

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume IV, Number 7

October 2013


Town Administrator Interviews This Month

Four individuals have applied for the recently created position of part-time town administrator.

Interviews with each candidate will be held at open public meetings just before regularly scheduled Selectmen's Meetings on Tuesday, October 15, and Monday, October 21.

The three candidates who will be interviewed on the 15th at half-hour intervals beginning at 5 p.m., are Lisa Blackmer, Eve Kummel, and Terry Walker. The fourth candidate, Edward McDonald, will be interviewed at a second public meeting on the 21st at 6 p.m.

On advice of Sandisfield town counsel, the Times can print only the names of the candidates at this time. Other information about the individuals will be available on the evenings of the interviews. The interviewers will be the three Selectmen – Patrick Barrett, Jeff Gray, and Rolando Messina – along with Mark Newman, Fire Chief Ralph Morrison, and Town Moderator John Skrip.

John Skrip was a member of the Management Review Committee which recommended at the Annual Town Meeting that the Select Board hire an administrator to help execute the town's policies and procedures, advise the Selectmen, and "ensure adherence to the budget by all departments and employees." It is expected that the administrator will also work with Long-Range Planning Committee to help carry out some of their proposals. 

Store Wars Heating Up

HAPPY COMES BACK


By Bill Price

The gas station/convenience store proposed for Rt. 8 across from MJ Tuckers that was "on hold" in July is back in play.

A consultant for Happy Banga, who owns and operates a package store in Lee and the Sunoco station in Winsted, missed an appointment with a combined Planning/Health Board meeting on September 9. However, at a subsequent special meeting with the Planning Board on the 16th, the consultant presented plans for a 4,000 square-foot station with five dispensers, with both gas and diesel offered.

The next step for the proposal is a site "walk-through" scheduled with the Board of Health on October 4th. The station/store would be on an area of slightly more than an acre of land and would need a significant catch-basin for water run-off and septic. The station building is large enough that Happy anticipates that a chain such as Dunkin' Donuts or Subway might be willing to sublease part of it.

The site is across Rt. 8 from where town residents Kim and Chandru Paspuletti have proposed building a gas station and full country/package store just south of MJ Tuckers. The Paspuletti's have presented their plans to several town boards and are negotiating to purchase the property.

Town residents are divided as to which proposed store to support and it likely will get worse if both station/stores open across from each other. After losing the New Boston Store last October the town was without a source for milk, eggs, newspapers, or any other staple of life until Connie D'Andrea converted the Silverbrook Café into the Silverbrook Café & Country Store. The hours when her store was open were at first consistently erratic, but with more staff the store is now open regularly seven days a week. Connie has worked hard to build a steady clientele, and her store seems to be successful. But competition looms, and there will be further news coming soon. 

Gas Pipeline Expansion Planned

HERE WE GO AGAIN

By Bill Price

A gas pipeline project is headed our way that will potentially impact all of Sandisfield. And not in a good way.

Some of us remember land and farms that were taken under eminent domain for five flood-control dams built in the 1960s. Others recall the section of Sandisfield and neighboring village of Colebrook River on Old Route 8 that disappeared under the reservoir in 1967. For a small New England town, Sandisfield *Cont'd on p.3*

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Sandisfield Historical Commission

UNVEILING OUR HISTORY: A SERIES OF NEW HISTORICAL MARKERS

By Ron Bernard



Commissioners Eric Pachulski and Donald Peet, State Representative Smitty Pignatelli, Commission Chairman Ron Bernard, and Selectman Patrick Barrett.



Permanent plaques have been installed in common areas in each of the five original villages that originally made up Sandisfield.

An unveiling ceremony for the site at Sandisfield Center was held on September 7 at the corner of Rt. 57 and New Hartford Road. Selectman Patrick Barrett and state representative Smitty Pignatelli joined members of the Commission and a gathering of residents to commemorate Sandisfield's 263 years as a settled community. Mr. Pignatelli congratulated the Town for celebrating its heritage in this way and said there was much here to be proud of.

A permanent display of photographic images of Sandisfield at the turn of the 20th century has been installed at the Town Hall Annex. Depicted in various sizes are sites in New Boston and Montville villages, the four church buildings existing at the time, and miscellaneous views. Most of the images are from the DeMars collection

The Sandisfield Historical Commission, the Otis Historical Commission and the Otis Library will collaborate in publishing an anthology of histories of the two towns. Included will be histories of both Sandisfield and Otis written by George Shepard of Sandisfield and published in 1885. Also included will be a manuscript by historian Elizur Yale Smith (1885-1950), a native of Lee with deep family roots in Sandisfield.

Smith had a life-long fascination with the town and for a period in the early 1930s he lived on New Hartford Road. In 1947, he prepared a draft manuscript entitled *Sandisfield: An Intimate History and Some Comments* that was intended for eventual publication by the Sandisfield Taxpayers' Association. Unfortunately, Smith died before his treatise could be published. His good friend and Beech Plain resident, nationally known columnist and broadcaster George Sokolsky, placed the document for safekeeping with the Otis Library in 1962. The collection will be digitized (searchable) and made available to the public for the first time in early 2014 through the Otis Library. 🇺🇸

Road Superintendent Steve Harasyko and Ron Bernard install the West New Boston plaque beside the war memorial at Old Town Hall.

Summer's Just Another Friend That Dies

There are so many things behind me now
That the end of summer is the common fare.
Another disappointment, a torn flower,
A tree's dress dying and my stone wall bare.

I pull the past behind me like a travois,
Two sticks upon my shoulder
Bearing all my wasted days and nights,
So summer's just another friend that dies,
One more burden, one more slight.

Val Coleman
Town Hill Road

Cultural Council Seeks Grant Applications

By John Skrip

The Cultural Council is asking for grant applications to support local projects in 2014. Applications must be sent by US mail, postmarked by October 15, 2013.

The Council, part of a program that extends across the commonwealth, supports local projects in the arts, humanities, and sciences. Examples include school field trips and after-school programs, concerts, festivals, lectures, theater, dance, music, film, and heritage programs. Qualified programs usually take place in schools, community centers, libraries, elder-care facilities, town halls, parks ...wherever communities come together. Local programs that meet the award criteria will be given priority over outside artists interested in performing or displaying in town or at the school.

Applications and more information are available on line at www.mass-culture.org/sandisfield. You may also pick up applications at Town Hall Annex, the Sandisfield Post Office, or the Town Library. Mail applications to PO Box 84, Sandisfield.

The next meeting of the Sandisfield Cultural Council will be held on October 23, location and time to be announced according to open meeting rules. New members are currently sought to join the SCC. To volunteer for the Council or for assistance with grants contact me at 413-258-4788 or email at johnskripjr@gmail.com. 🇺🇸

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

YOU CAN HELP SAVE THE PAVILION

Twenty years ago the Town – full- and part-time residents together – built a new fire station. It remains a pride of the Town and benefits everyone.

Today the Town faces a similar challenge – on a smaller scale. We should pitch in to save the American Legion Pavilion in New Boston. The Times has reported on the situation and will again. Improvements are long overdue. Patch-up repairs by volunteers have kept the place standing but the buildings are beyond that now.

