

# THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



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Volume VI, Number 4 July 2015

## New Selectmen Learn the Ropes

By Tom Christopher

Sandisfield is back to a full table at Select Board meetings with two newly minted and one veteran Selectman. The Times interviewed Alice Boyd and John Skrip a few days after their election; their initial reactions are in the first two sections below. A third section outlines Boyd's and Skrip's thoughts after they'd experienced a few Board meetings, and includes some thoughts from Jeff Grey, who has been a Selectman for 5 years and is the one veteran at the table. At their first Board meeting, Alice was elected Chairman.

### CHAIRMAN ALICE

The greatest pleasure of her campaign for Selectman, says Alice Boyd, was the interesting and good people she met through the canvassing process. "It made me appreciate what we have [in Sandisfield] all the more."

*Cont'd p.8*

## Pipeline Update: ConCom Enters the Fray

### KINDER MORGAN BEHIND SCHEDULE

By Times Reporters

For the fifth time in little more than a year a public meeting was held at Old Town Hall for Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas to review their pipeline expansion proposal. This particular hearing, on June 17, which was not well publicized, was required because the company had just filed its "Notice of Intent" (NOI) with the Town.

The focus was wetlands. Of the 21 defined wetland areas in the vicinity of the project, 16 will be directly affected by construction. Ten stream crossings are also involved.

The Sandisfield Conservation Commission is the body charged with protection of Sandisfield's wetlands. Changes to land including wet areas such as vernal pools that might, for example, impact natural vegetation or promote invasive species, is the concern of the Commission. The by-now familiar team of Kinder Morgan employees and consultants unfurled a bunch of worn maps and charts and tried their best to explain how they intend to minimize impact to wetlands that comprise much of the 3.8 miles of the pipeline right-of-way (ROW).

Unlike that first assembly last May when the community's misgivings and objections were voiced by some 200 residents at the firehouse, the atmosphere this day with a smaller but better informed gathering was relatively subdued.

At the outset of the proceedings a member of Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT) which opposes new pipelines in the Berkshires stated that this meeting was illegal because the Notice of Intent had not received written permission beforehand from landowners as required by the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. Con Com Chairman Richard Campetti determined that the provision did not apply in this case and the meeting commenced. The ecologist and land acquisition manager from the Department of Conservation and Recreation

(DCR), the primary stakeholder, were unaware of this meeting and did not attend.

The Commission, which normally deals with septic systems, driveways and small-scale new construction, appeared largely uninformed about the project. All but invisible so far in the tortuous and complex permitting process, the panel on this evening got an earful from a public with serious concerns about this proposal and a distrust of the company.

That's because the addition of a third pipeline segment, a so-called loop, in the existing corridor requires involuntary seizure by a private corporation of about two miles of State conservation land protected under Massachusetts constitutional Article 97 and another

### "A third pipeline segment proposed ..."

*Cont'd p.13*

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# LATE BREAKING NEWS

## AN APOLOGY FROM THE ROAD SUPERINTENDENT

At the June 29 Select Board meeting, a report from the Highway Capital Equipment Committee (see "Truck Committee," page 9), caused Road Superintendent Steve Harasyko to abruptly leave the meeting. Steve called The Times the following day to ask that it print his public apology to Chairman Alice Boyd and to the Town for his behavior.

### NEW HARTFORD ROAD

The rebuilding of New Hartford Road will begin again. Lane Construction will return mid-August to do full-depth reclamation and apply a binder coat on much of the road at a cost to the Town of some \$900,000. The full top coat will be applied next summer. This year's work is expected to be completed in early October. 🗳️

## Bulky Waste Collection Transfer Station Update

This year the Transfer Station will offer bins for bulky waste collection for the months of July and September.

Due to necessary improvements at the Transfer Station, neither tire nor household hazardous waste collections will be offered this summer.

Electronics collection will continue at Town Hall Annex.

# Senior and Community Safety

All residents are welcome to attend a joint presentation on senior and community safety by the Sandisfield Board of Health and the Police Department.

