

## THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

*Volume IV, Number V*

*August 2013*

### Hard Work Still to Come BUT TEAMWORK YIELDING RESULTS

*By Bill Price*

Two committees organized last year by the Select Board – one to examine the town’s administration and the second to look at long-range planning for town buildings and for the town – have done and are doing their jobs. Over a dozen town residents on the two committees have met, discussed, argued, divided into subcommittees, learned, argued again, deliberated, decided. Ultimately they have agreed in general, and what follows are some of the results.

#### A town administrator, a new position

The Town Management Review Committee, assigned the task of finding ways for town administration to be more efficient, recommended hiring a part-time town administrator. Thanks to a successful vote at the Annual Town *Cont'd on p.10*

### A “New” New Boston Store?

ANOTHER PROPOSAL TO REPLACE WHAT WE’VE LOST

Two local residents of Sandisfield have a plan to fill the vacancy caused by the demise of the New Boston Store last October.

Chandru and Kim Paspuletti of South Beech Plain Road, town residents for 20 years, hope to build a country store that will also provide gas and diesel on property they are seeking to lease on Rt. 8 across the highway and south of MJ Tuckers.

The site is near land owned by Happy Banga of Lee who has proposed building a more conventional gas station/convenience store, but whose plans were temporarily postponed last month. The Paspulettis

have scheduled August meetings with the required town boards.

“Sandisfield is very low key,” Chandru said, as the Times was going to press. “I don’t want the town to resemble Winsted or Lee. I’d prefer it to stay something like how it was when Kim and I moved here. We want a place that blends into our community.”

He added, “We saw Pete and Sue just before they left for Florida. We’ve known them ever since we’ve been in town. They were at the store for 40 years, and we want to continue that kind of tradition.”



*The early '40s*

### THE POND

*By Jo Garfield*

In 1938, when my Long Island-based parents bought their house on Fox Road in Sandisfield, I was seven. It was to be a weekend place for us; a permanent home for my mother’s sister, her husband, and their daughter. Among its enchantments: a functioning well with a bucket, a barn with wooden steps to a hayloft, apple trees to pick and climb, and, most important, a pond at the bottom of a bumpy hill behind the house.

My mother, an energetic dynamo, had special ambitions for the pond. It was one of the features that had sold her on the whole idea. “We’ll turn it into a swimming pool,” she declared enthusiastically upon first viewing its opaque surface. The engineering necessary to turn a body of water filled with leeches, frogs in all stages of development, gelatinous masses, weeds, and other icky things on the slimy bottom, typically, did not faze her.

And so, a cement wall was built around it – three sides, that is, before the engineer declared it impossible to proceed any further. Nor, she was told soon after, was there any way the mucky bottom could be covered by cement or anything else without depriving it of the spring water that fed it.

*Cont'd on p.2*

# THE POND

Cont'd from p.1



Jo Garfield at the pond, 2013

Never daunted, my mother declared the pool a success and soon installed a diving board covered in hemp and metal steps for those too cowardly to dive or jump. Before long the steps corroded and when, shivering violently, I climbed up them, I always emerged with rusty fingers and cuts on my legs.

But to me, my brother Frank, 11, and my same-age cousin and best friend Helen Louise, it didn't matter that even in the summer it was so icy cold that only intrepid adults or kids like us were daring enough to brave the inky blackness. Helen Louise and I hated the scratchy brown bathing suits my aunt made for us, but not enough to keep us out of the water. We didn't care if our lips turned blue.

Dragonflies whirred dangerously close, and mosquitoes bred in profusion on the shores of this perfect hatching ground. I always returned home after the weekend covered with welts or scabs that I couldn't resist scratching in spite of my mother's continuous admonitions to "Stop scratching! You'll get an infection."

Nonetheless, the pool became a popular site for our frequent visitors. My mother held a continuous open house for her and my father's relatives, children, and friends. In mid-morning she'd descend the hill, a bandana rakishly tied on her head in the style favored then by Hollywood movie stars, followed by whatever "help" she'd brought up from our house on Long Island. These unfortunates warily descended the slippery slope bearing blankets, collapsible chaises and chairs, colorful towels and picnic baskets filled with goodies. Once there, she'd stretch out in her shiny one-piece bathing suit - "lastex" was the latest bathing suit material - and rub bacon grease all over her arms and legs. ("Reggie Frankfort [a friend] says it's wonderful for the skin," she declared.) To this

day, whenever I smell bacon frying I think of my mother's prone body steaming in the sun.

My father, one of the first devotees of making home movies, would often film these pond-side gatherings. I remember one reel when his camera included a shot of my Uncle Harry sitting naked and unembarrassed on the grass, a beach towel carelessly draped over his legs. I kept averting my eyes from the parts of him revealed by his falling towel, and trying to focus on his rimless spectacles gleaming in the sunlight. I don't remember anyone else seeming at all shocked, but I was. Nowadays, such behavior in front of a child might draw some criticism, but it seemed quite unremarkable to everyone else in my parents' free-thinking entourage.

The pond has continued to be the backdrop for scenes from many stages of my life. In the early, pre-children years, my husband Leslie and I often drove up from New York with friends. After a night of carousing, Les and our friends Peter and Katy, Pasquale and Carol would stagger down to the pond with flashlights, shed their clothes and dive drunkenly into the frigid waters for a midnight swim. Though equally inebriated, I was too self-conscious to strip, but I clearly remember envying their lack of inhibitions as the moon played on their naked bodies and turned them white as marble.

And later, when we became parents, we took our kids down to float on Donald Duck tubes and blow-up rafts in the summer heat. I don't recall any such man-made diversions from my own childhood, but maybe there was an old tire tube at some point.

We'd meet my husband's cousin Joan and her four kids at the house for a Norman Rockwell-worthy Thanksgiving. After dinner, as it was getting dark, we'd plod down the hill through the thick snow with lanterns and brooms, sweep the ice, place the lanterns around the frozen pond's edges, and ice-skate on the bumpy surface.

The pond is still there - full in wet seasons, almost empty in dry ones. Weather cold enough to freeze it solid by Thanksgiving seems but a fond memory in these days of global warming.

When they visit, my son and his family, who now have their own place right up the road, rarely go down to the pond unless the kids want to catch some frogs. They ice skate at an indoor rink a few towns away. And the country club they joined has a real pool. ♡

## Inside ..... PAGE

Times Officially "Non-Profit" .....	3
Work Locally, Earn Globally .....	4
The Legend of Abiel's Rock .....	8
A Tale of Two Tax Charts.....	9
Walkabout Downtown Sandisfield.....	11
An Investment in Sandisfield.....	11
Where Can I Buy Milk or Eggs? .....	12

# WARRANT FOR A SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Wednesday, August 14, 2013

Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Berkshire, ss.

To the constables of the Town of Sandisfield

Greetings:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify all the inhabitants of the Town of Sandisfield, qualified to vote in the town affairs, to meet at the Old Town Hall, 3 Silverbrook Road., Sandisfield, MA at 7:00 p.m.

Article 1: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$45,000 or any other sum for the roof repair and replacement at the Town Hall annex and to meet that appropriation transfer \$45,000 or any other sum from the Stabilization Account. This requires a 2/3 vote.

Article 2: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$30,000 or any other sum to hire a Consultant for the application process and application fee for a medical marijuana dispensary site and to meet that appropriation transfer \$30,000 or any other sum from the Stabilization Account. This requires a 2/3 vote.

Article 3: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$10,000 or any other sum to hire two Consulting Firms for evaluation of repairs and construction recommendations of town buildings and to meet that appropriation transfer \$10,000 or any other sum from the Stabilization Account. This requires a 2/3 vote.

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting true and attested copies thereof at three public places within the town of Sandisfield fourteen days at least before the time of said town Meeting. Hereto fail not and make due return of the Warrant with your doings thereon to the Town Clerk at or before time of holding said Meeting. ♡

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## Rolling up our sleeves

Anyone who has ever served as Selectman will tell you it ain't easy. The Times is reporting this month on the work of two committees set up by the Select Board, both of which have and are recommending changes and challenges to town government - changes and challenges that will hit residents in the pocket.

Both choices will create more work and grief for the Selectmen who still go to their real jobs every day and attend their family lives. In their spare time and sometimes all day, they oversee the often mundane, plodding work of governing that is often rewarding but always time consuming. The Times wishes Patrick Barrett, Jeff Gray, and Rosario Messina well as they proceed with the business they have been elected to do. The town should line up solidly behind them and roll up its sleeves.

## Store Wars?

We've gone from a store open for two centuries to no store to Connie D'Andrea's just-getting-underway Silverbrook Café and Country Store to Happy Banga's proposed gas station/convenience store across Rt. 8 from MJ Tuckers to, now, a new gas station/country store across from MJ Tuckers proposed by Chandru and Kim Paspuletti, town residents.

Connie, who is seeking an employee to help run her store, is beginning to get her feet on the ground. Her store is stocked more consistently as she learns the ins-and-outs

of buying and selling. She serves breakfast on Sundays and carries the Sunday New York Times. She's removed the lattice-work from the store's front porch, giving the old SilverBrook Café a more store-like appearance.

Re Happy and the Times. Your paper has been accused of "really crucifying that poor man," referring to the paper's coverage of Happy's proposal. I'm not convinced that three objective news stories about Happy's plans over as many months, each story increasing in depth and length, one "Out on a Limb" column opposing that kind of change on a bucolic highway, a second "Out on a Limb" column in favor the proposal but opposing bright lights at night - I'm not sure that kind of coverage qualifies as "crucifying" a potential business owner in Sandisfield. The paper was also accused of being insensitive to "people with mowers on the backs of their pickups," that they have to go too far for gas.

As for our neighbors, Chandru and Kim, we don't know if they've ever run a store, if they just want a place that can assure enough milk for all the teenagers in the house, or if they simply want things back the way they used to be. We'll report more about their plans next month.

But, whichever, the Times will report on it. And we'll publish well-written "Out on a Limb" columns about anything we think our readers would like to know.

Bill Price, West New Boston 

## Summer Poem

My stone wall wanders like this Irish drunk,  
Falling altogether ... when the roses push the stones  
aside  
To make a summer merriment  
On Town Hill Road.

