

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

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A SERIOUS PROPOSAL

GRANT-WRITING FIRM MAKES OFFER TO TOWN

By Staff Reporters

Could Sandisfield use an extra \$700,000?

Small communities around the country apply for and can be awarded that kind of money by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, operated locally by the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development. Alice Boyd has offered the town her firm's help in applying for this kind of block grant.

The primary objective of the program is to help develop communities and provide economic opportunities at a local level. From her home on South Sandisfield Road near Bauer Pond, Alice explained that winning the grant is a long shot. "It's very competitive, as you can imagine," she said. "Not many first-time applicants win grants of this size. But if the town is turned down this year, we would be in a much better position to apply again next year."

She added, "If we are funded under this program it will help the town move to a new level of preparation for the future. It could have a real impact on people in the town."

Cont'd p.2



Orchard Visit: Emmett, Ely, Taj, and Vanessa Tarasuk load Macs into a red wagon.

APPLES ON THE TREES

It Takes a Lot of Riiskas

Article and Photos by Bill Price

After 9/11, families from the city who stopped to pick apples at the newly opened Riiska Brook Orchard would remark that the place was a respite and relief from the rest of the world.

It still is a respite and relief, but now, 11 years later, the place at the top of New Hartford Road is a successful and profitable farm and a fall destination for families from everywhere. They come to the farm to buy apples from the family that grows them and to give their children a chance to pick absolutely ripe Macs, Macouns, Honey Crisps.

Bill Riiska, who planted and maintains the orchard, won't sell apples until

they're ripe. This fall he opened the farm in mid-September with Macs and Cortlands, but made his customers wait for the other varieties. "Apples have to hang on the trees and fill up with water and sugar and everything they need to make them apples," he said. "If you pick them too soon, all that is interrupted. You want to sell people apples they'll like, or they won't come back."

Now, in October, they're all ripe for the picking.

And there's more than apples. Riiska Brook Orchard harvests blueberries (in season) and pumpkins. The Riiskas make their own cider and handmade

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Alice Boyd at Bauer Pond

A Serious Proposal

Cont'd from p.1

The president of Bailey Boyd Associates, a community development consulting company located in Harwich, Alice recently helped SArC win a grant for a handicap-accessible lift. This time Alice proposed a much larger grant application and offered her firm's help researching, writing, and submitting the application. At their September 24th meeting, the Board of Selectmen approved the idea and formally asked Alice to move ahead.


Alice has already started. Laura Rogers-Castro will work with Alice as local contact and to help gather information and serve as an outreach person. Public hearings will be held in October and November to discuss the application strategy and the grant. Community volunteers will be invited to assist with data collection.

The grant Alice is proposing to apply for would award:

1. Up to \$100,000 for assisting the town in completing a comprehensive planning process, with townspeople determining the plan's contents.
2. Approximately \$475,000 in forgivable rehabilitation loans for current housing, repair of code violations, health and safety concerns, and weatherization of homes owned or rented by low - to moderate-income residents.
3. Approximately \$50,000 for a social service program to benefit income-eligible residents. Traditionally, Alice added, her firm encourages a childcare subsidy program but she said there are other options.
4. Funding to cover costs associated with the award, such as grant administration and audit fees.

"I don't offer to prepare a grant of this size lightly," Alice said. In 2009 her firm required 420 hours of staff time to prepare a comparable grant. "It's a serious undertaking."

The grant, if funded, will provide residents and public officials with access to professionals who can help articulate plans and open the door for additional funding. Alice added, "And over a dozen families will be able to make critical home repairs that will keep them warm, safe, and thriving here in town."

Flyers will be available at Town Hall Annex, the Post Office, library, and the Senior Center throughout October and November. 



ELLEN CROIBIER WINS AWARD



A Sandisfield resident won the 2012 Health Initiatives Volunteer of the Year Award from the New England Division of the American Cancer Society.

As volunteer coordinator for the Society's Look Good...Feel Better program, Ellen Croibier works with Great Barrington cosmetologist, Bridgit Keefner, to teach women how to overcome the appearance-related side effects of cancer treatments. The owner of a home-based custom cosmetics company in New Boston, Ellen knew the Look Good...Feel Better program was a perfect fit for her when she learned of it four

VOTING 2012 THE NOVEMBER 6 ELECTION

From the Office of Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko

October 17th is the last day to register to vote for the November 6, 2012 election.

The election will be Tuesday, November 6th, at the Old Town Hall, 3 Silverbrook Rd., 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. If you registered to vote through the mail or have not voted in a while be prepared to show identification. This could be a driver's license or utility bill that shows your name and address.

Absentee ballots will be available for the following reasons; absence from town during normal polling hours, physical disability which prevents you from going to the polling place or religious belief. The process to obtain an absentee ballot is by first filling out an absentee ballot application. Call the Town Clerk at 258-4711 and request the form for the application, fill it in and return it right away. As soon as the Town Clerk has the absentee ballots she will send them to you.

Any questions about voting call Dolores Harasyko, 413-258-4075. 


years ago at a Relay for Life event and recognized it as a way to honor her mother who died from cancer in 2002.

"Women battling cancer," Ellen said, "have very little control over what's happening to them. This program gives them a chance to take at least some control over their appearance and can help make them feel pampered and special."

Besides conducting programs at Fairview Hospital and other sites in South County, Ellen gives newspaper and radio interviews and speaks at local clubs and the Society's fund-raising events. The Community Executive for the Society's Health Initiatives program, Pam Austin, said that Ellen "has raised more awareness than any other volunteer I have ever worked with at the Society."


In addition to Look Good...Feel Better and Relay for Life, Ellen is an active member of the American Cancer Society's Cancer Action Network, their advocacy affiliate that works to educate the public, lawmakers, candidates, and the media.

She is also on the committee organizing the upcoming Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk to be held on October 14th, 2012 at the Lee Premium Outlets.

For more information on any of the American Cancer Society's programs, please contact Ellen at 413-258-2891 or croibs@verizon.net. 

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

We're pushing local this month. Buy local. That includes lunch and/or supper at MJ Tuckers, New Boston Inn, the SilverBrook, and/or Villa Mia. Winter's coming. Support your local bar/restaurant.

And buy milk and potatoes and wine and anything else and even gas when you have to from the New Boston Store. You say it's hard to get to Pete and Sue's store because of the traffic lights at the bridge? Go anyway. Figure out the lights. See Sandy Parisky's "Bridge Watch" this month for the impact the lights are making on the bridge's neighbors. It's beginning to hurt. So go buy something, and buy it in downtown Sandisfield. 

Bill Price, West New Boston

Apply Now!

Sandisfield Cultural Council Seeks Grant Applications

By Ron Bernard


Our local Cultural Council is asking for grant applications to support local projects in 2013. Applications must be sent by US mail, postmarked by October 15th, 2012.

The Council is part of a network of programs across the commonwealth designed to support local projects in the arts, humanities, and sciences. Examples include school field trips and after-school programs, concerts, festivals, lectures, theater, dance, music, film, and heritage programs. Typically, qualified programs take place in schools, community centers, libraries, elder-care facilities, town halls, parks ...wherever communities come together.