Last month a group of Legionnaires and concerned citizens attended an information session where Post 456 Commander Maria Domato laid out the key issues. Repair ideas and fund-raising questions were debated. Volunteers stepped-up to help develop work plans and get realistic cost estimates. Once a goal figure and work plan are completed, Post 456 will launch a capital campaign to raise money to create a more up-to-date, safe, and beautiful new Pavilion and improved grounds. It will be available for receptions, weddings, large family gatherings of all kinds, possibly even annual town picnics at low rental fees. Target opening is Memorial Day 2015.

The Legion needs the support of the community, like the fire station and a few years after that the

Arts Center. A rejuvenated Pavilion with its riverside park grounds would be a big asset for the Town with significant economic potential. Let's work together to make this happen.

TO REPORT OR NOT TO REPORT

A local nurse, charged with Medicaid fraud, pleaded guilty in Berkshire Supreme Court in August. She received a fine and an 18-month jail term, suspended for a probationary period of 5 years. The Times reported on the case last spring and said that we would continue to report on the criminal behavior of our neighbors. On reflection, I'm not sure I have the heart to report that kind of news about people who live among us. People shouldn't commit crimes, but do we need to pile it on locally, especially when it is already well reported in *The Berkshire Eagle*? I'm rethinking the policy when it comes to most crimes and misdemeanors. Arson and burglary are different. We're all vulnerable, and we need to know the arsonists and burglars among us. But reporting other kinds of bad stuff that's covered in other newspapers seems a bit unnecessary. Let me know what you think.

Bill Price
West New Boston

GAS PIPELINE

Cont'd from p.1

has lost a lot: historic properties, property values, economic potential, and community pride.

Before the dams, in the 1950s, came a natural gas pipeline that used the threat of eminent domain to snake a 75-foot-wide swath across the Beech Plain section. The gas company, now known as TenneCo or El Paso Gas, is owned and operated by an aggressive new parent company, a limited partnership called Kinder Morgan Energy Partners. KM intends to widen 3.8 miles of its existing line – really a “no man's land” – across Sandisfield by an additional 25 feet, plus 50 feet more for a working corridor, at least doubling the strip. According to what we've heard, this is *best case*.

Many will be surprised to learn that the two existing “high pressure velocity” pipelines are only buried about 2 feet underground. The easement in play extends from Town Hill Road to beyond Beech Plain Road, crossing Hammertown Road and Cold Spring Road (twice). Long-time Beech Plain residents will never forget the day in 1981 during the installation of the second line when

the first line was ruptured (“blow out”) by the construction crew, which caused the evacuation of the entire section, not just those close-by. The State Fire Marshall revoked the company's blasting permit.

The proposed new 36-inch pipeline is called a “loop,” a system that boosts the velocity of the gas so that even more gas can pass through the existing two ageing pipelines. Similar loops are planned for a two-mile stretch near Albany and another eight miles in Connecticut. Towns and residents in those places are opposing the expansion plans.

In the first stage, set to commence this month, consultants and employees will conduct surveys so that Kinder Morgan can file a myriad of permit applications to state and federal agencies. Meanwhile, property owners and the Town will be in limbo, unaware of the fate of the land. The Town will be impacted by economics, safety, road deterioration, and the permanent destruction and more scarring of our landscape.

The company has notified abutting property owners of its general plans. All of them are facing potentially severe hits to the value of their properties which will last in perpetuity. Ironically, this involves land they will no longer be able use for any purpose, not even to

Sandisfield Times

Approved as Non-Profit

The US Internal Revenue Service has approved the Sandisfield Times as a Federal tax-exempt “public charity” under IRS Code section 501(c)(3). With approval retroactive, contributions made since inception, April 8, 2010, are Federal tax deductible under section 170 of the Code.

PLEASE NOTE: Money sent to us for a subscription is not tax deductible. Mail subscriptions, including gift subscriptions, are not considered contributions and therefore are not tax deductible. We recommend that contributors check with their tax advisor.

Also, there has been some confusion about contributions vs. subscriptions. A contribution does not a subscription make. Please designate on your check whether the amount is for a subscription or a contribution. If your one check includes both, indicate the split. And please keep both subscriptions and contributions coming! 🍷

drive over or have virtually any say in its management, yet they still must pay full property tax.

The approval process will be long and torturous, involving archeological, historical, environmental, geological, and economic and other studies. A public meeting will be conducted by FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission), the ultimate regulatory body, perhaps in early 2014, when the town will have an opportunity to voice opinions and ask questions. Then FERC and its counterpart at the state level are expected, as usual, to rubber stamp the applications assuming they have been properly submitted.

Last week a bureaucrat attorney at FERC responded to one town resident who was seeking information about the process. He was told, “These projects are approved more than 99 percent of the time, so why fight?” Expansions, after all, are in the best interest of the country, right? In fact, this expansion is in the best interest of Kinder Morgan's owner and its shareholders. As another affected resident said, “If there was even a small benefit to the town it might not be all bad, and we could rationalize somewhat. But there seems to be no benefit locally at all.” It is all bad. 🍷

Jazz and Poetry at SArc



Coming up immediately, this Saturday, October 5 at 8 p.m.

"Jazz with Poetry/Poetry with Jazz," the last of a two-part musical series "JAZZ IN SANDISFIELD 2013." Musicians and readers will intersperse music with

the spoken word creating pastiche of jazz instrumentals, songs, and poetry readings.

The musical program is the artistic creation of the Sir William Trio featuring Bill Stillinger on bass, James Argiro on piano, and Gregory Caputo on drums with vocalist Stacey Grimaldi. While they perform, Ben Luxon and Anni Crofut will read poetry in a lively performance.

Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased online or at the door on the night of the performance on a first come-first served basis. 🍷

Tom Sawyer: Me Do Proud

By Larry Dwyer

Who says there's nothing to do in Sandisfield? I finally got time off so I could do a little work around the house. I changed the rear shocks on the car and cut the grass. I reset my propane tank in the back of the house since it was sitting on the dirt and I didn't want the bottom to corrode.

I finally pruned the hawthorn tree in front of the house. There's been this woodpecker who's been attacking it every spring. It's amazing the tree's still alive with a million holes in it. But the tree refuses to die. I let all the low suckers grow around it hoping it would make it harder for the woodpecker to get to the main trunk, but it didn't look very nice. I finally pruned the small branches and wrapped chicken wire around the tree. Now it looks like the tree is wrapped in a splint. The woodpecker will probably put his signature on it next spring.

Just before the Labor Day weekend, a friend called and said, "Hey Larry, do you think you could stop by and help me fix the tractor. I need to replace the radiator." My friend has a 1952 Ford 8N tractor that runs like a dream. I said, "No problem, see you Saturday." What could be more fun than fixing a Ford 8N on a Labor Day weekend? Did you know that if you want to change the fan belt on a Ford 8N, you have to drop the front suspension? No wonder Ford invented the Edsel! We took the front suspension apart, installed a new belt, installed a new radiator and the tractor started right up. It ran better than new. Time for a beer.

My wife's nephew stayed with us for a few days, visiting from Brazil. He works as an intern in the District Attorney's office. He said he admired the way I was able to fix things. I said to him, "There's nothing more satisfying than taking something apart and putting it back together. It's not like doing paperwork. When you're done, you feel like you really achieved a goal."

"Can I help you with something?" he said. "Well," I said, "I need to power wash the front deck. You want to take a crack at it?" "Sure, I'll try it."

He spent the next two hours washing the front deck. I watched and gave moral support by sitting on a lawn chair and having a beer.

