

The Call of the MOOC, page 9

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume IV, Number III

June 2013

Third Selectman Arrives at Town Hall

AND MORE HELP IS ON THE WAY

By Bill Price

Current and now former Select Board Chairman Patrick Barrett wasted not a minute at the first Board meeting with, for the first time in nearly a year, a full complement of Selectmen. With Rosario Messina having been elected to the open Board position in May, the Town has its third Selectman again.

Having served as chairman for the last 2 years, Patrick was ready to call it a day. His first order of business at the May 28 Board meeting was his nomination to elect Jeff Gray, the other Selectman, to replace him as chairman.

Rosario seconded the motion. It was a *fait accompli*. Welcome Rosario to the Board, and congratulations to Chairman Jeff.

There will be more spreading of work this fall. Voters at the Annual Town Meeting in mid-May approved the part-time town administrator position recommended by the Town Management Review Committee and approved by the Board of Selectmen in March. The position will pay a salary of \$15,000, with \$1,000 for expenses.

The next step is for the committee to complete a job description acceptable to the Board and for the position to be advertised. If anyone applies, the Selectmen will review the applicants and conduct interviews with the final candidates. "We hope to have an administrator in place by the first of September," said Patrick. "We're already

Cont'd p.13



Welcome Visitors

In the last weeks of April and early weeks of May we were visited off and on by four sandhill cranes, certainly a new experience for me. This impressive bird, whose wing span can be as much as 7 feet, has a red forehead, white cheeks, and a long pointed bill. Our visitors would arrive, often announced by their trumpeting, and settle into the field above the swamp. They would come quite close to the house though move away if they saw people or dogs. Sometimes they would engage in a fascinating dance, bobbing and raising themselves up with their wings.

Susie Crofut, New Hartford Rd.



Out on a Limb

Beginning with this issue, The Times opens an op-ed column to be written by Town residents. Do you have an opinion on something related to Town affairs? The only criteria will be that the subject be of interest to many of us, not too scandalous, not too off-the-wall (in the opinion of the editor), well written, and have strong links to Sandisfield. We reserve the right to reject the piece and will edit if deemed necessary but not without showing our edits to the author. The column will appear only when someone has something to say, which may not happen every month. Write to us if you have a strong opinion about something in Town. For our very first op-ed in The Sandisfield Times, see page 3.

- BP

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Growing Pains

See our new Op-Ed column on the facing page. In the interests of full disclosure, the editor is obliged to report that Miriam Karmel, the author of our first "Out on a Limb" column, happens to be the editor's wife. In no way is this favoritism; as you'll see, Miriam writes a mean Op-Ed article. You can too. If you feel strongly about something going on in Town, write an Op-Ed. Get it off your chest.

About her topic, the gas station/convenience store proposed on Rt. 8, see next month's Times for more details on this potentially divisive benefit/travesty. Is Sandisfield ready for a relic of the 20th century now that we're in the 21st?

Continuing with full disclosure, the Times regrets to report that Forrest Hull, who has been our man of the hour at our Town Dump for 3 years, was arrested and charged with a DWI

offense in early May. Having at least temporarily lost his driver's license, Forrest is no longer qualified to operate our dump. The individual replacing him is Dana Parsons, who most of us have already met as we haul recycling and other things to the dump. Welcome to Sandisfield, Dana.

DWI is an offense that cannot be ignored, but it does not erase our general fondness for Forrest. We wish him well, a recovery from this apparent lapse in judgment, and hope he can come back to us in some way in the future. 🍷

Bill Price
West New Boston

Re-Grand Opening at the SilverBrook

STOP BY JUNE 1, SATURDAY, 11-2

By Bill Price

Connie D'Andrea and her friends and family are working hard to crank up her new and improved SilverBrook Café which, as of June 1, will be known as the SilverBrook Café & Country Store.

The required 3-week appeal period having passed without challenge and her licenses signed and delivered, Connie has the shelves in place and is beginning to stock her/our new store. "The place is coming together great," she said. She plans to remove the front lattice work in the near future that was installed many years ago but not long enough to be historical.

Connie's store will be open 7 days a week, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; on Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. While she won't carry everything Pete and Sue had in the New Boston Store, she will have the essentials which will save many of us a drive to Otis or Barrington or Winsted. An "ordering service" will be available for essentials you may need other than what Connie stocks. She plans to include local crafts as available, fresh produce, fresh oats, wheat, trail mixes, and even penny candy.

She will continue to offer a full Keno Café with her \$2.00 Beer and a "new basket menu" of snacks, sandwiches, and salads when available. "Quick, light fare." Also clams, chicken sticks, sweet potato and hand-cut fries, breakfast sandwiches, bagels, and occasionally a Sunday guitar player.

Eggs will be on sale from Kathy Jacobs' chickens, clams and other seafood from Victor Hryckvich, and seasonal fruit from the Riiska orchards. "I want to stock locally as much as possible," she said.

Connie says, "So step into your local Country Café and have a look or a beer and say 'hi.'" 🍷

Gas Station/Convenience Store Approved So Far

By Sandisfield Times Reporter

At the Conservation Commission meeting held May 21, Happy Banga's representative gained a "negative determination" for the proposed gas station/convenience store on Rt. 8 across from Tuckers. A "negative determination," in fact, means the opposite of what it sounds like. The proposal was approved by the Commission, which means that the application can move to the next commission meeting, very likely the Planning Commission.

As far as the Conservation Commission

was concerned, Clare English, secretary, reported, "They had dotted all the I's and crossed all the T's" in the application process. A site visit was conducted and discussion held at the commission meeting. The vote by the members attending was unanimous to approve.

The commission imposed a few conditions. Much of the property, nearly 50 acres along Rt. 8, is steep hillside or swamp. The conservation permit was approved for a particular section of land only. 🍷

Town Election Results

In the election held May 20, 175 voters took part, out of 591 registered (30%).

Office	Votes
Moderator – One year	
John Skrip, Jr.	144 *
Blanks	31
Selectman – Three years	
Rosario E. Messina	92 *
Mark P. Newman	43
William D. O'Brien, Jr.	37
Blanks	3
Tax Collector – Three years	
Edna L. Leavenworth	159 *
Blanks	16
Auditor – One year	
Ralph E. Morrison	119 *
Blanks	53
All Others	3

Board of Assessors – Three years	
Bethany R. Perry	124 *
Elaine E. O'Brien	46
Blanks	5
School Committee – Three years	
John Skrip, Jr.	145 *
Blanks	30
Board of Health – Three years	
Gary Bottom, Sr.	55
Kim Spring	111 *
Blanks	9
Planning Board – Five years	
Willard R. Platt, Jr.,	144 *
Blanks	31

For a Carton of Milk: Paradise Lost

By Miriam Karmel

Perhaps it was the Planted Feather just over the border in Connecticut that drew me in. My first visit to Sandisfield, we stopped there to buy a fresh-baked pie and loaf of bread just pulled from the oven. We tripped over the toys in the yard and entered the “store,” which really was the baker’s home. Or perhaps the sign, a few minutes down the road, welcoming us to Massachusetts. Sandisfield, to be precise. Perhaps that’s what drew me in. Or was it the cliffs looming to the left? Or the reservoir? Or the Farmington River snaking through what looked like a small canyon? Soon enough, the wild and pristine gave way to signs of settlement. There was a roadside joint called Tuckers. A little farther up, a homey looking place called Villa Mia. Then a couple of homes. A business that sells stone lawn ornaments – angels and whatnot. And then we landed at the New Boston Store, AKA Pete’s Store, though Sue stood behind that counter about as much as Pete. We picked up milk and Pete’s beef jerky before getting back in the car and heading over the bridge and down the road, past the horses on the right, the small library on the left, and then home. This was my first whiff of Sandisfield. I was charmed.