The Board of Health will be represented by Chairman Kim Spring. Sandisfield's recently hired police officer, Adam Gonska, will discuss telemarketing fraud, phone scams, identity

theft, community crime watch, and home security.

The presentation will be July 29 at the regular Wednesday COA meeting, from 11 a.m. until noon, at the Town Hall Annex basement. For more information contact the Board of Health at sandisfieldBOH@verizon.net or Linda Riiska at 258-4816. 🗳️

# The Case of the Missing Scrapbooks

Officers at the Sandisfield Historical Society report that they are unable to locate two scrapbooks that are too large to have been overlooked. Both scrapbooks are about 2' x 3' in size, with dark leather-type covers.

Norton Fletcher, former president of the Society, hopes the scrapbooks were borrowed for research by a Society member who has forgotten to return them. Or another resident borrowed them for another purpose.

One of the scrapbooks contains World War I photographs. Donated to the Society in the 1970s by Robert Chase, then of New Hartford

Road, the scrapbook was a museum favorite of veterans and others interested in that era.

The second scrapbook contains newspaper and magazine clippings from the 1920s and '30s.

Norton said that he and Society secretary Viki Bakunis have searched the place "high and low. We opened every drawer, looked in every stack of books. They're too big for us not to find them."

Worst-case scenario is that the scrapbooks were stolen and have been sold to an antique dealer or are listed on E-bay. Norton and the Society would like them back. 🗳️

# Wanted: Volunteer EMTs

Are you willing to volunteer time and effort to become a Sandisfield EMT? The Town could use your help, and volunteering as an EMT can help you gain real-life work experience and on-the-job training for a career in the medical profession.

Fire Chief Ralph Morrison, head of Sandisfield's Ambulance Squad, said, "We need volunteers. People who want to help others."

Training classes will begin in August. EMT certification now must meet national requirements,

and you will work with a certified EMT instructor. Requirements are that you be at least 18 years of age, have accurate color vision, and be in good physical condition.

Said Ralph, "Join us. Call me and talk it over." His phone: 413-441-2126. 🗳️



## The Rotten Apples

Andy Wrba, a member of the Riiska Brook Orchards family, brought a band called Rotten Apples to the Arts Center in early June where they performed a series of folk music, bluegrass, and old favorites mixed into their own versions of jazz. The band members are all professional musicians and together they brought down the house. From left: Benny Kohn on piano, Chris Merenda on banjo, Andy Wrba on bass, Bill Chapman on drums, Ryan Hommel on acoustic guitar, and Tony Hanna on guitar.



# Breaking News: Negotiate?

By Bill Price

**FROM SOME VIEWPOINTS,** it looks like a done deal. The Town may not be able to stop Kinder Morgan from expanding its existing pipeline across the Beech Plain section of Sandisfield.

If that is so, the bulldozers and oversize trucks are coming. The message delivered by the Selectmen at the Board meeting June 29 at Old Town Hall was that we'd better negotiate while we can.

The Times delayed this July issue in order to report the Board's announcement that it will negotiate with Kinder Morgan, the energy conglomerate.

Kinder Morgan has offered in effect a "good will" payment to the Town in exchange for the pipeline expansion.

The previous Select Board opposed the pipeline, as does the current board elected in May. The Town unanimously passed a resolution against the pipeline at the 2014 Town Meeting on many grounds, including that it will damage property of more than a dozen homeowners and abutters, and the expansion will tear up wetlands and state forests, some of which are protected under Article 97. Some of

these issues may yet delay or stop the expansion. (For more on the environmental effects, see report on page 1.)

But at the June 29 meeting, Alice Boyd, the Board Chairman, said many of the state's elected officials have advised her that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and Federal regulatory boards are expected to eventually grant Kinder Morgan the permits it needs to proceed.


"If that happens, in reality the Select Board needs to do what is best for the town," Alice said. "If we don't get these agreements in advance, we won't get them."

The Board, working with a skilled negotiator yet to be hired, will seek a significant payment to the Town. "We will hire attorneys and wetlands specialists to assess damage to the environment," Alice said.

In addition, the Town will seek to impose conditions on the process, particularly that the Town be reimbursed for legal expenses and that landowners and abutters be helped to the fullest extent possible. Alice added, "We want damaged roads repaired properly." Also, the Town may monitor any use of herbicides.