After he finished, he seemed a little tired. Joking, I asked if he wanted to power wash the rear deck. (It's four times as big.) He just smiled. The next day after a good night's sleep, he asked to power wash the rear deck. I let him go to town. Tom Sawyer, eat your heart out! 🍷



Where are those sausages?
Under the engine cover?
Photo: Larry Dwyer

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SUGGESTIONS NEEDED!



The Town Suggestion Box needs your constructive ideas. We've received about 15 so far and all have been passed along to the Select Board.

The Suggestion Box can be accessed through its email link: SandisfieldSuggestionBox@gmail.com

All suggestions are reviewed for clarity and language, before being delivered to the appropriate person, board, or committee. Include your name, phone or email address in case we need to contact you for clarity. You can specify that the suggestion be passed along anonymously.

- John Skrip




BRIDGE WATCH: TWO-WAY TRAFFIC RETURNS SOON TO NEW BOSTON WHILE BRIDGE DECK REPAIRS CONTINUE TO THE SOUTH

By Sandy Parisky

J. H. Maxymillian (JHM), contractor for Mass DOT, finished the last two concrete pours to the Routes 8 and 57 Bridge deck project.

As soon as steel guardrails are up and full-depth excavation work on the adjacent roadways leading to the bridge is finished, the approach lanes to the bridge will be blacktopped which will allow two-way traffic to resume, possibly as soon as November. JHM will return next spring to wrap up landscaping work and lay a final blacktop-paving surface over the approach lanes to the bridge.

About 350 lineal-feet of sidewalk will continue north of the bridge, at the edge of the northbound lane. A new pedestrian crosswalk at the end of new sidewalk will direct walkers to the triangular "green" and roadway in front of the New Boston Inn. The new crosswalk will replace one that crossed the highway between the Old Stone House and the former Southern Berkshire Fuel Co.

About two miles south on Route 8 is a second bridge deck repair project, also under contract with JHM. North and southbound traffic is being stopped along this stretch to allow workers to remove the old asphalt, sound out weak sections of the deck, and replace it with new concrete. Once the southbound lane is repaired, traffic will switch over and repairs will continue over the northbound lane. This work should be finished in a few months. 



TOP PHOTO

JHM smooths out the new north-bound side of the bridge.

Photo: Sandy Parisky

BOTTOM PHOTO

Traffic is regulated by stop-lights along the bridge work on the Sandisfield side of the Mass/Conn border.

Photo: Bill Price



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"Our Town," Coming Soon to Sandisfield

By Bill Price




Ben Luxon directs Reid Sinclair, right, and Evers Whyte through their roles as George Gibbs and his father.

Rehearsals for Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" are proceeding on schedule. Opening night at the Arts Center will be Saturday, November 9 at 7 p.m., followed by a matinee on Sunday, November 10 at 3 p.m.

Beginning in August with a three-month rehearsal period, director Ben Luxon has been coaxing the best from his amateur players. Working with individual actors and groups of four or five, he guides them through different sections of the play while keeping the entire production clear in his own mind. "It's a gentle play," he said, "and we're proceeding in a mostly gentle manner. We're having a good time."

The rehearsal schedule is not easy to arrange. With 17 cast members and a crew of stage hands and set builders, Ben balances rehearsals between the cast's individual work, school, and family lives.

"Everyone in the show," he said, "has a full life and scheduling takes almost as much time as rehearsals. It's going very well, however, and possibly better than we expected. Soon the entire production will begin to coalesce around Emily and George and all the things that happen in this small New England town in the first decade of the 20th century, now over 100 years ago."

One of the cast members described her experience so far: "You should see the way 'Our Town' is coming along. I'm absolutely in love with the play and the whole process. Acting is so much harder than I thought, but I'm exhilarated by the challenge and the reward when I get it right." 

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On the Trail of Mushrooms

Article and Photo By Sandy Parisky

Dianna Smith, an internationally known mushroom photographer, educator and co-founder of the Pioneer Valley Mycological Association, brought more than 50 attendees to a two-morning workshop and walk in the woods at the Sandisfield Arts Center. She guided the mostly amateurs in attendance to search for and identify mushrooms that were easily found growing on rotting wood and hidden in leaves. Ranging in shapes and colors that reflect dozens of varieties of mushrooms found in Sandisfield, Dianna explained that while some are edible many are poisonous and extremely challenging to distinguish and therefore should be avoided. 🍄



Dianna Smith holds an edible mushroom for its close-up.

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* NEW ITEMS ARRIVING WEEKLY *



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ATM

Annual Harvest Dinner at the Sandisfield Arts Center

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19 AT 7PM

Three-course meal with wines! *Celebrity Auctioneer Alison Larkin, acclaimed comedian will host a small auction!*

Reservations/Info: www.sandisfieldartscenter.org



FUNDED IN PART BY THE MASSACHUSETTS CULTURAL COUNCIL AND LOCAL CULTURAL COUNCILS

The Pot Boils Over

LETTERS IN RESPONSE

Some of our readers were upset with Simon Winchester's report of the Special Town Meeting where the medical marijuana proposal was voted down. We got letters. We've printed them here separately from our usual Letters to the Editor section and at greater length.

COMPASSION NEEDED

Re: Simon Winchester's article, "No Pot, No Way," in the September Times.

I am one of those people "desperate for dope" of whom my friend Dolores Harasyko will be afraid. I am one of those people who has "persuaded" my doctor that I am sick enough to need it. I am one of those people for whom the "preposterous idea of dealing in dope" is a lifeline to my physical safety.

Many people in town know that I suffer from multiple sclerosis. If you have seen me in town or talked to me on the phone, you know that summers in particular are difficult for me. In winter, when the weather does not completely remove my ability to walk, the pain attached to standing from a seated position, the pain of opening a jar or even the door can bring tears to my eyes.

The article was a biased piece of anti-journalism that gave a distinctly ugly perspective to a real issue and a real need. Words to express this medicine were the street words – "pot" and "dope" and "drugs," even "peddle the medical pot" – as if the medicine I need to help alleviate my spasticity and suffering is the street stuff. Not according to my internationally recognized neurologist. Not according to many doctors, including, of late, the renowned TV doctor Sanjay Gupta. Medical marijuana is real medicine, the kind that is effective and has no more or fewer side effects than any other.

That marijuana might help people in town whose cancer stops their appetite or whose MS gives

them such spasticity and stiffness they cannot move is also real. That there might be glaucoma relief for some local people is a fact. That marijuana relieves and helps to cure anorexia, relieves nausea and vomiting and stimulates hunger in AIDS patients is also documented. Crohn's disease, diabetes, controlling ALS, and breast cancer symptoms are also documented in medical studies. Internationally, clinical trials have shown effective use of a very distinct type of marijuana.

That there are people here in Sandisfield who might have real concerns about our being a growth and distribution point of medical marijuana for Western Massachusetts is fair and a town meeting is the appropriate place for discussion, of course. But for those of us who did not attend and depend upon The Sandisfield Times for our information, this article was biased and poorly reported.

To demean an idea because of little knowledge and fear-mongered misinformation is not right, and Sandisfield must not be that kind of place. If people are worried that medical marijuana could bring down the safety of our town, we all need much more insightful conversation, not rigid posturing or cutesy folk-reporting.