Something not so charming appears headed our way. An individual has received a permit to store 30,000 gallons of gasoline in underground tanks on a site along that stretch of Route 8 that, 10 years later, still astonishes me with its beauty and reminds me that in this crazy, overdeveloped world there still are quiet pockets of space that soothe the spirit. I feel lucky every time I make that trip along the gateway into Sandisfield. We all share that fortune. It is, I imagine, why many of us live where we do, why we prefer this to the bright lights and the big city.

Now big city-style bright lights may also define our landscape.

I have heard that the proposed business along Rt. 8 will be a Cumberland-type place, where we can buy milk and bread, frozen pizza and chewing gum, along with gasoline. It is the kind of place that lights up the sky at night. Day or night it will alter the landscape. Forever.

I have been told that Sandisfield needs this sort of enterprise. With Pete’s Store gone, folks have nowhere to buy a few provisions to tide them over until the next trip to town. I understand. Yet considering that Sandisfield is the largest and most spread out township in Berkshire County, this proposed convenience store on Rt. 8 would be a convenience to only a fraction of our


town’s citizens. Very likely, such a store would serve mostly folks passing through to the central Berkshires and truckers heading north or south.

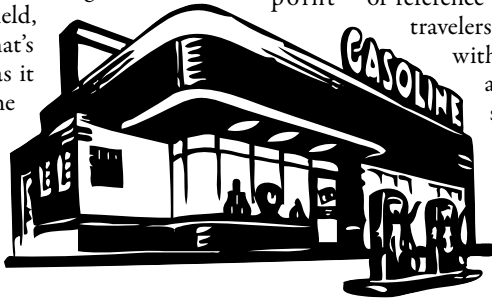
Yes, the town of Sandisfield could use another store. And yes, we feel the loss of Pete and Sue’s store. But consider this: their store was more than a convenience. It was a landmark. It was a point of reference when giving directions to travelers. It was a ramshackle affair with one gas pump out front and a wooden porch and screen door that banged in the summer months. There was a message board out front, living quarters up above. True, the few parking spots were tough to manage, and the store always was in harm’s way. But Pete’s store fit. It was a likely companion to the Inn down the road that claims to be the oldest in the state.

After a death, people are advised not to make any big decisions. Grief, we are told, clouds our judgment. Collectively, we are grieving the loss of Pete and Sue’s store. It was our store. It was our only store. Now that it is gone people are eager to replace it. And a businessman from elsewhere is eager to fill the void. But let’s not make any big decisions. Not yet. Let’s first consider the consequences of putting, in a place of natural beauty, 30,000 gallons of gasoline underground and a shiny new convenience gas station above.

I limit my remarks to the visual blight on the landscape. Unfortunately, our Conservation Commission recently approved the proposal, despite the proximity of the gas storage and septic to a swamp. Other committees still need to review the proposal. Hopefully, they will be mindful of the long-lasting implications of this project.


I know that I can accurately be considered an outsider, a part-timer, and therefore may have little say. I have never spent a winter here where a warm place with bright lights might be a comfort in the cold and dark. Still, I ask that we pause and consider what is in the best interests of our community. Let’s ask whether we are willing to give up what is unique about our landscape for the sake of an easy (easier?) way to acquire a carton of milk. We share a unique spot, a place of quiet, of rolling hills and wood and a river and the occasional mom and pop store. I believe we are here because it is all those things. We are here because Sandisfield is NOT bright lights and big city.

Let’s not rush to replace Pete’s Store. We are all stewards of this land and landscape. Let’s do our best to protect it. 



AN OP-ED OPPORTUNITY

Beginning with this article, The Times opens an op-ed column to be written by Town residents. Do you have an opinion on something related to Town affairs? The only criteria will be that the subject be of interest to many of us, not too scandalous, not too off-the-wall (in the opinion of the editor), well written, and have strong links to Sandisfield. The column may not appear every month, but only when someone writes to us with a strong opinion about something.

Address either PO Box 584, Sandisfield, or email at editor@sandisfieldtimes.org. 



Daffodils Down

I found twenty two daffodils yesterday
Happily swallowing air
After a long winter in the ground.

Their eyes were shining,
Their skirts were bright like yellow summer dresses.
And it seemed to me that they were talking . . .

About the dungeons and the catacombs,
Blind worms and moles of their acquaintance
Down below.

Which is how it should be:
Flowers, who talk about apocalyptic things
While our poems describe the innocence of
Spring.

Val Coleman
Town Hill Road

Walk Our Own Portion of the Knox Trail

TAKE A HIKE, JUNE 15

By Ron Bernard

Tom Ragusa, Otis Historical Commission Chairman and an expert on all matters to do with the historic Knox Trail in our section of the Berkshires, will lead a second hike of the Sandisfield portion of the Trail. Come and walk in the footsteps of Col. Henry Knox's teamsters as they trekked through here hauling the captured Fort Ticonderoga cannons in order to support Gen. Washington in his siege of the British at Boston.

Having researched the Trail for a number of years, Tom only recently mapped the last remaining section – the elusive Sandisfield segment. He led the first hike over that portion of the Trail last summer, and since then new and fascinating information has been discovered. So if you went on last year's hike, you'll learn something new this time.

The event is free to the public. Join Tom and me for only the second organized hike of this part of the Trail.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Degree of difficulty: Slightly rigorous; not recommended for very young children

Estimated distance: Two miles

Expected duration: 2½ hours

What to bring: Hiking pole and hiking boots or good sneakers; a cell phone; insect repellent. Plenty of water and a snack is a good idea. Dress for the occasion. Don't forget your camera!

Venue: Saturday June 15, 10:00 am. Rain or shine.

Sandisfield Meeting Point: Perry Road at North Beech Plain Road. (Note: Parking at the meeting point is extremely limited. PLEASE BUDDY-UP).

Questions? Call Tom Ragusa at 413-269-7209. ☞

Sandisfield Historical Society



By Josephine Freedman

The monthly meeting of the Sandisfield Historical Society was held the morning of May 11, Norton Fletcher, presiding.

We continued our discussion of the events for the coming year. The meeting was followed by a well-attended tour of the Sandisfield Center Cemetery conducted by John Kuzmech and Willard Platt. The tour was quite interesting where attendees were shown the graves in the old part of the cemetery. Willard and John described the symbols and motifs on the tombstones as well as relating the history of veterans of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars who are buried there. One section was set aside for graves moved to Sandisfield Center from the Colebrook River site when that town was flooded to create a reservoir following the 1955 flood.

