

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

Tribunus



Plebis

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Volume V, Number 7

October 2014

Markey, Warren, and FERC to Kinder Morgan: Not So Fast!

NOTE: See also "Out on a Limb" column, page 5, a letter to the Sandisfield Board of Selectmen from S.T.O.P., Sandisfield Taxpayers Opposing the Pipeline. A public meeting with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) will be held October 29, Wednesday, 7 p.m., at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Seating capacity is limited, so arrive in good time.

By Hilde Weisert

Last month the Times spotlighted Kinder Morgan's audacious attempt to bypass the Massachusetts environmental review process and ignoring Article 97 constitutional protections for Spectacle Pond with its July 31 application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for "fast track" status (see "Divide and Conquer: Pipeline Company Attempting to Circumvent State and MEPA Regulations").


The application document, an astounding 2,168 pages, is full of detailed maps and technical data and text. FERC required comments to be submitted by September 4 meaning that most stakeholders, many not technically trained, had but a few weeks or in some cases only days to study the document and respond. Nevertheless, FERC received an extraordinary number of comments from the public giving reasons why the application should not be approved and should certainly not be fast-tracked. At the same time opponents and critics

Cont'd on p.2

Late Breaking News Silverbrook Store to Close

The Silverbrook Café & Country Store has closed. The tavern portion is scheduled to reopen October 14, after renovations are completed.

The store began operation in June 2013. Opening in the existing Silverbrook Café, Connie D'Andrea's effort to fill Sandisfield's basic grocery needs was the first effort to replace the New Boston Store after its destruction in 2012.

She writes: "Connie from Silverbrook Café has decided to move on. She wants to thank all her loyal customers and friends for supporting her store." 

New Nursing Facility to be Proposed

By Bill Price

A formal proposal is expected to be made in October for the construction of a second skilled nursing facility in Sandisfield. The firm making the proposal is the owner of the Berkshire Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center, located across Rt. 57 from the New Boston Inn.

The preliminary plan is to offer short-term rehabilitation, with a section set aside for long-term care. The plan was informally presented at the September 15 Select Board meeting by Frank DeMarinis, president of Sage

Cont'd on p.2



*The Hawley Farm and fields and a lowering October sky.
Cold Spring Road.*

Photo: Geoffrey Coelho


Mowing

Author unknown

It is five o'clock. The morning is clear and fresh. A thin, blue film of mist hovers over the circuit of the Housatonic along the mountain belt. A hundred birds – yes, five hundred – are singing as birds never sing except in the morning.

In our house the girls are astir, and the mystery of breakfast is developing. The little dog is so glad, after the lonesome night, to see you, that he surfeits you with frolic. The men are in the barn, feeding the horses, and getting everything ready for work.

Will it rain to-day? The heavens overhead look like it, but the barometer says No. Then a few rounds with the scythe before breakfast, just by way of getting the path open. There they go, a pretty pair of mowers! The blinking dewdrops on the grass tops wink at them and pitch headlong under the stroke of the swinging scythe. How low and musical is the sound of a scythe in its passage through a thick pile of grass! It has a crunching, mellow, murmuring sound, right pleasant to hear.

The grass, rolled over in a swath to the left, green and wet, lies like a loosely corded cable, vast and half twined. Around the piece, step by step, go the men, and the work is fairly laid out and begun. 

From Picturesque Berkshire, Charles Warner, editor, published in Northampton, 1893. Courtesy of Hank Wingate from his Otis and Sandisfield Scrapbook of local clippings and Xeroxing stuff. The Scrapbook is temporarily available for viewing at the Sandisfield Public Library. Ask Librarian Laurie Foulke-Green if you'd like to see it.

TRUCK DRIVER POSITION TOWN OF SANDISFIELD HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Town of Sandisfield is accepting applications for the position of Truck Driver. The applicant must be able to lift a minimum of 50 pounds, have construction and mechanical knowledge. The applicant must be willing to do labor work, drive truck and plow snow. Must be able to follow written and verbal instructions and have knowledge of various types of construction equipment. A CDL Class B license and Hydraulic Class 2A license is required. Must be willing to obtain a 4G Mowing License within 90 days of hire date. Please submit resume and 3 references to the Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Rd., P. O. Box 90, Sandisfield, MA 01255 or by email to sandisfieldtownadm@verizon.net. Phone 413-258-4711. Review of resumes will begin October 9, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. and continue until position is filled. 🍷

Board of Selectmen
Patrick Barrett
Rosario Messina
Jeffrey Gray

Results of Primary Election in Sandisfield

The local results of the September 2 statewide primary were tallied as soon as the voting was closed.

Both the Democrat and Republican primary candidates for U.S. Senate ran unopposed. Edward Markey received 53 votes. The Republican candidate, Brian J. Herr, 15.

Democrat primary: In the governor's race, Martha Coakley received 24 votes, Donald Berwick 23, and Steven Grossman 17. For attorney general, Maura Healey 52 and Warren Tolman 10. Running unopposed, State Senator Ben Downing received 56 votes and Representative Smitty Pignatelli 55.

Republican primary: For governor, Mark Fisher won with 9 votes to Charles Baker's 6. All other Republican candidates ran unopposed.

PIPELINE: NOT SO FAST!

Cont'd from p.1

called and wrote to US Senators Markey and Warren and to influential US Representatives seeking congressional intervention.

All of this concerted, well-informed, and dogged citizen action plus support from Rep. Pignatelli and Sen. Downing has had an effect. On September 17, FERC sent a letter to Tennessee Gas citing the more than 180 letters "filed by stakeholders expressing concern about potential Project impacts." FERC instructed the company to "(provide) a third party contractor to assist Commission staff during the public scoping process for the Project and in preparing the National Environmental Policy Act documentation." In other words, the agency rapped the company for its disregard of the process and of public opinion.

On the next day, September 18, our representatives in Washington – Senators Markey and Warren and Representatives Neal and McGovern – sent a joint letter to FERC which says in part, "We are writing to support, in the strongest way possible, the Commonwealth's request for a full environmental review that thoroughly addresses the EEA's concerns."

This is solid and gratifying support. Probably this company is not used to such challenges.

The approval process is entering the final and most critical stage. Citizens groups are petitioning officials to initiate legal challenges, especially to validate Article 97 which is meant to protect conservation land.

FERC has advised the Town that it plans to host a public hearing, as required by law, on October 29, 7:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. FERC is the final authority in this matter and they should hear and respect Sandisfield's concerns, especially from Town Hall. This meeting is perhaps the last and best chance for residents and taxpayers and town officials to voice concerns and influence the outcome. Don't miss it. 🍷

NURSING FACILITY

Cont'd from p.2

Engineering & Contracting of Westfield. Since the plan had not been listed on the meeting agenda, the Board could take no action but could discuss the proposal without commitment.

The builder of the new facility would be Athena Health Care System, a large manager of skilled nursing facilities. Based in Connecticut, Athena operates nursing facilities and homes in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. 🍷

October 29 for Meeting with FERC

The meeting proposed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to hear local residents' concerns and for FERC to review environmental and approval processes for the Tennessee Gas Pipeline expansion, will be held Wednesday, October 29, 7 p.m., at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Seating capacity is limited, so arrive in good time. Parking is limited. Please car pool if possible. 🍷



Special Letter to the Editor A SECOND CHANCE

Sometimes there just aren't enough words to express the wonder one feels after a certain experience. There are occasions when there isn't enough space on a page to describe a situation. This is one of those times.