Sandisfield does not have to be a distribution center, but it must be a place of compassion. And that is not how Simon Winchester reported this event. Too bad.

Respectfully,

Maxene Kupperman-Guiñals
Town Hill Road

Editor's Note: Maxene has suggested a forum for ideas for "enriching town coffers." She said, "I suspect there are many people in town who might have ideas for our town to make some money, people who may not be at town meetings. The Sandisfield Times might provide a forum, say quarterly, for different topics to come up." The Times will provide space for such a forum. Send ideas and suggestions to the editor at PO Box 584, Sandisfield, or editor@sandisfieldtimes.org. Ideas can also be submitted to the Town Suggestion Box at SandisfieldSuggestionBox@gmail.com.

EMBROIDERED REPORTING

Simon Winchester's article was not a credit to our local paper. It might have been included as a "Letter to the Editor," but as a report on the meeting held at the Town Hall on August 15th it was not up to the standard established by Simon himself for the Times. His attempt to be clever

and witty was often at the expense of worthy people who worked hard to research and present an idea which might have addressed the serious financial problems the town is facing and those who saw problems with this plan.

Characterizing David Hubbard as "our local pot-enthusiast" was to make light of the diligent work this man did to research and present a valid opportunity to the town. There was no mention of the meeting the night before where townspeople had the opportunity to hear much more about this idea and to ask questions of the Long-Range Planning Committee. Referring to "unsmiling constables at the ready" made a very well attended, civil and engaged public meeting look as if we were barely controlled rabble. Talking about people who have "persuaded their doctors they are sick enough to need it" (marijuana) was an insult to well documented research and experience that marijuana is a helpful medicine for various conditions, which doctors prescribe.

If we expect people to want to volunteer their time in the service of this town we need to be respectful of their effort. Those attending the August 15th meeting were generally willing to do that, even though they were not in favor of the proposal. In reporting, The Sandisfield Times must honestly acknowledge this process and not use it for embroidered reporting aimed at entertainment.

Susan Crofut
New Hartford Road

ONE MORE REASON WHY NOT TO

See enclosed Kiplinger Tax Letter, dated August 30, 2013: "A medical marijuana cooperative isn't a tax-exempt organization, IRS says in a private ruling. Under federal law, the distribution and use of marijuana is illegal, even for medicinal use. So for federal tax purposes, it is irrelevant that the group was formed and operates in a state that has legalized the drug for medical use. These groups also face federal income tax problems. They get no deduction for their expenses, other than the cost of the marijuana itself and the expenses of special activities they provide, such as counseling. And those who use marijuana for health reasons aren't allowed to take the cost on Schedule A as a medical expense."

Also enclosed is a check to help support The Sandisfield Times. Great work!

Kathryn Clarke
New Hartford Road

APPALLED

I was appalled by "No Pot, No Way." Simon Winchester should write a public apology to David Hubbard. The writing was snarky, condescending, and so excessively florid I was sure the writer was pushing for a gold star on his creative writing paper.

To characterize David Hubbard as "our hapless local pot-enthusiast," and to say he was "stricken, winced and wounded" was absurd. The attacks sounded so personal in fact that I wondered what agenda Mr. Winchester had in writing the story. The entire article had an odd tone of both ridicule and hysteria over medical marijuana and the perfectly valid consideration of a dispensary as a revenue source. Two pages later in the same issue Mr. Winchester defended an equally controversial medical practice of electroshock therapy, obviously missing out on the irony.

Though I don't know David Hubbard well, I do know that the man is a highly respected professional who was giving his valuable time to the town. For Mr. Hubbard and the entire Long-Range Planning Committee to be publicly ridiculed by this article was small-minded, unprofessional, and certainly no way to encourage others to give their time for the betterment of Sandisfield.

Diane Swartz
Norfolk Road

TABLOID JOURNALISM

As a former editor of The Sandisfield Times, a trained journalist, and the wife of the latest object of Simon Winchester's British-style tabloid interpretation of the Sandisfield Town Meeting regarding funding alternatives, I would be remiss if I did not comment on Mr. Winchester's story.

The Finance Committee and the Long-Range Planning Committee worked long and hard to come up with alternative approaches to provide increased revenue for the town. Sandisfield needs to provide life-support to its fragile tax base in order to improve the decaying town infrastructure. The concept that Sandisfield create a medical marijuana dispensary was one creative approach that the committee had researched and evaluated long and hard prior to the presentation. My husband, David Hubbard, was the presenter, but he was representing a group effort.

Mr. Winchester obviously did not take their efforts seriously. He began his story with a

reference to Monty Python, designed, one can assume, to imply that the effort of this committee was a joke and that their hard work should be subject to ridicule. A serious, more objective journalist might have focused on why the town is in the position it is in. And why the committee thought this was an honest approach to a serious problem.

Characterizing my husband as a "hapless pot-enthusiast" must have provided Mr. Winchester with a cheap thrill. I can't think of any other reason why he would choose that description. David is a serious, successful businessman, and as such, was asked to present this proposal. The results of the vote did not leave David "stricken." He did not feel the need to "wince." He was not "personally wounded" by the result of the meeting. This was not something he took personally. To him, this was business. But perhaps, even though he is a journalist, Mr. Winchester is not able to refrain from personal characterizations more fitting to Charles Dickens than a respected journalist. There was far more gloss than fact in his story. In fact, there was as much misinformation as resounded through the town on the subject. The subject was viewed emotionally. Not factually. The discussion and Mr. Winchester's analysis of the meeting refrained from addressing any serious and sober discussion..

If Mr. Winchester's objective is for The Sandisfield Times to reflect the style of British tabloid journalism, he appears to be succeeding. What he has also succeeded in doing, through his flamboyant, less than accurate reporting is to ensure that people who represent "new blood" and "new ideas" will be discouraged from volunteering for both his paper and for committees aimed at the creation of a stronger town.

Patricia Hubbard
Dodd Road

Simon's Reply

The majority of voters at the Town Meeting realized what all our correspondents here signally fail to mention: that the Long Term Planning Committee simply did not do its homework. Questions relating to the financing of the proposed marijuana dispensing entity, to the raising of liability insurance, and to the very serious security issues involved were neither fully nor properly addressed – which is essentially why the townspeople overwhelmingly voted the proposal down.

As with all such contentious issues, opposing parties have a perfect right to be sore. Our newspaper is just the place for them to vent. And so far as tone is concerned – it is most pleasing to be compared to Charles Dickens (see Hubbard, *op. cit.*), a comparison for which I shall be forever grateful.

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Local Barn Burns

By Bill Price

Town residents may remember being woken by a terrific thunder clap soon after midnight during an electrical storm the first of September. The huge clap of thunder followed a very local lightning strike that knocked a 5-foot hole in side of Kevin Margraf's barn roof and set the building on fire.

Kevin, on West Street, looked out his window after the lightning strike and saw what was happening to his barn. Within a minute after he dialed 911 the call was relayed to the Sandisfield Fire Department which, for the most part, was already awake. The thunder clap had woken them up too.

Fire Chief Ralph Morrison said he wanted to "thank Sandy Snyder for being so quick to respond. She was there within minutes of the alarm." The first firemen on site said they knew what it was, that they got the call within minutes of the thunder.

Kevin ran to his barn to find his horse, Mustang Sally, a kind of free-range but very savvy animal, had saved herself. "She was outside by the time I got there," he said. "She's a rescue animal and is used to taking care of herself. She knew she should get out of the barn and she did."

