

# THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

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Volume V, Number 11

March 2015



## WiredWest Broadband Update

By Jean Atwater-Williams

## Knock, Knock. Who's There? Opportunity!



Last month in The Times you read that the opportunity to build state-of-the-art high-speed internet is knocking on Sandisfield's door. This month, you will learn more about who is knocking and what happens when we open that door.

### WHO IS WIREDWEST?

WiredWest is us. In 2011, Sandisfield voters approved joining this volunteer cooperative of towns in western Massachusetts. Sandisfield is a voting member and has a seat on the board of WiredWest, which was formed to figure out how to bring affordable, reliable, high-speed internet to our towns.

The obstacle has always been money – this is a multi-million dollar endeavor. WiredWest has partnered with the state of Massachusetts (via the MBI) to reduce the cost to towns. As of publication time, 32 WiredWest member towns have joined together to take the next step and actually ask their citizens to support not only the using of but the building of this network.

The network cost in these towns is estimated at \$79 million. The state is contributing up to 40 percent. The rest needs to come from the towns. For the network to become a reality, a commitment from each of us, individually as well as collectively, is required.

As you read last month, for Sandisfield to become a "Fiber Town" and be part of the WiredWest network, two things must happen.

First, 40 percent of Sandisfield households must sign a commitment for service and make a \$49 deposit (which will be held in escrow to be applied to your first month's bill and is fully refundable if you move or if the network is not built).

Second, a 2/3 vote in town meeting is needed to authorize borrowing the funds the town must contribute as its share of network *Cont'd on p.6*

## The Select Board Election, So Far

By Bill Price

An important election will take place this spring. As of press time, four individuals have taken out nomination papers for two open spots on the Select Board, one for a 3-year term and the other for 1 year.

For the 3-year term, current Board Chairman Patrick Barrett is running for re-election, after having served two terms. Patrick lives on Rood Hill Road. Opposing Patrick so far are two other candidates, Brian O'Rourke, a carpenter who lives on West Street, and John Skrip, currently Town Moderator, who lives on Route 8. This is the first run for Select Board by both Brian and John. There is still time for others to pick up nomination papers and get their feet into this race.

The other open seat is to fulfill the 1-year term caused by Rosario Messina's sudden resignation in January. Alice Boyd has taken

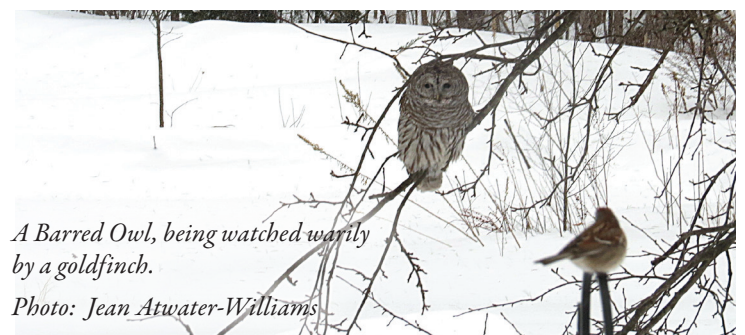
out nomination papers for that spot. Formerly co-president of the Sandisfield Arts Center, Alice lives on South Sandisfield Road.

The position of the third Selectman, held by Jeff Gray, will be up for election in 2016.

Papers to run for two other Town positions have been taken out by two other individuals. Kathie Burrows is running for re-election to the Board of Assessors, a 3-year term, and Margaret O'Clair, who was appointed a year ago to the Board of Health, is running for a 3-year term.

The last day to obtain nomination papers is March 25, with a submission deadline of March 30. The last day to register to vote at the election is April 27; the election is May 18.

Profiles of all the candidates will be in the May issue of The Times.



*A Barred Owl, being watched warily by a goldfinch.*

Photo: Jean Atwater-Williams

# Bird Count

## The Birds Have Been Counted

By Margaret O'Clair



Pileated Woodpecker, Source - WikiCommons

The Great Backyard Bird Count is done. Sponsored by the Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the counting took place in several locations around Sandisfield between February 13 and the 16th.

Total number of Birds: 957. Different species: 22.

Birds seen, or believed to have been seen, included the Common Redpoll, Raven, Eastern Bluebird, Purple Finch, Brown-Headed Cowbird, Black-Capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Mourning Dove, Northern Cardinal, Blue Jay, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-Bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, White-Breasted Nuthatch, Goldfinch, American Tree Sparrow, European Starling, and Wild Turkey. There was a possible sighting of Field Sparrows, but since they shouldn't be in Sandisfield now the birders are double-checking.

Birders who participated: Margaret O'Clair, Alex Green, Laurie Foulke-Green, Lauren Paul, Kim Spring, George and Michelle Wheeler, and John and Kathie Burrows. The birders especially thank the Wheelers for their delicious hot chocolate! And they also thank Alex Green for inputting all the data on E-bird through Cornell. 🐦

## Progress of Gas Station/Convenience Store

The Times has been unable to obtain information about the possible gas station/convenience store proposed for Route 8 across from Tuckers. The individuals who received permission from the town last September have not responded to telephone or email requests from The Times. No activity is seen at the site so far, and right now it lies buried in snow, like the rest of Sandisfield. 🐦

## Post Office Service Improving

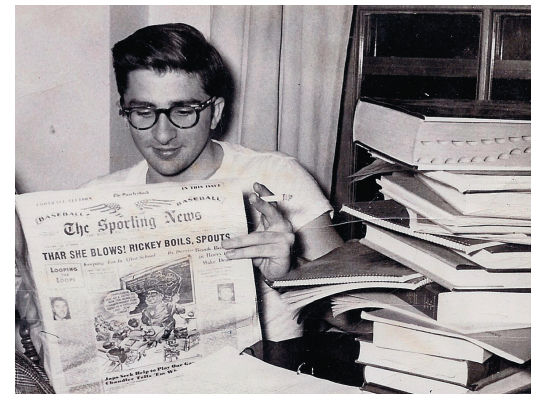
Patrons of the Sandisfield Post Office will be glad to learn that PO boxes inside the lobby will now be accessible 24 hours a day – at least for now. Previously, those boxes could only be accessed during regular postal business hours. Clerk Amy Carriveau said that the new policy is subject to final approval from USPS headquarters. But so far, so good. 🐦

# Thanks, Bill

By Simon Winchester

Bill Cohn, who is stepping down after five years of ensuring this journal gets into your hands each month, clearly has the noble craft of newspaper delivering in his veins.

His first job in 1944 was to deliver the Toledo Blade each Ohio morning. The wicker basket on his Schwinn bike was large enough so he could roll the papers one by one as he rode, and toss them with unerring eye onto the passing doorsteps. His years brought many Extras, midday extensions to his route: D Day, VE Day, VJ Day, and with the melancholy news from Warm Springs, the Extra for FDR's passing. Bill has kept them all.



Bill Cohn reading the paper, several years ago.

As we hope he'll now keep the fifty-odd editions of the Sandisfield Times that he's handed out. Our news maybe not have quite the heft of the Blade's – but it is no less important to us. We thank Bill for making sure we've been able to read it, without fail, through all of our first five years.

Is there a Sandisfield resident who would like to step into Bill's shoes and help deliver our papers to five or six nearby locations at the end of each month? Call our distribution manager, Ron Bernard, at 413-269-0012. 🐦

## Correction re School Budget

In an article last month about the All Boards meeting, the Times wrote in error that John Skrip of the School Committee reported that "the town may face another 4% increase in the school salary account." Instead, The Times should have written that John reported that "the school salaries negotiated last March were 2.2%, and with this correction the increase in the school budget account will be approximately 4.7%." 🐦

# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## Fasten your seat belts

**F**our residents, so far, are running for two spots on the Select Board. In the contest for the 3-year term, the current Board Chairman is standing for re-election against at least two challengers. A fourth resident is running for the unexpired 1-year term of our recently-resigned Selectman.