On September 1, 2014, our son Rob Blass received a second chance at a healthy life in the form of a 20-year-old set of lungs.

To say it was a miracle is a misnomer, as we use that word too loosely – "It's a miracle I got to work on time," "It's a miracle that peach tree survived the winter." Rob's transplant was a perfectly planned and coordinated exercise in technology and science mixed with limitless skill, education, energy, and compassion. The care he received at New York Presbyterian Hospital was expert, flawlessly meeting the needs of each of us with kindness and respect. Our gratitude and compassion is extended to the anonymous donor and family.

The encouragement of our friends, neighbors, and family, the thousands of good wishes in the form of "positive vibes," prayers, Facebook chatter, and Reiki all contributed to Rob's recovery from this colossal surgery. All of these things, including Rob's own courage and determination and the support of his life partner, Netti, made this extraordinary event occur. Fortunately, the same odd mix of genes that gave him cystic fibrosis gave him an incredible drive to survive.

I know there are a lot of superlatives here, but it's been a superlative month for our family!

Warren and Karlene Blass
Beech Plain Road

GIFT FROM THE EDITOR



Summer 2014, Clam River Reservoir, Hammertown Road
Bill Price, West New Boston

Town Buildings and Master Plan Moving Ahead

By Times Reporters


At its September 25 meeting, the Strategic Planning Committee reviewed progress on drawing up a master plan for the town, but mostly the meeting provided an opportunity for members to hear Bob Gery, who served as chair of the committee that recently built the Public Safety Complex in Tolland, explain how that complex was completed and to review preliminary plans for the replacement of Sandisfield's town offices.

Mr. Gery told of a daunting 3-year process. The committee held over 50 meetings,

2-3½ hours per meeting at a time. The cost of the project was \$1.9 million. Since the town knew taxes would rise to pay for the building, the committee accepted a 40-year mortgage, which increased the interest over time, but kept the current tax basis lower.

Town approval required constant communication with residents, with minutes posted soon after each meeting. Residents designed the building initially, and a local individual with an engineering background drew the original floor plans. It was important, Mr. Gery said, for residents to step up and take part in the process.

Regarding Sandisfield's plans for replacing town offices, the Strategic Planning Committee has an idea of the space required and committee member Gordon Chapman has drawn up a preliminary draft of a floor plan, subject to revision.

A working group of committee members and town residents will meet October 9 at Firehouse #2, 7 p.m., to review an updated version of the floor plan. The next regular meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee will be October 15, Firehouse #2, 7 p.m., and is open to all residents. 

New Post Office Hours

Window: Mon-Fri: 9 a.m.-noon & 1-4 p.m. / Sat: 8-11:30 a.m.

Delivery boxes in vestibule accessible 24 hours a day; boxes in lobby during window hours only.

Happy's Special Permit Approved

By Bill Price

It was almost cut and dried. After a contentious August Select Board meeting, the follow-up hearing on September 15 seemed almost accommodating.

Held at Old Town Hall to better hold the fifty or so attending residents, the second Board Meeting was to finally approve or disapprove a special permit for Happy Banga (Akaal Properties) to build and operate a gas station/convenience store on Rt. 57 south of New Boston. The site, across the highway from MJ Tuckers Restaurant, is also across from the site of a gas station/country store proposed by Chandru and Kim Paspuletti.

The permit was approved. With the town having few zoning restrictions and none that apply to this situation, the Selectmen had little choice except to impose certain restrictions. A denial may have resulted in a law suit that could have gone badly for the town.

Residents brought up several issues, including night lighting, landscaping, and the permit process if the property is sold. The question was raised if a performance bond could help guarantee the project's completion. Town Attorney Joel Bard said he was not familiar with a requirement that a private developer complete a project. "If the builder abandons it," he said, "it is his property to do so."

Another resident questioned whether sufficient traffic existed to support a station of this type. He added that a state-installed traffic counter, in place since 1994, reports that the average number of cars passing the site is 2,500 a day, which may not be the capacity desired by major fuel outlets. The reply from the Board was that it cannot reject a plan because it does not meet business criteria, that it has no jurisdiction over a bad business plan.

Ultimately, Board Chairman Patrick Barrett said, "Let's wrap this up. We have a proposal in front of us."

Certain conditions were placed on the permit in order to protect the north and south abutters. Hours were limited to 5 a.m. to midnight with lights off overnight except for security, with gas/diesel deliveries permitted between midnight and 5 a.m. on an exceptional basis. The permit was made personal to the applicant; it can be transferred but a new owner would have to renew the permit. The plan is subject to Mass DOT approval.

At the end of the session, Patrick made the motion to grant the special permit, restricted to conditions outlined by the board. He added, "Personally, I would have preferred that Mr. Banga be present, and say I'm pleased to be coming to Sandisfield, and I want to serve all of the town's residents." Mr. Banga's representative explained that Mr. Banga had hoped to attend but had been kept at one of his stores because of an employee's absence.

Mr. Banga has not yet responded to requests from the Times for comment by phone or by email. 

Out on a Limb articles are opinion/editorials written by and for town residents about subjects important to Sandisfield. They do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Times. Send proposed articles to PO Box 584, Sandisfield, 01255, or email editor@sandisfieldtimes.org.



To Sandisfield Board of Selectmen

Thanks to grass roots efforts here and around the State and support by the Sandisfield Board of Selectmen with affirmation by the voters last May, there is high public awareness and concern about the proposed gas pipeline expansion. We are pleased to report that resultant publicity and citizen involvement has succeeded in moving relevant Massachusetts agencies and state and federal representatives to voice concern about the Tennessee Gas Company's attempts to ignore state regulations and findings and instead speed up and short-cut the approval process. Even the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has acknowledged their concern about this tactic, instructing the company to engage a third-party contractor to fulfill its obligations to the Massachusetts EPA.

The support is very gratifying and is perhaps the most we could expect at this point in the process. However, it will all be for naught if the fight is not waged seriously in the upcoming critical phase. The Town of Sandisfield needs to join this effort.

There are two very significant issues that have to be addressed in order to protect the residents of Sandisfield. (The important subject of environmental threats has been adequately addressed elsewhere).

Massachusetts Constitution Article 97. The intention of this law is to permanently protect conservation land such as at Spectacle Pond. The Town has formally objected to contravention of Article 97 because among other reasons it would undermine Sandisfield's good faith agreement to accept lower tax receipts on this land as a condition of land protection.

Kinder Morgan is determined and will be relentless in getting its way. In their application to FERC, the company takes legislative passage of its desired Article 97 waiver as a given. If such

waiver is not issued, we expect the company to invoke Federal Eminent Domain and to seize state conservation land. If successful this ploy would gut Article 97, setting a precedent that could affect conservation land throughout the state and even elsewhere in the nation and color public perception that conservation is unimportant here.

The Attorney General of this Commonwealth must vigorously defend Constitutional Article 97 before construction is allowed, even if that means a U.S. Supreme Court decision and a delay in the project. In this fight, protection of Sandisfield's precious Otis State Forest/Spectacle Pond could be a precedent-setting test case for the integrity of state environmental protection guarantees. If Article 97 is not successfully defended by Massachusetts, as aptly stated earlier this year in the Berkshire Eagle by Selectman Patrick Barrett, the law will become "a joke."