How I love the undemanding summer  
When I can fall down safely  
And see the edge of things,  
The old horizons that the long days bring.

I remember the New England sun  
Moving left to right  
And I remember everyone  
In silhouette, at night.

I remember whole paragraphs of things  
That open when the weather's warm.  
Books and songs and laughter that insist  
We study carelessly before the storm.

So summer is a time that nothing dies,  
God is on vacation and the world on hold ...  
A time to savor meadows, praise the roses  
Just before we all grow up and old.

My stone wall wanders like this Irish drunk,  
Falling altogether ... when the roses push the stones  
aside  
To make a summer merriment  
On Town Hill Road.

Val Coleman, Town Hill Road

# Thanks to the Tax Man

## THE TIMES NOW "NON-PROFIT"

By Simon Winchester


We got it!

The platitudes— *all good things come to those who wait; patience is a virtue* — can now be cast aside. The suspicions — *had we been caught up in that IRS scandal? Had we fallen victim to the bugaboos of the Cincinnati tax office?* — can now be roundly dismissed.

It took its time, by Jove — two years, and then some — but mercifully the United States government has at long last seen fit to take *The Sandisfield Times* perfectly seriously, and on June 26 came the letter saying so: *we*

*are pleased to inform you...that we have determined...you are exempt from federal income tax under section 501 ( c ) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.*

We have wanted it from the very start — not so much for ourselves, since we knew as an all-volunteer newspaper we would never make any money nor were we in the business of doing so. We wanted it for you, our readers and supporters — who can now contribute to us as and when you like, *and take a tax deduction for doing so.* Moreover, those who have already given can go back to their records and enter most past gifts as deduction on their next tax returns. You'll get refunds — gifts for giving gifts to us, in other words. Please consult your tax advisor, if you think advisable.

So, let us now all praise famous men and give thanks to the IRS — a sentiment I never imagined I would ever express. Uncle Sam has just given us added reason to promise you for many years to come that our feisty little newspaper can continue to be, as we had always hoped, *Regular, Reliable and Relevant.* It's a great day here, in 01255. 

## At the Turkey Roll

The annual American Legion Turkey Roll was a success, as Commander Maria Domato said, “despite the heat.” On one of the hottest nights of the recent heat wave, about fifty residents and Legion supporters came out to roll the dice and try their luck. Some won prizes. All won a good time. 🍀



Left, Howard Kleinberg, First Vice Commander, in charge of the rolling of the dice with Fox Riiska taking his chances. Right, a room full of gamblers.

Photos: Bill Price

## HEROES HONORED

By Staff Reporters

In a ceremony at the Arts Center on July 27, members of our town fire fighters, emergency medical specialists, and police were honored for their longevity and dedication to service. Fire Chief Ralph Morrison presented certificates of appreciation to our neighbors who are dedicated first responders. The Center auditorium was set up with tables and chairs and a dance floor, and the BTUs, a four-piece dance band that plays R&B, blues, and back-beat jazz, entertained the crowd. Arts Center co-president, Alice Boyd, said, “We’re honored to be able to acknowledge these individuals and help make this tribute possible.”

NAME	SERVICE
• Bryan Arnold	10 years of Service, Fire Fighter; 8 years of Service, EMT
• Gary Bottum	10 years of Service, Fire Fighter
• John Burrows	8 years of Service, Fire Fighter; 5 years of Service, EMT
• Kathleen Burrows	8 years of Service, Fire Fighter; 3 years of Service, EMT
• Danny Cawthron	11 years of Service, Fire Fighter; 5 years of Service, EMT
• L. Chapin Fish	8 years of Service, Fire Fighter
• Barbara Morrison	19 years of Service, Fire Fighter
• Zoe Nelson	25 years of Service, EMT
• Eric Pachulski	18 years of Service, Fire Fighter
• Matthew Pachulski	15 years of Service, Fire Fighter
• Tom Paine	20 years of Service, EMT
• Laureen Pease	8 years of Service, Fire Fighter
• Charlie Pease	18 years of Service, Fire Fighter
• Jay Renolds	16 years of Service, Fire Fighter
• Gene Riiska	24 years of Service, Fire Fighter
• Andy Snyder	12 years of Service, Fire Fighter; 4 years of Service, EMT
• Sandra Snyder	12 years of Service, Fire Fighter; 5 years of Service, EMT
• June Strickland	5 years of Service, EMT

Also Honored (posthumously):

Robert Green for his vision and leadership making possible the construction of Fire Station #2

James Reese for his significant contribution to the construction of Fire Station #2.

# Work Locally, Earn Globally

By Alice Boyd

Have you ever dreamed of owning your own business? Does working from home sound too good to be true? Well, the Town of Sandisfield is about to give your business a boost.

Thanks to the efforts of Wired West at the MBI, the arrival of high-speed fiber-optic Internet is on the horizon and will make working at home much easier, opening opportunities to create and expand small businesses. To be ready for this opportunity, the town is applying for a grant that will provide workshops and 1-to-1 technical assistance to help residents start new microenterprises (a business with five or fewer employees) and inject new energy into existing ones.

Artists, farmers, contractors, and service providers would have the opportunity to take classes including:

### Streamlining Your Business with Technology

- Making Art, Making a Living
- Financing Your Small Business
- Social Networking and Online Marketing
- Using QuickBooks Accounting Software
- Designing Your Website
- Reaching Out Beyond the Berkshires: Living locally, selling globally

Many small business owners could also benefit from classes on basic bookkeeping, preparing a business plan, and securing financing. Classes will take place locally and be open to residents of Sandisfield and neighboring communities.

If you have an idea for a new business or would like to expand your current business, please fill out a pre-application located at the Post Office, Town Hall, the Sandisfield Arts Center, or online at the Sandisfield Town Hall website, [www.sandisfield.info](http://www.sandisfield.info). Completed pre-applications are needed to substantiate interest. All pre-applications will be kept in confidence by the grant writer. 🍀

## OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

**Pete and Sue Murray**, owners of the former New Boston Store, send their regards to friends in town. As to what's been happening since the destruction of their store last October, Sue says, echoing Pete's comments from last spring, "We're taking it a day at a time." They haven't begun reconstructing the building because the bridge abutment work going on a few steps from their former porch has required just about all the area in front of the building. At the end of July, Pete and Sue left for an extended stay in Florida, but hope to return home soon.



**Chapin Fish** of Viets Road was named 2013 Berkshire Realtor of the Year. The award, given to the realtor who best exemplifies professionalism and service to the industry, was announced by the Berkshire County Board of Realtors. 🏠



*Camille Dwyer in New Zealand.*

## *Student Rocks in Mongolia*

*By Larry Dwyer*

Camille Dwyer, resident of Sandisfield and reporter for the Sandisfield Times, has returned from Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia. She had been doing research on archaeocyathans from the Cambrian period.

Archaeocyaths are an extinct group of sponges that lived approximately 530 million years ago. Camille joined a group of students from Harvard and MIT and spent most of July in the field outside Mörön, Mongolia. Located in northern Mongolia, Mörön originated from the Möröngiin Khuree monastery founded in 1809. The monastery was destroyed in 1937 and was re-erected in the 1990s.

While she was in Mongolia, it was all work and no play. Camille experienced harsh living conditions in the field, living in a small tent. On one occasion the wind blew at 80 miles an hour,

which knocked down her tent, followed by fierce rains which drenched all of her belongings. The food quality was very poor, and she and other students experienced food poisoning twice due to lack of refrigeration.

Camille was surprised at the limited food selection in Mongolia. There are no vegetables anywhere. The locals in town subsist mostly on processed food which has led to a high rate of obesity. After returning from the field, the group went to a restaurant in the capital, Ulan Bator, where the menu listed five choices of which two were available.

Preceding her trip to Mongolia, Camille had been studying abroad in New Zealand for six months. Camille is attending Smith College in Northampton and will be a senior student this year. She is majoring in geology. 🏠

## Job Corps Accepting Students

For eligible young people ages 16 to 24, the U.S. Department of Labor's Job Corps program can provide a free education and training program that will help them learn a career, earn a high school diploma or equivalent credential and find and keep a good job. A new program year began on July 1 and the program is accepting applications.

Hands-on training in more than 100 career fields: construction, business and finance, health care, information technology. Low-income students who qualify can receive room and board, counseling and mentoring services, living allowances, and basic medical care.

To learn about the Job Corps program or to contact a center, call (800) 733-5627. Or visit Job Corps online at [www.recruiting.jobcorps.gov](http://www.recruiting.jobcorps.gov) or [www.facebook.com/doljobcorps](http://www.facebook.com/doljobcorps). 🏠

TINA SOTIS  
NEW PAINTINGS

August 1 - August 14

CATA STUDIO SPACE  
70 Railroad Street  
Great Barrington, MA

ARTIST RECEPTION  
SAT AUGUST 3 3:30-6:30

GALLERY TALK  
SUN AUGUST 11 4:30-6

info: [tinasotis@gmail.com](mailto:tinasotis@gmail.com)  
[www.tinasotis.com](http://www.tinasotis.com)

*Percentage of proceeds benefit  
Community Access to the Arts  
(CATA)*

# Sandisfield Historical Commission

## TWO MAJOR PROGRAMS UNDERWAY THIS SUMMER

By Ron Bernard

The Historical Commission is working on two significant projects – one that will increase awareness about and pride in Sandisfield's rich heritage, and a second with potentially significant long-term benefits that may qualify antique and historic properties to be considered for recognition on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Commission has approved five historical plaques or markers. There will be one for each of the four original villages: New Boston, Montville, Sandisfield Center, and South Sandisfield, and a fifth at West New Boston which was recognized as an official section about 1840. The markers summarize the history of each section including dates and founders, nearby historic sites, and events at various points in history.



Made of cast aluminum and approximately 2 feet square, the markers will be placed at central, accessible locations in each village. Installation by the Highway Department is tentatively scheduled for August 30. An unveiling ceremony will take place at Sandisfield Center (top of the hill on Route 57) on Saturday, September 7, at 1:00 p.m. Additional information including participating dignitaries and local officials will be announced in the September issue of *The Sandisfield Times*.