The responding firefighters saved the bottom half of Kevin's barn, but the upper story was a complete loss, along with 270 bales of freshly harvested hay. Kevin said, "It was good hay, too. We had about 30 bales to go. I'm glad I didn't have them in the barn yet."

Beginning to rebuild the second floor of his barn, Kevin first had to throw all the burned debris over the side.

Kevin spent the next couple weeks pulling blackened debris down from the ruined second story with a front-end loader and pulling out the burned and soaked hay. He said that for the first few days he would come out to the barn to find a little smoke wisping up from another smoldering fire.

Fire companies from five surrounding towns responded to the alarm. Chief Ralph Morrison said, "We had two engine pumpers and two tankers there from Sandisfield. Monterey sent an engine pumper and a tanker. Colebrook sent two tankers. New Marlborough sent an engine pumper and a tanker. Tolland had one tanker and an engine truck standing by in case we needed them. And Otis was the standby for all those towns in case of other fires."

The fire started about 12:50 a.m. and the firemen were returning to their homes about 3:30. Ralph said, "The great thing was that with all those tankers we never ran out of water."

He added, "It's never the right time to have a fire, but nighttime is when we'll have the most number of responders. Nearly everyone works outside of town and can't get to fires in the daytime. But at night people are here, and they all respond."



Mustang Sally safely got herself out of the burning barn.

Photos: Bill Price

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Council on Aging



By Susan Galik

An apology to start: Last month we announced the Dupree concert in Connecticut as part of our casino and show program, saying it would be in December. It was in September. My apologies.

We had 31 people come to the flu clinic on September 25. It was held early this year, which probably means some missed it. The Otis COA will hold their flu clinic on October 16, 2:00 to 4 p.m., at Otis Town Hall. No appointment necessary; bring insurance cards.

October 2nd we will have an exercise instructor who specializes in seniors and disabled. The class, which is free of charge, will be 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Because of the class, we will reschedule the board meeting to 11 a.m. to noon.

Wednesday, October 23, we will hold a blood pressure clinic from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. We will watch a film, "Francis, the Talking Mule," a Donald O'Conner comedy from 1949, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. Bingo will also be played.

New Boston Inn Hosts Revolutionary Re-enactors

By Bill Price

Mid-September the Revolutionary War came again to the New Boston Inn.

Ten members of today's Lebanon Militia camped overnight behind the Inn. These re-enactors are not making this stuff up. In the 1770s the Lebanon Militia were Connecticut revolutionaries who participated in every major battle during the war in the north. Members of the reconstituted Militia dress the same as the originals, carry and fire flintlock rifles the same way, eat the same food cooked the same way, and live in tents. The Lebanon Militia was the group that helped us celebrate our 250th last year on Carr Field. There is no better place for them to re-enact their roles than the New Boston Inn, considered just about the oldest surviving inn of its kind in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

"It's a small group of re-enactors," said Elizabeth Kuzmech, who baked the apple pie. "One couple of our group who are friends with Barbara Colorio at the Inn arranged our visit. Given the location and its proximity to our place on Roosterville Road, I hope we do this every year."

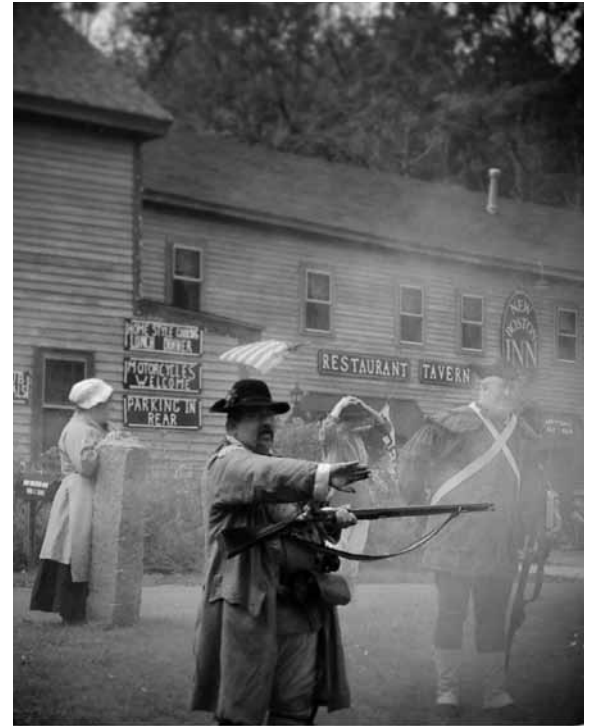
Top: Scott Stedman directs other riflemen. Allyson Wicander stands near the granite post in front of the Inn. Charles Kuzmech, hands over his head, holds down his hat.

Second from top, right: Chris Keller guides a young apprentice working with tin.

Third from top, right: Elizabeth Kuzmech brings out a fresh-baked apple pie – cooked over a wood fire – to share with visitors.

From left: Scott Stedman, Chris Keller, Al Cawthra, John Kuzmech, and Erik Wicander. Chris Keller, a 5th grade teacher at Farmington River Regional School, invited many of his students to the event and just about all of them showed up.

Photos: John Berman, Larry Dwyer, Sandy Parisky



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WHAT IS IT WORTH?

By David LeBeau

Certified Appraiser of Personal Property




One of my favorite periods of furniture is the mid-19th century English and American styles. This was the first period in which it was "proper" to mix styles in upscale residences. In fact, some society leaders created a unique look in each of their public rooms by furnishing each space in a different exotic theme.

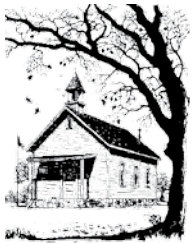
Two of the most popular styles were Louis XV Revival, also known as Rococo Revival (c. 1840-1850), followed by the Renaissance Revival style (c. 1860-1880).

The walnut and figural walnut veneered settee pictured above was created about the middle of that period, specifically 1855. How can we date it to circa 1855? The answer is that the settee displays a little of both styles. The crest rail, the topmost area of the frame, is in the Renaissance Revival style while the arms, apron, and legs are in the Rococo Revival Style. It is as if the designer wanted to introduce the newer look gradually on the top of the piece but keep the older style on the upholstery and the lower portion.



Rococo Revival employed curves both in silhouette and in the details while the Renaissance Revival employed angular rectilinear forms. See the lower parts of the piece: the arms, apron, and cabriole legs are sinuous in form. In contrast, the crest rail has a central angular pattern flanked by matching pieces. And the Rococo Revival upholstered sections center an angular element.

In an upscale antiques shop specializing in 19th century English and American furniture, the retail price would be \$1,000-\$1,500. 



FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BULLETIN

By Tara Beardsley

As part of our commitment to state nutrition requirements, Farmington River has been participating in the Harvest of the Month Farm-to-School Project. During September students were persuaded to try TOMATOES, the featured "Veggie of the Month." A "Food Explorer" board is located inside the Kid's Café and students who try each highlighted food will have their name added to the board. So far the kids have been very receptive to the program. October will feature PEARS!