Affected landowners protested that the Town should not benefit from what will place a heavy burden on a few individuals, and that Town officials are being put in the conflicting position of negotiating with Kinder Morgan while at the same time opposing the pipeline expansion. They said that the "good will payment" is in effect a bribe and that Kinder Morgan will use the Town's negotiations to help persuade state and federal officials that the Town supports the pipeline expansion.

They pointed out that other towns facing pipeline projects in northern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire are watching what happens here and whether or not the expansion proposal can be stopped or slowed. In the meantime, pipeline opponents will meet with Sandisfield's Conservation Commission and the Board of Health to ask them to intervene on behalf of health and environmental concerns.

Ultimately, any decision regarding payments by Kinder Morgan to the Town will have to be approved at a Town Meeting. But for the time being, discussions will continue in private because Kinder Morgan has refused to meet in open session. 

## SAVE THE DATE: STEAK ROAST

The Sandisfield Volunteer Firemen Steak Roast will be held Saturday, August 8, from 5 to 7 p.m. Dancing from 6 to 10 p.m. Firehouse #2 on Rt. 57.

Tickets, \$25. Tickets will not be available at the door, but can be bought from any of the volunteers or call A&M Auto, 258-3381. Ice cream bars afterwards to benefit the Sandisfield Scholarship Fund.



## *New Residents Incubating Right Now*

*Spotted in early June by Tina Sotis, the designer of The Times, we visited this large and very formidable snapping turtle which had scooped a hole by the side of Rt. 57 to lay her eggs. In a few weeks, the 10-50 new Sandisfield residents should hatch and crawl out of the sand. Hopefully, they will head toward the swamp and not further onto the road.*

# Such is the Stuff as Dreams are Made On

## SHAKESPEARE WEEKEND AT THE ARTS CENTER

By Barbara Penn

Photos: Peter Levine

The staging was minimal – church pews arranged around the sides and back of the stage. The actors wore black pants and T-shirts with Velcro-ed name tags so we knew who was who. Saturday evening, June 27, the Sandisfield Players performed excerpts from two of Shakespeare's tragedies and one of his comedies and the next day nearly the full production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Director Ben Luxon said he chose Shakespeare for this summer's work in order to push his players to become "more comfortable on stage, especially in projecting their voices ... to experience and gain an understanding of the difficult and complex language" in Shakespeare, and to do it while reading from "a script held in their hands." Because of Luxon's genius in drawing out the "actor in everyone," these aspirations were met.

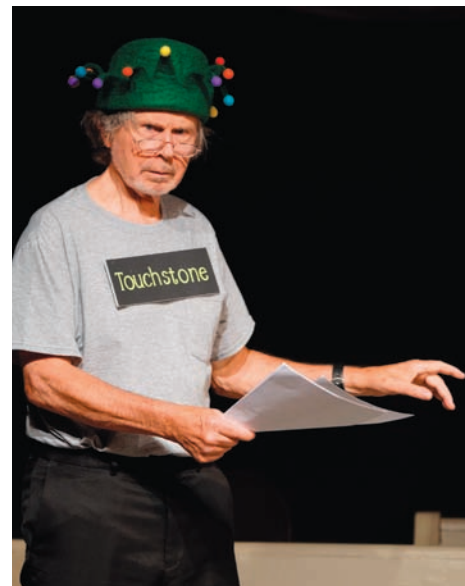
*King Lear* opened the Saturday performance. Ben Luxon, portraying one of Shakespeare's most complex characters, gave us the full impact of Lear's mind with the growing infirmities of old age, the "disease" of craving flattery and adoration, and Lear's anger and violence.