Problems of Safety and Security. Has the Town considered whether it has adequate resources and proper emergency training? Has the Town a standing, tested system for educating and preparing the public in case of an incident, either during construction or at any other time? Frankly, given the terrifying experience of the rupture in 1981, residents of the Beech Plain section are anxious for their safety. There is no more important responsibility for town government than to protect the well-being of its residents. At this time we do not feel protected.

Similarly, the very real and increasing threat of sabotage and terrorism to pipelines including this one is totally ignored by Kinder Morgan in its applications to government agencies. The respected industry trade publication, Pipeline & Gas Journal, has this year published a major article about the vulnerability of pipelines to sabotage. Just who is responsible for security? The company? The Town? The State? Landowners? No one seems to know yet the specter of mayhem haunts this community and is no way for people to live.

Sandisfield Taxpayers Opposing the Pipeline (S.T.O.P.) strongly urges the Board to:

Act immediately using all avenues including employing legal counsel if necessary and meeting with state representatives to ensure that the Massachusetts Attorney General takes this case to prevent pipeline expansion;

Provide guidance and a policy about who is responsible for security of this pipeline;

Provide adequate resources and proper training for emergency personnel; and

Establish a safety program to educate and prepare the public -- including emergency drills -- in case of an incident either during construction or at any subsequent point in time.

This is a crucial moment. Developments are moving fast. The company is very active in the regulatory process, has great resources and is determined to succeed. The Town needs to get involved right now and in a vigorous way if residents, our way of life and our future are to be protected.

Thank you for your consideration and we await your written response to the above concerns in the very near future. 🇺🇸

Roberta Myers, Liaison
Sandisfield Taxpayers Opposing the Pipeline
September 22, 2014



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Progress at the Pavilion


By Maria Domato, Commander,
American Legion Post 456

Now that the building has been stabilized, landscaping has begun.

C.W. Nelson started by removing the huge stumps left when we cut down the rotting pine trees. The front of the property will be landscaped and planted with shrubs. The old rusty gate will be replaced with a more pleasant design. The poorly placed sign will be centered and lowered a little so it can be seen from the road. More has been scheduled, but that is what can be seen from the road.

With hopes of donations from the community, work can be done on the exterior of the building. A step at a time is our motto. Inside, we still need electrical up-dating, new kitchen appliances, and bathrooms, among other things.

A few members have put in a lot of time and hard work, but there are some work that requires a professional. Can we count on you for support and donations? It is our hope to pass on a beautiful building and grounds for the veterans of the future as well as Sandisfield recreation activities.

To help, call Maria Domato at 413-258-4578 or write to Pavilion Building Fund, PO Box 88, Sandisfield MA 01255. 



Landscaping with a backhoe, Kevin Margraf at the controls.

Photo: Bill Price

Knox Trail in Sandisfield Connected, Finally!

HIKE "YE OLDE TRODDEN PATH" OCTOBER 18

By Ron Bernard


We are always learning something new about the old Knox Trail. Little more than a one-horse pathway through dense virgin-forest and rugged terrain, the old Indian trail dates back at least to the mid-1600s.

In the late colonial period its most important function was as a "war road." Then it was known variously as the Amherst Military Road, the Great Road, and the Boston-Albany Road. People who travelled the often steep, sometimes muddy, and always rocky road called it a lot of other things. These days we know it as the Knox Trail in honor of Colonel Henry Knox's teamsters who in January 1776 used it to transport captured British cannons from Fort Ticonderoga to support General Washington in Cambridge.

Approximately 30 miles of the original road ran through the Berkshires including about four miles across northern Sandisfield. Once also the address of several important early taverns, the Knox Trail is our town's most historically significant legacy.

For almost three decades Otis resident Tom Ragusa has researched the Great Road through the Berkshires. Using the 1764 "Austin Survey," Tom's objective is to re-trace the original route even though most of it has been obliterated by modern roads and development. The final and most elusive portion lies in Sandisfield. Fortunately it is in an expanse of undeveloped land and can be visited – if one knows where to look. Charting the western Sandisfield section has presented serious challenges for Tom because certain portions have all but disappeared. But now Tom reports he had finally identified the missing links, officially "connecting" the Sandisfield Knox Trail.

Tom, who is also Chairman of the Otis Historical Commission, will present his research and an enormous map following this month's Sandisfield Historical Commission's regular meeting. Venue: Sandisfield Library, Wednesday, October 15, 7:00 p.m. Tom presents at 8 p.m. Public invited.

Take a Hike With Tom. You can join Tom on Saturday, October 18 for the first-ever hike of western section over the heretofore missing links to Spectacle Pond and the site of the former Henry Spring tavern. Meet at 10 a.m. at the old access road on the west end of Cold Spring Road near the intersection of Route 23 in West Otis. The one-way course is at least two miles. There will be some bushwhacking, so boots and poles are advised. Please buddy-up if you need a ride back from the Pond to our starting point. As always, hike at your own risk. Rain or shine. For further information contact Tom at tomncin14323@aol.com. 

SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER

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Isabeth Hardy

"JOY"

OCT. 4 - DEC. 14

ARTIST RECEPTION: Sat., Oct. 4th, 2 - 4

New Book Honors “Legendary Locals” The Apple Crop, 2014

INCLUDING SEVEN FROM SANDISFIELD

By Ron Bernard



A resident of Great Barrington, Gary Leveille writes the *Then and Now* column in the *Berkshire Record*. He is the author of a number of local history books, including his recent best seller, *Old Route 7: Along the Berkshire Highway*.

A new local history details the lives of intriguing characters and accomplished citizens who have helped make the Southern Berkshires such an interesting place.

Legendary Locals of the Southern Berkshires shares the stories of unique individuals, past and present, who have had a lasting impact on their communities, the nation, and the world. Vintage images coupled with stories and anecdotes researched by local historian and author Gary Leveille provide a fascinating history of the area.

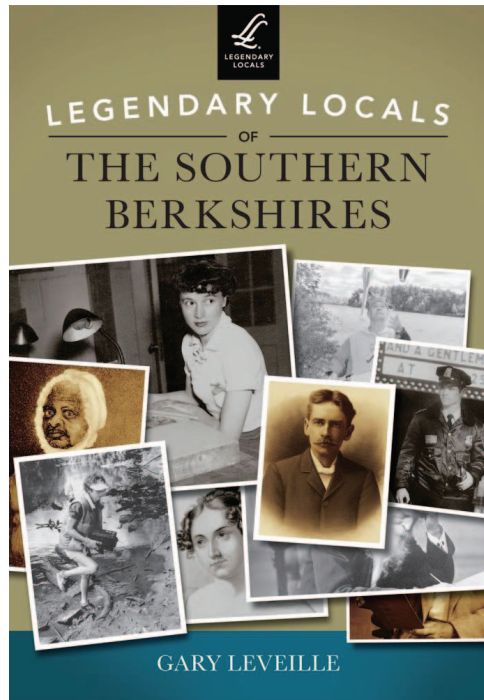
With hundreds of notable figures available for biographical profiles, Leveille faced a dilemma. “The project presented an embarrassment of riches for a writer,” he said. “The special synergy that exists here between people and place has inspired remarkable residents for centuries.”