Following is a list of events planned for the remainder of 2013. Be sure to write them into your calendar.

- Saturday, July, 13. The Society Summer Fair to take place at the Sandisfield Historical Society Meeting house in South Sandisfield. There will be vendors, tag sale items, baked goods, and the usual great food.

- Sunday, July 14, 2 p.m. A cemetery tour of the New Boston Cemetery (next to Carr field), with John Kuzmech and Willard Platt.

- Saturday, October 5. The Apple Fest, with vendors, tag sale, food, and pumpkins at the South Sandisfield Meeting House

- Sunday, November 3. Annual Wine and Cheese Party. Anyone is welcome to come to the meeting house to share good conversation, snacks, cheese, and wine.

- Saturday, December 7. Christmas Fair with vendors, raffles, baked goods, Santa Claus, and Christmas items at Fire House #2.

If you have questions about any of the above events, please contact Jo Freedman at 258-4786 or Marcia Ignace at 258-2898. Vendors who would like to participate in the July event should contact Marcia. The table fee is \$15.00.

Sandisfield Cookbooks are available at \$15 each. One year after publication, there is still a demand for the memoir/cookbook sponsored by the Society. We are so delighted to have received very positive feedback about the really great stories and recipes in the book. If you have not purchased one yet, call Jo Freedman at 258-4786 or stop at the Villa Mia to get your copy.

Thanks for your continued support of our organization. ☞

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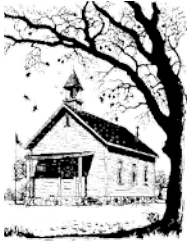
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Burglary Update

No Breaking & Enterings have been reported in town since the arrests of two suspects in April, says Police Chief Michael Morrison. A pre-trial hearing was held for one of the suspects, Meghan Bartini of Lee, who admitted to sufficient facts on a charge of receiving stolen property. She was granted a continuance until May 2014, and ordered to undergo a drug rehabilitation program. She was also brought up on two charges of violating parole in previous cases regarding trespassing and heroin use. ☞

- BP



FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BULLETIN

By Tara Beardsley

Another school year is almost over. What a year it's been.

This year's PTO Cash Calendar Raffle was a monumental success. Over 70% of students participated, grossing over \$11,500 in sales. Some of the proceeds were used to purchase a high-definition portable screen and two document cameras, provide a donation to the drama department for the "Annie" production, purchase a pottery wheel for the art department and an 8' school banner to be used during public events. The PTO also hosted an amazing "Screen-Free Week" which included a bingo night, swimming at Berkshire South, and skating at Amelia Park along with arts and craft events, a hike, and an evening with David Grover at Knox Trail Inn.

In addition, all students – KI through 6th grade – took a field trip in April to the Mahaiwe Theater for a performance of *Cirque de Shanghai*. The trip was possible due to a grant from the Otis Cultural Council and a donation from the Farmington River Elementary School PTO.

Plans are also in the works for another amazing field day, June 17th (rain date 6/18). Thanks to the PTO for all their effort!

Thanks to the Farmington River families and friends, we were a Price Chopper Tools for Schools Top 100 Winning School. We won a bunch of school supplies along with a \$250 gift certificate! Thank you to all who signed up making this possible!

Please mark your calendars with the following important dates:

- June 6 3rd Grade Wax Museum, 1:00-2:00
- June 7 3rd Grade Field Trip, Springfield Museum
- June 11 3rd Grade, Stearns Elementary, Pittsfield
1st and 2nd Grade, Springfield Museum
- June 13 4th Grade, Springfield Recycling Center
6th Grade, Boston
- June 14 Flag Day/Citizenship Assembly K-6 JDRF Walk
- June 17 Field Day (Rain-date, June 18)
- June 19 5th Grade, Mystic
6th Grade Recognition Night, 6:30 p.m.
- June 20 Last Day!! 11:45 Dismissal (No Lunch)

For more information please visit www.frrsd.org or call the school directly at 413-269-4466.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WHO MADE THE 2ND TRIMESTER HONOR ROLL:

GRADE 3	GRADE 4	GRADE 5	GRADE 6
Maggie Avery	Makenna Albee	Mykenzie Hall	Haley Couch
Mia Ciccotelli	Joseph Beardsley	Cody Hawley	Michael Diskin
Catherine Consolati	Dylan DeCelle	Isabelle McNair	Tangela Gauthier
Kelly Couch	Carlos Giraldo	Collin O'Brien	Kyle Hawley
Braxton Crandall	Sophia Howard	Gracie O'Brien	Mitchell Monterosso
Kaitlyn Fennelly	Jessica Kopiec	Maxwell Packie	Amanda Shea
Liam Pigott	Alison MacDowell	Nathan Reynolds	
Collin Parks	Cole Margraf	Matthew Ryan	
	Alec Morrison	Isabella Saporito	
	Konstantin Stanmeyer	Rosemary Snyder	
	Amber Stearns		

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Arts Center Opens to Rave Reviews

By Alice Boyd

With the paint and polyurethane barely dry, the Sandisfield Arts Center opened its doors to smashing reviews. And that's before the show began!

"Handsome," "respectful," and "sparkling" were a few of the adjectives that folks used to describe the upstairs performance area. The restored floors and soft wall colors garnered the most praise along with appreciation for the comfortable, moveable new chairs. And perhaps it was Kismet that one of our founder's family members, Lorraine German, helped us christen the new space with an earlier presentation on the history of American textiles and quilts. Somehow that just seemed right.

But the true test of our renovated space was saved for Anni Crofut's Family Cabaret, one of the highlights of the SARc season. We pulled out the moveable renovated pews to supplement our 75 new chairs. And Anni filled the house with an enthusiastic audience and a diverse program that again surpassed expectations. From talented musicians and singers to improv, film, and sidesplitting skits, Anni outdid herself with the help of a few dozen friends. Everyone donated his or her time to benefit the Arts Center. During

intermission the audience had the opportunity to view Richard Migot's beautiful photographs. The Center is grateful to everyone who participated.

A special thanks is owed to the small army of volunteers who spent time painting, cleaning, banging nails and sometimes their own thumbs, and organizing storage. The performance area is finished but we're still working on our smart new vestibule. The curved roof adds a warm welcome juxtaposed with the solid lines of our historic building. And we're awaiting the installation of our handicap lift and our new front doors.

On June 22, we'll be dedicating our newly renovated space before our first Jazz in Sandisfield concert featuring "Release the Penguins." We will be thanking the folks who made this renovation possible, contributing to the \$62,000 spent to date, and we'll continue raising the final \$18,000 as the season continues.