The Commission is also working with the Massachusetts Historical Commission to update the town's official Inventory of Historical and Archeological Assets. Last completed in 1979, the survey will identify at least 100 sites of importance including private houses and community buildings as well as archeological sites. The survey is a tool to help promote interest in preservation of a town's heritage. A current survey is also a requirement before properties can be considered for recognition on the Register, an honorary but prestigious designation. Today three Sandisfield sites, the New Boston Inn, the Montville Baptist Church (Sandisfield Arts Center), and the Philemon Sage House in South Sandisfield are listed.

A consultant has been retained to photograph roadside views of old houses and buildings. A property's inventory form will include a locus map, an analysis of observable architectural details and the particular style, and an estimated construction date. Historical narratives will tie particular sites to the broader historical picture for their sections of town.

The first phase of the project will be completed by the end of September to cover about fifty of the highest priority historical sites. The second phase is planned for 2014, pending availability of funds. Completed forms will be available to property owners.

Both projects have been funded by surplus donations from the history book *Sandisfield Then and Now* project. For more information, contact Ron Bernard, Commission Chairman, at 269-0012 or by email to ronbernard@aol.com.

# Canine Parvo Outbreaks in Northern Berkshire County

By Kim Spring

*Sandisfield Animal Inspector*

My office received an alert from the state animal health office advising dog owners about an outbreak of parvo, a canine infectious disease. As owner of several dogs it has me a little concerned that nobody has yet to pinpoint how the virus spreads. It could be from wild animals or domestic pets.

The outbreaks, which so far have occurred only in northern Berkshire and Worcester counties, have affected dozens of dogs and several died or had to be euthanized due to the severe illness caused by the virus.

Effective vaccines are available, and dog owners should check with their veterinarian to confirm that their pets have been protected. Puppies generally require a series of vaccinations and adult dogs may need a yearly booster. All the dogs infected during the outbreaks have either never been vaccinated or had received only one vaccine.

Infected dogs usually exhibit symptoms of gastrointestinal illness, including vomiting and diarrhea. Dogs can recover if the disease is detected early and treated aggressively, but it can be fatal. The virus, typically spread directly from dog to dog, can persist in the environment for several months, and infected dogs that recover can remain infectious for several months. The virus does not affect humans or other domestic animals.



**Offering a variety of clean stone, dense grades and road base materials.**  
Lee-Westfield Road, East Otis, MA  
**Quarry Phone**  
**413.329.8083**  
**Mon-Fri 7-4pm**

Screened Fill & Top Soil available in limited quantities  
Tri-Axle & Trailer Dump Delivery per hour rate  
**CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK**  
[facebook.com/tonlinocrushedstone](http://facebook.com/tonlinocrushedstone)

## Orchid Blossom Healing Arts

Lauren Paul, Dipl. Ac

413-258-4296

Acupuncture and Shiatsu

# WHAT IS IT WORTH?

By David LeBeau  
Certified Appraiser of Personal Property



or yellow are often found. All of the original colors were derived by using milk paint, hence the pale colors. The wood is usually a type of conifer, as this was the least expensive. Ventilation was provided by decorative pierced metal panels on the central door and flanking panels as well as the two sides of the cabinet. The back is of solid wood. While this pie safe has sheet-iron panels, most have tin.

One about this size and condition would probably sell, at a country auction, for about \$500. In reasonably original condition, retaining traces of the original paint and all the original pierced metal panels, it could fetch a much higher price. ♡

*Questions? Send digital photos of your item to David at [djlebeau@verizon.net](mailto:djlebeau@verizon.net). It might be featured in The Sandisfield Times.*

Do you recall seeing this piece of furniture as part of the set of Val Coleman's play, "The Stamp Collection," at the Arts Center?

The piece is a food storage cabinet commonly known as a "pie safe." Popular before the advent of the ice box or the refrigerator, pie safes were used to protect food, mostly baked goods, from vermin. This one is 52½ inches high, 37 inches wide, and 21 inches deep. Pie safes were made in smaller or larger sizes. On this one, the paint has been stripped from the top and the body has a newer coat of pale blue paint.

In most cases, the wood portions were painted, the most commonly in pale blue; green, red,



*A luna moth in Sandisfield, 2012, hovering on 200-year-old clapboards.  
Photo: Jean Atwater-Williams*

## The Luna Moth

By Larry Dwyer

Before I knew better, I used to put a bug zapper outside my house. The zapper is long gone, but its ultraviolet light used to attract some interesting insects.

The most interesting to me was the Luna Moth or *actius luna*. With a wingspan of 4-½ inches, the luna moth is one of the largest moths in North America. I never saw one until I lived in Sandisfield – its bright vivid green wings really caught my eye. It is hard to spot in the daytime because it is well camouflaged against a background of green foliage.

They are a forest species and don't survive very well in brightly lit cities and towns, because adults are strongly attracted to light—particularly UV wavelengths. This deters lunas from mating which as you can imagine has a negative impact on their populations in urban areas.

In the Berkshires, they produce two generations each year and appear from June to July and again about eleven weeks later. Their life span is very short – only about seven days. Watch for these beautiful moths. They are a delight to see. ♡

**Silverbrook  
Café & Country Store**

Now Serving  
**Breakfast and Lunch**

**Penny Candy      Ice Cream &  
Fresh Produce      Milkshakes too!!**

Open Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat & Sun 8-4  
**413-258-4597**  
57 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, MA  
Propane • WiFi • Sunday NY Times  
Wood Bundles • Local Crafts & Antiques • Cigarettes  
KENO/LOTTERY • A/C • ATM • FULL BAR • \$2 DRAFTS

**WHETHER IT'S A NEW HOME, ADDITION OR COMPLETE REMODEL**

**TOLLAND MOUNTAIN  
BUILDERS LLC**

**"When Quality and Professionalism Are a Must"**

Nick DellaGiustina      "We Handle All the Details"      Steve DellaGiustina  
413-258-2821      Local references available.      413-258-4996

HIL #144855      MA LIC #38268

historia (Greek) - "inquiry, knowledge acquired by investigation." The discovery, collection, organization, and presentation of information about past events.

## THE LEGEND OF ABIEL'S ROCK

By Ron Bernard

The great rocks scattered throughout the Berkshires come in all shapes and sizes. They are called "glacial erratics" by geologists because they were dragged along by the glaciers aeons ago, deposited here and eventually appeared as the glaciers retreated. They dot the landscape, line the roads, and adorn every backyard, vexing hapless mowers-of-lawns.

Sandisfield has a truly majestic example of one of these colossal boulders in the Beech Plain section on the old Knox Trail. And it has a name – Abiel's Rock.

The story begins in 1764 when Sheffield's Nathaniel Austin was appointed by the colonial administration to conduct a survey of The Great Road, now commonly known as the Knox Trail. During the 18th century, the Great Road/Knox Trail was a mostly "military road" that connected the Massachusetts Bay Colony with Albany.

For many years, Tom Ragusa of the Otis Historical Commission has been interested in the history of the Trail as it runs the length of South County from the New York border to Blandford. He's been retracing Austin's survey and recently connected the last segment – the elusive Sandisfield portion. Tom wrote, "Over the past five years I have researched and mapped about seven miles of Austin's survey which includes a particular landmark in Sandisfield labeled by Austin as Abiel's Rock."

Landmark indeed! This "rock" is tremendous. Almost perfectly round, the portion visible above ground stands some two-stories high and is at least a hundred feet in circumference. It was certainly a reference point for anyone making the trek from Boston to Albany.

Tom's research, based largely on old manuscripts and imperfect maps, got a boost from the modern-day field visits and meticulous notes of Edward Knurow, a long-time Mass. Department of Conservation natural resource officer. In 1966, two centuries after Austin named Abiel's Rock, Knurow rediscovered this long-forgotten natural monument, and its name if not its legend were resurrected for the historical record.

As to how the landmark came to be called Abiel's Rock, Tom said, "Knurow speculated that the rock was named for the daughter of Thomas Slayton a founder of Township No. 1 (today including Tyringham and Monterey). Only six years old, Abiel Slayton died of 'throat distemper' in 1740." Tom wonders if Abiel played at the rock. "Small caves or crevasses at the base would be intriguing to a child." Knurow's notes suggest that Slayton had reason to use this road. We can imagine that he brought little Abiel along now and then. Did a broken-hearted Thomas Slayton name the rock as a memorial to his daughter? Maybe. Historians are sympathetic people and would like to think that's how the rock was named.



Abiel's Rock, 1961. Knurow Collection, Berkshire Athenaeum. Used by permission.

This June Tom led a small band of hikers from Otis and Sandisfield on what was only the second scheduled tour of the Sandisfield portion of the trail. It included a stop at Abiel's Rock, now on private land. The group contemplated how this lonely giant, now shrouded in thick vegetation but still visible from the trail, must have also impressed – perhaps even startled – passing militiamen and civilian travelers way back when. 🇺🇸

*Hikers on the Sandisfield segment of the Knox Trail. From left, Ron Bernard, Tom Ragusa, Kay Rice, Hank Wingate, David Rice.*  
Photos: Cynthia Ragusa



Caves in Abiel's Rock, where little Abiel may have played.



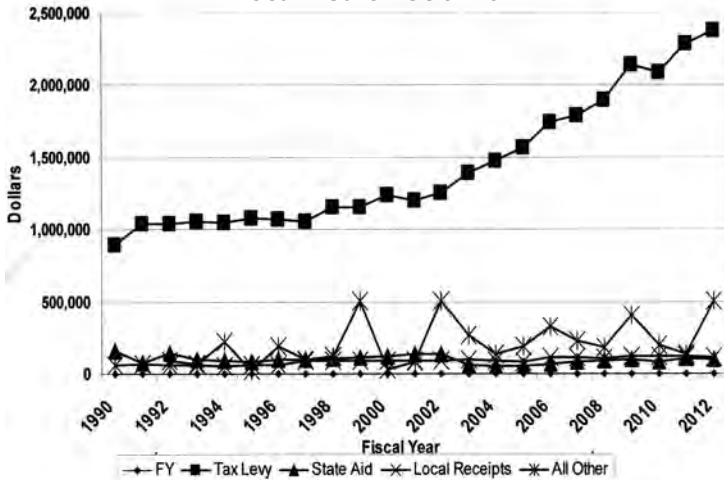
Tom Ragusa researching old documents, 2012.