The Town, facing a lot of issues and challenges, needs these roles filled by active, thoughtful individuals. Challenges include revising Town by-laws, creating a Master Plan, nailing down the Town Administrator's role, replacing worn-out Town buildings with a new facility, the widening of a pipeline through a corner of the town, and the likely construction of a large nursing home facility. There will be more.

## Between you and me

Early last month, Western Massachusetts Electric renamed itself Eversource Energy. In a letter to customers, Eversource said their new name will help them improve on their "commitment to bringing you reliable energy and superior customer service."

Western Mass has always delivered on their commitment to me, occasional wind or snow storms notwithstanding. I liked that their name reflected what they promised and delivered – electricity to western Mass

Their name change is a loss for anyone who values precise language. It may also be a loss to Eversource's employees who now work for a place that, by its name, could be selling anything, maybe fishing supplies in Sheboygan, rather than reliable electricity to you and me out here in the Massachusetts hills.

*Bill Price  
West New Boston*



## A Toast

It's time I got around to thanking the arts center  
That took me by the scruff in '95  
And for all its history  
Let me come in and fill the old room  
With my leftover dreams,  
Those things I hadn't done  
That needed doing, all the schemes  
As yet unsung,  
The caesuras of my life  
Now spoken with a clapboard tongue.

*Val Coleman  
Town Hill Road*



# www.Sandisfield.Info

## A VITAL TOWN RESOURCE

*By Times Reporters*

What's the best way to find out what is going on at Town Hall and how to connect?

If your answer was "The Sandisfield Times," why, thank you. We try. But a monthly newspaper is perhaps not the best medium to communicate the who/what/where/when of a busy Town administration.

If "website" popped into your mind, congratulations. That's the right answer. And the Town's original website, [www.sandisfield.info](http://www.sandisfield.info) is about to get a makeover.

Our Technology Committee established the site in 2010. Since then committee members, Town employees, and web volunteers have pitched in to keep the pages current but their efforts have fallen behind. This website is a vital service, not merely "something nice to have."

Also apparent was the need for a dedicated coordinator to assure reliable, current, and relevant content. The information on the website is constantly changing. "Residents should rely on and be confident using this essential resource," said committee chairman Jean Atwater-Williams.

Voters agreed and approved a warrant for a part-time coordinator. Several very qualified candidates applied. In December the committee recommended Brian Cruey for the job.

Cruey, a native Kentuckian who moved to North Beech Plain Road in 2011, earned a B.S. degree from NYU's film studies program and an MBA from the Baruch College School of Business. He began his career as Marketing and Business Development Director for a web-based technology company in Lee. Since 2012 he has been Director of Marketing for Berkshire Botanical Gardens where his duties include the website, a critical marketing program.


Brian said, "I think this is a wonderful opportunity to serve the Town and to get better acquainted with my community."

The Sandisfield website already contains descriptions of and meeting venues of standing boards, commissions, and committees; Select Board meeting agendas and minutes; Town bylaws; election information; and department contacts. Plus a Town history, transfer station regulations, and more. The site also includes links to state websites, community organizations, and events.



*Website administrator, Brian Cruey.*

Brian believes that the site can be much more. "Websites need not be static anymore," he told the Committee. Besides access to Town resources, he said the site can be designed to be a social focal point that users visit frequently. "For example, maybe we can have a section for a revolving gallery of photos of (family) activities in the town," he said. "We want to make it attractive and easy to use."

Brian is looking for suggestions from the community on how to improve the site as a community resource. Check out the website, then contact Brian at [website@sandisfield.info](mailto:website@sandisfield.info). And watch for new, up-to-date stuff coming soon. 

# Batter Up!


## YOUTH BASEBALL SIGN UP

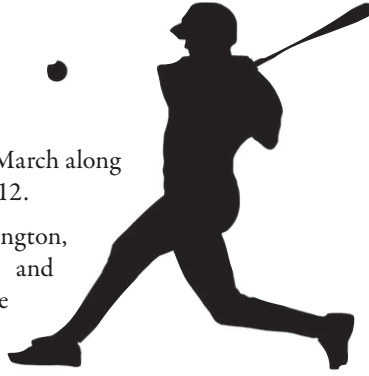
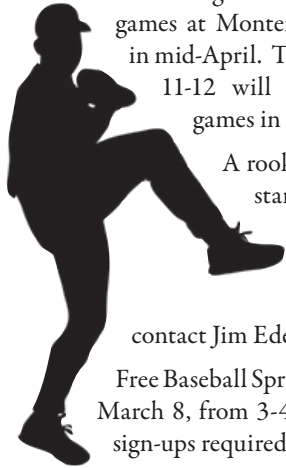
Sign ups for South County Cal Ripken baseball start in March along with indoor spring training for players of all levels ages 8-12.

The AAA team of players 8-10 years old from Great Barrington, Monterey, Sandisfield, Otis, New Marlboro, Alford and surrounding towns hold practices and home games at Monterey's Greene Park starting in mid-April. The Majors team for players 11-12 will hold most practices and games in Great Barrington.

A rookie league for players ages 5-7 will have weekly games at Greene Park starting in May.


Players can sign up by sending information to Jim Edelman, PO Box 11, Monterey, MA 01245. The cost is \$50 per player or \$75 maximum per family. Assistance is available. For more information, contact Jim Edelman at [cljvedelman@Verizon.net](mailto:cljvedelman@Verizon.net).

Free Baseball Spring Training hitting practice for league players ages 8-12 starts Sunday, March 8, from 3-4 p.m. inside the Farmington River School on Route 8 in Otis. No sign-ups required. For more information, contact Steve Graves at 413-269-4632. 



# Ideas Wanted for Arts Center Workshops, 2016 Season

Last month Linda Mironi asked for ideas for workshops at the Sandisfield Arts Center for this summer's season. If you had ideas and couldn't reach Linda through email, the reason was that the Times printed an error in her address.

Her correct email address is [lindamiro@mac.com](mailto:lindamiro@mac.com). If you sent ideas and your email was returned, please send them again. They may be too late for the 2015 season, but will be considered for 2016. 

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# “Bob and the Trees” Goes on the Road

A LOCAL FILM PLAYS AT SUNDANCE

By Bill Price

Having your film chosen to be premiered at the Sundance Film Festival is a main event in the career of any film maker. “Now,” said local director Diego Ongaro, who just had such a rare thing happen to him, “I can’t wait to show it in our region, share it with our community, and see how they respond to it.”

Diego presented his first full-length film at the Park City, Utah, festival in January. Featuring local writers and players, “Bob and the Trees” was filmed in the Sandisfield woods during the harsh winter of 2013-14. More than 12,000 films are submitted to Sundance, and the juries select only about fifty to be shown.

Having a film selected is rare, but actually releasing your film to be viewed and reviewed is one of the scarier parts of creativity. The director, writers, actors, and cameramen have worked, sweated, cut, trimmed, second-guessed themselves, to produce something they want others to understand and hopefully enjoy.

The Sundance audience seem to have caught what Diego was aiming at.

“I was extremely happy how our screenings went,” Diego said. “The audiences were very responsive to the film.”