The publisher’s 128-page limit forced him to select a careful blend of historical and contemporary personalities from a dozen south county towns. “The process was difficult, even painful,” he said. “There are enough fascinating stories left over to fill a whole other book.”

Locals features some 150 biographies organized in chapters such as “Entrepreneurs, Explorers, and Inventors” and “Artists, Activists, and Athletes.” Sandisfield profiles include Henry Huntington, Ben Luxon, Barnas Sears, Edmond

Sears, Sammy Spring, George Sokolsky, and Simon Winchester. Additional Sandisfield residents are referenced.

This book is keeper for any Berkshire home and well worth the \$21.99 sticker. Readers are bound to marvel, “Imagine that!” and “Who knew?”



Legendary Locals of the Southern Berkshires is available at the Bookloft in Great Barrington or directly from the author: Gary Leveille, 413-528-5490, or by email at garyleve@verizon.net

RIISKA BROOK IS OPEN, AND NEXT MONTH SOMETHING NEW

By Bill Price

Riiska Brook Orchards opened its 2014 season last month with Cortlands, Macs, and Gala apples. “Early October,” said Barbara Riiska, “the Empires, McCouns, and Spencers will be ready for picking.”

In November an “apple beer” should be ready for pouring. Riiska Brook has partnered with Big Elm Brewery in Sheffield to craft a half cider and half mild ale under the “Big Elm Brewery and Riiska Brook Orchards” label. Since it will contain only a small amount of hops and malts, the cider taste will come through.

For family apple picking, this year is not like last year, Barbara said. “This spring the blossoms were not anything like 2013, and the crop reflects that. Maybe the long, long, long cold winter. We never had a January thaw and that probably had something to do with it. We have an abundant crop, and we’re happy with what we have, but this isn’t a great year.”

In any event, the little red sale house will offer six varieties of apples, pumpkins of every size, maple syrup, squash, potatoes, and Riiska Brook’s unpasteurized, fresh-squeezed apple cider. And there are plenty of apples for picking.

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That Roaring You Hear

OWNERSHIP OF "RICHIE'S TOY" PASSES TO A NEW GENERATION

By Bill Price

The ownership of a winning drag racer that's been housed in a West New Boston garage for forty years has been passed to the next generation.

When logger Richard Hamilton found the '55 Chevy Bel Air in a field in 1974, he hauled it home to River Road, then Old River Road, and pushed it into his garage. Over a few years and a lot of work, he gutted the standard factory-installed interior and 5-speed engine and turned the car into a tube-chassis drag racer with an automatic transmission. He kept the original dash board and headliner.

When the car, first known as "Richie's Toy," was ready, Richard took it to the Lebanon Valley Dragway in New York and signed into the side-by-side drag races. The car, soon renamed "Streaker," brought Richie a small forest of trophies that now stand on a shelf in his garage. More than a dozen were for first place.

Time passed. Interests shifted. Richard didn't race the car as often. It waited, like a Stephen King creation, in his garage.

When Richie gave the ownership of the car to his son, Richard, Jr., who lives on the hill back of

Richie's place, "Streaker" hadn't been run in 14 years. But the engine turned over. Father and son looked at each other, and they both thought, "If it runs that well after waiting 14 years, imagine what it could do with a little freshening up." They began spending evenings and weekends rebuilding the motor, adjusting valves, tightening bolts, getting ready.

They tried it out on River Road. Richie said later, "Billy Riiska told me he could hear it in his orchard, way up the mountain."

This spring Richie, Jr., took the car back to the Lebanon Valley Dragway. The former "Richie's Toy" and "Steaker," now known as "the '55 from Hell," from a standing start, hit 126 mph in 10:46 seconds at a quarter mile. Richie, Jr., has brought home two trophies already. He's starting to fill a shelf of his own. 🏆

Richard Hamilton, Jr., left, shakes hands with his father Richard, Sr., over the hood of "the '55 from Hell."

Photo: Bill Price



Cultural Council

By John Skrip

APPEAL FOR NEW MEMBERS

The next meeting of the Sandisfield Cultural Council will be held on October 22, 2014. Location and time to be announced according to open meeting rules.

The council is looking for new members to serve in various positions. This group meets about three times a year and is of great benefit to the town. Please consider becoming a member of the Sandisfield Cultural Council. Speak to any council member about volunteering (Connie Canty, Clare English, Peter Levine, Anina Carr or John Skrip). You can call John at 413-258-4788 for more information. 🏆

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WINNERS OF THE PET PARADE:

Every animal was a winner at the September Pet Parade.

Smallest Pet:Nepeta (guinea pig)

Largest Pet: Maggie

Most Feathered (layered):.....Pheobe

Best Groomed:..... Bingo

Smartest Pet + Energy:Winston

Most Calm:Dusty

Bounciest: Hawkeye

Curliest Tail:Zeke

Best Costumed:.....Stella (as the devil)

Best Costumed Pet & Handler: Sumo and Madison



The animals were tall, short, curly haired, straight haired, and all well behaved. Sorcerer CJ May served as a judge and later performed a magicristry show downstairs at the Center.

Photos: Paul Slowatycki and Sandy Parisky

Letter to the Editor

NOT THE FIRST BABAR IN TOWN

It was interesting to read in the latest Sandisfield Times about the upcoming performance of "Babar and Ferdinand, Together."

Probably few in Sandisfield will remember that around 1972 there was another performance of Babar connected to Sandisfield. It was made when pianist and Beech Plain Road home owner Grant Johannesen brought his friend, actress Mildred Natwick, to Sandisfield for a weekend performance of "Babar, the Elephant," as a fundraiser for the Sandisfield Historical Society.

In hope of attracting a larger audience, the concert was held in the Monument Mountain High School auditorium. Because it wasn't very well promoted, the audience was unduly small, and the receipts were about the same. But the performance was stellar, and soon thereafter, in 1974, the two artists – Grant Johannesen and Mildred Natwick – recorded Babar for Golden Crest Records. Now something of a collector's item, it has undoubtedly raised a bit more money than did its Sandisfield-Great Barrington tryout.

Barbara Newsom
Osprey, Florida

WHAT'S LEFT TO LOVE

Ghosts at noon and whippoorwills,
Small town mothers and their vitamin pills.
Water colors, kittens, and sonnets,
Irish hearts and Easter bonnets.

Choruses that sing out loud
And mountaintops above the clouds.
Abraham Lincoln and a tree to climb,
Dinner with a fool and your final dime.

*Val Coleman
Town Hill Road*



By Laurie Foulke-Green, Librarian

Next Genealogy Class (last class for 2014) will be October 29, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. Genealogy classes will resume April 29, 2015.

For Genealogy requests please call the library 258-4966. Or come to the library and use Ancestry.com during our hours, Monday and Tuesday from 9-12:30 and Wednesday evenings until October 29. From November 1 until April 22, 2015, the library will be closed Wednesday evenings.