## Viewing History

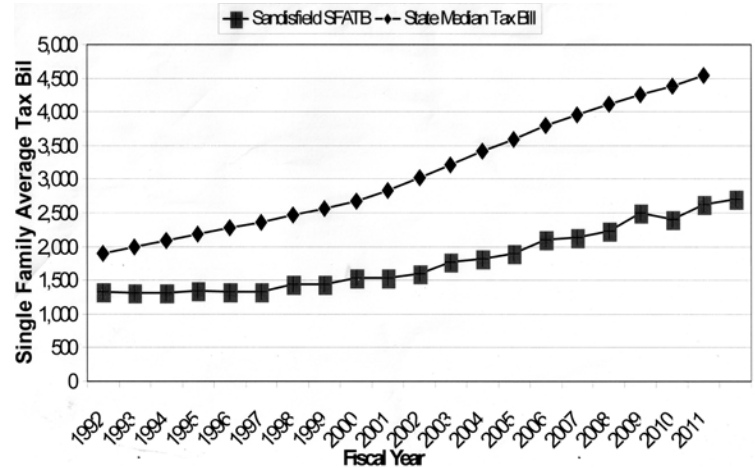
You can see this history yourself. Visit the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield to view Edward Knurow's amazing collection of Berkshires photographs, careful hand-drawn maps with coordinates, thousands of observations about roads, and obscure bits of geological and genealogical information. You can find it all in the Family History Section of the Athenaeum. It's worth a trip to Pittsfield just to see this wonder, now fully digitized.



**Sandisfield Budgeted Revenue Components  
Fiscal Years 1990-2012**



**Sandisfield Single Family Average Tax Base vs. State Average Tax Base**



# A Tale of Two Tax Charts

The charts were provided by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, Division of Local Services, April 2012, during that year’s “Municipal Budget Development Seminar.” They tell two stories about one subject: Sandisfield taxes.

## Budgeted Revenue Components

This chart, covering the years 1990-2012, shows the amount of money coming to the town from local taxes, state aid, local receipts, and “all others.” State aid, local receipts, and all others bump along fairly evenly across the bottom of the chart (with a few exceptions for all others), but the tax levy increases significantly over the two decades.

The root cause of this problem is our town’s structure. The Times has reported on this situation several times over the last four years. The majority of Sandisfield is either State Forest or Chapter Land that pays essentially no taxes. There is virtually no commercial/industrial tax base. The result is that a small minority of homeowners bears the heavy burden of funding the town.

The issue is reaching a crisis point because the town must deal with looming huge capital expenditures. Town facilities are badly in need of repair or replacement. The largest town in Berkshire County, Sandisfield has a significant financial burden of maintaining nearly 80 miles of roads with major road improvements required at a time that State funding is being reduced.

## Single-Family Average Tax Bill

There is some comfort, though not a lot, in this chart which compares Sandisfield’s single-family tax bills with the state median for other towns. The fact is that residents in many other towns pay more in property taxes, and their taxes have increased faster than ours. The average single family tax bill in Sandisfield was about \$1,300 in 1992. In 2011 it was \$2,700, a little more than double. The state median for a single family tax bill for the same period went from \$1,900 in 1992 to \$4,500 in 2011, much more than double.

It seems that our Select Board has done a fairly solid job of holding our taxes below the increases seen by other towns. But has that come at a cost? Have we postponed municipal projects that are now coming due? Are other towns getting more for their tax dollars and state aid? That’s what the Long-Range Planning Committee is struggling to understand, along with how we pay for the town improvements we need without breaking the backs of the few property owners who carry the largest tax burdens.

– BP

*The majority of our taxes go for roads and schools.*



### Heard During Committee Meetings and Around Town

*“We don’t have the tax base, schools and roads eating away our budget.”*

*“The median tax base is \$2,500. One new child adds \$7,000 to our school fees. We need three houses to pay that, and we’re not getting new houses.”*

*“Wasn’t the state supposed to pay the town something in lieu of taxes when they annexed the forest land around Spectacle Lake?”*

*“Town is hurting financially, and we’re afraid of where the town is going. We’re afraid there is a train wreck coming.”*

## Hard Work Still To Come

*Cont'd from p.1*

Meeting, that process is underway. The Select Board has drawn up a job description and will soon begin interviewing applicants. This is a first for Sandisfield. After a couple centuries without anyone to “execute the policies and procedures” of the town or to “advise the Selectmen” or to “ensure adherence to the budget by all departments and employees,” it has been recognized that, yes, budgets and procedures and compliance regulations are a lot more complicated in 2013 than in 1813, 1963, or even 2003. The committee feels its work has been completed, though it will continue to counsel the Select Board.

## Planning for now and the future

The second committee, Long-Term Planning, is producing results in two areas. It has taken in-depth looks at the four buildings that house the town governing and legal bodies and has made a unique proposal for creating income for the town.

On August 14, a special town meeting will be held for residents to vote on whether or not to use stabilization funds to pay for the two committee proposals. An informational meeting concerning the income creation proposal will be held August 13, the night previous to the vote. Both meetings will be at Old Town Hall, behind the Silverbrook Café & Country Store, at 7 p.m.

The questions proposed by the Long-Range Planning Committee speak to whether the town will support proposals that are forward looking in design, require significant initial outlays of tax money, might not work, and could provide benefit for people who may not even be in Sandisfield yet. Should we plan for our future or let it overtake us?

## Town buildings

One vote at the special town meeting will be whether we should pay a rather token, initial amount to continue working with a consultant/potential project manager with whom the committee has already spent time. The consultant has advised committee members and toured town buildings to assess their condition and efficiency and how and whether the buildings should be refurbished. Among the questions: Should town buildings be replaced with a single new building that can be designed to conduct modern town business or should we continue in the inherited, adapted work spaces

## The Third Item: Repairing the Roof

A third proposal will be presented at the special town meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Proposed by the Select Board, the question is whether or not to allocate funds from the stabilization fund to repair the roof over the Town Hall Annex. If the town ultimately votes to build a new facility, should the roof be repaired at all? Why spend money to repair something if we're going to abandon it? For good reason: The roof leaks now. It doesn't drain well. It creates a mess during a rainstorm and under snow in winter. About a dozen people work in the building four days a week. If the building is ultimately replaced it will not be for at least another year or two or more of planning, funding, and building. Not only do the town employees deserve a better roof over their heads while doing their jobs today, but so do the people who use the basement rooms several times a week for the Council on Aging.

we have now? A brief report on the condition of town buildings is in the adjoining article, “Walkabout Downtown Sandisfield.”

## Marijuana dispensary

Another proposal that will be on the ballot August 14 is whether the town should invest in the potential for a medical marijuana dispensary in Sandisfield. If yes, we'll have to hire a consultant to take the request through the state application process. This would require an initial outlay of money with no guarantee the town's bid will be successful.

This proposal is the subject of the informational meeting August 13. There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion. The vote whether or not to invest in the proposal will be held the following evening, the 14<sup>th</sup>, at the special town meeting. You can read a brief summary of this proposal in the adjoining article “An Investment for the Town,” but for the fullest explanation attend the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

## More Work to Come

The work of the Long-Range Planning Committee will not be finished when its current proposals are voted up or down.

Grants are available to help the Select Board and the town, but Sandisfield lacks a comprehensive plan, which is almost always necessary in order to be awarded funding. But there are

grants available to help the committee draw an economic picture of the town and consider what we want the town to look like 20 years from now. The committee will work toward achieving a comprehensive plan, but will require the help of professionals for guidance.

The committee will consider the town's priorities. Roads? Public safety? Zoning? What do town employees need to accomplish their tasks more efficiently? More room? Improved storage to get files out of the closets? Areas where private discussions can be held? Should tax assessors share working space with tax compliance people? What are the needs of committee heads, the planning board, the COA, the board of health, the town clerk?

The committee will circulate a “future needs questionnaire” to heads of committees and town employees to determine what they need now as well as what they imagine they will require in the future.

The committee will also examine the town's bylaws, particularly zoning regulations. What does the town need regarding zoning? What will the town need a decade from now? Most current bylaws were written in the 1960s or '70s and are generally considered out of date. These can be found on the town's website: [www.sandisfield.info](http://www.sandisfield.info). Go to Docs&Links, then Sandisfield Town Bylaws

The committee asks one thing: “Don't listen to rumors. Get the facts. If you really want to know what the committee is doing or thinking call either of the committee heads: Kathy Jacobs (258-4535) or Ralph Morrison (258-3381).”

The next meeting of the Long-Range Planning Committee is August 21, a Wednesday, 7 p.m. Firehouse #2. There is plenty of room, chairs, and you can say hello to your neighbors. Suggestions are welcome, discussions open, and everyone is welcome. ♪



# TOWN BUSINESS

*Town Business, our popular summary of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes, will resume in September. As of last month, we had included up to the June 3rd meeting. For those with internet access, you can find up-to-date minutes at [www.sandisfield.info](http://www.sandisfield.info).*

# Walkabout in Downtown Sandisfield

Your editor joined a walkabout in mid-July with a member of the town's Long-Term Planning Committee and two consultants who may advise the committee – and the town – on what to do about our four town buildings. The results of their recommendations will be decided by town residents: do nothing, do something for now, or fix things for the future.

Following is a sample of what was seen on the tour. There is nothing new here to those who work in the buildings, conduct business there, attended COA gatherings, or drive town trucks. In June, the town building inspector drew up a rather significant list of code violations; some are included below, but not all. It is likely that once the process of upgrading to meet some of the code specifications begins, the rest of the buildings will have to be brought in line as well.

## Town Hall Annex

Town Hall Annex can seem charming if you go there once a year for a dump permit. But the town seems to have outgrown the building that was formerly the Sandisfield Public School (known as the New School), built in 1949.