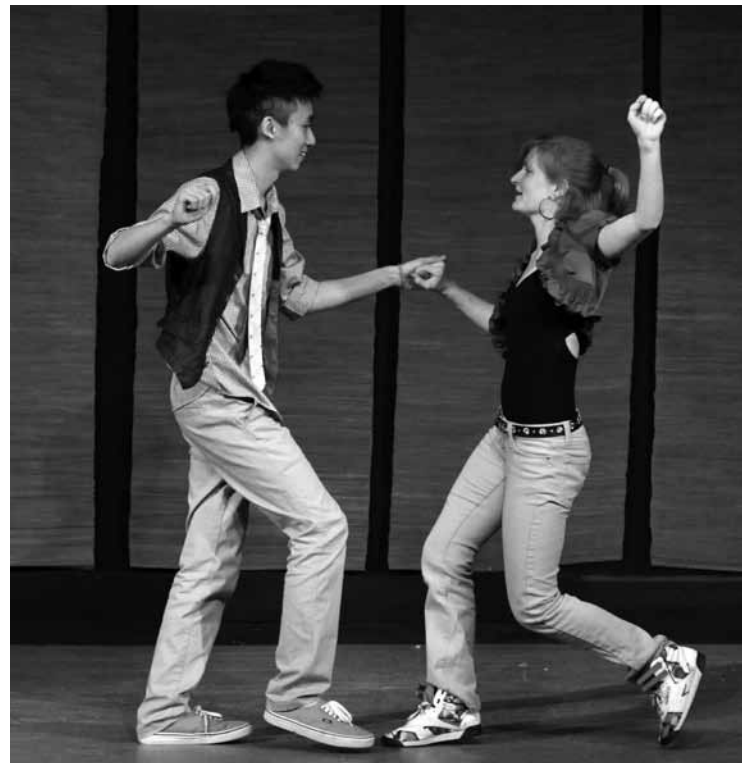
For information on our 2013 season check out our website, www.sandisfieldartscenter.org, where tickets can be purchased. Also check us out on Facebook with an array of photographs documenting our transformation. We're looking forward to seeing you at the Arts Center soon! 🍷

"I really enjoyed the evening and was seduced by the space — it made me realize we just don't have such an animal anywhere more central — all the spaces either belong to a college or a church or a theatre group. A community space like this — airy and pleasant and reasonably flexible — is a rarity."

— Rachel Siegel, Berkshire resident and performer

Dancers are Frank Liu and Olivia Wilber. Spies spying each other are Anni Crofut and Jeremy Beckett.

Photos: Richard Migot



An Unwelcome Tourist: Part 2

Protect Your Ash Today

What You Can Do to Fight the EAB

By Tom Ryan, DCR Service Forester

By now you know the bad news. The invasive insect called the emerald ash borer (EAB) is in nearby Dalton and so all of Berkshire County is in a quarantine that restricts the movement of ash and any hardwood under 4 feet in length, including all split firewood.

While efforts to eliminate this insect have proven unsuccessful, there are still proactive measures you can take to help reduce the expected impact of this pest. Deliberate measures can be taken to slow the spread of this insect and protect individual high-value ash trees. Particularly noteworthy is a strategy developed by the US Forest Service and Michigan State University designed to slow ash mortality, a program known as SLAM. Designed to buffer the economic and social impacts of widespread ash mortality, the SLAM tactic is believed to be especially effective if used when a population is first discovered, as is the case with Berkshire County.

One of the tactics that SLAM employs includes the use of "trap" trees, also called "sink" trees. Sink trees are ash trees selected in the spring that are near known infested trees. These trees are girdled, which causes the tree to release stress hormones that are particularly attractive to the beetles in flight and these trees then are more likely to have large numbers of eggs laid on them. Ideally the sink trees are then harvested in the fall or winter and burned as firewood for that heating season before the larvae can develop and emerge as adult beetles.

Another tactic includes the use of insecticides to protect high-value established ash trees (i.e., park trees or yard trees). The insecticides are injected into the stem of the tree and do not allow EAB larvae to develop or adults to emerge within the treated tree. The drawback is that this is a costly treatment and needs to be repeated periodically by a licensed pesticide applicator.


Another protective method is by recognizing and utilizing infested ash trees before adult beetles can emerge and taking steps to reduce

the food source (ash tree phloem) ahead of the expected infestation. Timber harvesting plays a role in slowing the spread of this insect by harvesting trees that are infested with EAB and in rapid decline as well as preemptively harvesting large diameter ash trees ahead of the infestation.

Large ash trees provide more food (phloem) for this pest and provide a better chance of producing larger numbers of offspring. Current estimates state that a single large diameter (20 inch dbh or greater) ash tree can literally produce thousands of beetles before the tree dies.

It is important to note that it's not recommended to completely remove all of the ash in your woods because this can actually cause beetles to fly greater distances for their next meal. Foresters are encouraging the retention of smaller diameter ash (14 inch dbh or less) in an effort to maintain ash as a component of our forests.

Dealing with the hazardous roadside trees is going to be one of the greatest financial and safety impacts of EAB. In Sandisfield, many of our roadside trees are unfortunately ash; many of these trees will need to be removed as the beetle moves through our area. It would be wise for our town and the surrounding communities to begin planning ahead and setting aside some funds to deal with the expected cost of a high volume of hazardous roadside tree removals.

For more information or to learn about what you can do to prepare for the emerald ash borer, please come to an EAB workshop scheduled for June 19, 2013 from 5PM to 8PM held at Berkshire Community College, Koussevitsky Arts Center located in Room 111 at 1350 West Street, Pittsfield. You can also contact the DCR forest health program at 413-253-1798 ext 204 or me at 413-784-1828 ext 123 or tom.ryan@state.ma.us. For Part 1 of "An Unwelcome Tourist," see The Sandisfield Times, April 2013. 



An ash tree killed by EAB, with the bark peeled away to show extensive larval galleries.

Photo: Tom Ryan



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BRIDGE WATCH: TRAFFIC LANE /TEMPORARY WALKWAY COMPLETED BY THE OLD STONE HOUSE

Article and Photos by Sandy Parisky

The southbound lane on the Route 8/57 Bridge Replacement Project was completed last month, which allowed alternating north/southbound traffic to switch to that side so work could begin on the northbound lane.

The next phase, says J. H. Maxymillian, project managers for Mass DOT, will involve removing the remaining steel truss and replacing it with a reinforced concrete support beam and covering the existing surface with a new concrete roadway. Completion of the project is estimated to be mid-year 2014.

Viewing the completed traffic lane or, better yet, walking across the river via the temporary wooden walkway bordering the Old Stone House, you can see the bridge's new alignment firsthand. There seems to be little question on its adverse impact on this historic Sandisfield property. Friends and neighbors have lamented and frequently ask Peter Levine and Ellen Croibier, owners of the Old Stone House, and me – we're in the house next door – "Is the bridge closer than you envisioned from the plans presented by Mass DOT several years ago?"

Ellen and Peter said, "The bridge appears so much closer to the house because a hedge of arborvitae was removed – along with our privacy – leaving us to experience the noise and dirt from passing traffic through the end of the project. We resigned ourselves to doing what was in the best interests of the town so, it is what it is." 




OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Sandisfield Student Receives "High Demand" Scholarship

Salem State student, Katrina Rock of Sandisfield, is the recipient of the newly-established Massachusetts High Demand Scholarship. The program directs \$2 million of state funds for scholarships to defray tuition costs for students pursuing careers in high-demand disciplines such as science, mathematics, business, and health care. The scholarships support training and degree completion in disciplines that are deemed to be critical shortage areas. Out of some 5,000 applicants, 800 students across the state were awarded the scholarship.