The Sandisfield Cultural Council was established about 15 years ago. Past Chairs include Erica Fay, Charlene Peet, Ellen Croi-

bier, and Liana Toscanini. In recent years the Council has been chaired by John Skrip who also serves as Town Moderator. The committee consists of at least five resident members and meets periodically to consider applications and set guidelines and policy. For the coming year John hopes that more applications will be received directly from Sandisfield residents and organizations, as opposed to outside artists interested in performing or displaying in town or at the school. Local programs that meet the award criteria will be given priority.

Cultural Council grants are reimbursement-based. Applicants use their own funds and, with pre-approval, submit invoices for reimbursement once the program is completed. Forms and more information are available online at www.massculturalcouncil.org/applications/lccapp.doc.

New members are currently sought to join the SCC. To volunteer for the Council or for assistance with grants contact John Skrip at 413-258-4788, email at johnskripjr@gmail.com or by US Mail to his attention, PO Box 84, Sandisfield, MA 01255. 

CAMPETTI RESIGNS Selectmen Move Ahead

By Bill Price

Taking the other Selectmen by surprise at their September 10 meeting, Richard Campetti submitted a letter of resignation to the Board in order to apply for a town position with the Highway Department.

The other Selectmen understood Richard could not apply for a town job while serving as Selectman and would be required to step aside. Other questions followed about timing and if and when Richard could begin work if he did get the job, all of which Richard made moot by withdrawing his application for the town position and accepting a similar position in Great Barrington.

Of his 12 years as Selectman, Richard told the Times, "It was fun for a long time. We got a lot accomplished and kept everything working well. When the economy went bad, people began challenging everything: tax increases, town salaries, even expenses that are required because of state mandates. Costs always go up. You can't expect town employees to put their best foot forward and not get periodic salary increases."

He complimented the current Selectmen, adding that Patrick and Jeff are two of the best he's worked with.

Patrick said later, "I respect Richard very much and value him as a friend." (See "Selectmen's Letter" on page 11 for Patrick's acknowledgement of Richard's years of service and a personal note of gratitude.)

In the meantime, the two Selectmen left standing considered what to do about filling the third spot. A special election could be held to fill the vacant seat, but not until after the Presidential and State elections in November. The election would cost the town \$3,000 for a candidate to fill Richard's term, which would expire in May, forcing yet another election.

Patrick asked other South County towns if they had faced similar situations and how the issue was handled. Both Monterey and Tolland at least once found themselves one Selectman short. Both had proceeded with two Selectmen while waiting for the regularly scheduled election. A few issues in town government require a three-person Board of Selectmen for resolution, but not many.

In Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard's opinion, a two-man Board of Selectmen would be temporarily acceptable, as long as the two did not cancel each other out and make the Board dysfunctional. At the September 24th Board meeting, Patrick said, "Well, we don't have that." Jeff joked, "You want to bet?"

Patrick and Jeff decided to continue with a two-man board until the regularly scheduled election in May. Patrick said, "If we have to, we'll invoke the rule of necessity."



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## LOCAL HEROES

Come out to a special evening at SArC dedicated to honoring the heroes among us, October 20, Saturday. An opportunity for local residents to show their support for the people who keep us and our community safe and secure.

Reception begins at 7 p.m., followed by an Awards Ceremony. Local musician Bruce Mandel will provide entertainment. All Sandisfield police, fire, EMS, and armed service personnel and their families will be admitted free of charge (all others \$5).



# BRIDGE WATCH: STOPLIGHTS IMPACT ABUTTING BUSINESSES & HOMEOWNERS

Article, Photo and Painting by Sandy Parisky

A steady stream of traffic stops, lines up, and waits their turn to cross the Farmington and the synchronized stoplights that were installed last month to control bridge traffic on Routes 8 & 57.

Power outages have interrupted the flow occasionally, but the system is operating as planned since JHM, managers of the project for Mass DOT, closed the south lane and funneled all traffic onto the north lane. No one should be surprised that the stoplights are having an impact on abutting homeowners and businesses.

Our driveway and that of our neighbors, Peter Levine & Ellen Croibier in the Old Stone House, share a set of lights – two solid red and two flashing yellow directional arrows. The lights indicate when we need to wait or can enter the roadway. Peter told me: "We've not had a problems with this setup. The timing allows us to get out and while this is an inconvenience now, it'll end in a couple years."

Our neighbors and I drive out of our driveways facing the roadway, as opposed to backing out using a rear-view mirror. This way we can see the direction the yellow arrow is pointing. And we warn anyone visiting to do the same. Unfortunately, this is not the case at the New Boston Store.



Bridge as it is.

Pete Murray, who together with his wife Sue have run the store since 1972, told me, "Nobody wants to pull in or back out. Sometimes they go the wrong way because they simply can't figure out the set of flashing lights by the store. If things keep going the way they're going, it will be

tough holding on." While residents at the New Boston Nursing Home continue to come-by about three days a week, Pete said his business is off by 35%. And, he added, "extremely little patronage by the work crew."

Trudy Ferron, who works at the New Boston Inn and whose home and former business, Trudy's Lawn Tweets (concrete lawn statues), is on Route 8 south of Tolland Road, told me, "No one pulls in to my place anymore. There's a line of cars parked in front of my driveway, and it's almost impossible for me or my son to get out."

Slightly more upbeat, Barbara Colorio at the New Boston Inn explained: "Now people have to stop and they see the Inn. Once they stop, some try us and that's a good. On the other-hand," she continued, "it's frustrating when people only stop to use the toilet which has more than doubled since work began. My real complaint though is the diesel smell coming into our windows and air-brake noise." She commented that they have had no business from workers.

However, the general consensus on the work crew is that they are careful, courteous, and professional. The most common complaint about the stoplights is the increase in noise, diesel fumes, and impatient drivers honking, revving motorcycle or car engines, and an occasional obscenity hurled in the middle of the night. Peter Levine added: "It's an inconvenience for now, but in the end the bridge will be replaced and when finished should look and function better."



Bridge as it was.

wm.  
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We give honest advice honed by our nearly 40 years of experience.

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

Image: Tina Sotis ©2011

# SANDISFIELD AND THE SPORTING LIFE

*By Jean Atwater-Williams*

I am not a hunter, but every year I eagerly await a special invitation that arrives with a postmark from the eastern end of the state. It is from a group of sportsmen who host an annual game dinner in appreciation of the folks who give them permission to hunt on their land. These men revere the land and the animals they harvest and are careful with the weapons they use. Other than an occasional sound of a gunshot or a truck parked by the side of the road, we never know they are there. But oh, the bounty they serve! There is roasted pheasant, marinated grilled venison, and usually quahogs and roasted oysters (my guess is that these last two are not harvested in Sandisfield!).

Hunting has always been an important part of Sandisfield's heritage. According to historical accounts, Sandisfield was a hunting ground for Native Americans. Early settlers certainly hunted to provide food for their families, and the tradition, though much diminished, continues today. Our own SilverBrook Café is an official deer, bear, and turkey checking station for southern Berkshire county.

wild turkeys from southwestern New York were released in Beartown State Forest. By 1976, these birds had successfully established themselves, and by 1978 turkeys from the Berkshires were reintroduced to other parts of the state. By 1996, turkeys were found across most of Massachusetts, and today the average statewide fall turkey population is about 18,000-20,000 birds.