- . Original windows are still in place.
- . The septic is under the driveway, with little room for improvement since the building sits on ledge.
- . There is no handicapped access downstairs once a person is inside the building.
- . Bathrooms are inadequate and designed for school children.
- . There is little or no room for storage or supplies.

Some files are in what used to be closets or a former bathroom; others are currently at Fire Station #2 or Old Town Hall. There is no fireproofing. Storage of important and archival documents is precarious.



*Town Hall Annex, 2013*

- . Downstairs, the COA area is not handicapped accessible. The COA is addressing the existing mold situation, which needs to be done even if the building is replaced. Fire code violations are multiple.
- . The oil furnace is outdated and inefficient. There is no fresh air system.

## Old Town Hall

At one time a children's play group and other community functions were held at the Old Town Hall. Now it is used for town meetings and elections. The town's Board of Health is located in a corner of the main room. The building, while old and, to many of us, sentimental is not historical, according to Ron Bernard.

- . One bathroom works; the second is used for storage.
- . Tanks for heating oil are in a room used for storage. The door leading into the room has a sign on the door that reads "This is not an Exit," although a lighted Exit Sign is over the door.

- . Board of Health computers and fax machine are powered by extension cords.
- . The Sandisfield Police Chief maintains an office in a room adjoining the Old Town Hall. There is no privacy, and heat is provided by space heaters.
- . Like the Annex, the building is heated with an outdated, inefficient oil furnace.

## Town Garage

A workspace with three large bays, the garage is used to store and maintain town trucks.

- . The building is wood construction in need of considerable attention.
- . There are no bathroom facilities.
- . There is inadequate room for truck repairs, storage of needed tools, equipment.
- . During winter trucks with plows attached to their front can barely squeeze into a bay, and once inside the outer can be closed but with no room to spare.
- . The garage is heated with an inefficient and inadequate oil-fueled system. The building is not insulated. Road Superintendent Steve Harasyko says, "When the weather is zero outside, one corner of the garage is warm enough but you can see your breath in the other corner."

## Town Library

The Library, while not perfect, is the most adequate town building. The bathrooms are downstairs and not handicapped accessible. Drainage problems exist outside the back of the building and at the back door. There is a feeling of mold and dampness in the basement. There is no fresh air system. Even among the books, there is work to be done. ♣

## An Investment for the Town?

One item on the ballot at the August 14 special town meeting is whether the town should invest in applying for a license to install a medical marijuana dispensary in Sandisfield.

The proposal will be the subject of an informational meeting August 13 at Old Town Hall, 7 p.m. The proposal asks for money from the stabilization fund to hire a consultant to take the request through the state licensing application process.

Medicinal marijuana is now legal in Massachusetts. Berkshire County will probably have two sites, and Sandisfield could be the site for South County. If we apply there is no guarantee the town would be selected, but if we were we could be the only municipality among professional non-profit organizations to be licensed.

About 13 other states have enacted such laws and the clinics seem to be profitable. Massachusetts has determined that the permits will only be issued to not-for-profit entities so the revenue will benefit the public. It has been estimated that such a facility, with a base of 100 patients, could generate about \$240,000 in gross income, with projected costs of licensing, utilities, and labor of about \$160,000, for a yearly profit to the town of about \$80,000.

A proponent of the plan says, "If we spend a relatively small amount to submit the license application and are not selected, the expenditure will barely be noticed. But if we did win the license we would have a valuable asset that will enhance the town's finances for many years."

Supporters point out that, if we apply, there are three reasons Sandisfield might win the license.

- (1) The state is concerned that the revenue go to public benefit, and the town would qualify.
- (2) The state needs assurance that the marijuana not go out the back door and into the black market. The town would need secure procedures and record keeping similar to a drug store.
- (3) So far no other entity has applied in South County, and if the town applied in a timely manner, there were no other applicants, and scored well on the application standards, it seems it could be hard to deny the town the license.

Questions include: How much would starting up such a system cost? Who would grow the marijuana? Would the dispensary resemble a Coke machine? Who would monitor the dispensary and where would it be? There may be answers to these and other questions at the information meeting August 13. ♣

# Where Can I Buy Milk or Eggs?

By Sandy Parisky

How far are you willing to go for a quart of milk or whatever you need at the last minute? Sandisfield's extensive network of paved and gravel roads serve a 53-square mile area so it really depends on where you live, driving time, and your willingness to buy locally even if it costs you a little more.

By patronizing small local businesses in Sandisfield or one of our neighboring towns we collectively help independent owners stay in business, support the local economy and, in the big picture, reduce our carbon footprint.

You might be surprised to discover that what you need is only 10 to 15 minutes from your door thus saving you time and gasoline to boot. While there is a possibility of a future gas station/convenience store across from MJ Tuckers Pub, this is an attempt to identify what is already operating and available today. The map opposite shows a 5-mile radius from Sandisfield's 18th & 19th century Town Center, the point where New Hartford and Sandisfield Roads meet at the corner on the hill on Route 57.

The graphic symbols on the map indicate the type and location of vendors by category. These include country stores such as the new Silverbrook Café & Country Store and older businesses like Katie's Country Store in East Otis; farm stands like When Pigs Fly Farm; orchards like Riiska Brook Orchard and small farms taking poultry orders by phone or email like Snow Farm. Name, location, and phone numbers of vendors are organized by principle categories and numbered according to the graphic symbols on the map. The vendor list relies on the writer's and editor's knowledge and information obtained from the 2012 List of Licenses issued by the Town of Sandisfield. We apologize for errors or omissions in our effort to encourage readers to buy locally whenever possible.

**VENDORS BY CATEGORY** (Numbers keyed by Graphic Symbols on Map)



## COUNTRY STORES:

1. Silverbrook Café & Country Store. 57 Sandisfield Rd., Rt. 57 Sandisfield, 413-258-4597
2. Colebrook Store. 559 Colebrook Rd., Rt. 182A, Colebrook, 860-379-5030
3. Mill River Country Store. Main Street, Mill River, 413-229-2663
4. Monterey Store & Café. Main Rd., Monterey, 413-528-2633
5. Terranova's Café. Main St., Rt. 8, Otis, 413-269-4231
6. Katie's Country Store. 1922 E. Otis Rd., Rt. 23, East Otis, 413-269-7782
7. Papa's Healthy Food & Fuel. 2000 E. Otis Rd. Rt. 23, E. Otis, 413-269-7782



## FARM STANDS

1. When Pigs Fly Farm. 222 Sandisfield Rd., Rt. 57, Sandisfield, 413-258-3397
2. TerMar Triangle Farm. 106 Sandy Brook Tnpk., Rt.183, Sandisfield, 413-258-2898
3. Tara Beardsley Farm. 90 Sandisfield Rd., Rt. 57, Sandisfield, 413-258-4958
4. Francis Deming's Farm Stand. Opposite Katie's Country Store, (Sat. only) Rt. 23, E. Otis
5. Farmer's Market. At Papa's Healthy Food & Fuel (Sat. only, 9-1) Rt. 23, E. Otis
6. Gould Farm Stand, Route 23 at Gould Road, Monterey 413-528-1804



## POULTRY PRODUCTS

1. Long Acre Farm. 29 Hammertown Rd., Sandisfield, 413-258-4535
2. Snow Farm. 16 Beech Plain Rd., Sandisfield, 413-258-4929
3. Planted Feather Farm & Bakery. Rt. 8, Riverton, Conn, 860-379-8664
4. When Pigs Fly Farm. 222 Sandisfield Rd., Rt. 57, Sandisfield, 413-258-3397



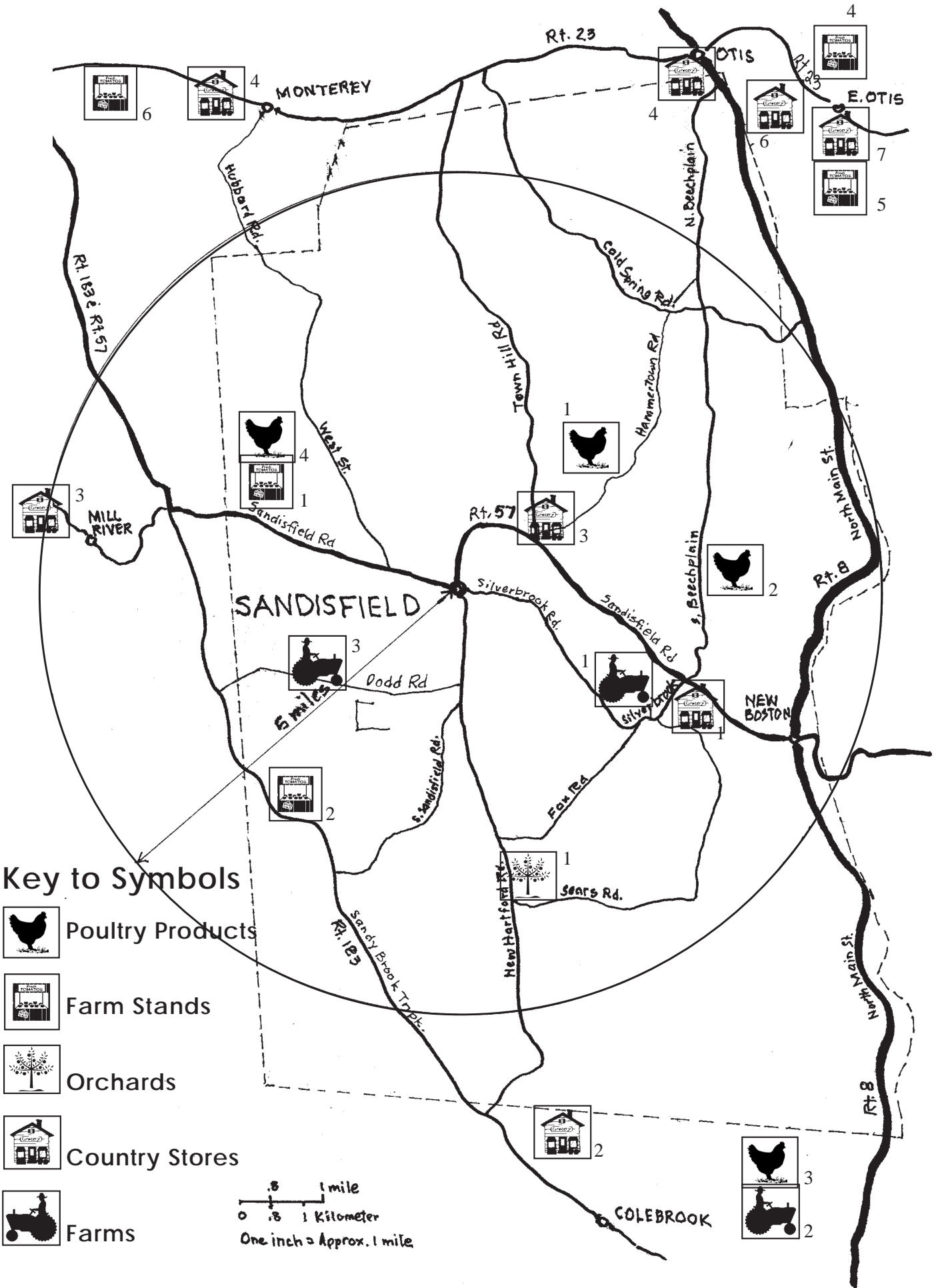
## FARMS

1. Fox Hill Farm. 28 Silverbrook Rd., Sandisfield, 413-258-4609
2. Planted Feather Farm & Bakery. Rt. 8, Riverton, Conn, 860-379-8664
3. Joshua's Farm. 45 Dodd Rd., Sandisfield, 860-671-0327