Please note the following important dates:

- * 10/2— School lock down drill
- * 10/10 - Berkshire Theater Group Play – PK-6 at 1:15
- * 10/10 - PTA Meeting, 3:15
- * 10/17 - Picture Day
- * 10/18 - 1/2 Day -- Professional Day - 11:45 dismissal
- * 11/1 - NO SCHOOL – Professional Day
- * 11/1 - NO SCHOOL – Veterans’ Day
- * 11/14 - PTA Meeting, 3:15



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The Generosity of Friends

By Karlene and Warren Blass


The caring and generosity of our friends and neighbors overwhelms us.

The Blass Blast in May at MJ Tuckers, put on by the Winsted Fire Department, Engine #4, was a great success. It was designed to raise funds to support a double lung transplant for our son Robert who has advanced cystic fibrosis.

The funds raised went directly to Help HOPE Live in Robert's name and are being held for his expenses. The support organization has a program of matching grants and the contribution for Rob's benefit merited a significant additional amount. Our thanks to all who made this possible.

More recently, a benefit and raffle for Rob was held in Torrington during the weekly Thursday night street market. S&S Sweet Treats donated 20 percent of their sales that evening and provided space for the raffle that raised funds that were forwarded to Help HOPE Live. The ice cream shop on Main Street was staffed by enthusiastic friends of Rob and Jeannette. Raffle prizes were contributed by friends, family, and Torrington businesses. Also present were two Connecticut representatives who will advocate for Rob through the Social Security and Medicaid bureaucracies.

While we continue to wait eagerly for the phone call summoning Rob (and Warren, his proxy) to Columbia-Presbyterian in New York for his transplant, we are saddened to learn that the hospital is behind in its "quota" of lung transplants this year due to a lack of organ donors. Please consider this.

Be looking for news of more fund-raising events. There will be a pancake breakfast at Old Forge Firehouse in Colebrook on October 6, and perhaps at "Cut-a-Thon" at the Hair Doctor in Torrington. Thanks so much for your continued concern and support. 

Sandisfield Historical Society




By Josephine Freedman

On September 14, Ron Bernard presented a talk on the history of Sandisfield's Meeting Houses to a well-attended audience. The organization thanks Ron for his continued support of the Society and for a very appropriate and lively presentation.

Fall will soon be here, which means that in a few weeks the Society will hold its "Apple Fest" fair. The event will take place Saturday, October 5, from 10 until 2. We will have apples, pumpkins, and cranberries for sale as well as homemade baked goods and lunch.


We hope to see you at the Meeting House on Rt. 183. While there, check out the newly installed historic marker for South Sandisfield.

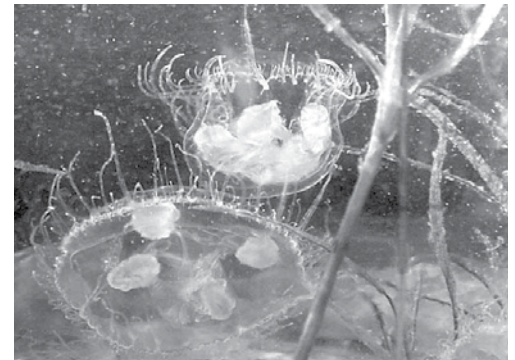
Our Annual Wine and Cheese Party event will take place on Sunday, November 3, from 2 to 4 p.m. Like the Apple Fest Fair, it will be held at the South Sandisfield Meeting House. This will be an opportunity to meet your neighbors as well as visit our interesting historical building. Everyone is welcome to come to this free event. Take the time to stop in and show your support. We hope to see you at both the Apple Fest and the Wine and Cheese Party.

Any questions, call Jo Freedman at 258-4786. 

Another Kind of Local Wildlife

Fresh-water jellyfish live in West Lake.

This was news to Sandisfield's Animal Inspector Kim Spring who was kayaking on the lake in September and surprised to see these odd creatures in the water. She scooped a few into a quart jar. An attempt to photograph them didn't work, so Kim returned them to their habitat. "I hate to kill anything, even a jellyfish," she said. The photograph below is borrowed from an internet search for "freshwater jellyfish Massachusetts." It turns out they're common in lakes all over New England. 



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TOWN BUSINESS

Selectmen's Meetings

Selectmen's Meeting agendas and minutes are available at the Town website: www.sandisfield.info. Go to Meetings, then to Board of Selectmen.

August 12, 2013

Present: Jeffrey Gray, Rosario Messina, Steve Harasyko, Road Superintendent, Dolores Harasyko, Administrative Assistant. Absent: Patrick Barrett

Steve presented Highway Department updates. Reviewed and discussed Chapter 90 projects and reimbursement requests. We did an in-house audit on Chapter 90 with the DOR and are able to close some projects and return left-over funding back into the Chapter 90 account. Discussed the West Street culvert replacement. Steve explained that the cost may be higher due to the recommendation by the police chief to not close the road. This will extend the duration of the project by a day or two.

Steve reviewed work the department is doing, roadside mowing continues, weed-whacking along guardrails continues. They spend at least one day a week on beaver problems. Steve is working with Susie Crofut on a beaver dam breach on her property caused by heavy rain. The Highway Department kept the culvert clear so that the water traveled under New Hartford Road instead of over it. Steve is looking into another grant for a Beaver Deceiver flow device for Ms. Crofut's property which allows the beavers to cohabitate and control damage done by the dams.

Steve presented weekly progress reports. He will continue to present the reports in the format he has been using. The new truck has been advertised and bid opening will be mid-September. Discussed culvert replacements. Discussed Tannery Road. Steve has been in contact with the crew working on the Routes 8 and 57 bridge. He will work on Tannery Road once the bridge project has been completed. Discussed the rails on the bridge near the Silverbrook Store. The bridge is on the state's list for repairs. We will replace the rails with wooden rails for now.

Mr. Hamilton contacted Rosario regarding the intersection at River Rd. and Rt. 57. Steve will make sure this is cleaned up.

Discussed the road superintendent's daily duties. Steve explained the enormous amount of computer and paperwork required to use Chapter 90 funds. He reviewed the large amount of Chapter 90 projects we just audited that the selectmen reviewed and signed tonight. Discussed the fall schedule of work which will include fall grading and continued roadside mowing.

Chandru and Kim Paspuletti in to review that they are in the process of negotiating the purchase of land on Route 8 to build a convenience store with a gas station, full package store and ice cream parlor. They presented pictures of the proposed store, a log home-style building. They intend to have low lighting and the gas and diesel pumps located behind the store. They would like to eventually have events there such as farmer's markets and craft fairs. They will be open consistently 7 days a week. We reviewed the Special Permitting process. They have the special permit packet and building permit packet. Once they own the property they will return to the Selectmen to start the process.

Gary Pease in to report that the new transfer station operator was seen removing metal from the metal bin. We will follow up with the Master Garbologist as the town receives credit for metal. Treasurer Teresa DellaGiustina in to review the meeting she had with the DOR.

Discussed the Free Cash account. Discussed delinquent taxes.

August 26, 2013

Present: Patrick Barrett, Jeffrey Gray, Rosario Messina, Steve Harasyko, Road Superintendent, Dolores Harasyko, Administrative Assistant

Steve presented Chapter 90 reimbursement requests. Reviewed and signed. Steve presented Highway Department updates. The crews are currently replacing six culverts, doing fall grading, roadside mowing. Steve is working on bids for winter sand and plowing. Will use the state bid for winter road salt. Discussed crack sealing and chip sealing.