Hunting in our state is overseen by Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife. The DFW is responsible for the conservation – including restoration, protection and management – of fish and wildlife resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the public. The Department of Fish and Game, which falls under the DFW, regulates fishing, hunting and trapping. Sportsmen must apply for and purchase a permit or license, and there are strict rules and specific seasons and limits for particular game in the various zones (Sandisfield is in zone 3). Some game, like deer and turkey, must be “checked” – reported at a checking station such as the SilverBrook. License fees paid by sportsmen support conservation and rehabilitation of our scenic wildlife areas.

While you may be surprised to learn that in most months it is open season for at least one species of game, October is one of the busier months. The fall seasons for quail, pheasant, ruffed grouse, turkey, coyote, raccoon, opossum, deer, and rabbit all start in October.

Arguably the two most popular seasons are turkey and deer. For turkey this year, the Fall sea-




*Hunting party during deer week, Etzel place, Beech Plain, c.1940s. Photo courtesy of Ron Bernard.*

Several sportsmen, some of whom have been hunting here for most of their lives, tell me that despite the return of the forest there is less game. The habitat and the climate have changed. So, too, have the predators. Coyotes, which are not native to this area, have reduced the population of small game: rabbits, quail, pheasants, and the like. Turkeys may be the exception.

According to *Mass Wildlife*, turkeys, plentiful in colonial times, had completely disappeared from Massachusetts by the 1850s. 120 years later 37

son runs from October 29th – November 3rd. For deer, archery season runs from October 15th – November 24th; shotgun from November 26th – December 8th; and primitive firearms (muzzle loaders) from December 10th – December 31st. In 2011, 540 deer were taken in zone 3, most by shotgun.

For more information on sporting in Massachusetts, visit [http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/recreation/recreation\\_home.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/recreation/recreation_home.htm). 



**OCTOBER**  
**THE SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER**  
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 WWW.SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

**Saturday, October 6 7pm**  
**Sunday, October 7 3pm**



**Rascals & Others**  
**The Movie**  
*Professionally edited video of the July 27th performance. Suggested donation \$5.*

**October 13 3-5pm**

**Artists' Reception**  
**GALLERY SHOW NO. 4**  
 On display October 12 - December 8  
**Three Young Artists**  
 Ramon Gutierrez, Ana Maria Hoffman,  
 Theresa Hryckvich

**Saturday, October 20 7pm**



**Local Heroes**  
 With local musician Bruce Mandel.

**Saturday, October 27 8pm**



**Finger Lakes**  
**Guitar**  
**Quartet**  
 Joel Brown performs with former students  
 Sten Isachsen,  
 Paul Quigley and  
 Brett Grigsby!

# EDIBLE SANDISFIELD

By Adam Manacher

Have you ever wondered how to get that great, aged beef taste without the aged beef expense? Here is a simple tip to try at home that will surely improve the flavor and tenderness of your favorite steaks.



The only potential obstacles to success are time and storage. You are recreating the results of aging (time and storage is what makes store bought aged beef expensive) in a short period of time and in your home refrigerator. So you need to plan ahead several days and you need a cool space to keep the beef. The only tools you need are a wire rack, some cheesecloth and a thermometer.

When you buy your beef, choose cut steaks that are well, evenly “marbled” with fat. It’s best if they do not have any concentrated big pieces of fat in the center. Steaks with good “marbling” will have more flavor and they will more likely

keep tender as they cook. Individually wrap each steak in cheesecloth. (The cheesecloth is optional, but it improves the process and is recommended). Then place the steaks on the wire rack (a rack similar to what you would cool home baked cookies or bread on) allowing cool air to get to all surfaces of the beef. Place the wire rack with the steaks in the refrigerator in the coolest spot, preferably in back and on the bottom. The refrigerator should be set at a 40 degree temperature or lower for food safety. It is wise to use a thermometer. Leave the steaks in the refrigerated space for 3 to 4 days. During this time the steaks will lose moisture. Dehydrating the beef concentrates and intensifies the flavor. The extra “aging” time also allows natural enzymes in the meat to break down the muscle tissue, improving tenderness.

After 3 or 4 days remove the steaks, unwrap from the cheesecloth, and you’ll find you have a dark, somewhat leathery textured outer layer around your steak. Voila! You’ve got home aged beef ready for a great meal.

Fire up the grill or break out the cast iron skillet and cook up your beautifully aged steaks! Enjoy the rich, tender flavors and never go back to regular steak again! Bon appétit!



## 60 SECONDS FOR BETTER BROADBAND!

Do you want great internet? Then let your voice be heard! WiredWest needs your support to bring state-of-the-art broadband to our town. Take a minute to complete your support card for WiredWest. They were mailed to all Sandisfield postal customers in early September. If you do not have a card, they are available at Town Hall Annex or you can complete the form online at the website [www.wiredwest.net](http://www.wiredwest.net). Responses are due by October 15, 2012.

WiredWest is a municipal cooperative of 40 towns working together on a regional fiber-optic network to provide state-of-the-art and affordable internet, phone, video, and other services to homes, businesses, and institutions.

The support card is an important demonstration of interest in the network in each town. We hope you will express your intent to purchase service from the WiredWest network. Even if you already have services from another provider, your expressed support will help ensure access for your fellow residents who currently have no high-speed internet options.

If you have questions, please contact Sandisfield’s WiredWest delegate Jean Atwater-Williams at 269-0012 or [Jean@WiredWest.net](mailto:Jean@WiredWest.net).

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# The Mushroom Tour

By Larry Dwyer

Photos by Setsuko Winchester



SArC sponsored a mushroom tour in late September, conducted by a professional mycologist. At last! I thought I would finally learn about wild mushrooms that I could gather and eat without poisoning myself.



After taking the tour, I had a totally different perspective. Gathering wild mushrooms is not for the novice – you must use extreme caution to prevent poisoning. Even the group known as the “foolproof four” (puffballs, chicken of the woods, morels, chanterelles) can be confused with inedible or poisonous varieties. The mycologist discouraged gathering mushrooms based on pictures and field guides alone, and suggested working with a person experienced in mycology.

Dianna Smith, Chairperson of COMA, the Connecticut-Westchester Mycological Association, knows her mushrooms. She’s been studying mycology for more than ten years and gave a very enlightening slide lecture and tour.

Don’t try this at home, kids! I urge caution. After the lecture, about 30 participants ventured out behind the Arts Center and, almost without delay, began gathering about 100 mushrooms. We found a lot of mushrooms but it did not seem encouraging. About half of the mushrooms were inedible and about 10 percent were extremely toxic. We even found one example of an innocent looking puffball being confused with a young *amanita virosa* or destroying angel – one of the six most deadly varieties of mushrooms.

However, mycology is an interesting hobby, and mushrooms are more than plentiful in our fields and lawns and forests this fall. If you want to learn more, I suggest you meet with the Berkshire Mycological Society ([www.bms.iwarp.com](http://www.bms.iwarp.com)) in Great Barrington. They meet irregularly at the Barrington Brewery on Fridays and conduct mushrooms hunts at various locations on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. The mushroom hunts run right up to the first week of November.