## ORCHARDS

1. Riiska Brook Orchard. 101 New Hartford Rd., Sandisfield, 413-258-4761



### Key to Symbols

-  Poultry Products
-  Farm Stands
-  Orchards
-  Country Stores
-  Farms

0 .5 1 mile  
 0 .5 1 Kilometer  
 One inch = Approx. 1 mile

# Look Out Below

By Larry Dwyer



On the 4th of July, a large outcrop of boulders declared its independence and sheared off the cliffs on Route 8 near the Mass./Conn. border. A few of the boulders were huge, some about six feet in length. The rocks fell onto the highway shoulder posing no danger to passing motorists, but had a car been passing at the time the driver would have ducked for sure. The Massachusetts DOT initially put up cones and then barriers to protect motorists and to ensure that the road remained passable and safe. The DOT advised at the time that no one enter the site because the cliffs do not appear stable. They've since removed the boulders, but left a barrier in place in case more rocks fall. 



Photo: Larry Dwyer

# Break-in at Sandisfield Center

A residence on Sandisfield Road was broken into and robbed of electronic items in early July. The Breaking & Entering is believed to have occurred during the daytime. The ongoing investigation has led to a person of interest in this incident in connection with similar incidents in Connecticut.

Police Chief Michael Morrison repeats the admonition that "if you see something, say something." He also added that in order to prosecute a person and retrieve stolen items it is important to have documentation, including make and serial numbers of electronic equipment. "For instance," Mike said, "Sony TVs look alike, but they all have individual serial numbers." Take photographs of anything in your home that might attract a thief and there is a chance, if the culprit is caught, that you might get some things returned. In fact, it may be the only way to actually prosecute a thief. 

wm.


# BROCKMAN

R E A L E S T A T E

info@wmbrockman.com (413) 528-4859

**berkshiresforsale.com**

- ◆ West St. 6.77 Acres with wide road frontage and two brooks. \$55,000
- ◆ West St. 6 Acres perc tested with home site cleared and brook \$59,000
- ◆ Otis Wood Lands Premium Building Parcels all 2+ Acres! \$172,000 to \$178,000
- ◆ Lower West St. ranch, 3 bedrms, large deck, 8 acres very private! \$225,000 **UNDER CONTRACT**
- ◆ Stump Road Hand-crafted Colonial on 5 Acres. Cherry kitchen, Maple flrs, porch, 4 bedrms, private! \$275,000 **SOLD!**
- ◆ Beautiful West St. Great 3 bedroom home with huge wraparound deck, Move right in! 5 acres, \$250,000



Don't just own a piece of the waterfront...

## OWN THE LAKE

Mirror Lake - 433 acres of land - Onion Pond - 6,651' of road frontage - Main Lodge - Caretaker's Home - Cabins - Complete Privacy - The former "Camp WoodCrest" now a private mountain lodge  
Simply spectacular natural beauty  
**\$4,000,000**

[www.mirrorlake.us](http://www.mirrorlake.us)  
the berkshires

- ◆ 1850's farmhouse bordering the babbling Silver Brook. 1½ acres, 3 bedrooms \$163,000
- ◆ South Main St. Renovated Cape move-in ready w/In-law apt. 1+acre on the Farmington River. Retail potential. Large garage \$285,000 **UNDER CONTRACT**
- ◆ Stone Bridge Farm: 4 bedroom colonial, classic red barn, 24 acres, 2 rivers \$650,000
- ◆ Truly Have it All! Stunning Colonial on 130 acres with Privacy & Big Views! \$1,750,000
- ◆ Nearly 60 listings worth over \$40 Million from Sandisfield to Stockbridge & Lenox! From \$30,600 to \$5,900,000

**Chapin Fish, Broker-Partner 413.258.4777**

# Among the Dead in New Boston



About a dozen curious people gathered at the New Boston Cemetery mid-July to walk among the graves with John Kuzmech and Willard Platt. John and Willard have conducted tours of several cemeteries in Sandisfield and know who lies where – and why and when.

They make a good team. John does the research and most of the talking. Willard cared for the cemeteries for many years and was friends with some of the folks whose graves we walked among and he told stories about them.

One story was of three Sandisfield residents killed in 1863 in Louisiana during the Civil War. Their graves are here, side-by-side, because another town citizen made the trip to bring the bodies home. It's a good story, and you'll be able to read about it in a coming issue of the Times.

Graves of nearly every original Sandisfield family can be found here, including some whose names grace our roads: Sears, Viets, Bosworth. And the graves of several families who still live in town: Kimberley, Lincovitch, and Pease. ♡

– BP



Photos: Jean Atwater-Williams and Bill Price



By Laurie Foulke-Green, Librarian

Our next genealogy class: Wednesday, August 28, 6:30 p.m

NEW TITLES:

- Good Night Mind/Colleen Carney
- The Last Witness/W.E.B. Griffin
- The Affairs of Others/Amy Grace Loyd
- The Good Luck Girls of Shipwreck Lane/Kelly Harms
- Love All/Callie Wright
- Tamarack County/William Kent Krueger
- Rose Harbor in Bloom/Debbie Macomber
- Under a Texas Sky/Dorothy Garlock
- Bones of the Lost/Kathy Reichs
- The Heist/Janet Evanovich
- Hotshot/Julie Garwood
- Bombshell/ Catherine Coulter

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

## SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER



5 HAMMERTOWN RD SANDISFIELD, MA  
413-258-4100

INFO & TO BUY TICKETS ONLINE  
SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

# AUGUST

**SAT, AUG 3<sup>RD</sup> 10 AM**

Ron Bernard, Historian  
THE SANDISFIELD  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS



**SAT, AUG 10<sup>TH</sup> 10 AM**

Val Coleman  
THE ENIGMA OF  
SOCIALISM



**SAT, AUG 17<sup>TH</sup> 10 AM**

Bill Cohn  
LOOKING BACKWARDS:  
40'S AND 50'S  
AMERICA



**SAT, AUG 24<sup>TH</sup> 10 AM**

Barbara Morrison  
Sheila Liberman  
KNITTING  
WORKSHOP

# Sandisfield Historical Society



By Josephine Freedman

The July Fair and the Cemetery Walk mid-month were very successful events. President Norton Fletcher thanks all of the friends and neighbors who came to support the organization. He was especially pleased with the turn-out at the fair and enjoyed meeting everyone. Many of the attendees extended birthday wishes to Norton in honor of his recent 90th anniversary on earth.

Thanks also to the following members for their continued support and help with making these events happen: Marcia and Terry Ignace, Theresa and Bill Blanchard, Vikki and Pauline Bakunis, Jo and Barry Freedman, John and Elizabeth Kuzmech, and Willard Platt. A special note of thanks to the Bakunis family for showing up days before the event to help set up the tents. This list would not be complete unless we also acknowledge the help from our local historian, Ron Bernard.

Next month at the Historical Society, Ron will present a talk on the history of Sandisfield meeting houses. Three of these buildings survive, including the South Sandisfield Meeting House, now home of our society. Ron's collection of carefully curated photographs include most of the buildings with additional information and photographs not included in his book, Sandisfield Then and Now. This event will take place at the South Sandisfield Meeting House, Rt. 183, on Saturday, September 14, 2013, at 10:30 a.m. Donation of \$5.00. Contact Jo Freedman at 258-4786. ♡

# One Bridge, Two Views

Joanne Lazarowitz Olson sent these two photos of the Rt. 57 bridge over the Clam River at Sears Road (River Road leading to the right). Left is a photo taken by her father, Al Lazarowitz in August 1955 right after the great flood of that year. At right is a photo taken by her son, Justin Olson,

showing the same scene 55 years later, in August 2010.

Joanne wrote: "Time moves very slowly in Sandisfield. The pictures are almost identical, and the road is still cracked where it was heaved up from the storm."

She added: "My father and his parents and brothers and sisters lived on Sandisfield Road in the house currently owned by Anita Shapiro. My husband and I currently own 2 Tolland Road. We are part-timers and proud of it! I am an attorney in New York City. My husband, who is Chief Inspector for the Department of Buildings on Staten Island, is still in the middle of the rebuilding following Hurricane Sandy." ♡





# York Lake is Back!

By Flora Parisky

York Lake is once again perfect for a quick dip close to home or for old-fashioned, all-day family fun. No more geese! Artificial black snakes in the grass have scared them away. You can walk around without fear of stepping in anything squishy.

Lawn and beautiful views are there for reading The New York Times or a leisurely summer read of your choice. There is an easy launch for kayaks, canoes, or small boats with electric motors.

The staff is friendly. \$5 parking fee. And the fee is \$5 for the entire summer for those 65+.