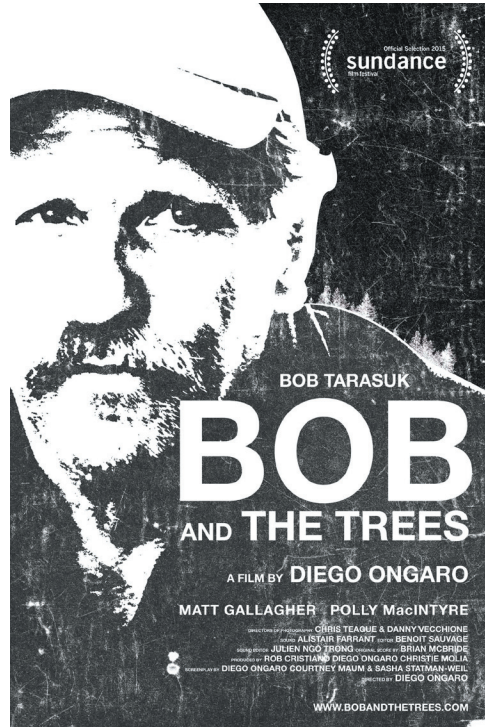
He added that people “came up to us after the screenings, congratulating us or telling us how they were moved by the film, and sometimes they were very emotional. We had good Q&As with the audience talking about logging and forestry, the hardship of logging and making a buck in this tough industry, how it feels to play a version of yourself in a film, making a feature film on a tight budget, and working through the harsh weather conditions depicted in the film.”

“Overall it was a terrific experience,” he said. He was joined at Sundance by his wife and coauthor, Courtney Maum, and the first-time actors Bob Tarasuk and Bob’s son-in-law Matt Gallagher.

“Sundance was generally exhausting,” Diego said, “but I felt so privileged to be there to share my film with others, meet some talented directors, and watch some really unique films.”

Diego was happy as well with the press reviews.

“Perceptively scripted,” wrote the Hollywood Reporter, “nimble shot and efficiently produced, Ongaro’s debut is well-suited for a broad regional audience, and with the right handling could



break through on the national art house circuit as well.”

The review praised the “authentic, nonprofessional cast and striking Berkshire Mountain locations” and described the film as “a verite drama that mines a rich vein of humanism shot through with characteristically dry New England humor.”

Local logger Bob Tarasuk, who is the Bob of “Bob and the Trees,” was identified by the Reporter as “a natural raconteur, a Berkshires-region farmer and logger with more than 30 years’ experience in the field. His direct, unaffected style is both refreshing and revealing, demonstrating an attitude, cadence, and carriage that convey his deep connection with the surrounding landscape.”

The review in The Examiner said the film “is a surprising and impressive portrayal of a Massachusetts logger and his growing economic troubles, bad luck, and unlikely choices during the dead of winter. Played by the real life Bob Tarasuk, this first-time actor is as robustly convincing as a seasoned professional, or at least a late up-and-comer.”

And Variety wrote that the narrative of the film “draws heavily on real-life details, often

to powerful effect.” Bob’s non-professionalism, Variety wrote, produced “an impressively introverted performance — a study in gruff pronouncements, self-loathing vanity, and sudden gestures.”

In an interview with Indiewire, an online publication of the film industry, Diego said that his film was about: “Hip hop, pride, denial, manliness, bar and chain oil, pioneering, forestry, farm animals, idling trucks, drinking beer while playing golf, dangerous manual work in extreme cold weather and all the things you want to say to your loved ones but that you keep for yourself, because sometimes it is hard to express what you have inside your heart.”

Watch for upcoming screenings, so far unscheduled. 🍷

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# The Town Needs to Be On Board This Time

## WE NEED TO SAY "YES" TWICE

By George J. Grumbach, Jr.

As reported in the last issue of *The Times*, for Sandisfield to get broadband internet coverage through WiredWest, 40 percent of the town must sign up for service, and in May the voters must approve a guarantee of the town's share of funding for construction, which will be largely subsidized by the State. If we sign on, the state will subsidize the infrastructure construction and our rates for internet, phone and TV will be lower.

But we get only get one chance to be in on this opportunity, or we will be forever frozen out.


This reminds me of two events in Sandisfield's history.

The first was in the 19th century when the town hoped that a railroad would come through. But it didn't. So the town ceased to thrive and became something of a backwater, struggling to keep its residents employed and its public services adequately funded with a limited tax base. In that case, no one could blame the citizens of Sandisfield. They had no influence over the railroad company's decision to lay its tracks elsewhere.

The second instance was in the 1940s when rural electrification was offered to Sandisfield. When it was first offered, around 1946, most people signed on. Then, a couple of years later, the power company gave the hold-outs a second chance to get electricity. By then, almost everyone was able to see the wisdom of doing so.

Now the town is at a similar crossroad. This time it is within our power to decide whether we want to be part of the 21st century or be left behind.

Do we want to attract homeowners and businesses that see broadband access to the internet as an essential part of their home lives and business needs? Do we want our children to be crippled in using computers as part of their education? Do we want property values to drop as other towns offer broadband and we don't?

Unlike the railroad case, the decision is in our hands. But unlike the electricity case, we can't each decide for our self. The town needs to come together to sign up enough customers and to pass the guarantee at the May town meeting. I very much hope that we won't lose this opportunity. 

*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](mailto:editor@sandisfieldtimes.org).

## Wired West Broadband Update: Opportunity!

Cont'd from p.1

construction costs. In time, WiredWest's revenues from the network may cover all or part of the principal and interest on that debt. In fact, the more of us that sign up for the network, the more likely it will be that WiredWest, and not the towns, will cover the costs.

### JUST WHAT ARE WE BUILDING?

Fiber-optic cable is being deployed across the world: in the U.S., by big companies like Google, Comcast, and Verizon, by small telephone companies and electric cooperatives, and yes, by municipalities like us.

Fiber is the platform best able to deliver the services of today – high-speed internet, digital phone, and TV – emerging new services like tele-medicine, home security, and future services we can't yet imagine. Fiber cables have a usable life of decades, and a capacity so vast it has not been fully measured.

For too long we've made do with satellite, DSL, or wireless internet. Fiber will render these as obsolete as dial-up has become. If we are going to make the effort and investment to bring high-speed internet to everyone, we need to implement a solution that will serve our needs today and tomorrow – a solution that will make our towns attractive to new businesses and young families. A solution that will enable distance learning, remote job training, and all kinds of entertainment. That solution is fiber.


### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO ME?

When Sandisfield becomes a Fiber Town on the WiredWest network, here are some of the services you'll be able to enjoy:

- 25Mbps fast internet service for \$49 a month (with even higher speeds available)
- Full-featured phone service including nationwide long distance for \$25 a month
- A TV package more suited to your viewing interests than what cable or satellite offers

When you add up what you're paying now for internet+phone+TV, you'll get superior service with fiber at a lower total price.

But there's more to being a Fiber Town than just the services the network offers. The money people spend for these services will stay in the local economy. There will be more professional opportunities here, and our home businesses will be more productive. The value of our properties will increase, and they will be easier to sell. Our schools will be able to take full advantage of the internet to educate our kids and our kids will be better educated when they have high-speed access at home. A senior citizen will be able to consult with her doctor without driving to the office and will be able to send an alert when she needs help.

Fiber is the pathway to a better future for Sandisfield. Let's take it. Sign up for service at [www.WiredWest.net](http://www.WiredWest.net) or respond to the mailing you will soon see in your mailbox. 

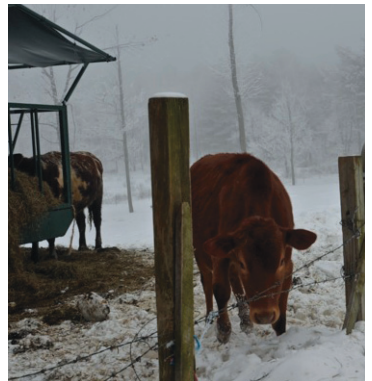
*Jean is the Chairman of the Technology Committee and Sandisfield's delegate to WiredWest.*



Photo: Jean Atwater-Williams

# WINTER STORIES

*Photos by Setsuko Winchester*



# Sandisfield Historical Commission

## “Heritage Heroes”

### PRESERVATION APPRECIATION

By Ron Bernard

One of the most remarkable characteristics of Sandisfield is its large inventory of architecturally or historically important houses, buildings, and settings. When the Town's official survey of architectural assets is completed by the end of next year, the Historical Commission expects that as many as half of our pool of the 100 antique buildings and settings in town could be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.