NEW BOOKS:

- Leaving Time/ Jodi Picoult
- French Pastry Murder/Leslie Meier
- Paris Match/Stuart Woods
- The Silent Sister/ Diane Chamberlain
- Deadline/John Sandford
- Gray Mountain/John Grisham
- Her Glass Heart/Mary Cantell

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 references available upon request

Jazz In Sandisfield 2014

By Sandy Parisky

An Evening of American Jazz on Oct. 4 at 8 pm: A protégé of alto saxophone great Jackie McLean, Kris Allen (saxophone) performs with Jen Allen (piano) and Henry Lugo (bass) presenting a lively program with unexpected arrangements -- standards, spanning from "Great American Songbook" works by Porter, Gershwin and Kern to modern pop masterpieces by Stevie Wonder, John Lennon, Tonhino Horta, The Bird and the Bee and others. Enjoy the trio's chemistry as they weave fresh stories from treasured themes. Kris, Jen and Henry have recently appeared in notable New York clubs including the 55 Bar, the Jazz Gallery, Fat Cat Lounge and the Shapeshifter Lab.

Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased online or at the door on the evening of the performance on a first come-first served basis. Online ticket purchases are recommended to ensure a seat. Visit www.sandisfieldartscenter.org for tickets and information.

Sandisfield Players to Present

A Christmas Carol

The Sandisfield Players, the group who brought "Our Town" and "Under Milkwood" to the Arts Center, will produce a fully staged and costumed performance of the Charles Dickens Christmas classic in December. Rehearsals begin mid-October. Performances will be December 12, 13, and 14. A family event at family prices.

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OCTOBER

OCTOBER 4 2 - 4 PM

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ISABETH HARDY

OCTOBER 4 8 PM

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OCTOBER 11 10 AM

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with Adam Manacher & Joe Harasyko
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FROM SIMON WINCHESTER, AT SEA, OFF RUSSIA

Home Thoughts From Away

The most distant place on the planet from Sandisfield – its antipode, technically – is about six hundred miles southwest of Perth, Australia. It is an unmarked spot in the sea, a lonely and wind-whipped dot in the Indian Ocean close to where most searchers think the Malaysian Airlines flight went down last March. It is about 12,000 miles away from home, no matter which way you go – across Africa, across the Pacific, over the Pole.

I'm writing this from a place which seems almost as remote: the Sea of Okhotsk, in the Russian Far East. I am here to work, to research a new book. And during my month away I have found

numberless tales to tell: this is a vast place of sea-lions and eagles, of whales and brown bears and storms, of war and prisons and literature and, in the wintertime, endless ice and dark.


But throughout, no matter the level of excitement and adventure, I miss our home. Missing things has in fact been a leitmotif of my wandering life – now seventy years long, as I marked the three-score-years-and-ten waypoint on the same end-of-September day as Brigitte Bardot, Confucius and Marcello Mastroianni (only one of whom survives).

And I like it being so. I cherish the exquisite pain of absence and remembrance. Robert Browning felt the same when he wrote *Home Thoughts from Abroad* two centuries ago while on a long sojourn in Italy: Oh to be in England! he declared, yearningly, and then wrote twenty lines, a paean to the seasons that seemed so much prettier and more gentle than those of the dusty Tuscan sun. The poem remains intensely popular in England, every line quotable by all.

And I feel the same about Sandisfield. Yes indeed, the eagles are magnificent here, the bears are brown not black, and bigger, and Russia is a

grand nation with a thousand years of endlessly fascinating history. But stay! I think fondly of the gathering fall back home, of the changing colors down all our dirt roads, of the sweet-acid smell of the changing leaves, the sharp moments of chill under clear star-gathering evening skies. I think of the soft outlines of our Berkshire hills and the ceaseless burble of our mountain streams.

And I think of such friends as I have made in my dozen years, and believe that few can compare, no matter how exotic and interesting the places they live, out in the antipodes of the world.

Russia is mighty. But I long to come back. You travel far, they say – but then you come back home, only to know yourself, to know where you live, and all the better, every time. 



Sandisfield Historical Society



By John Kuzmech

NEXT SPEAKER, HANK WINGATE OF OTIS

One of the purposes of this society “is to bring together those interested in history, especially in the history of Sandisfield, as understanding the history of our community is basic to our democratic way of life. It provides us a better understanding of our state and our nation and promotes a better appreciation of our American heritage.”

See adjoining photo with historian Jim Parrish. We are grateful for Jim's September presentation, which fit neatly within our mission.


Our next speaker, on October 11, will be the lively and spry Hank Wingate, curator of Otis town records and of the Otis Historical Museum. Our presentations are free and all are welcome to attend.

I have no idea what Hank will actually say, but am sure it will be entertaining. His topic is “Berkshires during wartime, from the French

and Indians to 1865.” He will bring some of the personal effects of Myron Nichols, including his Civil War canteen. Nichols survived horrible battles with the 49th Regiment, fighting alongside Sandisfielders to save our Union. Myron's unfortunate demise can only be relayed by Hank. Very likely, Hank will also mix personal recollections of family lore.

We are grateful to an Oregonian named Al Marshall whose ancestors include Luella Hall, Lucy Hall, and Michael Clark. Al donated a few items to the Society, including a detailed family tree and old photographs.

If anyone in our community has family relics they would be willing to donate or make photocopies of for safe keeping, please contact me at 258-4906. I'll copy worthy items at a Torrington Print Shop and bring the originals home to you. We've all heard nightmares of historic Sandisfield collections going up in flames in decades past. Let's preserve what we can and share our history.

Our next meeting is October 11 at 11 a.m. Our group voted to have the business meeting portion at 10:45 from now on, before the speaker. Our meetings are open to everyone; you don't have to be a member. After Hank speaks, please join us for a lively pot luck luncheon. Our pot lucks have been described by a fairly trustworthy resident as “the best in Sandisfield.” 



Our September Presentation

Berkshire historian Jim Parrish, right, with John Kuzmech, spoke on Massachusetts militia history. Here he shows John a militia 4 lb. company powder can from the colonial era. A ranger and museum technician for the National Park Service, Jim conducted the 1979 survey of historic Sandisfield homes while a consultant for Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. The survey is currently being updated. Ron Bernard said that without Jim's early work his own history, Sandisfield Then and Now, would have been much less comprehensive.

Photo: Ron Bernard

Pictures we liked this year.



(Above) July: Memorial Day parade passes the former New Boston Store. Tom Jacobs
(Right) September: John Kuzmech at Revolutionary War camp. Bill Price



June: a kit fox. George Wheeler



August: Ben Luxon at Under Milkwood curtain call. Bill Price



January/
February:
(Left)
Lucky, the lost
little pig who
made it back
home.
Brigitte
Ruthman



(Right)
Bikes, caught in
heavy snow.
Larry Dwyer



TOWN BUSINESS

Submitted by Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko

Edited by Mary Ann Grammer and Bill Price

Select Board minutes, August 11, 2014

Representative Ron Fortune of Consulting & Design of Lee presented the proposal from Happy Banga (Akaal Properties) for a special permit for construction and operation of a gas station/convenience store on Rt. 57. The ensuing discussion was reported in The Sandisfield Times in September. The discussion was to be continued at the Select Board meeting, September 15. Detailed minutes available at Town Hall or online at www.Sandisfield.info under Meetings.

Steve Harysko, Highway Superintendent, provided highway department updates of prep work continuing on New Hartford Road and the possibility of a Strap Grant for Tolland Road repaving.