Steve presented Chapter 90 paperwork for the last mile of North Beech Plain Road. Kathy Jacobs asked about New Hartford Road (Chapter 90 allotment). There is not enough time to bid the job out for this fall. Steve did not want to start the job until he was sure of the state funding. Paperwork reviewed and signed.

Rhee Kasky in to discuss Silverbrook Road. Discussed the runoff that goes into her driveway. She has been discussing this with Steve. Steve has to review with the Conservation Commission since with no current culvert to replace it may be a conservation issue.

Edna and Teresa sent in a request to discuss the fee she is allowed to charge for return check fees. The banks have increased the fees for returned checks and they are requesting the Selectmen raise the amount to at least match what the banks charge, otherwise we are actually losing money. Motion by Jeff, second by Rosario, passed unanimously to increase the fees for all departments for returned check fees to up to \$40.00, but not for more than the bank charges.

Kathy Jacobs in to present contracts for Bryarly Consulting and Steven Holding. Both companies have separate jobs for the Long-Range Planning Committee. Bryarly is the project manager. These consultants will help to compile all repairs, budgets and future needs. Contracts reviewed and signed.

Discussed the interview process for the part-time town administrator. Members from the town management

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committee should be present. Discussed the bill for the advertising for this job. We will pay for it out of General Government and may need to request a reserve fund transfer later in the year.

Reviewed the Clark Road Bridge progress. Discussed plans for the transfer station lighting and outhouse.

Recorded in the minutes a Disclosure by Special Municipal Employee. Rosario Messina filed with the Town Clerk a disclosure stating that he is a paid selectmen and a paid part-time police officer for the town.

Discussed a request from the Planning Board and Board of Health for a small tabletop refrigerator for the Old Town Hall. Approved by all. Dolores will order one.

September 9, 2013

Present: Patrick Barrett, Jeffrey Gray, Rosario Messina, Steve Harasyko, Road Superintendent, Dolores Harasyko, Administrative Assistant

Dolores presented on behalf of Mary Slater a beautiful tapestry Mary created for the Town. It is all hand-made and will be hung in the Selectmen's office. Dolores will check into having it framed behind glass to preserve it. The Selectmen thank Mary for her very generous and personal gift to the town which will be enjoyed for many generations.

Selectman Rosario Messina opened the only bid we received for the one-ton Pickup Truck. It was from Jim's Garage/Brewers Brothers for \$37,767 before trade-in. Steve will review the bid to make sure it meets specifications and make a recommendation to the board.

Steve provided Highway Department updates. He has ordered signs with the new transfer station hours of operation and will install them


as soon as they come in. Pothole patching continues. Fall grading continues. Followed up on the new culvert on Silverbrook Road. Since it is not redirecting any flow of water there is no conservation issue.

Rosario commended the Highway Department for their work on the intersection by South Beech Plain Road. Gas readings are now coming in correctly with all departments now using correct ID numbers. Discussed trees blocking the site line when pulling onto Route 57 at 188 Sandisfield Rd. Steve will contact the homeowner. Steve has ordered boards for the guardrails for the bridge near the Silverbrook. Discussed washout on Dodd Rd. After the heavy rain the storm drain needs to be opened. They are grading in that area and will take care of it. Discussed culverts and a blind spot on Cronk Rd. Discussed the bridge by the Library. Steve has added three additional arrow signs and is adding reflector strips to the signposts.

Discussed the transfer station. Richard Campetti is coming to the next Selectmen's Meeting to discuss improvement ideas.

Motion by Patrick, second by Rosario, passed unanimously to appoint John Kuzmech to the Historical Commission.

Reviewed applications for the part-time town administrator position. Ralph Morrison, John Skrip, and Mark Newman would like to participate in the interview process along with the Selectmen. All agreed. They will meet next Monday at 6:00 to review the applications and come up with an interview process.

It has come to the attention of the Selectmen that there is a house on New Hartford Road that has installed solar panels without the proper permits. Rosario will ask the building inspector to follow up. 

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Bill Stillinger, James Argiro, Gregory Caputo and Stacey Grimaldi.
Collaborating with readers Ben Luxon and Anni Crofut



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OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Times reporter **Larry Dwyer** suffered what he termed a "mild" heart attack last month. His personal report about his experience will be in the paper next month.



A new book by **Simon Winchester**, *The Men Who United the States: America's Explorers, Inventors, Eccentrics and Mavericks, and the Creation of One Nation, Indivisible*, will be published October 15. In his first book about America, Simon has written a popular history detailing how the U.S., a mishmash of people of all backgrounds, became a united country.



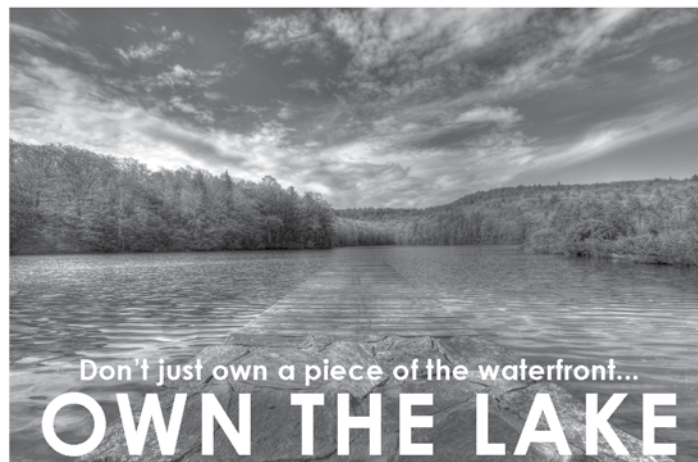
EMS/FIRE DEPT BLOTTER

TYPE OF CALL	JULY	AUGUST
EMS CALLS		
EMS MEDICAL	12	8
MOTOR VEHICLE	1	1
FIRE DEPT CALLS		
ASSIST INVALID	1	
ASSIST PERSON		1
BRUSH FIRE	1	
CARBON MONOXIDE	1	
DISPATCHED & CANCELLED EN ROUTE		1
GAS LEAK		1
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT	1	1
POWER LINE DOWN		1
SMOKE ALARM	1	

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FIBER OPTIC??

To respond to Jean Atwater-Williams' update on our march toward decent broadband, the estimated price of \$115 per month would be a deal killer for many if not most. Checking at least one Fios (Verizon's fiber optic) rate schedule (Bergen County, NJ), \$115 buys broadband at 20Mb download (5 Mb upload), TV services, and telephone for the home. To expect to pay \$115 for 5Mb download when we now pay \$40 for 3Mb DSL is not something that I would expect to generate a lot of interest.

Perhaps a way to approach the "last mile" is to get the legislature to mandate that cable and phone providers cover the entire state (like they do in Connecticut) and not just the lucrative markets like Boston, Framingham, and Rt 128.

Peter Levine, New Boston

Jean Atwater-Williams replies: The \$115 per month connection price is for CAI's (Community Anchor Institutions, such as town halls, libraries) and not for homeowners. It is for a dedicated active Ethernet connection. Last-mile connections to homes and businesses is expected to use slightly different technology and be much more competitively priced.

YET ANOTHER TAX STORY

Barbara Newsom's great memoir on "Setting Tax Rates, 1960s Style" reminds me of an anecdote from that bygone era. When Cecil Mahood owned a house on the Montville-to-Beech Plain Road, Sandisfield was being electrified after World War II. The first round of installations of electric poles had been done, and one final offer was made by the utility to run poles and wires to those who wanted electricity. Henceforward, installing power would be at the owner's expense.