Thanks to Diana Smith for visiting our community and shedding a lot of light on an often difficult and mysterious subject. ♪

## WHERE’S SIMON?

*Few towns the size of Sandisfield can claim as a resident a world-travelling, best-selling author. We can. Some of our readers may be interested to know what Simon Winchester, the Times founding editor and correspondent, has been up to recently and where he’s been. Simon says, no surprise, that he’s been writing a book.*

So kind of you to ask. Actually, at the end of September, I handed in the script of *The Men Who United the States*, which is the probable title. It looks at all those people who helped link these fifty states into a single whole – from Lewis and Clark via the builders of the Erie Canal and the Interstate highways down to the creators of today’s internet backbone.

One of the items I cover is the development of electric power – something that came to Sandisfield within the lifetime of many current (excuse the pun) residents. In fact the first place in the entire country to be connected by AC power was ... Great Barrington.

By the time you read this I will be in the village of New Harmony, Indiana, tidying up some last-minute research for Chapter Two. Then I go off on business to Thailand and to see one of my sons in Cambodia; I will be back here for Thanksgiving (and to offer any help I can to our esteemed editor); and finally go off to do some work in Calcutta and Madras (or Kolkata and Chennai, as we are now supposed to call these great Indian cities). ♪

## EAT LOCAL!

Most of us have learned to shop for local vegetables and produce. We tell friends we support local farms. How about local taverns and restaurants? Go there. Buy lunch, have supper, say hi to your neighbors.

*New Boston Inn*

*MJ Tuckers*

*SilverBrook Café*

*Villa Mia Restaurant*

You’ll be glad you did.



## RIISKA FARM

*Cont'd from p.1*

jams, all for sale at the "Apple Shack" behind the main house. Riiska Brook also distributes produce at the Norfolk Farmers Market, Taft Farms, local groceries, and other outlets.

The orchard is open 9-5 Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and holidays. Call 413-258-4761 for midweek hours. Visit [info@riiskabrookorchard.com](mailto:info@riiskabrookorchard.com).



*Bill Riiska and Matt Avery unload pumpkins for display.*

### A LONG FARMING TRADITION

Bill is a grandson of one of four brothers who came to South Sandisfield from Finland in the early 1900s. Those brothers turned the land, which had been farmed off and on since the 1780s, into successful dairy farms. So many relatives and friends followed them from the old country that by the time the new Congregational Church (now the Sandisfield Historical Society) was dedicated in 1909 the sermon had

to be delivered in Finnish. By the 1980s, as with so many other family farms across the country, Riiska sons and daughters had moved to other towns and cities and begun lives away from the farm. The land might have sunk into disrepair and neglect had Bill, who grew up working on the dairy farms and became a logger, not returned.


He and his wife, the former Barbara Dyer of Otis, were living in Otis with Bill "commuting" back to log their property and nearby state forests. When one of their daughters, Bethany Perry, asked in 1990 if she could move back to the farm Bill and Barbara looked at the farmhouse and decided that, with work, it could be made livable for a family again.

### DECIDING ON APPLES



*Daughter and mother, Bethany and Barbara.*

## New Hartford Road Improving Daily

The repaving of New Hartford Road is underway so drive with patience and care when you go up to collect your apples in October. But enjoy the new road. Even the sections that may still be dirt are an improvement over the old pock-marked pavement. 

Bill wanted to put the land back into production, but without dairy cows. He'd had enough of that. There were already about 200 peach trees, and Bill planted a couple apple trees. "For the deer," he said. The young trees did well, and Bill thought maybe apples could succeed way up on the top of this high hill.

The peach trees, anyway, were beginning to fail. "They did well for a long time," Barbara said, "but it's windy up here and the roots began to rot. Peaches didn't like it here."

It turned out that apples did.



*Patrick and Hannah Barrett and their kids with Bill.*

Bill planted more trees and, with neighbor Homer Spring's help, began to clear land to plant even more. Bill planted 200 or 300 trees per year, wispy 4" and 5" twigs, first Macs and Cortlands, later Empires and Spencers, then Fujis, Gala, Ida Reds, Braeburn, and Macouns. A few years ago he planted a few Honey Crisp that already bear fruit. Now, as you crest the top of the hill going south on New Hartford Road the orchard lies before you in neat rows of over 2,300 trees spread across 25 acres.

Like most farms, Riiska Brook is at the mercy of "whether" – whether it will freeze at the wrong time, rain enough or not enough, and every other whim of nature. This year other orchards lost as much as 60 percent of their crops to killing frosts, but Riiska Brook was spared. "Frosts wiped out a few rows here and there, but we



didn't get hurt nearly as bad as other folks," said Bill, adding that a killing frost "is better than an August hailstorm. That can really hurt you, if hail destroys most of your crop after you've put a lot of money into growing it."

Riiska Brook is not organic. "We spray for apple scab, for sure," Bill said. "We have to keep changing sprays otherwise the diseases grow immunity. State and federal regulations tell us what we can and can't use. Some orchards spray for color, but we don't." He points out that a lot of fruit now sold in the U.S. is from South America and China. "Nobody has any idea what's sprayed on them over there."



Barbara and Bill in the "Apple Shack."

Bill loses a few apples to deer, which was, after all, his original reason for planting those first two trees. But he loses much more to porcupines that climb to the tops of the trees in order to chew tender young shoots.




Bill is considering expanding into another line of farming. "Maybe chickens," he said. "Start small, maybe 500 hens." Barbara says, "Apple trees need a lot of attention, but at least you don't have to clean up after them. There will be no chickens." ❧



## EVERYBODY HELPS

The farm has become again a center for Riiska sons and daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, all circling back from wherever they live to visit "home." And a good thing, too, because it takes a lot of Riiskas to grow and sell apples. Bill and Barbara are at their place every day (as well as all year: pruning, mowing, spraying, and everything else it takes to help little green apples grow into ripe, juicy fruit). Bill, who is still logging despite a serious accident four years ago, is helped all year by Homer "Wicky" Spring. On fall weekends, daughter Bethany Perry, who during the week is manager of Berkshire Bank's Otis branch and also serves as a town assessor and lives just south of the orchard, helps operate the fruit stand. Another daughter, Suzanne Avery helps as well, and her husband Matt does a lot of the heavy lifting and runs the family stand at the Norfolk Farmers Market. Even the grandchildren pitch in. Katrina, Scott, Tom, Eric, and Melissa help with picking, shining, cleaning up and anything else needed. Grandson Andrew Wriba set up and operates the orchard website: [RiiskaBrookOrchard.com](http://RiiskaBrookOrchard.com). ❧

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## THE SANDISFIELD LIBRARY NEWS

By Laurie Foulke-Green, Librarian

Next Genealogy Assistance classes Oct. 24th & Nov. 28th

#### NEW BOOKS AT THE LIBRARY

The Casual Vacancy, by J.K. Rowling  
The Elephant Keepers, by Peter Hoeg  
How I Came to Sparkle Again, by Kaya McLaren  
The Uncommon Appeal of Clouds, by Isabel Dalhousie  
Sea Glass Summer, by Dorothy Cannell  
The Bone Bed, by Patricia Cornwell  
NYPD Red, by James Patterson  
The Panther, by Nelson DeMille  
The Racketeer, by John Grisham  
Sleep No More, by Iris Johansen  
Wilderness, by Lance Weller  
On Order....Fifty Shades of Gray 

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## OPEN HOUSE

CELEBRATE SANDISFIELD  
ANNIVERSARY YEAR,  
RECOGNIZE LOCAL  
AUTHOR

By Josephine Freedman

Our traditional reception at the Historical Society this year features a very special program. Besides a final tribute to our town's 250th anniversary, the Society will recognize local historian Ron Bernard for his landmark historical account, *Sandisfield Then and Now 1762-2012*, and for his efforts to promote awareness of Sandisfield heritage.