That so many beautiful old homes have survived here is the result of an improbable combination of historical trends. Sandisfield's once-vibrant economy based on agriculture and cottage industries did not evolve after the 1870s depression. Consequently, many vulnerable homesteads were not lost to development, new roads and the like. The Town's remote location and small but stable population also played a role. Another important factor is that established families – full-time as well as seasonal residents – have passed down their properties, fostering an appreciation and tradition of preservation throughout the community.

Last month the Sandisfield Historical Commission proposed a new program to publicly recognize as “Sandisfield Heritage Heroes” property owners, citizens, friends of the Town, or any parties that materially advance the cause of preservation. Recipients will be honored at Select Board meetings.

Careful restorations or renovations that preserve the architectural integrity of antique houses, municipal sites, cemeteries, or even certain landscapes or historic agricultural settings should be recognized as valued and important civic contributions to the quality of life today and the future. A general ground rule is that properties should be at least 75 years old, however exceptions can be considered by the Commission.

If you are aware of a recent situation that appears to meet the above guidelines please contact commissioners Ron Bernard (413-269-0012/ email ronbernard@aol.com) or Eric Pachulski (413-258-4931/ericpachulski@yahoo.com).

Three local properties are already on the National Register.

The c.1755 New Boston Inn is likely the oldest continuously operated inn in the country. In Montville the home of the Sandisfield Arts Center, built in 1839 as a Baptist meeting house, was transformed in 1922 as a synagogue. Such a house of worship conversion is probably unique in American history. In South Sandisfield the superb Federal-style Philemon Sage House (c.1799) was home to generations of the Sages, a first-period family. The history of the Sage House is symbolic of the rich agricultural and social traditions of New England over the centuries. A c.1843 daguerreotype image of this house is one of the earliest known photographs in America. 

# Council on Aging



By Susan Galik

First we need to say goodbye to Kay Dirgo. Kay was a vital part of organizing the COA. We thank her for everything she did for us ... and we will miss her.


Winter is a dangerous time. And many of our seniors have either flown south or are hibernating. We don't blame them. Only four people were able to get out to Berkshire Rehab for our Karaoke afternoon. We thank the facility for a wonderful time ... and for the goodies.

No one attended the Valentine's day luncheon, put on by Otis COA, but we thank Otis for offering. The weather was just too much for our regular members to attend.

Our class in Spring Flower Arrangements is scheduled for Monday, March 30, from 2-4 p.m. The cost is still only \$5 per person. Please call Linda Riiska if you plan to attend. 258-4816.

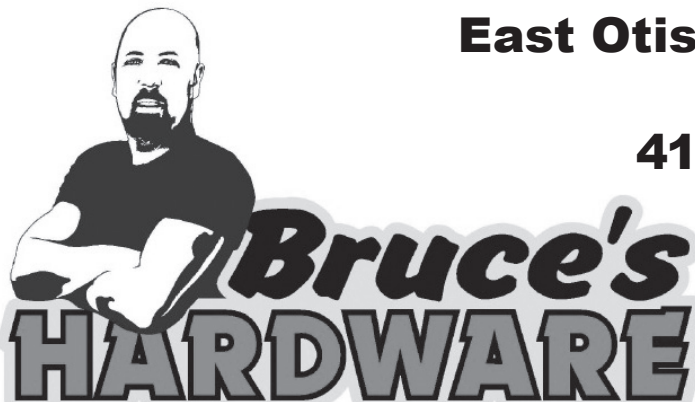
Our Meet the Candidates program will return on Wednesday, April 29th. We have at least three contenders for Selectmen. If anyone is running for office and wishes to speak to Sandisfield citizens as to what you have to offer, please call Linda Riiska. 258-4816. Or Susan Galik 258-4113.

Plans are in the works for the following programs:

- Nutrition, with a focus on diabetes.
- Elder Law: How to keep what you got.
- Veterans: Services available to them.
- Line Dancing: Most likely an evening class. Does anyone know of a teacher? Please call Linda Riiska, 258-4816
- Yoga, or some other type of fitness program. If you see Nina Carr, let her know what you would be interested in. 

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# If It Has an Engine . . . You Can Find One Here

By Ron Bernard

Did you know that New Boston Crane Service and Sleds has been in business for 28 years?

With a crew of five mechanics, owner/manager Billy White services, repairs, and sells top-of-the-line snowmobiles, ATVs, lawn tractors, snow blowers, log splitters, generators, chain saws, weed whackers. If the thing's got an engine you can find one or get it serviced here.

Open six days a week, with Monday off, New Boston Sleds sells and services an amazing array of equipment and accessories. "Our customer base has grown to well over five thousand," Billy said. "We service homeowners and businesses within about a 50-mile radius of New Boston. Many come up from Connecticut."

A staff mechanic added, "Because of all the storms lately we are one of the only places around that still has snow blowers for sale. Just the other day a fellow drove all the way across state to buy one."

Loyalty is earned, and this busy shop is proud of its reputation. The son-in-law of original owners Bonnie and Roger Harbour, Billy took over the business in 2011 when Bonnie and Roger retired.

Billy said that despite the prolonged depressed general economy, his business is more than holding




Billy White with a few useful snowblowers for sale.

Photo: Ron Bernard


its own and is well positioned for the future. At least 20 leading equipment manufacturers are represented here.

"Price-wise we are competitive," he added. "Have to be. People shop the internet and have so many options nowadays, especially the younger crowd. Older folks seem to understand that it is important to support local businesses, and we appreciate that." Good service has been one of the keys to success. "Regular customers get priority," said Billy.

New Boston Sleds is located on South Main St./Rt. 8, precisely at the former location of one of Sandisfield's early and most important blacksmith shops (c.1810, later served as a box factory). That shop was in operation for about a hundred years. New Boston Sleds has only 73 years to beat that.


So stop in, look around and meet the guys. You may not need service or a new gizmo right now but if you live in these hills, one day soon you'll need one or the other. See their ad on page 13 for more information. 

## American Legion Scholarships

The Legion offers scholarships and other resources to help young people in their pursuit of higher education. Applications for 2015 are posted at the library and the town transfer station. For additional applications and information, please call Gene English, Adjutant and Financial Officer, American Legion Post 456, at 413-258-4901. 



## OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

**A New Old Pub.** While the New Boston Inn in downtown Sandisfield is probably the oldest still-operating inn in New England and offers a charming taproom with wide-board walls, our younger inn to the west opened its renovated taproom last month, catering to "21st-century thirsts." The Old Inn on the Green, a successful and famous New Marlborough dining spot since 1760, rebuilt its taproom using "locally mined schist, custom-designed pine shelving, paneling and cabinetry, and handmade barstools fashioned from local ash trees and hickory." The liquor, beer, and wine, however, is from all over the world. The proprietors invite their neighbors to stop by and say hello. 

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# Francis

## MR. DEMING TELLS SOME STORIES

By Bill Price

Although he's lived in Tolland for seven decades, Francis Deming belongs to Sandisfield, or maybe vice versa.

Francis was born here 80 years ago. When he was 10 or 11 his mother and father moved to a farmstead not far across the town line at the top of the hill. But their young son's life remained centered in Sandisfield. "The kids in Tolland were all a couple miles away and I didn't know them very well," he said, "so I'd always come back down the hill to see my friends."