Mr. Mahood was anxious not to miss out. But he feared that electrifying his house would result in a reassessment and a higher tax bill that he could not afford. So, with trepidation, he approached Bill Rowley, the senior tax assessor described in Ms. Newsome's memoir. It just so happened that Bill also wanted to electrify his house. When asked by Mahood what the tax effect might be, Rowley simply replied, "Electricity ain't no sin." Matter settled.

Jack Grumbach, Sage Road

NEWSPAPERS AT CONNIE'S COUNTRY STORE

The Silverbrook Country Store is open 7 days a week and I have requested that the Berkshire Eagle and The New York Times get dropped at my store daily and weekly.

Despite my due diligence, delivery of The New York Times has been anything but "regular." Pittsfield News where I get the newspapers has also taken over the Berkshire Eagle route. I have spoken with "Andy" and "Tara" on a daily basis at Eagle for my daily drop and on Thursday I was told (quote) "A few stores dropped between the cracks on the switch over to the Pittsfield News but we will correct it this week..."

I have spoken with "Terri" every week at Pittsfield News who also assures me that I will have the Saturday and Sunday NY Times dropped every week and Berkshire Eagle on a daily basis.

I apologize for any inconvenience to my customers, as I take great pride in customer service and will continue to be pro-active on this newspaper issue, which I hope to get resolved by print of the next Sandisfield Times.

Thank you all for your continuing support at Silverbrook Café & Country Store.

Connie D'Andrea,
Silverbrook Café & Country Store

Connie reports that at press time the Eagle has begun delivering the Berkshire paper rather than using Pittsfield News, and because of delivery difficulties with The New York Times, she regrets that she is no longer able to carry the Times.

JUST SAYIN'

Silverbrook Café & Country Store opened in June this year and is – "A Café & Country Store." I have successfully opened the Country Store to local vendors, crafters, antiques and special orders weekly for local town folk. Lottery, KENO, cigarettes, groceries and much more.

So far, Silverbrook Country Store has been a great success and I don't feel another store would necessarily "draw more people."

I support and will continue to support all local businesses, as the saying goes: "There were 7 bars/restaurants and 400 residents – now there is 4 bars/restaurants and 700 residents."

I am sure some Sandisfield residents want a gas station and/or mini mart as you enter our little town of Sandisfield ... but a Country Store? We already have one right here on Route 57 – Silverbrook Café & Country Store.

Connie D'Andrea
Silverbrook Café & Country Store

Calling All Cat Lovers

By Kim Spring, Sandisfield Animal Inspector

The Animal Control Department has been overrun with kittens. Well, three, but that's a lot for us.

Normally my department turns away surrenders of cats and kittens because of our very small budget, we have nowhere to house cats, and they are hard to place. I refer callers to the Pittsfield Humane Society, but the answer there now is that they have 110 cats waiting for homes and few applications for adoption.

So ... I did take in three tiny black kittens and two adult cats. The kittens are five weeks old and eating solid food. The adults are a brother and sister, both spayed and neutered house cats. I'm looking for a permanent or foster home for all of these characters, and they can stay together or go separately.

I'd like to remind residents to spay and neuter their cats. These three kittens came from an unfortunate situation where a resident allowed many strays onto the property and they multiplied into what I call a cat "explosion."

If you are interested in adopting or fostering one or maybe all of these animals, call me at 258-4450. 🐾



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Comings and Goings

GABRIELA LUCIA ONGARO

BORN SEPTEMBER 27, 2013

TO COURTNEY MAUM AND DIEGO ONGARO



Gabriela was born to Sandisfield residents, Courtney Maum and Diego Ongaro, at 7:24 a.m. in the morning of Friday, September 27. Her birth, at Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington, happened to occur on the eve of the hospital's centennial celebration (which meant that the couple and their 7 pound, 12 ounce girl were treated to a fireworks display and steak dinner on Saturday night).

French transplants and Sandisfield residents since 2007, Diego is a filmmaker and Courtney is a fiction writer whose debut novel, "I Am Having So Much Fun Here Without You," is forthcoming from Simon & Schuster in June 2014.



NOW HEAR THIS!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro.

Please send notices for Now Hear This! to calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org.

OCTOBER EVENTS

Apple Fest Fair on Saturday, October 5 from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the South Sandisfield Meeting House, Route 183. Vendors, tag sale, baked goods, lunch, and raffle.

Artist Opening in the Gallery at the Sandisfield Arts Center on Saturday, October 5 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Berkshire painter Joe Baker displays his landscape works in oil and pastel.

Jazz with Poetry/Poetry with Jazz on Saturday, October 5 at 8:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. The Sir William Trio collaborates with readers Ben Luxon and Anni Crofut in a lively performance. (\$20)

Sandisfield Cultural Council Grant applications should be postmarked on or before October 15. Applications are available online at www.mass-culture.org/sandisfield. The purpose of Massachusetts local and regional cultural councils is to support public programs that promote access, education, diversity, and excellence in the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in communities across the commonwealth.

Annual Harvest Dinner at the Sandisfield Arts Center on Saturday, October 19 at 7 p.m. A three-course meal with wines, prepared by a Guest Chef showcasing foods from farms we love, with a small auction of goods and services. hosted by acclaimed comedian Alison Larkin. Tickets only at www.sandisfieldartscenter.org.

Turkey Dinner on Saturday, October 26 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Firehouse #2. (\$10) (Under 12 is \$4). Turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, squash, cranberry sauce, mixed vegetables, and pumpkin or apple pie. Proceeds benefit the New Boston Congregational Church.

OCTOBER EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

Monterey Oktoberfest will be held Saturday, October 12, from noon to 5:00 p.m. on the grounds of the future Monterey Community Center, Route 23 and the corner of New Marlborough Road. This event is being held to benefit the Monterey Community Center as well as a chance to meet neighbors, enjoy delicious food, hear wonderful music, and have a great time. For more information, visit www.ccmonterey.org

Flu Clinic, Otis Council on Aging, October 16, 2 to 4 p.m., Otis Town Hall. No appointment necessary. Bring insurance cards.

The Berkshire Conservation District is holding its **first holiday bulb fundraiser**, including amaryllis and paperwhite bulbs for indoor forcing and other gift items such as nature guides and note cards, to support conservation scholarships and district programming. Orders will be accepted by mail or phone (call Aimee Annichiarico at 413-443-1776, ext. 102) until October 15. Pick-up is November 7 and 8 in Pittsfield and North Adams.

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.

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: Third Wednesday, 7-8:30 p.m., Town Hall Annex.



The Sandisfield Moose

A moose, captured on Bethany Pierce's Iphone, visited Gertrud Michelson's yard at 102 Sandisfield Road in mid-September. It may have been the same moose that's been seen around town for several years, but we'd like to think more than one moose lives in these woods.

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THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



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Donations of all sizes are needed to ensure the continuation of this newspaper. Please send checks to: *The Sandisfield Times*, P.O. Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255. For more information visit our website www.sandisfieldtimes.org.

Copies of *The Sandisfield Times* are available in Sandisfield at A&M Auto, the 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 Roadside Café and the Monterey General Store in Monterey and the Southfield Store in New Marlborough.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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

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