WHEN: Sunday, November 4, 2012. 2-4 p.m.

WHERE: Society headquarters, the historic 1909 Congregational chapel, 113 Sandy Brook Turnpike (Rte 183), South Sandisfield.

As in the past, the event is free to the public and we hope that a large gathering will join Board members to appreciate all that happened this year and to thank Ron and the history book committee for their exceptional effort.

We especially hope that antique home owners and recipe contributors to our popular 2012 cookbook, *Sandisfield Eats*, will attend. In addition to wine-and-cheese, dishes based on recipes from the cookbook will be served. Copies of *Sandisfield Then And Now* and *Sandisfield Eats*, both wonderful holiday gift ideas, will be available for purchase.

Ron also organized the distribution of nearly 50 permanent exterior plaques to historic properties. These plaques, which were left over from the original program in 1984, were discovered in storage at the Society. Besides promoting Sandisfield's heritage, the sale of the markers has so far produced over \$4,000 for the Society's building preservation fund, a very significant, unplanned, and much-needed contribution. The Society is very grateful to all who participated.

CONTACT: For more information, contact: Josephine Freedman, Tel 413 258-4786; email: freedmJ1@aol.com. 

# Roberta Myers, Life Volunteer

By Rhee Kasky

What do teaching chemistry, sheep farming, newspaper editing, holding political office, and activism have in common with living in Sandisfield? Roberta Myers, that's what, tucked up there on Cold Spring Road with her husband Ron.

But to start at the beginning: With a mining engineer for a father, Roberta grew up in camps from Canada to the Philippines to half-a-dozen states in the U.S. She helped support her first husband and their four children while majoring in chemistry at Boston University. After their divorce, she was teaching chemistry at Purdue University in Indiana in 1970 when a life-changing event occurred while she was a guest at a Thanksgiving dinner.

Another guest was Ron Myers, a New Jersey dentist, brother of the host. "Oh, there he is," she said to herself, "there is a prince!" Recently divorced himself, Ron had three children of his own. When their first real date went well they decided the responsible thing was to bring everyone together to see if a union would work. All seven kids were brought to Ron's weekend home on Cold Spring Road and with the idea seeming to gel the parents went to Becket one day in July 1971, got married, and came home to have dinner with all the kids. They were now a family of nine! "That's a brave man" says Roberta.

Roberta moved her four kids to New Jersey to a house near Ron's children and his practice. In 1975 Ron sold his practice, opened an office in Lee, and moved the family to Sandisfield. That's when it gets interesting to us.

## A FIRST FOR SANDISFIELD

Always ready to step up for something new, Roberta was the first woman to run for Selectman. In 1977, supported by the Sandisfield Taxpayers' Association, a non-partisan group serving as a resource for town government and a voice for full- and part-time residents, Roberta ran a campaign that hit every household in town. She learned that the most important issue for residents was being able to communicate with and have a voice in town government.

With a lot of support from the women in town, Roberta won. She threw herself into the job, working with Selectmen Dave Kelly and John Brock. She glows when she talks about her biggest challenge: managing the roadside cleaning project after a huge storm in 1977-78 when she worked with the Selectmen, the power company, and CETA (a federally funded state agency). At the end of three years, Roberta decided not to run again – with kids entering college, she needed a paying job.

Ron spotted an ad from Hampshire College for someone with sheep experience. Having helped



Ron care for their herd of 50 animals, Roberta was good enough that she was hired. She was required to live on campus in Amherst as well as take responsibility for maintaining the farm equipment. When Ron offered to help they rented out the Sandisfield house and moved to campus (with Ron commuting three days a week to his dental practice). After four years they headed home.

In 1987 Roberta, John Brock and Candy Campetti started The Sandisfield Newsletter. The Selectmen sponsored the newspaper's startup, paid its costs, and allowed the writer/editors to use the town copier to cut and paste the layout. Roberta said that every month when it reached the printer she was thrilled to get it out of her hands – typos and all. She was involved off and on over 20 years until the newsletter was laid to rest in 2007.

As Roberta put it, "Nobody has had a richer life than I have."

## VOLUNTEERING AS A WAY OF LIFE


Roberta says she has "ebtb –eyes bigger than belly" (translates to rarely being able to say no to a cause). As local coordinator for the Eliminate Project through the Otis/Sandisfield Kiwanis, she is working to help prevent maternal and neo-natal tetanus worldwide. The solution is three tetanus shots at a cost of sixty cents each. Kiwanis International is helping UNICEF raise \$110 million for medicine and educational materials. Roberta is everywhere carrying a bucket and selling wristbands. If you donate \$2.00 you'll get a wristband inscribed with "I Saved a Life."

The two of them also helped man the hotline, write the newsletter, and run 12-week courses for families in which a member has a mental illness for the National Alliance on Mental Illness in Berkshire County. There is even more volunteer work in their lives. Ask the Myers what they are up to; you won't be disappointed.

For now Roberta is trying to simplify her life so that she can "live it well and interestingly enough." She and Ron recently purchased a home in California and will spend winters there with family as they have in the past.

Asked about Sandisfield, Roberta said, "Sometimes, driving along Route 8, I think that people save their money all year to come here and I get to do this every day." What makes the town special for her are its people. "Because of the nature of the town, off the beaten path, it has a pioneer feel and it's that feeling – if you see your neighbor by the side of the road you stop to help."

What's her wish for Sandisfield? "Public transportation. There was a time," she said, "when one could hitch a ride to Great Barrington or Lee on the school bus. I knew of a woman who would go to Lee on the school bus, meet a friend, then catch the bus on the way back. The school kids didn't act up, and there was room on the bus. So simple. I think it could work."

That's Roberta. Give her a problem and she'll find the solution. 

# Selectmens' Letter

By Patrick Barrett

Our thanks to the Sandisfield 250<sup>th</sup> Committee for the work they put into making our 250<sup>th</sup> celebration such a success. We appreciate all the residents, neighboring town officials, and friends of Sandisfield who worked to make this a memorable occasion. Our generation will be remembered for having done justice to honoring our 250 years of heritage.