Simple Gifts Fund Awarded to Monterey Dancer

The Simple Gifts Fund, an endowment of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, awarded grants to 21 young people in the Berkshire Taconic area. Established in 1998 by Bill Crofut and his family, the Simple Gifts program gives annual grants to children ages 8-21 for cultural and creative summer programs. The Simple Gifts Fund Committee includes Susie, Erika, and Anni Crofut of Sandisfield.

One of the gifts this summer was awarded to Sophia Krans of Monterey, to help her attend On Stage with the Berkshire Theater Group. On Stage is a program that allows children to work with members of the BTG to build dramatic skills and gain self-confidence through improvisational skits, theater games, movement exercises, and dramatic storytelling. 

The Call of the MOOC

By Larry Dwyer

Lately I've been searching for MOOCs. You never heard of a MOOC?

It might sound like a call of the wild, but it won't be heard in the Sandisfield forests because MOOCs are on your computer. MOOC is an acronym for Massive Open Online Course, and the term was coined in 2008 during an online course conducted by the University of Manitoba. When that course was given, there were 25 paying students and 2,300 who participated online free of charge.

I'm currently enrolled in a MOOC on Rhetorical Writing. It's a full college course given by Ohio State University. Part of the course is peer review, and I was duly impressed that a number of posted written assignments were by very talented and published authors. I thought I was a decent writer but after reviewing several postings I found out what excellence really meant.


MOOCs are the digital equivalent of correspondence courses which have been around since the 1890s. Massive education later morphed into training films for WWII draftees and afterwards for television audiences. There are several MOOC web sites, but three, Coursera, Udacity, and edX, are associated with top universities. Both Coursera and edX have a calendar-based schedule, but Udacity allows you to take a course at any time.

MOOCs have democratized education, not only here in the U.S., but around the world. More than five million students worldwide have registered for classes in topics ranging from physics to aboriginal worldviews. The downside is that reported dropout rates average 90 percent, but this figure may vary depending on the course and as MOOCs evolve.

In 2012, there was an explosion of MOOCs. Coursera has signed up 62 universities, and is looking at it as a possible revenue source. Harvard and MIT are sponsoring edX and are looking for the program to become "self-sustaining." In September 2012, Moody's Investor Service predicted positive results are likely to develop for the higher education sector, but they see an adverse impact on small for-profit education companies and even some small not-for-profit colleges. Others worry that

MOOCs will offer a watered-down education and give politicians an excuse to gut state school budgets.

The lack of exchange between professor and student is one of the major complaints. However, courses at universities may have up to 300 students in attendance, and the majority of students at a course that size wouldn't be able to question their professor either. Learning is a social event, and even though you might not be able to contact your professor the peer review process helps students evaluate assignments. In my course there are 625 students enrolled rather than the thousands when MOOCs first began.

The jury is still out. Much information on MOOCs is already obsolete, because new ideas on the Internet evolve very rapidly. In the meantime, I'm enjoying my Rhetorical Writing course, and I've already learned plenty in just in the first weeks. I suggest that you give a MOOC a try yourself. 

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JUNE

JUNE 1st 2-4 PM

Antique Appraisal Day
\$5 per item



JUNE 8th 8 PM

Bernice Lewis,
Singer
Song Writer
\$15



JUNE 9th 4 PM

Concert
to Benefit
Ferris-Burtis
Foundation
\$20



JUNE 22nd 10 AM

Van Gogh w/Carol Berry \$15

7 PM

Dedication of the new
Vestibule and Lift

8 PM

Release the
Penguins!
Jazz
Quartet
\$15



JUNE 29th 10 AM

Sandisfield
Meeting Houses
w/Ron Bernard
\$5



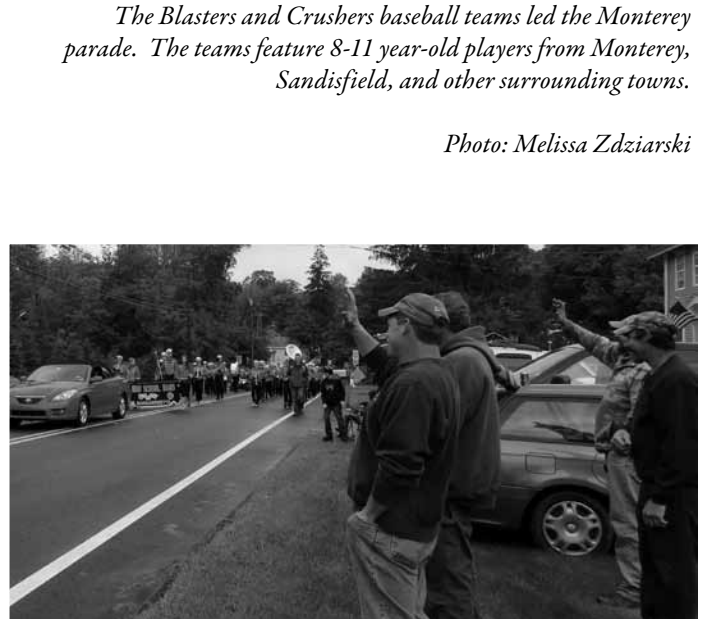
IN THE GALLERY:
Richard Migot, Photography

Memorial Day Parade, 2013



Parade-goers included, above, Janey Beardsley (left) and Morgan Cooley (right) of Sandisfield and their friend, Leigh Duffin, Great Barrington.

Photos: Tom Jacobs and Jean Atwater-Williams



The Blasters and Crushers baseball teams led the Monterey parade. The teams feature 8-11 year-old players from Monterey, Sandisfield, and other surrounding towns.

Photo: Melissa Zdziarski

Young Musicians to Perform

SUNDAY, JUNE 9 AT THE SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER



Kutik, Makuc, Weiser, and Muller: Four young musicians will perform in early June in the third annual fund raising concert of the Ferris Burtis Music Foundation. You will have an opportunity to see and hear these musicians at the beginning of their careers.

The brilliant young violinist, Yevgeny Kutik, is already in the midst of an international career, having performed across Europe and the United States. His recently released CD, "Sounds of Defiance," may be purchased on his website www.yevgenykutik.com

Gabriella Makuc, a sensational young pianist, has just completed her first year at Lawrence College in Wisconsin where she played extensively in concert.

Katie Weiser, soprano, graduated from Smith College this year where she studied voiced with Herbert Burtis and Jane Bryden. She has performed two senior recitals as well as having won various awards. She plans to attend the Graduate School of Music at Syracuse University.

Julian Muller is a brilliant young 'cellist whose first year was spent at Indiana University. Julian has been studying at the Cleveland Conservatory this past year.

The Ferris Burtis Music Foundation of the Berkshire Taconic Foundation was started in 1987 by the late John Ferris and by Herbert Burtis, both of Sandisfield. The purpose of the foundation is to support of the education and careers of talented young musicians.

Sunday, June 9, at 4 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Tickets are \$20.00 and reservations may be made by emailing Mr. Burtis at roodhill@verizon.net or calling 413-258-4456. For more information, visit: <http://ferrisburtisfoundation.blogspot.com>.