The water close in is a perfect depth for little kids and there is plenty of sand for digging. There are picnic tables and clear, clean water. Room to swim laps. You can find shade but bring an umbrella if you want to have more sun protection. ♡



## Farmington River Diner

Breakfast • Lunch • Baked Goods

119 South Main Rd.

Otis Center

413.269.6874

Thurs - Tues 7am - 2pm

**C.W. NELSON**



**LOOKING GLASS**

**GARDENS**

*A Full Service Nursery and Design Center*

**Trees • Shrubs  
Perennials • Mulch  
Water Plants • Stone  
Waterscaping  
Site Development  
Stone Work  
Landscaping  
Large Ponds**

*Over 50 Years Experience*

[www.lookingglassgardens.com](http://www.lookingglassgardens.com)  
[www.cwnelson.com](http://www.cwnelson.com)

**Mon-Sat 8am - 4pm**


**19 Dodd Road  
Sandisfield, MA 01255  
chuckwnelson@earthlink.net  
(413) 258-3375**

# Tour the Green Place, Online

If you have web access, you can tour the Bob Green property that the Times reported on last month without leaving your chair.

It's at [www.mirrorlake.us](http://www.mirrorlake.us). On the site you can read a personal history of the property described as a "Great Camp of the Berkshires," and get the details, but the website is worth a visit for the photographs alone. There may be as many as fifty and all are beautiful.

The site begins with the photos of Mirror Lake that fade into the next without you having to click anything. "At dawn." "Early spring." "Late winter." Spring thunderstorm rolling in." "Night settles." The photos then move into the house, up the hill to the upper lake, and include the 18<sup>th</sup> century rock walls scattered throughout the woods.

Chapin Fish of Viets Road, the Managing Broker & Partner of Wm. Brockman Real Estate, took the photographs and designed and executed the website. The property hasn't sold yet, whether to an individual, a corporation, a developer, or to become a writer or artist's colony.  - BP



## THE STARS ARE FALLING, CHICKEN LITTLE SAYS


By Maxene Kupperman-Guinals

Join the first annual Sandisfield Perseids party, very early Sunday morning, August 11 at York Lake! Shooting stars, falling stars, or meteors — whatever you want to call them, this is nature's extravaganza.

From midnight (no misprint!) to 3 a.m. (in the morning), we will be able to see the fabulous and most beloved meteor shower in the Northern Hemisphere. An astronomer will be on site to explain the details and a storyteller to weave the myths as we "ooh" and "aaah" to a light show beyond compare.

Recorded regularly for the past 2000 years, the Perseids show up on the darkest nights between August 10-13. This year, according to Sky and Telescope Magazine, there will be little interference from a bright moon.

Weather can interfere, of course. If it is raining or there is heavy cloud cover, the Perseids will be invisible to us. But hope for the best, and plan to join the party with your family and friends for an amazing science exhibit! Bring a comfy chair or blanket, something warm to wrap around yourself, and snacks to share (if you want to).

York Lake is best reached, at that dark hour, through the entrance on Rt. 183. Call Maxene for information at 258-4030. See you in the stars! 

### Great gardens begin here.



Don't take our word for it. Visit Snow Farm and choose from a variety of healthy, locally-grown annuals, perennials, herbs, and shrubs. Too busy to garden? Snow Farm's professional horticulturists will design, install, and maintain your gardens for you.

#### Snow Farm

Nursery & Greenhouse  
16 Beech Plain Road, Sandisfield, MA  
413-258-4929 - [snow-farm.com](http://snow-farm.com)



### WHEN PIGS FLY FARM

A FAMILY FARM WITH FAMILY VALUES  
222 SANDISFIELD ROAD  
SANDISFIELD, MA 01255  
[whenpigsflyfarm1@verizon.net](mailto:whenpigsflyfarm1@verizon.net)  
413-258-3397

### FARMSTAND OPEN DAILY Sunrise-Sunset



Fresh cut greens  
Eggs. Berries  
Vegetable plants

### SUMMIT KENNELS

192 Schoolhouse Rd.  
Tolland, MA 01034  
413.258.4179



Carol St. Laurent

Year Round Dog Boarding  
Heated & AC  
Facility  
Indoor/  
Outdoor Runs



*Quentin Briggs with the eclairs.*

## Colebrook Store, Our Neighbor, Reopened

*By Molly Pitcher*


The landmark general store in Colebrook reopened July 1 after being closed for two years. This was good news to everyone in South Sandisfield who now can head south on Sandy Brook Road (Rt. 183) a couple miles to buy groceries or lunch or a newspaper during store hours, 9-5 weekdays and Saturday, and 10-4 on Sundays.

Miriam G. Briggs is the proprietor of the building which was recently bought by a group of local residents, Colebrook Associates. The kitchen, which provides the only public lunch counter in town, was revived the end of the month.

Eclairs are back on the menu. The eclairs are the work of Wendy Scalon of Planted Feather Farm and Bakery on Rt. 8 north of Winsted. Scalon was handed the secret recipe by Briggs following private local discussions with a few old timers and sworn to secrecy before whipping up a couple of dozen. They sold out on the first day they were available, July 19, even at \$8 each. It really wasn't that much to pay for an eclair easily twice the size of less fluffy frozen ones and far more filled with a creamy center and chocolate topping.

The eclairs were something of a local sensation with the former owners, who operated the longest running general store in the region until 2011 when it closed after two failed missions by different operators to keep it running. Briggs, a native of Winsted who was living in northern Vermont during a visit last summer, said seeing the store dark was like an old friend passing before their time and she vowed to reopen it.

For now staying with friends in Winsted, Briggs will move into an upstairs apartment with her two sons, Francis, 11, and Quentin, 14, who are serving as adjunct store clerks.

The store dates back to 1812, and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Many details are authentic to the 1800s, including the placement of the wood stove. The front door squeaks appropriately and has a bell attached to it that rings when it opens, and the old worn floors are artfully uneven. The store has had a steady flow of customers. 



*Colebrook Store, July 2013*

**KWIK<sup>Color</sup> PRINT**  
INCORPORATED  
EXPERIENCE • SPEED • QUALITY

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

35 Bridge Street  
Great Barrington, MA 01230  
Ph: 413.528.2885 Fx: 413.528.9220  
typesetting@kwikprintinc.com  
www.kwikprintinc.com



Photo: Borko Jovanovic


## An Impromptu Choir Takes the Stage

By Bill Price

The Arts Center was full on July 13 for the memorial service for Ron Myers when the audience was invited to join in singing "He, watching over Israel," one of Ron's favorite pieces from Mendelssohn's Oratorio "Elijah." Now, this chorus by Mendelssohn is not a straight-forward sing-along type of hymn. "He, watching over Israel" is not your usual Sunday fare and calls for different sections for sopranos, altos, tenors and bass.

Pittsfield Attorney Tim Sullivan, not a choir conductor but a long-time musician and Berkshire Lyric Theatre tenor, invited those in the audience who really wanted to sing to join him on the stage. About 50 members of the audience, those who knew something about singing in a choir, filed unprepared and unexpectedly onto the stage. Directed to their appropriate places according to voice, they got themselves ready, and, holding homemade Xeroxed hymnals, with Tim conducting and Nancy King accompanying on the fine Arts Center piano, they sang "He, watching over Israel."

To an untrained ear it wasn't bad, but Tim was not satisfied. Nor were the choir members. He asked them to sing it again, with some boldness this time.


The impromptu choir became a full chorus, and they sang loud and clear and in joy. If you'd like to hear the hymn sung by a professional chorus with a full orchestra you can find it easily on You Tube. The You Tube versions are good, but the version at SArc in honor of Ron Myers was local and personal. 

Now Accepting Players for the November production of "Our Town," by Thornton Wilder.



Directed by Benjamin Luxon.

Memorization unnecessary. Script-held performance. Two month rehearsal period in September and October.

A gentle play performed in a gentle manner. Contact: Ben Luxon, 258-4994, or at [benjaminluxon@gmail.com](mailto:benjaminluxon@gmail.com). 

**m**  
music  
and  
more <sup>13</sup>

Saturdays at 4:30 pm

**Aug 3 Xuerong Zhao, piano**

Beethoven, Mussorgsky, Prokofiev

**Aug 10 J.S. Bach: The Art of the Fugue**

Free pre-concert talk at 3:30pm

Bach's great contrapuntal cycle in a new orchestration for strings, winds and harpsichord by Daniel Stepner

**Aug 24 Daedalus Quartet**

Erwin Schulhoff, Beethoven, Schubert, Smetana

**Aug 31 Shall We Gather at the River: Music of Charles Ives**

Free pre-concert talk at 3:30pm

Songs, Violin Sonata #3, Decoration Day, Emerson Transcriptions for piano. Deborah Rentz-Moore, mezzo soprano, Daniel Berman, piano and Daniel Stepner, violin

**Sept 7 License My Roving Hands**

Free pre-concert talk at 3:30pm

Letters, Lyrics and Music from Geoffrey Chaucer to John Donne. Actor Jonathan Epstein with Calliope, A Renaissance Band

**Receptions with the artists after the performances**

**FOR TICKETS, DISCOUNTS & INFORMATION:**  
[www.newmarlborough.org](http://www.newmarlborough.org) • (413) 229-2785

At the Meeting House on the Village Green, Rt. 57 in the center of New Marlborough, MA

# Comings and Goings



**DAVE LEWIS**  
1957-2013

The founder of Berkshire Fireworks, Dave Lewis, died July 2 at his West Street home. His obituary in *The Berkshire Eagle* reported that Dave “died as he lived: brave, faithful, and surrounded by devoted family.”

His firm provided the fireworks at Sandisfield’s 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration last summer, possibly the most spectacular pyrotechnic display ever seen in town and maybe even surrounding towns.

A life-long love of fireworks was fulfilled when Dave started his own business, Berkshire Fireworks, in 1989. The small company was inspired by a desire to celebrate his mother, whose birthday happens to be July 4. He took pleasure in the opportunity to bring joy and happiness to others by taking part in special occasions and especially Independence Day.

“Dave did the fireworks for a collective 40th birthday celebration for six or seven of us one summer, at a community event for Yanner Park, and for the 250th,” said Liana Toscanini, a fan of his work. “Dave always donated an extra portion of the fireworks to make the ‘show’ more spectacular.”