Gary Bottums unanimously appointed as Sandisfield's representative to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

Responses to the Finance Committee's initiatives regarding school and DPW Status Reports for employees, oversight, and governance were discussed. The Times will report on the initiatives and the Board's responses in a separate article in November.

Cultural Council members unanimously appointed: Peter Levine, Anina Carr, Clare English, John Skrip, and Connie Canty Donaldson.

Rita Kasky requested appointment to the Strategic Planning Committee. An issue arose whether Rita's membership on the Finance Committee would create a kind of double quorum, since a majority of the Finance Committee is also on the Strategic Planning Committee. Rita will be asked to get a ruling from the Ethics Commission.

Patrick presented a written response to an article in The Sandisfield Times by Rita Kasky addressed to the Select Board. Patrick asked if he should submit the response from himself or on behalf of the entire board. Jeff and Rosario stated that the response should be from the entire board. The response was printed in the September Times.

Patrick asked about the status of repair to the Town Hall Annex's roof. Jeff said he would meet with the building inspector and draw up specs so that the job could be bid this year.

Select Board minutes, August 18, 2014

Dolores Harysko, Town Clerk, provided highway updates. Prep work continues on New Hartford Rd and mowing and street sweeping continues. Repairing potholes and highway cracking has been a priority because dedicated Chapter 90 funds must be used by September 30.

Kim Spring unanimously hired as secretary for the Board of Health and Andrew Snyder as secretary for the Planning Board.

One-day all-alcohol license for the American Legion was reviewed and signed for its annual Turkey Roll event.

Rita Kasky withdrew her request for appointment to the Strategic Planning Committee. Rather, she will attend meetings as a town resident.

Pipeline Discussion: Roberta Myers asked the Selectmen to take on the responsibility of Intervenor in regard to Kinder Morgan seeking of early approval by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Roberta spoke on the responsibilities of Intervenor, record-keeping, and deadlines. The Selectmen have received correspondence from Kinder Morgan regarding their early approval request. It was approved that the Selectmen apply for Intervenor Status. Patrick reviewed correspondence to date and asked permission to forward the town's concerns for guidance and ask the Federal Government for help. Permission granted.

Jeff provided an update on the Town Hall Annex roof. The roof was inspected by the Building Inspector, and the job may be more complicated than anticipated as there may be damage to the subroof. Jeff is working on the bid specs.

Jeff provided an update on Happy Banga's progress on gaining approval for establishing a gas station/convenience store. The State has raised questions that they are discussing with Mr. Banga. Jeff believed the State will most likely approve the plans once all their questions are answered.

Select Board Agenda, September 8, 2014. Minutes not yet available.

Agenda included:

- Review and vote on request for appointment to the Strategic Planning Committee from Gordon Chapman and Ann Wald.

- Vote to accept resignation from Lisa Leavenworth from the Recreation Committee

- Review and vote on request for appointment to the Recreation Committee from Bethany Perry and Teresa DellaGiustina

- Letter received from Moderator John Skrip informing the Selectmen that he has appointed Donna Newman to the Finance Committee

- Update on the pipeline issue

- Update on Happy Banga's gas station/store proposal

- Discuss cemetery regulations and forming a committee to look into creating regulations

Select Board Agenda, September 15, 2014. Minutes not yet available.


Agenda included

- Public hearing on special permit applications from Happy Banga (Akaal Properties) for a license to store gasoline and diesel fuel.

- Continuation of the public hearing on the Special Permit applications from Happy Banga (Akaal Properties) for construction and operation of a fuel station and convenience store with accessory drive through food service. This hearing is reported on page 3 of this issue of the Times.

- Review letter to legislatures and candidates regarding the FERC meeting regarding the pipeline issue.

Select Board Agenda, September 22, 2014.

No meeting was held. Instead, Selectmen attended Select Board meetings in neighboring towns in order to familiarize themselves with how other boards conduct business. 

SUGGESTIONS NEEDED!

The Town Suggestion Box needs your constructive ideas. 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

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BOOK REVIEW: *Being Esther*

THE UNBEARABLE LIGHTNESS OF AGE

By Val Coleman

Being Esther is a sonnet of old age, filled with both the lovely rhymes and hard stanzas that come with the last years. Miriam Karmel, of Sandisfield and Minneapolis, has effortlessly captured the diminuendo of a sweet woman's life – a woman who is instantly familiar, whose bravery shines through a plain, unvarnished life in suburban Chicago.

Most of the book is almost unbearably honest – especially to your 83-year-old reviewer who tags along as Esther copes with our common ailments like dying friends, a punctilious daughter trying to put her in some sort of retirement home or a “Bingoville” as Esther calls it – and the nicks and pains of an obsolete body.


But there is also adventure and comedy as Esther and her daughter visit “the desert” with a hilarious side trip to Mexico where a savvy Esther copes beautifully with the tourist hustlers and ends up posing on the back of long-suffering burro.

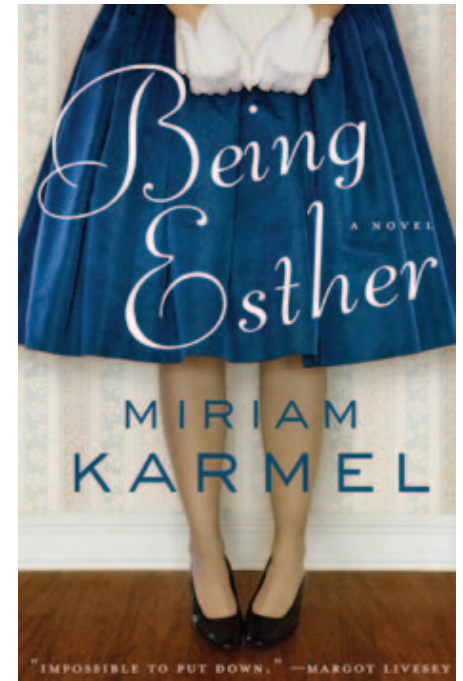
Esther has a loyal circle of friends and a fully endowed family that includes a dependable if uninspired husband Marty who she loves unreservedly and a clutch of “modern” children and grandchildren who

haven't any idea what a remarkable woman they have in their midst.

The magic of the book is in the details, all the little things make up the poetry, the pentameter of her life. Nothing is out of place, it all makes perfect sense.

Here's a moment that touched me as few things have before:

A light snow had started to fall as they buried Marty It snowed all afternoon, but the people who crowded into the house to pay their respects were too busy filling their plates to notice. Esther filled a plate too. Then she put on her coat and boots, and with Marty's astrakhan hat and gloves in one hand and the plate in the other, she headed outdoors. But before she reached the foot of the driveway, Ceely was calling to her and then Lenny was at her side, leading her back inside. She tried to resist, but he was persistent and strong. When she tried to explain that Marty needed something to eat, and she'd never sleep, not as long as she thought of her husband in the ground without his hat and gloves, Lenny tightened his hold on her. 'His hands used to get so cold.' Esther cried. 



Being Esther is available in paperback at The Bookloft in Great Barrington and the Sandisfield and Great Barrington libraries.