Last November, when Francis was invited to tell a few local stories at the Sandisfield Historical Society, many of those friends and other interested residents crowded the pews of the former church to hear him.

One of those friends, Willard Platt, now 84, remembered standing on the bridge at the New Boston Store talking with Francis a few days after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Willard was 11, Francis 7. "We had a long conversation about how long the war would last, about who would win. Then we went off to do other boy stuff."

Demings have lived in Sandisfield since before the roads were built. In fact, they helped build them. (See "Here From the Beginning" on the following page.) When Francis drives down the hill and through Sandisfield he is aware of that long family history, but he doesn't dwell on it. He's too busy living his own life.



Francis with lifetime friend and Sandisfield resident, Walter Linkovich.

Francis worked 29 years for Herbert Construction in Connecticut and for three years with NW Utility. He's been a self-employed logger and snow-plow driver and whatever else it took to make a living here. For 15 years he worked at the New Boston Inn. "I did everything," he

said. "Took reservations, cooked, did the dishes, whatever had to be done. I enjoyed that." Of the ghost who haunts the Inn, Francis sensed her presence several times but never actually saw her. He did photograph her presence one time, but the pictures were stolen from the Inn.

Francis has lived in other places, usually for short times: the West Coast; in Bermuda where he had relatives; here and there. But he always came home to the house that just happened to be across the line in Tolland. The house has burned twice and each time has been rebuilt.

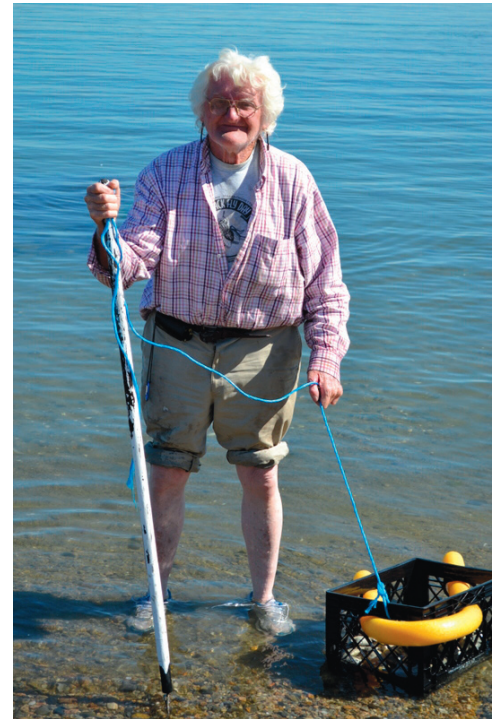
Francis lives there now with his wife, Judy, whom he married 55 years ago. Their four children are not far away: Mary lives in Tolland where she works with children with physical problems; Ed is Tolland's police chief and heads the town's highway department; Tim is a state highway superintendent in Otis; Jim serves as a paramedic lieutenant in Agawam.

Despite a mild heart attack in early December that briefly put him in the hospital, Francis will spend this winter much as he has for a long time – visiting friends, dropping by, saying hello. And very soon he'll be outside again chopping wood and packing it inside to feed the stove.

Travelers on the Tolland Road might remember Francis' yard where discarded machinery, logging equipment, car parts, scrap metal, and other potentially useful items lie scattered across about a quarter-acre around the house. For the most part, the stuff has been cleaned up now, but for a long time much of it was visible from the road. The Board of Health might have called it one thing, passers-by something else, but this reporter always wanted to look it over. A sense of propriety prevented him from stopping at the



Francis with John Kuzmech at the Historical Society, 2014.



house to ask permission. Now, after getting to know Francis a bit, I imagine that if I had asked Francis would have said, "Be my guest, have a look around."

And he'd have told me stories like these.

### A FEW FRANCIS STORIES

Francis remembers the flood after the '38 hurricane that destroyed lives and property across New England. He watched his father feed wood into the boiler of the steam shovel that helped dredge the river.

As young kids, Francis and his brother planed boards at The Red Shop in Roosterville, owned at the time by his grandfather, Frank Deming. His father worked at the factory for many years, making barrel heads, fishing pole handles, and 4-poster beds, along with wooden skis for his sons that were held on by leather straps. "Many times," Francis said, "I was chasing down the hill after my skis."

His father hauled logs with horses. Once Francis went with his father to visit another logger "on the hill up back of Willard's house in Roosterville." The old logger, Francis said, was mad that one of his horses wouldn't pull hard enough. He was beating the horse and yelling, Francis remembered. "The horse was jumping around. He said, 'I'll teach you to draw, you son of a bitch.' He took an ax and drove it right into the horse's forehead, killed him right there in the harness."

Francis and his friends swam in the Farmington nearly every day in the summer. "The water

was up to our chins. Campetti's had a chicken coop there and we used to change our clothes, boys on one side and girls on the other. Willard and me and his sister, cousin Pat, the Riiska girls, Charlie Riiska, Lois Richardson. That was our gang."

Francis remembered a hired man, Floyd Crawford, who came every spring to help hay. "When haying was done, he'd go to Campetti's and cut corn. After that, he'd go somewhere else and cut

With his shock of thick white hair and ready smile, Francis still comes down Tolland Hill to be present at every major Sandisfield event. And most of the minor ones, too.

wood. When that was over he'd go to jail in Pittsfield for the winter. In the spring he got out and helped somebody make maple syrup, then to another farm to plant, then he'd come back to us to do the haying. He didn't know how old he was, he couldn't write, but we always got a Christmas card from him. He'd say he was 'in a warm place with plenty to eat, see you in the spring.' He'd get himself thrown in jail, but I don't know what he'd do to get in there."

Francis remembers old man Hull who lighted his driveway with light bulbs placed in the eye sockets of horse skulls. "Everybody said he was a little weird," said Francis, "but I thought he was a good guy. He didn't bother anybody."

After the '55 flood, 21-year-old Francis was part of the local crew exhuming graves at the Dubois Cemetery which



Francis with sister-in-law, Elaine Smith, at the graduation of her son, Ryan Bredenfeorder.

was to be flooded by the Colebrook Reservoir. "I worked with Morris Levine, Oscar Riiska, and some others." The graves were moved to a section of the Sandisfield Cemetery. The bad news: "Five or six graves are still there. They ran out of money to dig people up. There were more people buried there than they had records of."

He remembers his first hunting experience. "I was 8 or 9. I shot about a half dozen chipmunks. I was proud of myself and showed them to my grandmother. I saw the expression on her face. She said these little creatures never hurt you. You don't need the food, but you killed them. Now you're going to eat them, so dress them out. I didn't know how. She said, 'Just like a rabbit, but smaller.' We cooked them up, and we ate them. That was a good lesson."

Francis learned another when he killed two deer for a neighbor. The neighbor was upset. "He said, 'We didn't need two deer, all we needed was one. That was the wrong thing to do.' That was something I never forgot. You shoot just what you need."

Getting up or down the steep hill from the top of Tolland Road was often an adventure, but Francis reports that he's "been down that hill on skis, roller skates, ice skates, bicycles, and never got hurt."

He remembers his father hauling lumber down the hill with a horse and wagon. "My father rode in the wagon to handle the brake. The back wheels were chained together so they couldn't turn, with a cast-iron skid plate under the wheels. I had to walk behind the wagon."

One winter, Francis was walking up the hill when the road "was all ice. I saw a car coming down the hill swaying back and forth. I said this is not a good place to be. I got up the bank as high as I could. The car got beside me, four hunters inside. The car skidded into a snow bank, tipped over on its roof, took off down the hill at 100 mph with the hunters inside. It got down by Ralph's, hit another snow bank, tipped back over on its wheels, and kept on going. I didn't go down to see how the people made out, but they were pretty scared, I imagine." ❦



Francis with the still-working planner machine from the Old Red Shop, 2011.