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Third Selectman Arrives

Cont'd from p.1



Town Meeting, 2013
Photo: Jean Atwater-Williams

lining up projects for the person to spearhead.”

It was agreed over the past several months that it would be to the Town's benefit to hire some outside administrative leadership, even if part-time. Our Selectmen and most committee members are part-time officials themselves and hold full-time jobs, along with family responsibilities.

The administrator position did garner a few nay votes at the Town Meeting, but passed with a large majority of the 59 votes attending. A general consensus but not a requirement, was that it might be best if the new office holder not be a Sandisfield resident, probably for ease of cracking the whip and getting things done.

All of the financial propositions passed, encumbering the Town with a fiscal 2014 budget of about \$2,910,000, an increase of \$115,000 over 2013. Again, the largest expenditure is our assessment from the Farmington River Regional School of \$1.3 million, up about \$38,000 from 2013.

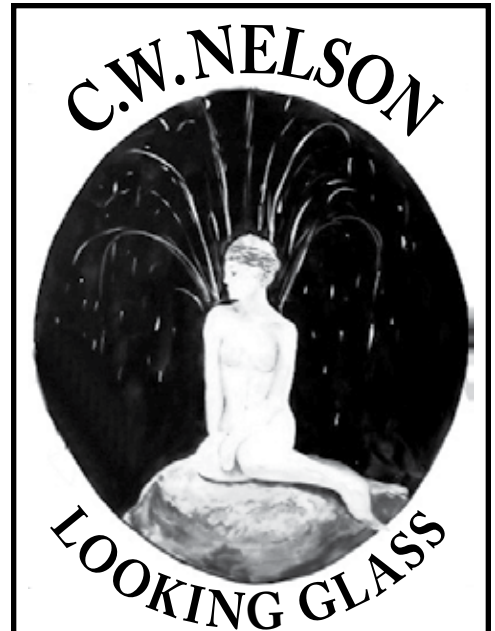
The only squabble, which should better be termed questioning, was over the methods the Finance Committee used to avoid having to invoke Prop. 2½ in order to fund necessary building repairs at the Town Hall Annex. A special meeting may be required in order to approve the money for that effort.

This led to some back-and-forth discussion about the free cash fund vs. the stabilization fund. The free cash fund is now down to the State recommended minimum, due to the use of that fund for the purchase of a new one-ton truck for the Highway Department and the projected completion of the New Hartford Road repair. The stabilization fund holds about \$900,000 and some residents questioned the need for so much money in a holding account. The point was made by the Finance Committee that this money may be needed soon because of major infrastructure issues that are fast coming due. ♣

Where are the Bears?

Last year our fur-covered neighbors in the woods woke up hungry. Several Town residents caught photos of bears trying and usually succeeding in breaking into any number of bird feeders. So far this year the Times has received not a single bear picture. We've run photos of horses in snow, a wandering moose and her calf, cows and their calves, and now seldom-seen sandhill cranes, but so far not a single bear. Where are the bears of 2013? ♣

- BP



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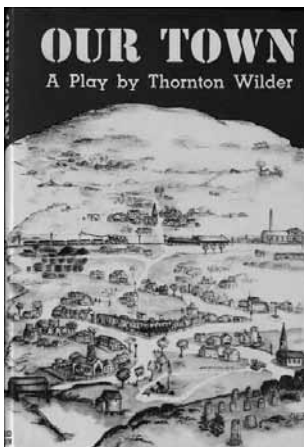
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baby chicks and turkeys

VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

Some time on your hands? Willing to help out on an interesting, worthy, and fun project?

The Sandisfield Times is seeking a volunteer to index our issues from the past three years. When completed, the index will be posted on the Times' web site for the convenience of readers. You will earn the gratitude of many. Contact: editor@SandisfieldTimes.org

"Our Town" Calling All Players



Important to remember, memorizing will not be necessary. The performance of "Our Town," to be produced, directed, and acted upon the stage at the Arts Center in November, will be a script-held affair. It will be costumed and staged similar to "Rascals" last summer, and will be as much fun.

Ben Luxon, the director, plans a two-month rehearsal period in September and October of three rehearsals each week. This should be enough to make the cast familiar with the complexities of this American masterpiece. Rehearsals will be scheduled around the availability of the players. All cast will not be required to attend every rehearsal.

Ben adds: "This should be a good learning experience and fun for us all."

If you'd like to take part, give Ben Luxon a call at 258-4994 or email: benjaminluxon@gmail.com. Ben needs to hear from you if you want to be in the play rather than simply enjoying it from the audience. He plans a preliminary get-together in late June to begin planning and assignments. ♡ - BP

Special Exhibit of Historic DeMars Photos



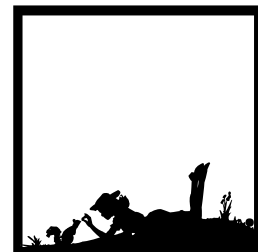
The New Boston Store, probably in the 1920s.

Photo: www.DeMarsImages.com

An open house exhibition of early views of scenes across South Berkshire and Litchfield counties will be hosted by the F. W. DeMars Company, Saturday & Sunday, June 8 & 9 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Shops & Artists at Whiting Mills, 100 Whiting Street, Winsted, Conn.

About a hundred DeMars' vintage images of Sandisfield appeared in the commemorative history, *Sandisfield Then and Now*, last year. Frank DeMars, in the early 1900s, travelled throughout northern Connecticut and the southern Berkshires, mostly by horse and buggy, and took or acquired local collections of over 5,000 glass-plate negatives.. Collectively as well as individually, the photographs are outstanding. The details in the photographs provide a historical record that could have been obtained in no other way. Individually, the photos could be of your house as it was in 1905 or the street that runs beside your doorway.

The photos may be purchased individually at this event at about 25% discount from listed prices. All the Sandisfield images can be previewed on the DeMars web site: www.demarsimages.com. ♡



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FIRE DEPT CALLS

CHIMNEY FIRE	1	0	0
MUTUAL AID STANDBY	1	0	1
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT	0	3	0
BRUSH FIRE	0	0	1
CO DETECTOR	0	0	1
FALSE ALARMS	1	0	1



By Laurie Foulke-Green, Librarian

Our next Genealogy class: June 26th Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.

New Titles:

- A Step of Faith/Richard Paul Evans
- Beautiful Day/Erin Hilderbrand
- Island Girls/ Nancy Thayer
- The Last Original Wife/ Dorothea Benton Frank
- The Silver Star/Jeanette Walls
- Sisterland/Curtis Stittenfeld
- Sweet Salt Air/Barbara Delinsky
- The Kill Room/ Jeffery Deaver
- Second Honeymoon /James Patterson
- Storm Front/Richard Castle
- The Midwife's Revolt/Jodi Daynard

Library hours: Mon-Tues: 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wed: 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Thurs.2:00-5:00p.m., Sat: 9:00 a.m.-12 noon.