Ron Myers retired from the Sandisfield Finance Committee after seven years of service. Ron also served 20 years on the original Sandisfield Board of Health. For many years he was secretary of the Sandisfield Taxpayer's Association, spent time on the Sandisfield Historical Society, and served as president of the Sandisfield Arts Center. He also played a role in building the Sandisfield Library. Thanks Ron for your many years of service to Sandisfield. We would also like to thank David Hubbard and Bill O'Brien for filling the two open spots on the Sandisfield Finance Committee. We appreciate their willingness to work on this important board.

Major road work projects are in full swing: South Sandisfield Road, West Hubbard Street, and New Hartford Road. New Hartford Road, a major thoroughfare, was in dire need of tender loving care and is now receiving it. Major drainage work on New Hartford Road coupled with full-depth reclamation in the worst sections of the road should go a long way toward helping residents in that part of town.

Joseph Zeller will retire from the Sandisfield Highway Department on October 19 after 19 years of service. Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko noted that Joe was always available at a moment's notice to deal with issues after regular operating hours. On two occasions Joe assumed departmental administrative responsibilities, working with the Selectmen after the retirement of Ed Riiska and assuming a leadership role before the hiring of Steve Harasyko. We would like to thank Joe for all his work on behalf of the Town of Sandisfield and wish him a well-deserved, happy retirement.

The Town will be hiring a new member of the Sandisfield Highway Department. The position has been posted and six candidates have applied. Selectmen Richard Campetti resigned his seat on the Sandisfield Board of Selectmen in order to apply for this position. As a Board we sincerely appreciate the professionalism Richard displayed in handling this situation.

I would like to clarify how this matter was conducted by Selectman Campetti and the Board of Selectmen in order to dispel rumors that have

been circulating throughout town. Richard was interested in applying for this position and sought advice from the State Ethics Commission to ensure the situation was handled in a legally appropriate manner. A representative from that office indicated that in order to be in compliance with state law all he needed do was fill out a disclosure form. When the job was officially posted he called the Commission again in order to obtain the proper paperwork. During the second phone call another representative gave a different interpretation. Both representatives indicated that he could legally apply for the job but gave different views as to how this should be conducted.

Richard contacted Sandisfield Town Council Jeremia Pollard for advice, and based on Jeremia's recommendation Richard resigned from the Board. Attorney Pollard pointed out that a

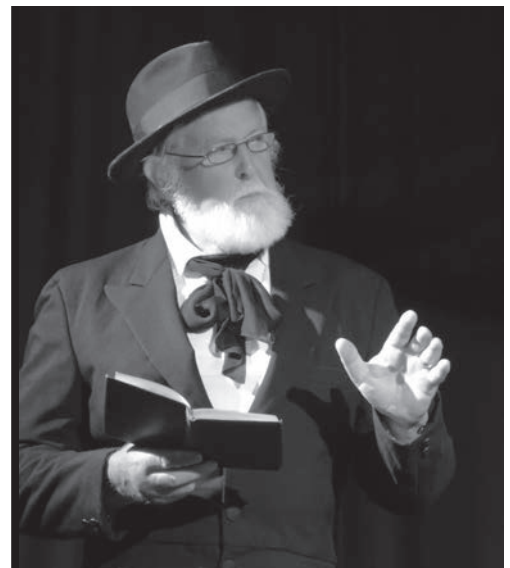
## Ron and Joe retire. Richard resigns.

30-day rest period would be needed between his service as a Selectman and before he could start work for the Town if he were to be the successful applicant. Richard gave the Board a written ruling issued by Attorney Pollard. The Board of Selectmen also called Attorney Pollard to seek clarification so that due diligence was followed on our part. Attorney Pollard once again cited the ruling he gave Selectmen Campetti and stood by his initial assessment. People who spend years of dedicated service to our community should not be punished for wanting to serve Sandisfield in another capacity.

In regards to the open seat on the Sandisfield Board of Selectmen, our Board has decided to function as a two-person committee until the May Election. At the September Regional Selectmen's meeting we sought input from our neighboring towns regarding this open seat. Both Monterey and Tolland have faced a similar dilemma and waited until the regular election cycle to fill the vacant seat. We also sought advice of Sandisfield Town Council Pollard, who indicated that an election would be prudent if the remaining board members were continually at odds with one another, creating a deadlocked board. A special election will cost the Town approximately \$3,000 and with the Presidential Election in November coming up we wouldn't be able to hold another election until December. Jeff and I have a good working relationship and believe that it is in the best interest of the Sandisfield community to wait until May to fill this seat.

We would like to thank Richard Campetti for his twelve years of service to the Sandisfield Board of Selectmen. On a personal note, two days after my election to the Board in 2009 Richard took me for a drive around town showing me the state of the union (town) and giving a historical overview of Sandisfield. This generous act of respect/class made a huge difference in my comfort level. Richard has been my mentor ever since. Being a Selectman is an extremely difficult job, every decision is scrutinized and at times can even cost one long-time friendships.

During my time on the Board Richard has fought for maintaining the educational excellence of our schools, pay for firefighters/EMTs, safer roads, a town website, and improvements to the Sandisfield Transfer Station. Richard's vast knowledge of local issues and selflessness in promoting the interests of Sandisfield has made him the leader of our Board. Sandisfield is a better community thanks to his dedicated service. Richard, we will miss you! 🍷



## Rascals & Others The Movie

**Professionally edited video of the Sandisfield Arts Center original production of Rascals & Others** (performed on July 27th for Sandisfield's 250th Anniversary Celebration)

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# TOWN BUSINESS

Submitted by Dolores Harasyko,  
Town Clerk

Edited by Bill Price

## Selectmen's Meetings

July 30, 2012

*Members present:* Patrick Barrett, Jeff Gray, Road Superintendent Steve Harasyko, Dolores Harasyko, George Green, Conservation Commission

*Absent:* Richard Campetti

John Anderson of the Aton Group in to present a slide show on the Sandy Brook Conservation Corridor. Aton is a private consulting firm that offers education on conserving lands and waterways for permanent preservation.

Public hearing for MJ Tuckers for an All-Alcoholic Beverage License and a license for the restaurant. Abutters Eric and Dawn Pachulski present, along with owner Marty Cormier. After discussion and based on past successful operating experience of MJ Tuckers by Jeff Blacker and Marty Cormier, motion by Patrick, second by Jeff to allow the application of an All-Alcohol Beverage License and to allow the Operation of a Restaurant with a "BYOB" (bring your own bottle) until Tuckers receives its liquor license from the State. The BYOB will be for beer and wine only. Customers may bring unopened beer and wine, which will be opened by an MJ Tuckers employee.

Joe Zeller in to address a complaint received by neighbor Jane Hason who feels the condition of the Zeller property will lower the value of her property. Joe stated that had she contacted him he would have explained that he is having six vehicles removed and will be working on the buildings when he retires, which he expects to be soon.

Treasurer Teresa DellaGiustina in to recommend Christina O'Brien as Assistant Treasurer. Per MGL Chapter 41, the Selectmen are the appointing authority. Christina appointed effective August 1, 2012.

Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko recommended Teresa DellaGiustina as the Assistant Town Clerk, effective today. Per MGL Chapter 41, the Selectmen are the appointing authority.

Discussed maintenance of town buildings. We will obtain quotes for replacing the roofs of both town hall buildings.