### HERE FROM THE BEGINNING

According to Elizur Yale Smith's *Sandisfield: An Intimate History and Some Comments*, eighteen Deming families lived here during the town's first 100 years. Demings from Sandisfield fought in the French and Indian War. David Deming was the first town treasurer in 1762, later one of the first town clerks, and served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in Boston in 1787. During the Revolution, Elijah Deming was captain of the Sandisfield company of militia.

Lt. Burton Deming and his brother William were killed in the Civil War. Burton was brought home to be buried in the West New Boston Cemetery, where more than 40 other Demings lie buried, the oldest born in 1779.

Lincoln Deming, in partnership with Albert Northway, owned one of the three New Boston stores in operation at the time and was postmaster for many years. Orville Deming was a prosperous farmer. And, according to Smith, one of Lyman Deming's daughters married Charles Hunt, who" went to California, brought back some gold and purchased the New Boston Inn which he thoroughly reconditioned and made into a first-class country hotel."

Demings built or owned some of the earliest houses in town: Jane Deming and her husband built the Sears-Hawley house on Silverbrook Road in the 1840s. Mary Deming and her husband owned the Oliver Bosworth House on Sandisfield Road in the 1850s. Around 1900, Orlow Deming owned the Old Stone House in New Boston. ❦

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## SELMA: Sandisfield Resident Was There

*The recent film "Selma" has reminded viewers of the 1960 struggles to obtain basic civil rights for black Americans. One long-time Sandisfield resident, theologian Walter Wink, joined those efforts and was present during the Selma march in 1965.*

*At the time, Dr. Wink, who died in Sandisfield in 2012, was serving as pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Hitchcock, Texas, near Galveston. Attending the march was, for him, a bold but necessary act. His wife, June Wink, sent the following article, published in The Galveston County Daily News, January 10, 2015.*

### Former Hitchcock Pastor Marched on Selma

*By Chacour Koop*

When Walter Wink, the pastor of a Hitchcock church during the 1960s, left for Selma, Alabama, to join civil rights protesters, he probably had a good idea it would shake up his predominantly white congregation.

That's how the former pastor of First United Methodist Church is remembered by those who knew him best: a lifetime activist, confrontational and unapologetic. Wink joined thousands of protesters walking in marches from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965, which spurred passage of the Voting Rights Act later that year. He returned to a divided congregation.

"I remember that some of the folks in the congregation, after he said he was going to be doing the march, people stopped showing up for a while to Sunday services," said Steve Wink, a son of the now-deceased pastor.

"He definitely liked to shake things up. He was a bit of an iconoclast in that sense."

Now, nearly 50 years later, the Hollywood film "Selma" depicts the landmark marches, and a history enthusiast has bought out a Sunday afternoon showing of the movie at a Texas City theater.


Sam Collins, a member of several historical preservation organizations, has invited members of both the First United Methodist Church and the Greater St. Matthews Baptist Church in Hitchcock.



"I was shocked to find that there was actually a non-African American minister here that went in support," Collins said. "It's easy to sit back today and say, 'Oh yeah, I would have been right up front. I would have been right there with them.' But the consequences are not the same today."

Wink continued to serve as a pastor at the church until 1967, often visiting those who spoke against him or the civil rights movement, his wife, June Keener Wink, said. He then moved backed to New York City to teach at Union Theological Seminary. Wink published numerous books up until his death in 2012, some based on his trips to South Africa under apartheid rule and Chile.

The schism that resulted from Wink's participation in the Selma march isn't a dark spot in the Hitchcock First United Methodist Church's history, current pastor Mike Selzer wrote in an email. He hopes that moviegoers realize that "marginalization" is as real today as in the 1960s.

"It's same story silently being played out between different characters from multiple cultural and socioeconomic groups," Selzer wrote. 



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# Involved in Forest Management or the Town?

## YOU COULD BE A KEYSTONE CANDIDATE


By Tom Ryan  
 Department of Conservation and Recreation

Are you involved in the care of forest property? A member of a town commission or committee? Do you own forest land? Or simply interested in forest conservation?

If yes to any of the above, you could be a candidate for Keystone, a forest management program operated by the University of Massachusetts Amherst, held this spring at the Harvard Forest in Petersham, April 16-19.

Since 1988, the Keystone program has trained over 325 people who help control over 20,000 acres of Massachusetts forest land and are involved with another 175,000 acres under land trusts, conservation commissions, and other groups. Individuals selected for the program participate in an intensive 3-day training program on forest ecology and stewardship, wildlife management, and land conservation. The training consists of both indoor and field sessions, as well as informal time to learn from fellow participants.

Keystone Cooperators return to their communities – with continuing support from UMass Extension – as advocates for conservation, helping to educate other forest owners and community leaders by offering information about forest ecology, sustainable forest management, wildlife habitat enhancement, and land protection.

The application deadline is Monday, March 9. More information about Keystone and applications can be found at [www.masskeystone.net](http://www.masskeystone.net). Or write to me at [tom.ryan@state.mass.us](mailto:tom.ryan@state.mass.us) or call me at 413-784-1828, ext. 123. 



By Laurie Foulke-Green, Librarian

Going on now, Winter Book Sale, when the library is open.

New Patron cards have arrived, with a bar code into Masscat. Patrons can pick up their cards next time they visit the library.

Titles on order:

- The Same Sky/Amanda Eyre Ward
- The Girls of Mischief Bay/Susan Mallery
- Prodigal Son/Danielle Steel
- A Spool of Blue Thread/Anne Tyler
- The Nightingale/Kristin Hannah
- Death of a Liar/M.C. Beaton
- Mightier Than the Sword/Jeffrey Archer
- Motive/Jonathan Kellerman

## FIRE AND EMT CALLS

January, 2015



<b>FIRE CALLS</b>	
Power line down/hazardous conditions	1
Assist EMS	1
<b>AMBULANCE CALLS</b>	
EMS Medical	7

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# TOWN BUSINESS

*Reported by Bogart Muller*

*Edited by Bill Price*

*Select Board summaries are intended to keep readers up-to-date regarding the ongoing work of the board and do not replace official minutes prepared by Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko. Official minutes are available at Town Hall and online at [www.sandisfield.info](http://www.sandisfield.info).*

## **SELECT BOARD, JANUARY 20, 2015**

Present were Selectmen Patrick Barrett and Jeff Gray, Town Administrator Lisa Blackmer, and Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko.

Over thirty residents attended the Select Board meeting at Old Town Hall. Some were confused as to which meeting to attend because the Conservation Commission was holding its hearing regarding the proposed Athena nursing home facility at the same time at the Town Hall Annex.

**The Highway Department.** Trucks have been repaired from early January and are on the road again. Road Superintendent Steve Harasyko pointed out that one truck is on its last legs and will not pass State inspection and he asks approval to investigate purchasing a new truck, estimated cost \$150-175,000.

The department used more sand and salt this year than many years past due to the fact our storms have been more ice-based. That, in combination with expensive and employee overtime has led to budget extensions. Residents voted to pass the extension, but reluctantly. Some voiced the idea of subcontracting snowplowing, pointing out that other towns already do that. Some suggested local truckers who already own equipment that could handle local roads, which would avoid costly breakdowns, overtime, and running out of material. The Town Clerk suggested this would have to be bidded out in the proper manner. The Finance Committee reminded residents that these costs are really taking their toll on the budget as we tap into other monies designated for other things.