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TOWN BUSINESS

Submitted by Dolores Harasyko, Town Clerk

Edited by Bill Price

Selectmen's Minutes

April 16, 2013

Members present: Patrick Barrett, Jeffrey Gray, Road Superintendent Stephan Harasyko, Administrative Assistant Dolores Harasyko

Jeff, acting as clerk of the Selectboard, opened the transfer station bids. Bids, after being advertised for two consecutive weeks in the Berkshire Record and in the Central Register, were received from The Master Garbologist at \$1,450 per month and Valley Rolloff at \$1,800 per month. Allied Waste sent a letter but no bid. The Selectmen will review the bids and vote at the next meeting.

Jeff opened the bids for the ambulance. This bid was also advertised for two consecutive weeks in the Berkshire Record and the Central Register. The bids were from Specialty Vehicles, Inc. at \$147,000 and New England Fire Equipment and Apparatus at \$139,500. Fire Chief Ralph Morrison will review the bids and make a recommendation to the Selectmen.

Steve provided highway department updates. Street sweeping and road raking has begun.

Chuck Nelson and Binney Meigs in to present a contract for their donation of the art sculpture, "Then and Now." The town will now maintain the sculpture. The Selectmen thanked them on behalf of the Town for their generous donation which will provide years of pleasure to future generations. Gene Riiska has generously volunteered to mow the area around the sculpture. We thank him also.

David Hubbard asked the Selectmen to look into the transfer station operation for the town of New Marlborough. We will follow up on this. Patrick and Steve plan to meet with New Marlborough to review their highway department operations.

The public hearing for Connie's SilverBrook Café was called to order at 8:00 p.m. The public hearing is to act on the Special Permit application from Constance D'Andrea DBA Connie's

SilverBrook Café LLC to add to the existing bar and restaurant the operation of grocery license, frozen food retail license, a bakery license, and the operation of antique-craft/gift shop at 57 Sandisfield Rd. The hearing was advertised for two weeks in the Berkshire Record and all abutter notices were sent by registered mail using the most recent assessors list. Connie reviewed updates she plans to do to the front of the building. She will no longer have music and dancing. She wants to concentrate on the store. She explained that her current clientele for the bar is mostly older customers. Zoe Nelson asked about parking. Jeff responded that there has to be enough parking so that it does not impact the area. Dolores reviewed what the building inspector said about the handicapped parking space. Connie responded that Pete's store only had four parking spots and that she has ample parking in front, on the side of the building, and across the street. Zoe explained that parking was an issue that she and Chuck had to address for Looking Glass Gardens and she only wants to make sure parking does not impact the area. Zoe pointed out that vehicles would have to back out onto Route 57. David Hubbard suggested four parking spaces per 1,000 square feet of floor space. Connie explained that she was having a concrete slab and ramp poured in the front of building for handicapped access. Mary Slater expressed her desire to have a store in town. Selectman Patrick Barrett expressed his desire to have the store separated from the bar. He suggested a room divider and separate entrance. Connie responded that she does not have the funding to do this and therefore is not willing to separate the room. She will only have three tables for dining and 11 stools at the bar. Patrick explained that the building inspector will contact Connie and will re-configure the capacity of the building which will in all likelihood be cut in half. Patrick explained that once a special permit is issued for a property it stays with that property forever. He clarified the need for a wall to separate the bar from the store. He feels that the area should be separate to protect families with children from having to walk through the bar to get to the store. David Hubbard suggested a sign by the door stating "Please be advised that you are entering into a bar." Connie agreed to the sign. Selectmen Jeff Gray is OK with Connie putting up such a sign. Barbara Cormier suggested that the Selectmen allow Connie to open the store now and put up the partition at a later date as funds become available.

Patrick explained the permanence of the special permit is not the same as a business license. David Hubbard suggested adding conditions allowing two to three years to build a partition. Linda Riiska spoke in favor of the store.

Dolores reviewed the special permit process and the permanence of the permit. Patrick reiterated his concerns for the future of the business and would still like to have a partition. Connie is not agreeable with this. Connie stated that it is not required by the law to have the store separated from the bar.

Dolores reviewed her findings after speaking with the ABCC. She spoke with three investigators and the director of the Alcohol Beverage Control Comm. The findings are that you cannot hold a Section 12 and Section 15 license. One is for serving alcohol to be consumed on the premises and the other is for a package store. No one can leave the premises with alcohol. All alcohol must be consumed on the premises. There is no law preventing a bar and a grocery store from being in the same building. Patrick explained that due to the fact that we are down one Selectmen he will vote in favor but with serious concerns regarding the lack of a partition to separate the rooms.

Motion by Jeff to allow the special permit. Roll call vote: Jeffrey – yes, Patrick – yes.

The 20-day appeal period will begin. Any appeal from this decision must be made pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 40A, Section 17 as amended, and must be filed within twenty (20) days of the filing of this decision with the Sandisfield Town Clerk. The Public Hearing was closed at 9:08 p.m.

The regular Selectmen's meeting resumed.

Council on Aging members Linda Riiska and Barbara Cormier in to review repairs needed to the COA center. Discussed the mold issues. Linda discussed the status of Senior Tax Workoff program. They could be using volunteers for some of the work needed in their center.

Patrick addressed the fact that we did actually have an article on this upcoming year's warrant to replace the roof but that got cut in order to avoid having to resort to Proposition 2 ½. In order to address the mold issues throughout the building we need to start at the top by replacing the roof and diverting the water away from the building. Discussed the floor drains in the building which emit odors. The traps need to have water in them to avoid the odor. Patrick

will ask Bonnie to bleach the walls. Discussed having the Future Planning Committee look into this. Discussed having a budget article each year for building repairs. Patrick suggested the COA attend a Future Planning Committee meeting.

Linda discussed their frustrations in obtaining CORI checks for their volunteer driving program and because of this they are doing their program without the checks. David Hubbard suggested having the police department do the checks for them.

Gary Bottums asked about when the last time the water was tested at Town buildings. The Selectmen suggested he ask the Board of Health as that Board conducts the testing and maintains the records.

Warrants reviewed and signed.



Selectmen's Minutes

April 22, 2013

Members present: Patrick Barrett, Jeffrey Gray, Road Superintendent Stephan Harasyko, Administrative Assistant Dolores Harasyko

Steve Harasyko in to review new Chapter 90 project request to re-line a culvert on Shade Road by New Hartford Road. Discussed completely replacing the culvert as opposed to re-lining it. The environmental impact would be minimal with the re-lining. There is a large body of water involved that could impact several properties.

Steve and Dolores are attending a conference on Chapter 90 this Thursday. Road sweeping continues. Grading will begin next week.


Discussed needed library building repairs. Patrick will follow up with a price list.

Steve has been working on the cemetery fence. He will contact someone to rebuild the gate at the Old Center Cemetery.

Town Management Review Committee in to present a revised job description for a part time Town Administrator. John Skrip reviewed the proposal. Discussed job skills and requirements. The Selectmen thanked the committee for their work on this project.

Reviewed the Transfer Station bid. Motion by Patrick, second by Jeff to award the bid to The Master Garbologist.

Reviewed and signed minutes of meetings.

Reviewed and signed warrants. 

Comings and Goings



Joshua's Farm announces the birth of Kourt Fawn, May 10. Here the new little heifer is being attended by her mother the very first time the new calf stood on her wobbly legs. Mother and daughter are both doing well.