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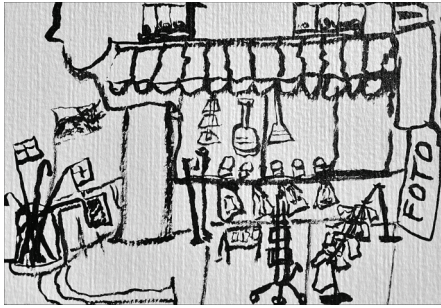
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Absentee Ballots

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK


The State Election is on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3 Silverbrook Road. The last day to register to vote for this election if you are not already registered is October 15, 2014.

Absentee ballots are usually available 3 weeks before the election. There are three reasons for requesting an absentee ballot: absence from town during normal polling hours, physical disability preventing you from going to the polling place, or religious belief. To obtain an absentee ballot you first need to fill out an absentee ballot application. You can do so by calling to have one mailed to you or stopping by the Town Hall. You can also make an appointment with the Town Clerk to vote absentee in person. Contact Dolores Harasyko, Town Clerk at 258-4711 or Teresa DelleGiustina, Asst. Town Clerk at 258-4712. 

Cemetery Update

After further discussion about the town's lack of cemetery regulations, an issue brought to the Select Board by Cemetery Commissioner Ben Campetti, Select Board Chairman Patrick Barrett suggested that a small group be formed to review the Sandisfield Center Cemetery to "look at where we are now, what we can do between now and winter."

He suggested the initial group include individuals with experience working in the cemetery, perhaps Ben and Richard Campetti and Steve Harasyko.

The Selectmen discussed forming a committee in the spring to look at cemetery regulations in town, compare regulations with neighboring towns, and report on what Sandisfield's needs are, what can and cannot be done, and take care of the cemeteries in the future. 

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A limited number of Sandisfield's 250th Birthday Celebration memorabilia is still available and PRICED TO SELL.

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By Elizur Yale Smith

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OCT 14



Summer's Last Swim

The Labor Day weekend was a great time for kids to swim at Jabs Beach, where about a dozen Connecticut families gathered for their annual camp-out. Jab's Beach, a private enclave off Roosterville Road, downriver from New Boston, was started by the Jabs family in the 1950s.

Photo: Bill Price



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A SANDISFIELD IRONY

I enjoyed Mary Richie's story "The Author Host" in the August Times. The mysterious "host" was Robert Rushmore, a long-time Sandisfield summer resident who wrote mainly about opera. He and his wife founded the Sandisfield Historical Society.

A particularly sad irony is that his home in Sandisfield, Sage House, a historic building if there ever was one, was destroyed by fire during our arson epidemic in the late '90s. In 1966, Rushmore published a novel titled *Who'll Burn the House Down?*

Margaret O'Clair
River Road

Thanks, Sandisfield

The Volunteer Fire Department sends their thanks and appreciation to everyone who attended the annual steak roast in August. It was a good night for a cookout. Thanks also to everyone who donated to the steak roast but couldn't be there that night.

Orchid Blossom
Healing Arts

Lauren Paul, Dipl. Ac

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Acupuncture and Shiatsu

Fattoush? Pistou?

By Maxene Kupperman-Guiñals

When Pigs Fly Farm, a local organic farm operated by Andy and Sandra Snyder, has produced a small cookbook, available now at the farmstand on Route 57 or at A&M Auto.

One part of our annual CSA efforts (Community Supported Agriculture, in which members of the community support the financial aspects of farming) is for members to put in a few hours of labor during the growing season. My contribution this year was to compile the WFFF Cookbook, which includes recipes using the vegetables and eggs produced on the farm.

Some of the recipes are Sandra Snyder's own, like bruschetta and duck cacciatore. Some are ones that I've developed over the years of my participation, like lemon cucumbers with corn and feta or stuffed and doctored French toast. Others are exotic, at least to some of us, like pistou (soup) and fattoush (salad)! All the recipes are easy to prepare, healthful, and delicious.

The little book includes written comments and ideas for serving. Those of us who know Newark, New Jersey, will enjoy an adaptation of the Weequahic Diner cucumber salad!

You can buy a single copy of the WFFF Cookbook for \$6, or you can purchase two copies for \$10 at the farmstand or at A&M Auto. It makes a delightful local gift and charming reading and helps support one of the best places in Sandisfield! 🐷



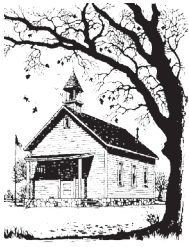
FIRE AND EMT CALLS SEPT 2014

FIRE

Fire	1
False alarms.....	3
Public Service Assistance.....	3
Standby for Colebrook.....	1

EMT

Medical calls.....	6
Lost person	1



FARMINGTON RIVER
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
BULLETIN

By Mary Anne Grammer

Welcome and Farewell at FRRSD
WELCOME TO THE NEW PRINCIPAL



Principal Nadolny at a celebratory lunch with kindergarten and 1st-grade students

Sandisfield and Otis residents welcome Farmington River Regional School District Principal Tom Nadolny. An educator for 24 years, Tom was an assistant principal and interim acting principal for Undermountain elementary school in Sheffield. His experience and knowledge as an administrator and teacher will be an asset for the school.

What were his first impressions on his first day as FRRSD principal? “The beauty of the school and the warm welcome from students, staff, and parents. I’ve always known FRRSD as having a dedicated staff where students succeed and thrive. FRRSD is a very special place.

“FRRSD is in great shape thanks to Mary Turo and Jo Ann Austin, former principal of FRRSD and District Supervisor, staff, parents and students. My first responsibility is for the school to continue to grow and to insure the safety of students and staff.

“I want to see teachers thinking creatively and students actively engaged in their learning. When I was in the 6th grade, I was not interested in school. Thanks to a great teacher who motivated me by hands-on activities and student-centered discussions, I changed my feelings toward school. Teachers can make a difference in children’s lives.”

Tom’s office is the second door on the left, opposite the lunchroom and he invites parents to stop by and talk about the wonderful things happening at FRRSD.

THANK YOU, MRS. MEYERS

Beloved teacher, June Meyers, retired last June from the Farmington River Regional School District after 39 years as an educator.

June first came to FRRSD as an elementary school teacher in 1987 at the old Otis school and then at the Sandisfield town school. June has many fond memories of her teaching experiences.

“I remember,” she said, “the children’s confidence showing in their faces when they accomplished something they thought they couldn’t do. One of my fondest memories was helping a child who had difficulty adjusting to school. After the school day, I would visit the child at their home and play games. Eventually, the child became comfortable with me and then was able to transition that feeling to the school environment. It was quite an accomplishment. I also remember helping a student who was a non-reader and by the end of the school year the student had progressed two grade levels.”



June Meyers

She’s seen many changes in nearly four decades of teaching. “Education practice has changed over the years. Students used to sit quietly in their seats and now students move around the room and conference with peers. Learning has become more two-way between teacher and student and students are more engaged in their learning.”

The towns of Sandisfield and Otis thank June for teaching their children with her wisdom, caring and expertise, and offer congratulations on her retirement. 🍷

JAZZ
IN SANDISFIELD

OCTOBER 4 8 PM
EVENING OF
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(bass)

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NOW HEAR THIS!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro.

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

OCTOBER EVENTS

Artist Opening Reception "Joy" for Isabeth Hardy on Saturday, October 4, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center.