**Selectmens' Budget Workshop.** Treasurer Teresa DellaGuistina pointed out certain areas in the Towns finances that could use beneficial adjustments, such as telephone and electrical companies' programs designed to bundle packages. There is also confusion in the gasoline account in that somehow the town ends up paying for more than we use. Teresa's idea to monitor these with

specific accounts in order to rectify the situation and this was passed by the Selectman. Discussion was held on how the Town could lower its legal fees for different items. One expensive item that was mentioned was that a few people work at Town Hall on a part-time basis but draw vacation time/benefits for the 10 to 13 per week that they work. Some of the employees have this allowance in contract form and others do not. Teresa explained this discrepancy causes expensive and time-wasting confusion as to who gets what and when. The Selectmen agreed this situation should be looked at but, very carefully.

**NO MEETINGS JAN 25, FEB 2, FEB 9. Twice due to snowstorms and once to a lack of a quorum.**

## **SELECT BOARD, FEBRUARY 17, 2015**

Present were Selectmen Patrick Barrett and Jeff Gray, Town Administrator Lisa Blackmer, and Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko. And an attorney representing the Town for the Athena nursing home proposal.

There were about 30 people present. The meeting, which had not been posted, was held at Old Town Hall, which caused some confusion and traffic driving from Town Hall Annex,

**Athena Nursing Home proposal.** Sage Engineering reported about the upgrades of the plans as requested from the Town. The Selectmen were set to vote but the attorney representing the town advised that there could not be a vote on a permit with only two Selectmen present, that there must be three. The attorney offered a plan that stated if there is no activity by the board for 90 days, the applicant could receive "constructive approval." The applicant agreed with that plan.

**Budget reviews.** Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko read aloud each board, committee, and department budget amount for FY 2016, whether there was an increase or not, and why.

**Town Administrator.** Lisa Blackmer reviewed a few of the meetings she has attended, including a chance meeting with the Governor, and how she discusses small town tax and expense difficulties. She spoke with key individuals regarding open spaces and how the State does not compensate Sandisfield enough tax-wise. She has lined up more meetings with other small-town administrators with other contacts she has made at these events..

**Part-time policy.** Town Treasurer Teresa DellaGuistina suggested that this issue would be a simple decision: Those who work more than 20 hours a week receive benefits; those who work less do not. The response by the Selectmen was that the issue needs to be examined more. The issue was put off for the following week.

**Protocol for attending meetings outside Town Hall.** This discussion was generally unhelpful and

reached no agreement.

**Pipeline proposed expansion.** Residents expressed concern about the Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion and one praised the Selectmen's help in attempting to prevent the project's approval. A proposal was made for a vote that Kinder Morgan be charged for any legal costs incurred by the town regarding the pipeline expansion. Patrick motioned and Jeff seconded.

## **SELECT BOARD, FEBRUARY 23, 2015**

Present were Selectmen Patrick Barrett and Jeff Gray, Town Administrator Lisa Blackmer, Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko, and about ten residents.

Berkshire Natural Resources proposed a 73-acre conservation restriction on land owned by Dominic Konstam, which would permanently restrict the land from commercial building and remove the property from real estate taxes. The Select Board agreed to ask Mr. Konstam to prepare a "master plan" so his considerable property does not fall under conservation restrictions. A public meeting regarding the matter will be posted soon.

Town Administrator Lisa Blackmer calls key officials nearly every day to push the State to release Chapter 90 monies to small towns with problem roads, like us. The fact that there is no release date as to when the funds will be released creates huge problems for communities like ours that depend on a timely distribution.

Road Superintendent Steve Harasyko and Town Administrator Lisa Blackmer worked with Lane Construction to revise the final cost of the New Hartford Road project. The original estimate was too low due to asphalt information not being included, which has increased the cost by a significant amount. This was met by some residents' disapproval, but the paperwork was signed and the work will proceed. Hushed murmurs followed.

Residents will soon receive a mailer of information and steps to be taken regarding the WiredWest proposals.

Regarding updates to Town by-laws, no changes were made regarding driveways, farmers' rights, and access permits. Patrick motioned to OK and Jeff seconded.

The Cemetery Committee received permission for its West New Boston Cemetery volunteer clean-up day. John Fields will remove a huge pine tree. Clean-up date will be posted later this spring.

VNA Porchlight contract was signed, which allows flu shots and other clinics to be held at the Town Hall Annex. Many seniors benefit from this.

Brian Cruicy introduced himself as the Town website coordinator. You will see changes in the website and new information by early March.



# It's Not Boston, But . . .

The Winter 2014-15 has seen some snow. Beech Plain resident Ron Bernard has counted the approximate number of inches that fell in his backyard this winter.



*Photo: Setsuko Winchester*

2014 November-December	
	26 inches
2015 January-February	
Jan 6-7	2 inches
9	4 inches
12	2 inches
24-25	4 inches
27	7 inches
30	3 inches

Feb 2	10 inches
5	3 inches
7-8	2 inches
9	13 inches
12	1 inches
15	3 inches
19	1 inches
21-22	6 inches
<b>TOTAL TO DATE 87 inches</b>	

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# Comings & Goings



Photo: Peter Baillamonte

## CHARLIE PETER LOMBARD

BORN JANUARY 16, 2015

Mother: Abbie Lombard  
Father: Jeremy Lombard

Jeremy wrote: "Abbie and I had a baby, and boy, is he cute!!"

### *Here's to Charlie*

(A Welcoming Poem from Val Coleman)

Once upon a winter evening  
When the snow was old  
And the weather sins  
Charlie showed up  
And everyone wins!

The snow turned bright  
And the sky turned blue  
Charlie is destined  
For derring-do!

So let's put the world  
Back in its place  
Charlie's arrived.  
Embrace, embrace!



## KATHERINE DIRGO

1924-2015

Katherine Babey Dirgo, 91, passed away on February 12 in Shelton Lakes HCC, Shelton, Conn.

"Kay was a vital part of the town being able to organize the Council on Aging program," said Susan Galik. "We want to express our appreciation for everything she did for us. We will miss her very much.

Katherine, a homemaker, was born in Fairfield, Conn., to the late Michael and Katarina Babey and had been long time resident of Sandisfield. She was the Director of the Council of Aging, and she was a member of the Grange both in Sandisfield and a life-long member of the Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Church of St. John the Baptist, in Bridgeport.

"Kay was a vital part of the town being able to organize the Council on Aging program," said Susan Galik. "We want to express our appreciation for everything she did for us. We will miss her very much. Survivors include her children, George Michael and Katherine Ann, a brother, Michael D. Babey and his wife Sue of Trumbull and a sister, Annie Babey of Stratford, three nephews, George, Greg and Michael Babey, three nieces, Gail Haskell, Linda Maestri and Sharon Esares, and several great-nieces and nephews. In addition to her parents, she was pre-deceased by her brother, George Babey and his wife Mary, and sister, Mary Hlavaty and her husband Stephen.

A Requiem Funeral Services was held February 19th at the Carpatho Russian Orthodox Church of St. John the Baptist, in Bridgeport.

In lieu of flowers those desiring may make donations in memory of Katherine to St. John's Church. For more information or to make an online condolence please visit [www.adzimafuneralhome.com](http://www.adzimafuneralhome.com).





**SYLVIA LINDER GERMAN**  
1922-2015

Sylvia Anna German, 92, who grew up in her family home in Montville, passed away peacefully on February 7.

Sylvia was born in New York City, to the late Max and Ida (Weintraub) Linder, who came to Sandisfield in the early 1920s. She was the beloved wife of the late Joseph German, a career Air Force officer, so she regularly moved around the world with him, but she loved to travel and her outgoing nature made it easy for her to make new friends wherever she was. Following Joe's retirement in the late 1960s, they settled in the family home on Town Hill Road, which she maintained until her death.