After a carefree childhood in Scotia, N.Y., Dave’s early career took many turns. He was a farmhand, child care worker, caretaker, and carpenter. In 1984, he began working for the Lake Buel District, a job he continued as long as his health permitted.

In both his personal and professional life, Dave was a man of strong passions. He was committed to both the Jewish principles of his upbringing and the Christian faith he adopted as an adult. His strict moral compass was tempered with compassion for others, especially his family, whom he loved and was loved by dearly. A gifted storyteller, he enjoyed recalling humorous tales of working on farms and in schools or carousing with his brothers. He would sometimes surprise by reciting perfect swathes of Spanish or Hebrew from middle school memory and, when he was especially happy, he would break into song. He embraced working out of his home because of his love of gardening, barbecuing perfect steaks for guests, and his dog, Morgan.



*Presented by Berkshire Fireworks, Sandisfield 250th celebration, July 2012.*

*Photo: Richard Migot*

Dave is survived by his beloved wife of 31 years, Judy Lewis; his parents, Paul and Louise Lewis of Scotia, N.Y.; his son, Paul (PJ) Lewis and daughters, Elizabeth Lewis, Rachel Lewis, and Shawn Lewis Albert and her husband, Michael; three grandsons, Andrew, Brendan, and Evan Albert; his brothers, Nathan Lewis and fiancé, Colleen Abbato, Martin Lewis, and Robert Lewis; his sister, Rena; two sisters-in-law, Brenda Lewis and Maria Lewis; and his niece, Kaylee Lewis, and nephew, Jonah Lewis.

# Letters to the Editor

## THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK

I want to thank everyone at The Sandisfield Times for their dedication to this town. I am pleased to know each and every one of you and look forward to the paper each month. I think it's wonderful that you cover all kinds of issues and stories for us and want to personally thank you for including the Silverbrook Café & Country Store in your paper.

Connie D'Andrea  
Silverbrook Café and Country Store  
Hours: Mon-Fri 10-5, Sat & Sun 8-4



*Making a break for it, Twinkle Toes, Charlie Pease's Jersey, made it outside the fence but stopped to greet Somerset, Margaret O'Clair's Golden Retriever, which made Twinkle Toes easy to round up.*

*Photo: Barbara Rambo*

## EMS/ FIRE DEPT BLOTTER

TYPE OF CALL	MAY	JUNE
EMS CALLS		
EMS MEDICAL	9	12
FIRE DEPT CALLS		
WIRES DOWN	2	1
MUTUAL AID		
SEARCH & RESCUE	0	1
FALSE ALARMS	1	1

## Oops #268

In July, "we" said in a headline that Marky won the election to replace Kerry as U.S. Senator from Massachusetts. In the very brief article "we" also said that Ed Klary won. Neither Marky nor Klary won. Markey won. Edward Markey. No need to try to explain. So many readers pointed out these errors that we had to ask them to "take a number, get in line."

## Computer Woes?

Expert setup and support for:

Desktops • Laptops • Tablets • Phones

Faxes • Printers • Databases

Websites • Wired & Wireless Networks

Internet • Virus Removal • Coaching

Jean Atwater-Williams  
Help@BizTechAssociates.com  
413-258-8000

## Suggestions Needed!



The Town Suggestion Box is looking for your constructive suggestions. We have received about a dozen so far.

Several have been favorable comments regarding having a gas station/convenience store in town. One recent suggestion dealt with available dump times. The Town's Future Planning Committee is especially looking for long-term suggestions dealing with town needs in the next five to ten years. We plan to ask specific questions at a later date. The Suggestion Box can be accessed through this link: [SandisfieldSuggestionBox@gmail.com](mailto:SandisfieldSuggestionBox@gmail.com)

All suggestions will initially be reviewed for clarity and appropriate language and then passed to the appropriate person, board or committee. You must include contact information (name, phone or email address) in case we need to contact you for clarity. You can specify that the suggestion be passed on anonymously.

Keep those suggestions coming and let's all put our heads together and make Sandisfield the place where we want to live!

- John Skrip


# NOW HEAR THIS!

*Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro. Please send notices for Now Hear This! to [calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org](mailto:calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org).*

## AUGUST EVENTS

**History of Sandisfield Public Schools**, presented by local historian Ron Bernard at the Sandisfield Arts Center on Saturday, August 3 at 10:00 a.m. (\$5)

**The Enigma of Socialism Talk** presented by Val Coleman at the Sandisfield Arts Center on Saturday, August 10 at 10:00 a.m. (\$10)

 **Steak Roast** to benefit the Sandisfield Fire Department. Saturday, August 10, Fire Station #2 (Rt. 57). Dinner, 5-7 p.m., music, 6-10 p.m. \$25 donation. Call for tickets: 413-258-3381, or purchase A&M Auto on Tolland Road, up the hill from Route 8. *Tickets will not be available at the door because the cooks need to know how many steaks to provide.*

**Stars are Falling**, meteor shower, York Lake, early Sunday morning, August 11, midnight to 3 a.m. First annual Sandisfield Perseids party. Use Rt. 183 entrance after dark. An astronomer will be on site to explain details and a storyteller to weave the myths. Bring blankets and snack to share (if you want). For information call Maxene at 258-4030.

**Looking Backwards: Forties and Fifties America** Talk by Professor Bill Cohn at the Sandisfield Arts Center on Saturday, August 17 at 10:00 a.m. (\$10).

**Knitting Workshop** with Barbara Morrison and Sheila Liberman at the Sandisfield Arts Center on Saturday, August 24 at 10:00 a.m. (\$5).

## AUGUST EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

**Painter Tina Sotis reception**, "Sometimes the Light Is Enough," celebrating the opening of an exhibit of her new oil paintings. CATA Studio Space, 70 Railroad Street, Great Barrington on Saturday, August 3, 3:30-6:30 p.m. **Gallery Talk** at the Studio Space, Sunday, August 11, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

**Yoga in the Garden** on Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. at Ashintully Gardens in Tyringham. Free, but donations are suggested. For more information, call 413-320-2497.

**Free Concert, "Trio Candela,"** a 3-piece Latin American/Caribbean band with special guest musicians will present a "Spicy Summer Celebration" at Knox Trail Inn, Rt. 23, East Otis, on Saturday, August 3. Latin food available 6-7:30 p.m., music from 7:45-9:30 p.m. Call to reserve seating: 413-269-4400.

**Community Tag & Craft Sale.** Saturday, August 24, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Tolland Center, to benefit the Ladies' Aid Society's Scholarship Fund. Rain or shine.

**History Talk: The Men Who United the States** with author and Sandisfield resident **Simon Winchester** on Saturday, August 31 at 10:00 a.m. at the Tyringham Union Church.

**Music and More Festival** opens at The Meeting House in New Marlborough on Saturday, August 3. The festival features various musical events beginning at 4:30 p.m. on August 3, 10, 24, and 31. \$15 to \$25.

**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.

**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.

**Historical Commission:** Regular meeting, Monday, August 26, 2013, 7 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex (downstairs).

## SAVE THE DATE

**FREE Concert** sponsored by Otis Cultural Council, Saturday, August 3, "Trio Candela" 3-piece Latin American and Caribbean band, with special guest musicians, will present a "Spicy Summer Celebration" at Knox Trail Inn, Rte. 23, East Otis. Latin food available 6-7:30 p.m., music 7:45-9:30 p.m. Call to reserve seating: 413-269-4400.

## ONGOING EVENTS

**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.

## VILLA MIA RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA

413-258-4236

90 S. Main Street, New Boston

Specializing in Italian food,  
Seafood, Veal and Chicken  
Pasta, Salads, Subs & Calzones  
Sicilian & New York style pizzas

Try one of our delicious desserts  
with an espresso or cappuccino coffee.

New **Burek** stuffed with meat or spinach  
and feta cheese. Wonderful for an  
appetizer or a small meal!

**Available for a limited time  
May - November**

Open 7 days a week through Labor Day

11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

# THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

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:*



*Jim & Nancy Remis*

*Burton & Charlotte Holzer*

*Alan Boye and Linda Wacholder*



*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](http://www.sandisfieldtimes.org).

Copies of *The Sandisfield Times* are available in Sandisfield at A&M Auto, the Arts Center, the Dump, Post Office, the New Boston Inn, the SilverBrook Café & Country Store, Villa Mia, MJ Tuckers, When Pigs Fly Farm and Town Hall. Copies are also available in Otis at Katie's Market, Papa's Fuel, Otis Library, the Farmington River Diner and Terranova's Café. Other locations include The Roadstore Café and the Monterey General Store in Monterey and the Southfield Store in New Marlborough.

## SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

To have the *The Times* mailed to your home, please complete the information below and send a check for \$25 (annual subscription fee for 11 issues) made out to *The Sandisfield Times* to:

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES  
PO BOX 584, SANDISFIELD, MA 01255

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address to where *The Times* should be delivered: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (only used if paper is returned by USPS) \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### Editorial Staff

*Editor: Bill Price, 413-258-3308. Email: [w.billprice@gmail.com](mailto:w.billprice@gmail.com)*

*Production, Distribution, Advertising: Ron Bernard*

*Graphic Design: Tina Sotis*

*Founding Editor: Simon Winchester*

*The Sandisfield Town and The Sandisfield Times websites: Jean Atwater-Williams*

*Now Hear This! Laura Rogers-Castro*

*Contributors this issue: Ron Bernard, Alice Boyd, Val Coleman, Larry Dwyer, Jo Garfield, Dolores Harasyko, Maxene Kupperman-Guinals, Flora Parisky, Sandy Parisky, Molly Pitcher, Kim Spring, Simon Winchester*

*Columnists: Laurie Foulke-Green, Josephine Freedman, David LeBeau*

### 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)  
Advertising questions: .....[advertising@sandisfieldtimes.org](mailto:advertising@sandisfieldtimes.org)  
Entries for calendar of events: .....[calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org](mailto:calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org)  
Birth, marriage, and death notices:.....[registrar@sandisfieldtimes.org](mailto:registrar@sandisfieldtimes.org)