An Evening of American Jazz with Kris and Jen Allen, featuring Henry Lugo on bass on Saturday, October 4, at 8:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. An eclectic mix of American jazz standards and original compositions. (\$20)

Soups Workshop with Adam Manacher & Joe Harasyko on Saturday, October 11, at 10:00 a.m. at 12 South Sandisfield Road. The workshop is \$10, purchase tickets at www.sandisfieldartscenter.org

Sandisfield Historical Society Meeting with Otis Museum curator Hank Wingate on Saturday, October 11, at 11:00 a.m. Hank will speak on "The Berkshires at War: From the French and Indian War to the Civil War." There will be a business meeting at 10:45 a.m. and a potluck luncheon following the presentation.

Knox Trail Hike on Saturday, October 18, at 10:00 a.m. Meet at Cold Spring Road, near the intersection of Route 23 in West Otis. The hike will be approximately 2 miles to the site of the former Spring Tavern at Upper Spectacle Pond and will take place rain or shine. For more information and to confirm attendance, contact Tom Ragusa at tomncin14323@aol.com.

Genealogy Assistance on Wednesday, October 29, at 6:30 p.m. Librarian Laurie Foulke-Green will provide assistance using the library's subscription to International Ancestry and new genealogy books.

OCTOBER EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

"Images of the Berkshires" photography by Geoffrey Coelho at the Otis Library and Museum. The photos will be on display through October. Geoff is Sandisfield's acting postmaster.

Berkshire Botanical Garden Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 11 and Sunday, October 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in Stockbridge. For more information, visit www.berkshirebotanical.org.

Wanda Houston and Her Band on Saturday, October 18 at 7:30 p.m. at the Knox Trail Inn, Route 23, East Otis. The concert is free. A buffet dinner at 6:00 p.m. will be available. Phone reservations (269-4008) are required for dinner and must

be made by Tuesday, October 14.

Reception for Berkshire photographer Geoffrey Coelho at the Otis Library and Museum, 40 North Main Street, Otis, Saturday, October 18, 12:30-1:30 p.m.

ONGOING EVENTS

Select Board: every Monday at 7 p.m., Town Hall Annex.

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

Planning Board, second Tuesday 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.

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 Saturday of the month, 9:30 a.m., Sandisfield Library.

Strategic Planning Committee, third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., Fire Station #2 on Sandisfield Road.

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. Phone: 258-4966.

Historical Commission, next meeting: Wednesday, October 15, 7 p.m., Library. Presentation on Knox Trail by Tom Ragusa follows at 8 p.m.

I NEED A GOOD HOME!

I am a red 2005 Sebring GTC 2-door convertible with about 75,000 miles in very good condition. Maybe you have seen me about town.

If you give me a good home we will have fun together.

Call Roberta Myers, 413-269-4928

for sale

SANDISFIELD TOWN DIRECTORY

All meetings take place at Town Hall Annex unless otherwise indicated

TOWN WEBSITE: WWW.SANDISFIELD.INFO

AMBULANCE: 911. Non-Emergency: 258-4742

AMERICAN LEGION Post 456: Maria Domato, Commander:
258-4578 (April-October) or rainbow2498@embarqmail.com

ANIMAL WARDEN/DOG OFFICER:
Kim Spring: 258-4450

ASSESSORS OFFICE: 258-4701
Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs. 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Meets 2nd Tues: 5 p.m.

BOARD OF HEALTH: Margaret O'Clair: 258-4053
Meets 2nd Mon: 6 p.m., Old Town Hall.

BUILDING INSPECTOR: Eric Munson Jr.: 258-4590

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: Richard Campetti: 258-4901
Meets 3rd Tues: 7 p.m.

CONSTABLES:
Nazario Sanchez: 258-4705 Joseph Zeller: 258-4836

COUNCIL ON AGING: Linda Riiska: 258-4816
Wed: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Senior Center/Town Hall Annex
Business Meeting 1st and 3rd Wed: 10 a.m.

FARMINGTON RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOL:
North Main Street, Otis
Jo Ann D. Austin, Superintendent: 413 269-4466

FRRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEES meets 1st Mon: 7 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Kathy Jacobs: 258-4487
Meets 2nd Sat: 9:30 a.m., Library

FIRE DEPARTMENT: Emergency: 911
Ralph Morrison, Fire Chief: 258-4742

HISTORICAL COMMISSION: Ron Bernard: 269-0012 or
ronbernard@aol.com.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY: John Kuzmech: 258-4906
Meets 2nd Sat (in season): 11 a.m., the Society's building on Rt. 183

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE:
Elaine O'Brien: 269-4465 or John Skrip: 258-4788

LIBRARY: 258-4966 sandisfieldlibrary@yahoo.com
Monday & Tuesday: 9-12:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Thursday: 2:00-5:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9-12:00 p.m.
Last Wednesday of the month is genealogy night.
(Closed Wed: Nov-Mar)

PLANNING BOARD: Gary Bottom, Sr.: 258-4053
Meets 2nd Tues: 6 p.m., Old Town Hall

POLICE-LOCAL: Emergency: 911
Michael Morrison, Chief: 258-4742

POLICE-STATE: Lee Barracks: 413 243-0600

POST OFFICE: 258-4940
Window Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 a.m.-noon & 1-4 p.m. Sat: 8-11:30 a.m.
Delivery boxes in vestibule accessible 24 hours a day; boxes in
lobby only during window hours.

RECREATION COMMITTEE: Robbin Campetti: 258-4096

ROAD SUPERINTENDENT: Steve Harasyko: 258-4979
Cell: 413 717-7627

SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER: (May-December)
5 Hammertown Road
PO Box 31 258-4100 www.sandisfieldartscenter.org

SANDISFIELD TIMES: Bill Price, editor: 413 429-7179
Published monthly (Jan/Feb combined)
Postal: PO Box 584, Sandisfield or editor@sandisfieldtimes.org

SELECT BOARD: 258-4711
Mon: 7 p.m. except July & August on alternate Mondays

STATE OFFICIALS:
Benjamin B. Downing, State Senator: 413 442-4008
Email: Benjamin.Downing@state.ma.us
Smitty Pignatelli, State Representative: 413 637-0631
Email: rep.smittypignatelli@hou.state.ma.us

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE: Kathy Jacobs: 258-4487
Meets 3rd Wed, 7 p.m., Firehouse #2, Sandisfield Road

TAX COLLECTOR: Edna Leavenworth: 258-4977
Mon-Wed: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE/WIRED WEST:
Jean Atwater-Williams: 258-8000

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Lisa Blackmer
Mon-Thurs or by appointment. 258-4711 or 413-429-8398
Email:sandisfieldtownadm@verizon.net

TOWN CLERK: Dolores Harasyko
PO Box 163 or sandisfieldtownclerk@verizon.net
Town Hall Annex: 258-4075
Mon-Thurs: 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Mon: 6 p.m.-7 p.m. by appt.

TOWN GARAGE: 258-4979

TOWN HALL ANNEX: Mon-Thurs: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Secretary: 258-4711; Fax: 258-4225

TOWN TREASURER: Teresa DellaGiustina: 258-4712
or sandisfieldtreasurer@verizon.net
Mon/Wed: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

TRANSFER STATION HOURS: Wed: 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Sat/Sun: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

VETERANS SERVICES: Laurie Hills
Great Barrington Town Hall: 528-1580

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

P.O. Box 584

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www.sandisfieldtimes.org

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Tom & Kathy Jacobs



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