Photo: Brigitte Ruthman

Back Copies of Sandisfield Times Available For Purchase

Copies of certain issues of the Sandisfield Times are available for purchase while supplies last. Please indicate the issue and quantity desired and return address with your check to The Sandisfield Times in the amount of \$2.50 per copy (includes postage and handling).

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August	April	May	April
September	May	June	
November	June	August	
December	September	September	
	October	October	



YOU CAN'T JUST WALK IN THE DOOR

In the May issue of the Sandisfield Times there is an error!

"Just anyone can become president of the Sandisfield Historical Society." Not so!!

To become president, you will need to be a paid-up member in good standing. August is our election of officers on the second Saturday of the month. So far, no bids have come to me. If no bids come, the existing officers shall remain in power.

Norton Fletcher
South Beech Plain Road

A QUESTION OF FAIRNESS

It would be great if Sandisfield could profit from selling medicinal marijuana, but I wonder if the numbers quoted in the recent article "Town Going to Pot?" are accurate. If 30 registered patients buy \$200,000 worth of pot per year they must each spend \$6,667 per year or \$1,112 per 60-day prescription. How many people can afford that?

Is this cost comparable to other prescribed pain killers? Is this price comparable to the cost of illegal marijuana? It seems like a lot of money when you consider that growing pot cannot be much more costly than growing, say, broccoli, and there are none of the "development" costs that the pharmaceutical companies use to justify their prices.

It doesn't seem fair for anyone, especially the town, to make a huge profit selling prescription medicine to patients in need.

Gordon Chapman
Lower West Street

PIPE DREAMS?

I disagree with the revenue estimates in "Town Going to Pot?" The figures are too rosy and it is doubtful that the expected revenues generated by creating a Medical Marijuana (MM) dispensary in Sandisfield would generate a town profit of \$200,000 from only 30 patients.

Through a friend I was able to come up with figures of marijuana sold on the street. Depending on the quality, a street ounce will run \$50 to \$150 and a heavy user would smoke 6 ounces/month. A sick patient would probably equate to a heavy user and would pay: $150 \times 6 \text{ oz./month} = \$900/\text{month}$ or $\$10,800/\text{year}$.

On the other hand, MM costs \$350/ounce. $350 \times 6 \text{ oz./month} = \$2,100/\text{month}$ or $\$25,200/\text{year}$.

Very few insurance companies have added MM to their approved list of medications, and since the cost is out of pocket, and the fine

for possession of 1 ounce marijuana in Massachusetts is only \$100 most people will find the cheapest alternative, illegal or not.

Larry Dwyer
West Street

DOWN AT THE SILVERBROOK

I support Connie D'Andrea's dream of opening a new general store in town. I am so pleased that the special permits were granted. Pete Murray has, for so many years, served Sandisfield faithfully. The Murrays deserve a rest and our thanks. We are fortunate that Connie is willing to step forward in this way. She has proven her abilities. The town needs the store and the SilverBrook Cafe. To borrow from Ernest Hemingway, it can be a "clean, well-lighted place."

Lou Friedman
Sullivan Road

THE STORY OF THYME AND BABE

I really liked the article in May by Brigitte Ruthman. It was hearty, down to earth, and swelled with passion for the homestead.

Frank Verderber
Tolland Road

SUGGESTIONS NEEDED!



The Future Planning Committee for the Town of Sandisfield is assessing the Town's future needs. We welcome all suggestions. Send email to SandisfieldSuggestionBox@gmail.com.

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NOW HEAR THIS!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro. Please send future notices for Now Hear This! to calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org.

JUNE EVENTS

Antique Appraisal Day on Saturday, June 1 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Bring your item for appraisal, only \$5.

Free Fishing Weekend Statewide on June 1-2. Recreational anglers can fish for free in Massachusetts.

Church Service on Sunday, June 2 at 10:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church, 4 Sandisfield Road.

Bernice Lewis, singer and songwriter, on Saturday, June 8 at 8:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center \$15. Tickets available online at www.sandisfieldartscenter.org

Ferris-Burtis Benefit Concert, various musicians, on Sunday, June 9 at 4:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center (\$20, for reservations call 413-258-4456).

Memorial Service for Nilda Torresola, Saturday, June 15 at 10:30 a.m., Sandisfield Library.

Van Gogh Talk on Saturday, June 22 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center (\$15). Tickets available online at www.sandisfieldartscenter.org

Jazz Quartet, Release the Penguins!, Saturday, June 22 at 8:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center (\$15). Tickets available online at www.sandisfieldartscenter.org

Sandisfield Meeting Houses Talk by historian Ron Bernard on Saturday, June 29 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center (\$5).

JUNE EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson (certified yoga instructor) on Wednesdays from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. through 6/19 (\$7.00 for non-Monterey residents). Monterey Library, for info contact Connie (528-3798).

Gallery Opening, Fabulous Fabric and Fiber on Friday, June 14 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at The Meeting House Gallery, 154 Hartsville-New Marlborough Road. For more information, visit www.newmarlborough.org.

History Talk on Shaker Equality of the Sexes on Saturday, June 15 at 10:00 a.m. at the Bidwell House Museum.

Sup and Swing with the Skeletones featuring Wanda Houston on Saturday, June 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the Isaak Walton Field, Route 8, Otis. Bring a picnic dinner at 6:00 p.m., the music is free!

Otis Library Country Fair Seeks Craftsmen for its annual fair scheduled for Saturday, July 13 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the Church Green, Rte 8. For information contact the Otis Library, 269-0109.

JULY SAVE THESE DATES

Sandisfield Historical Society, July 13, Saturday. The Society Summer Fair will take place at the Historical Society Meeting House, Rt 183 (Sandy Brook Turnpike). There will be vendors, tag sale items, baked goods, food.

Cemetery Tour, New Boston Cemetery, July 14, Sunday, 2 p.m. John Kuzmech and Willard Platt. On Rt 57 next to Carr Field.

Local Heroes II, Sandisfield Arts Center, July 27, 7 p.m. Honoring first responders *and their families*. Speeches (short), good cheer, and dancing to the music of the BTU's. Free to all and all welcome.

ONGOING EVENTS

The Tolland Council on Aging has organized a **Senior Ride Program** to address the difficulties facing seniors in getting to doctors' appointments or shopping. Any senior in Tolland, 60 years or older, may call the ride coordinator at 413-579-7834 to leave a message with name, address, phone number and date a ride is needed. Requests must be made 72 hours in advance of the time a ride is needed. For further information contact Pat Storey, COA Clerk-Tolland at 413-269-6575

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.

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, now every Tuesday when school is in session, 9:30-11 a.m., Farmington River Elementary School music room. Led by Laura Messina. For more 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, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Thursday, 2-5 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-12 noon. Call ahead at 258-4966.



THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



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P.O. Box 584
Sandisfield, MA 01255
www.sandisfieldtimes.org

Your donations are vital to our ability to continue publishing The Times.

We acknowledge with gratitude donations from the following kind persons:



*Gordon Chapman
Howard & Valerie Smith
Mary Anne & John Grammer*



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 paper is published 11 times each year, with a joint January-February issue and monthly issues thereafter.

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.

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