Discussed the payment of the new fuel system. We will write to the finance committee to re-

quest a reserve fund transfer as this is an unforeseen expense. The Tax Collector has also requested a reserve fund transfer of \$2,000 for operating budget.

Highway Department updates, discussed the New Hartford Road bid.

Patrick will attend the South County Emergency Planning public meeting at Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss each member town setting aside money for an emergency food bank.

August 13, 2012

*Members present:* Patrick Barrett, Jeff Gray, Road Superintendent Steve Harasyko, Dolores Harasyko

*Members absent:* Richard Campetti

Bids opened for New Hartford Road and South Sandisfield Road repaving. Steve worked with Geri Porter from Berkshire Regional Planning on the contract. Steve will review all bids and make a recommendation to the Selectmen.

John Skrip in to encourage the Selectmen to move forward with the committees for Future Planning and Review of Town Management.

Joe Zeller from the Highway Department in to present his letter of retirement effective October 19, 2012. The Selectmen thanked him for the work he has done for the town and for stepping up numerous times as acting road superintendent. Steve thanked Joe for his guidance and help.

Steve contacted the town's insurance company, MAIA, for information on drug and alcohol testing. The insurance company expressed surprised that we did not have this policy in place, as it is a requirement for CDL licenses. We will need to appoint a contact person who will require training.

We need to replace five driveway culverts from #58 to #64 on New Hartford Road as part of the under drainage before re-paving can begin.

A culvert on Dodd Road and a large culvert on West Hubbard Road are being replaced.

Reviewed and discussed contracts for winter sand, plowing, mowing, equipment rental, and gravel bids. We will keep the mowing as a 2-year

contract, the equipment and gravel as a one-year contract with option of extending two additional years.

Discussed committees for Long-Term Planning for Town Buildings and Review of Town Management. We will place the committees on the agenda for the next Selectmen's Meeting.

August 27, 2012

*Members present:* Patrick Barrett, Richard Campetti, Jeff Gray, Road Superintendent Steve Harasyko, Dolores Harasyko

Steve presented highway department updates. Reviewed and signed Chapter 90 project requests for New Hartford Road and South Sandisfield Road. Based on recommendation from Town Council and Highway Superintendent bids were awarded for New Hartford Road and South Sandisfield Road repaving to Lane Construction.

Discussed drug and alcohol testing policy. We will discuss and adopt the policy at the next Selectmen's Meeting. Discussed having an employee policy handbook.

Read aloud a letter of thanks and appreciation from Thelma Esteves regarding work done on South Beech Plain Road.

Reviewed request from American Legion Post 456 for one-day alcohol permits for September 14 and September 29, 2012. Passed unanimously to grant the permits.

Discussed committees for Long-Term Planning for Town Buildings and Review of Town Management. Discussed contacting Michael Morrison to participate in the Long-Term Planning committee as he has expressed a need to move the police department to a larger facility. Motion passed unanimously to appoint the following:

Long-Term Planning for Town Buildings: Patrick Barrett, Jeff Gray, Kathy Jacobs, Mike Lutynski, John Skrip.

Review of Town Management: Debbie Harris, Rhee Kasky, Bill O'Brien, John Skrip, and Joe Zeller.

Selectmen will meet in September on the 10th and 24th. Regional Selectmen will meet Monday, September 17, in Tolland.

September 10, 2012

*Members present:* Patrick Barrett, Jeff Gray, Road Superintendent Steve Harasyko, Dolores Harasyko

*Members Absent:* Richard Campetti

Fire Chief Ralph Morrison present to request the Selectmen's signature on the lease agreement between the Fire Department and the Town for the 1993 Ford. Reviewed and signed.

Cont'd p.14

# Town News

Cont'd from p.13

Discussed purchasing a new ambulance since the current ambulance needs expensive work. There should be enough money in the account to purchase a new ambulance at no cost to the town. Permission is granted to Ralph to research the purchase.

Ralph asked if when interviewing for new town truck driver to replace the retiring Joe Zeller the candidates be asked if they would be willing to respond to fire calls during the regular business day. The driver would drive the tanker, and load and unload water. The Selectmen would investigate, since it may be a union contract issue.

Steve updated the Selectmen regarding the Highway Department. He reviewed the cost and procedure of the Drug and Alcohol test, a policy that should already have been in effect. He reviewed the Hazardous Mitigation grant application process, for which he will attend a class; he will ask Alice Boyd if she could help write this application.

Steve said there were seven applications for the vacant truck driving position. He will vet them. He discussed work that will begin soon on New Hartford Road and that a special town meeting may be needed for additional funding since there is unanticipated drainage, culvert, and ditch work required.

Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko read aloud a letter of resignation from Selectman Richard Campetti that had been filed with her that same day. Patrick regretfully motioned to accept the resignation with appreciation to Richard for his many years of service to the town. Motion was not seconded as Jeff wanted the opportunity to speak with Richard.

Letter received from Alice Boyd, who is willing to write a Fiscal Year 2013 Community Development Block Grant proposal at no cost to the town. As this item was not on the agenda for action, preliminary permission was granted to go forward, with a formal vote at the next Selectmen's meeting.



To everyone who covered the 250th Celebration: Many thanks for a job well done and for all the time, effort and space devoted to the many events. I hope people will enjoy it 50 years from now as much as we have this year! Bravo!

Liana and the 250th Committee

Dear Friends. September 2012. Another great issue. You are helping make this special town strong and educated. Keep it up. Congratulations.

Lou Friedman, Sullivan Road

### Grave Robbers?

Well, not what you think. At least I have never heard of someone digging up a body in Sandisfield. But, what do you call it when people steal flowers, vases, statues, and other decorations off peoples' graves? When I heard it the first time, I just thought it was a on-off. Or it was summer and the kids were bored.

But I overheard a conversation at Coucil on Ag-ing (COA) and it seems it's been happening over and over and, well, you get the idea. It seems that within in a week of internment, objects left in memorial ... are gone. Can anything be done? Unfortunately, no. But, maybe if the word is spread via the Times ... maybe more people will start thinking about it and talking about it and instead of a complaint or two whispered in indignation there will be outrage. Mass outrage. And enough people will talk about it. And then the perpetrators will think twice before they ROB a GRAVE.

Susan Galik, Slater Lane

# EMS & FIRE DEPARTMENT



|                        | July | August |
|------------------------|------|--------|
| <b>EMS</b>             |      |        |
| Medical                | 9    | 5      |
| Motor vehicle accident | 1    | 1      |
| <b>Fire Department</b> |      |        |
| Power lines down       | 1    | 1      |
| Brush fire             | 0    | 1      |
| Motor vehicle accident | 1    | 1      |
| Assist EMS             | 1    | 0      |
| False alarm            | 0    | 1      |
| Mutual aid             | 0    | 1      |

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# NOW HEAR THIS!

*If you have an event that you would like to see listed here, please email [calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org](mailto:calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org).  
We reserve space for events that involve Sandisfield residents or take place in Sandisfield and neighboring communities.  
Prepared by Susan Van Sickle, 413-258-4877 or [susanvansickle@yahoo.com](mailto:susanvansickle@yahoo.com).*

## Of Interest

**Rascals and Others, the Movie.** Saturday, October 6, 7:00 pm and Sunday, October 7, 3:00 pm, Sandisfield Arts Center. Free, but with suggested donation \$5.00. DO NOT MISS this possibly once and only event.

