkshire Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center 7 Sandisfield Road. Receive a free Yankee Candle. www.red-crossblood.org or call 1-800-733-2767.

Wednesday, August 3, 7PM, Sandisfield History Book Committee Meeting. Sandisfield Library.

Thursday, August 4, 7PM, Special Town Meeting concerning Wired West. Old Town Hall, Rte 57. Info 258-4711.

Friday, August 5, 6:30-9:00PM, Movie "Harry Potter" Part 1: "The Deathly Hallows". Sandisfield Library. 258-4966.

Saturday, August 6, 6:30-8:30PM, The Annual Square Dance, Firehouse Parking Lot, Rte. 23, Otis. Caller: Cliff Brodeur, music by Housatonic Philharmonic. Free. Co-sponsored by the Otis Cultural Council and Sandisfield/Otis Kiwanis, with a partial grant from MCC. If rain, held in Town Hall. Info-Mickey 269-4605.



Saturday, August 6, 8 PM, The Berkshire Ramblers Distinguished, eclectic folk musicians. Sandisfield Art Center. Admission \$15. 258-4100 or info@sandisfieldartscenter.org.

Wednesday, August 10, 6PM, Otis/Sandisfield. Kiwanis Roadside Clearing. Meet at the Otis Town Green. Long pants and bug spray suggested. 269-6060.

Friday, August 12, 6:30-8:30PM, "Game Night" for all Ages, Sandisfield Library. 258-4966.

Saturday, August 13, 9-11:30AM, Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Great Barrington Recycling Center (across from Monument Mountain Regional High School.) Registration required. (888) 577-8448 ext. 30.

Saturday, August 13, 11AM, Historical Society Meeting and Potluck Lunch. Historical Society Meeting House, Rte 183 (Sandy Brook Turnpike).

August 13, 5-7PM, Fire Department Steak Roast. Music and dancing follow, Fire House #2. Tickets \$20 in advance from any firefighter or at A&M Auto.

Saturday, August 20, 9AM-3PM, Otis/Sandisfield Kiwanis Craft Fair. Otis Congregational Church Green.

Saturday August 20, 10AM, Craft Time for Kids, with Director Sadie O'Rourke, Sandisfield Library. 258-4966.

Saturday, August 20, 7PM, The BTU, American Legion Pavilion, Rte. 8. Steve Ide and Bobby MacVeety. Dancing, refreshments and rock and roll. For tickets contact The Sandisfield Arts Center, 258-4100, info@sandisfieldartscenter.org. Admission \$12.

Monday, August 1, 7PM, Monthly meeting with guest speaker Lori Hil, Veterans District Advisor. Sandisfield American Legion Hall, Rte. 8. All vets invited. (You do not have to be a member of the American Legion.)

Friday, August 26, 7-10PM. First of three monthly Turkey Rolls. American Legion Hall, Rte. 8. Bar food, raffles and great prizes. American Legion Hall. Raffle donations needed. 413-258-4578 or 413-258-4473.

Saturday, August 27, Two Seatings 5PM & 6:30PM, Lobster Supper to benefit the Town of Sandisfield's 250th Birthday Committee, American Legion Pavilion, Rte. 8. Includes lobster (or ribs), corn on the cob, salad, coffee and dessert. \$25 per person. A veggie burger meal and children's hotdog meal \$8. Reservations required. (413) 258-4816.

Saturday, August 27, 7PM, Local Heroes: Support and appreciation for our glorious volunteers, Sandisfield Art Center. Admission \$5/free for children under 14. *All Sandisfield service men and women, as well as all Fire, Police, EMTs and their families will be admitted free.* 258-4100 or info@sandisfieldartscenter.org.



ONGOING EVENTS

Town Meetings (Info call 258-4711)

Sandisfield Public Library Hours: Mon. and Tues. 9AM-12:30PM, Wed., 6:30-8:30PM, Thurs., 2:30-5:30PM, Sat: 9AM-NOON. 258-4966.

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

Sundays, at Greene Park in Monterey. Batting practice 10AM / game time is 10:30. The summer softball for co-ed adult softball players. The weekly, informal pick-up games, which have been taking place for decades, are for residents and visitors of Monterey, Otis, Sandisfield, Lenox, Great Barrington and surrounding communities. The season runs through September.

First Monday, 7PM, Meeting of the Farmington River Regional School District, Farmington River Regional School, Rte. 8, JoAnn Austin, Superintendent. Public welcome.

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

Every other Monday till Labor Day. 7 PM, Selectmens' Meeting (Summer Schedule) Town Hall Annex.

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

Every Wednesday, 11AM, Council on Aging, Senior Center, Town Hall Annex. Pot Luck Lunch at noon, Bingo at 1PM. Free blood pressure screening every fourth Wednesday.

First Wednesday of the month, 6PM, Board of Health, Old Town Hall.

Wednesdays at 6:30PM, Otis/Sandisfield Kiwanis, Otis Town Hall. 269-6060

Every Wednesday, 6:30PM Boy Scouts, Otis Town Hall, Elizabeth Kuzmech, Scoutmaster 258-4906 kuzmech5@verizon.net

Third Tuesday of the month, 7PM, Conservation Commission, Town Hall Annex.

CHP summer play groups, none in Sandisfield or Otis. Call Alison Rada (413) 644-0104 ext. 1159 for more information.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 11AM-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 Callopy, Facility Director 528-7773, email: dcallopy@simons-rock.edu or general information number 528-7777.

Saturday, 10:30AM and Tuesdays at 5:30PM through August. The "Boys of Summer" Cal Ripken youth baseball for players 8-12 year olds, Greene Park on Route 23 in Monterey center. For Great Barrington, Monterey, Otis, Sandisfield and surrounding towns plus vacationing players of all levels. Players can play once while visiting the area or for the whole 12 game season. Sign up when you show up. For more information, email sgraves8@yahoo.com or call 413-269-4632.

Editors note: In Sandisfield, Batteries, appliances, TV's, computers and other electronics are usually collected at the Town Hall -Contact the Town Clerk, Dolores Harasyko, during normal business hours for rules. 258-4711.



THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

P.O. Box 584
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www.sandisfieldtimes.org

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*Joanne & Roger Duhaime
Thelma R Esteves
Myrna Rosenberg
Maxine K Weisgrau*

We are always truly grateful for your donations. They are vital to our ability to continue publishing ***The Times***. If you would like a mailed subscription to the paper, please use the form below and enclose your check for \$25.00 to cover costs to The Sandisfield Times, PO Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255.

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, 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, Papa's Fuel, Southern Berkshire Realty, Otis Library, the Farmington Elementary School (during the school year) and Terranova's. Other

locations include the The Roadside Store and Cafe in Monterey, the Monterey General Store (There is a box affixed to the front of the building containing *The Sandisfield Times*.) and the Southfield Store.

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.

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Graphic Design: Tina Sotis

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Photos: Larry Dwyer, Richard Migot, Susan van Sickle, Setsuko Winchester

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