In her spare time, she enjoyed crossword puzzles and was a diehard Scrabble, BINGO, and card player. Sylvia was a member of the Sandisfield Historical Society and one of the founders of the Sandisfield Arts Center.

She will be dearly missed by all who knew her. She is survived by her son Stephen German and his wife Lorraine of North Granby, Conn.; her granddaughter Kristin German of Gloucester, Mass.; and her twin sister Rose Petrokofsky of Moorestown, New Jersey. Besides her husband and parents, she was predeceased by her brother Sam Linder and her sister Pauline Simsovic.

Funeral services and burial will be private at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in her memory may be made to a charity of your choosing. For online condolences please visit [www.carmonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carmonfuneralhome.com).



*Karen Campetti, mid-1980s*

**KAREN (DIETRICH) CAMPETTI**  
1952 - 2015

Karen Campetti of New Boston died January 12.

Born in Albany, New York on March 30, 1952, Karen was the daughter of the late Evelyn and James Dietrich of Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Karen was a fiercely independent woman, said her family, "with a sense of humor like no other. It was her ability to find humor in any and every situation that kept her strong and alive." She had a long struggle against brain and lung cancer in the early 1990s and fought through both.

She was loved deeply by her daughter and by her friends. In turn, she loved her daughter and friends and dogs deeply. Karen became involved with Olde English Bulldogges in the 1980s. Karen and her former husband began showing the breed throughout the world. Through their efforts, the Olde English Bulldogge achieved awards in the confirmation ring and spurred the interest of many rare-breed fanciers and professional breeders became interested in producing the breed. Her interest and passion for the breed led to major success in the rings. A long-time breeder, her last kennel was named after her love of her favorite dog and companion, Valley Views Nette.

Karen is survived by her daughter, Angela Campetti of West Simsbury, Connecticut, her son, Dominico (Nick) Campetti of Sandisfield, and her sister, Kathleen (Taylor) Dietrich. She will be missed by many close friends, especially Althea and Rita as well as her Senior Center contingent and her friends from her kennel club and bulldogge days.

Funeral and memorial services for Karen will be held in the spring at Saint Joseph's Church in Stockbridge. Donations on her behalf may be made to the Claire Teague Senior Center in Great Barrington through Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230. Remembrances may be sent to her family through [www.finnertyandstevens.com](http://www.finnertyandstevens.com).

# NOW HEAR THIS!

*Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro.*

*Please send notices for Now Hear This! to [calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org](mailto:calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org).*

## MARCH EVENTS

**Preschool Registration and Screening for New Students Only** March 11, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Farmington River School in Otis. Children who will be 3 years old before September 1, 2015 may be eligible. Interested families should call Lynette Gagnon at 413-269-4466 to schedule an appointment for screening and pick up a registration packet.

**Corned Beef Dinner** Saturday, March 14, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Firehouse #2, 207 Sandisfield Road, Rt. 57. Sponsored by the New Boston Congregational Church and features corned beef and cabbage and all the rest. Assorted desserts. \$12.00/adult or \$5.00/children under 12. Tickets are available at the door and take outs are welcome.

**Rabies Clinic Sunday**, March 22, from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Old Town Hall, 3 Silverbrook Road. Dog licensing for 2015 also will be available.

**Blood Pressure Clinic** sponsored by the Porchlight Visiting Nurse Association and the Sandisfield Board of Health on Wednesday, March 25, from 11:00 a.m. to noon at the Sandisfield Council on Aging, Basement Level, Town Hall Annex, Route 57.

**Clam River Hike** sponsored by the Berkshire Natural Resources Council on Tuesday, March 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Covering the southern end of BNRC's Clam River Reserve, the trail offers great views of the Clam and Buck Rivers while cutting through an impressive pine forest. Dress in layers for this 1.5-mile hike. Yak

Traks or snowshoes may be necessary. Meet at the Town Hall Annex. For more information, contact Mike at [mleavitt@bnrc.net](mailto:mleavitt@bnrc.net).


## MARCH EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

**Free Health & Wellness Day** on Saturday, March 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Berkshire South Regional Community Center in Great Barrington. Fitness and wellness demos, activities for kids, community collaboration info booths, and more! Raffles and prizes for the whole family.

**Free Sandisfield Community Open House** on Sunday, March 15, at Berkshire South Regional Community Center in Great Barrington. Sandisfield residents can try out the Center for free! By showing proof of residency, individuals are welcome to go for a swim and use the cardio machines. For more information, call 413-528-2810.


**Hot Chocolate Saturdays** on Saturdays through March 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Bartholomew's Cobble in Ashley Falls. Free hot chocolate with admission. Snow shoe rentals available. Info contact: [rwendell@ttor.org](mailto:rwendell@ttor.org) or call 413-229-8600.

**Vendor Request.** VFW Post 296, in Winsted, is seeking vendors for its 2nd Annual Spring Fling Thing/Artisan & Vendor Marketplace on Saturday, May 16. Contact: Becca at [pongabr@yahoo.com](mailto:pongabr@yahoo.com) or call 860-309-0737.



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# SANDISFIELD TOWN DIRECTORY

*Official Town meetings take place at Town Hall Annex unless otherwise indicated.*

**TOWN WEBSITE: WWW.SANDISFIELD.INFO**

Administrator Brian Cruvey, [website@sandisfield.info](mailto:website@sandisfield.info)

**AMBULANCE:** 911. Non-Emergency: 258-4742

**AMERICAN LEGION Post 456:** Maria Domato, Commander:  
258-4578 (April-October) or [rainbow2498@embarqmail.com](mailto: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 1st Wed: 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, 413 269-4466  
Jo Ann D. Austin, Superintendent  
Thomas Nadolny, Principal

**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](mailto:ronbernard@aol.com).

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** John Kuzmech: 258-4906

Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat (in season): 11 a.m., the Society's building on Rt. 183

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE:**

John Skrip: 258-4788

**LIBRARY:** 258-4966 [sandisfieldlibrary@yahoo.com](mailto:sandisfieldlibrary@yahoo.com)

Monday & Tuesday: 9-12:30 p.m.  
Wednesday: 6:30-8:30 p.m. (April - October)  
(Closed Wed: Nov-Mar)  
Thursday: 2:00-5:00 p.m.  
Saturday: 9-12:00 p.m.  
Last Wednesday of the month is genealogy night.

**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:** Amy Carriveau, Clerk, 258-4940

Window Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 a.m.-noon & 1-4 p.m. Sat: 8-11:30 a.m.  
Delivery boxes in both lobbies accessible 24 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:Benjamin.Downing@state.ma.us)  
Smitty Pignatelli, State Representative.: 413 637-0631  
Email: [rep.smittypignatelli@hou.state.ma.us](mailto: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/WIREDWEST:**

Jean Atwater-Williams: 258-8000  
[technology@sandisfield.info](mailto:technology@sandisfield.info)

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:** Lisa Blackmer

Mon-Thurs or by appointment. 258-4711 or 413-429-8398  
Email: [sandisfieldtownadm@verizon.net](mailto:sandisfieldtownadm@verizon.net)

**TOWN CLERK:** Dolores Harasyko

PO Box 163 or [sandisfieldtownclerk@verizon.net](mailto: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](mailto:sandisfieldtreasurer@verizon.net)  
Mon/Wed: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

**TRANSFER STATION:** 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



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*We acknowledge with gratitude  
donations from the following:*

*Anonymous*

*Irene Conley*

*Joe & Sally Salzano*

*George Wheeler*



*The Sandisfield Times* is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization staffed by volunteers from the Sandisfield community and funded by individual and business sponsors. Its mission is to connect the community through reliable, regular, and relevant information. The paper is published 11 times each year, with a joint January-February issue and monthly issues thereafter.

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Now Hear This! Laura Rogers-Castro

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