**Artists, Musicians, and Educators.** The Massachusetts Cultural Council has granted \$3,870 to the Otis Cultural Council (OCC) for grants from artists, musicians and educators in the Massachusetts area who can provide entertainment, workshops, lectures, or classes for 2013. Applications for grants, standard, or student field trip grants (formerly called PASS grants), are available online at [www.mass-culture.org/Otis#](http://www.mass-culture.org/Otis#) or at the Town of Otis web page for the Cultural Council, [www.townofotisma.com](http://www.townofotisma.com). Completed applications must be mailed to Otis Cultural Council, Otis Town Hall, Box 237, Otis, MA 01253, postmarked no later than October 15, 2012.

**Sawmill Workshop.** The North-East State Foresters' Association will hold a portable sawmill workshop at Triangle Farm, 106 Sandy Brook Turnpike (route 183) in Sandisfield. October 16, Tuesday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The instructor is Dan Casens, Purdue University Professor and author of the recently released handbook "Manufacturing and Marketing Eastern Hardwood Lumber." Whether you own a sawmill or would like to own one please join us to learn how to be a better sawyer and marketer of lumber sawed from a small mill. Live sawing will occur on site. A copy of Dan's book is included in the \$20 registration fee. Bring your own lunch. Preregister with Charles Levesque, 603-588-3272 or [levesque@inrslc.com](mailto:levesque@inrslc.com) or [www.nefainfo.org](http://www.nefainfo.org)

## Save these dates in early November:

**November 4, 2-4 p.m.,** Sandisfield Historical Society. Annual Wine and Cheese reception, honoring Ron Bernard and the Sandisfield Then and Now Committee. See related article.

**November 10, Saturday, 7:00 pm.** SARc's Harvest Dinner, 49 New Hartford Road in South Sandisfield. Enjoy the bounty of our local farms and support the Arts Center. \$75 for one; \$130 for two. Reservations are limited. Call Rhee Kasky at 413-258-4498 for reservations.

## October Events

**ELECTION NOTE: October 17, Wednesday,** is the last day to register to vote for the State and Presidential election. Register at Town Hall Annex from 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m.

**October 6, Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.,** Sandisfield Historical Society's Annual Apple Fest, at the Meeting House, Rt. 183 (113 Sandy Brook Turnpike). Great items for sale, homemade baked goods, hot-dogs, hamburgers, "The 250th Cookbook," and vendors. Information: Jo Freedman at 258-4786 or email [freedmj1@aol.com](mailto:freedmj1@aol.com)

**October 6, 7.** "Rascals & Others: The Movie." (See above in "Of Interest.")

**October 6, 7, 8.** Granville Harvest Fair. 10-5 on Saturday, noon to 5 on Sunday, 10-5 on Monday. The 31st Annual Granville Harvest Fair. No admission charge. Indoor and outdoor venues, rain or shine. From Granville Village School to the Town Green, over 100 arts, crafts, and food vendors. Parking available, free shuttle buses. For additional information contact Donna Fillion at [mgfdmf@comcast.net](mailto:mgfdmf@comcast.net) or 413-627-1377.

**October 13, Saturday, 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm,** Artists' reception at SARc featuring Ramón Gutierrez, Ana Maria Hoffman and Theresa Hryckvich. Show on display through December 8.

**October 14,** Lee Premium Outlets. Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk. Contact Ellen Croibier, 413-258-2891.

**October 20, Saturday, 7 p.m.** at SARc, honoring the heroes among us: Sandisfield Firemen, Police, EMS and Servicemen and women and their families admitted free of charge. All others \$5. Musician Bruce Mandel will entertain us while we honor those that serve.

**October 20, Saturday, 12-3 p.m.,** Open House at Aton Forest, an ecosystem research station and nature preserve, 270 North Colebrook Road, Norfolk, CT. Something for everyone – speaker, self-guided trail, native bird-watching, and more! Refreshments, no charge. Visit [atonforest.org](http://atonforest.org) for more information.

**October 24, Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.,** at the Sandisfield Library, "Start Climbing Your Family Tree" with the assistance of Laurie Foulke-Green. The Library now has the World edition of the Ancestry.com subscription. Join us in searching through the records of history finding your family members.

**October 27, Saturday, 5-7 p.m.** Harvest Dinner at the Fire House #2 on Route 57. Benefit the New Boston Congregational Church. Turkey, mashed potatoes, the works. Take out available. \$10 adults, \$4 for 12 and under.

**October 27, Saturday, 8:00 pm** at SARc, the Finger Lakes Guitar Quartet featuring Joel Brown. \$20 admission.

**October 29, Monday, 7 p.m.** Sandisfield Cultural Council, Town Hall Annex. For information call John Skrip, 258-4788.

**October 31, Wednesday, 10 a.m.-noon.** Seasonal flu/blood pressure clinic. Senior Center, Town Hall Annex. Followed by pot luck luncheon sponsored by COA. Bring Medicare and insurance card, else a \$25 fee for flu shot. Public welcome. Contact Linda Riska, 258-4816, for information

**October 31, Wednesday,** Halloween. Leave your lights on if you have treats for trick or treaters.

## Ongoing Events

Sandisfield Historical Society, second Saturday of the month, 11:00 a.m., Sandy Brook Turnpike.

Selectmen, every Monday at 7:00 p.m., Town Hall Annex.

Farmington River Regional School District, first Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Farmington River Regional School, Rt. 8, JoAnn Austin, Superintendent. Public welcome.

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

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

Conservation Commission, third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., Town Hall Annex.

Otis/Sandisfield Kiwanis, every Wednesday, 6:30 p.m., Otis Town Hall. For information call Andy Pyenson, President, 413-269-6060.

Board of Health, first Wednesday of the month, 6 p.m., Old Town Hall.

Boy Scouts, contact Western Mass Council of Boy Scouts for a local troop at 413-418-4002.

Council on Aging, every Wednesday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Senior Center, Town Hall Annex. Pot luck lunch at noon, bingo at 1 p.m. Free blood pressure screening every fourth Wednesday.

Finance Committee, second Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., Sandisfield Library. Public welcome.

PTO, second Thursday of the month, 3:15 p.m., Farmington River Regional School. Child care provided.

The Children's Health Program Play Group, every Monday when school is in session, 9:30-11 a.m., Farmington River Elementary School music room. Led by Laura Mesina. For information call 413-644-0104, Ext. 1159.

Senior Lunch Program, every Tuesday when school is in session, 12:15 p.m., Farmington River Regional School. For more information or reservations call Lynette at 413-269-4466. Cost \$2.00.

Sandisfield Public Library Hours: Monday and Tuesday 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Wednesday 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.; Thursday 2:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m.-noon. Call ahead at 258-4966.

# THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



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### How to Contact Us

Letters to the editor:..... [letters@sandisfieldtimes.org](mailto:letters@sandisfieldtimes.org)

News, ideas, tips & photos:..... [editor@sandisfieldtimes.org](mailto:editor@sandisfieldtimes.org)

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