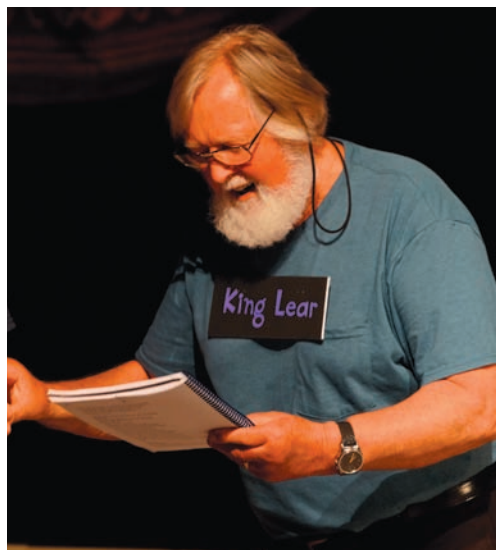
Lear was followed by *MacBeth*, and the audience pleaser, as usual, were the Three Witches: Susie Crofut, Jean Atwater-Williams, and Lauren Paul, with Mary Anne Grammer as Queen of the witches. They filled the stage with energy as bubbling as the cauldron!

Charles Fidler was a joy as the court jester in the third feature, *As You Like It*, and he was strong as the Duke of Kent in *King Lear*. Evers Whyte was terrific as Orlando in *As You Like It*. Admirable jobs were done by Steve Kopic, Paul Van Sickle, Kenly Brozman, Val Coleman, Kendra and Richard Lassar, and Flora and Sandy Parisky.

Special bravos to Jean Atwater-Williams, who once again displays her acting versatility in performing a range of roles in all three of the Saturday plays. We've come to count on Mary Anne Grammer, also here in multiple roles, to shine, and in this case she does, particularly as Phebe in *As You Like It*. Ron Bernard, as the shepherd in love with her, displayed his just-right comic timing.

However, Luxon excepted, Saturday night belonged to Tina Sotis. In her *Lady Macbeth* monologue (which she had memorized, liberating her from the script), Tina gave a restrained and controlled performance that built in a very tight crescendo of breath and emotion from the woman who exclaims "Unsex me here!" In *Lady Macbeth* Shakespeare provided his most deep and exhaustive analysis of human character, the effects of





wrongdoing and buried emotions on the soul. We saw that on stage with Tina's performance.

With *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on Sunday, all the players went into a higher gear. Everyone was loose and comfortable on the stage, including the four young boys whose musical ensemble was charming.

Lauren Paul as Puck was a joy as the genderless sprite. Her performance was physical – leaping, bounding, and rolling across the stage – and believable – charged with energy. Jean Atwater-Williams was riveting as Titania, especially playing opposite Ben Luxon, now transformed into a donkey. As Oberon and as Snout the Tinker and ‘Wall,’ Charles Fidler bordered on perfection.

Ben Luxon as Bottom transformed into a donkey equaled his performance as Lear. Each word and nuance, each donkey bray and pawing of the ground, each facial expression and vocal modulation was pure donkey.

In the play within the play, Val Coleman was authoritative, Ron Bernard rocked the house with his comedic falsetto, and Sandy Parisky was a lionish lion. Ben was Pyramus, enthusiastically and deliberately overacting his part, including his “death.”

The appeal of Shakespeare in his time for the ordinary person is something that Ben Luxon and the Sandisfield Players showed us here at the Arts Center. ♣

*Page 10, clockwise:  
Keller Wescott on the trumpet.  
Charles Fidler as Touchstone.  
Ben Luxon and elves in *Midsummer Night's Dream*.  
Mary Anne Grammer, Ron Bernard, and Kenly Brozman in *As You Like It*.  
Val Coleman as Gloucester.  
Lauren Paul as Audrey.*

*This page, Jean Atwater-Williams and Ben in *Midsummer Night's Dream*.  
Tina Sotis as Lady MacBeth.  
Three witches, Susie Crofut, Lauren Paul, and Jean Atwater-Williams.  
Right, Ben Luxon as King Lear.*

# SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER



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## july

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## What is the Sandisfield Scholarship?

By Laura Rogers-Castro

The Sandisfield Scholarship Fund awards cash grants to eligible Sandisfield high school seniors to assist with the costs of higher education. Typically, awards are given to students following successful completion of their first semester. Students who are Sandisfield residents should complete an application in April.


The scholarship amount differs from year to year based on annual fundraising efforts and donors. The annual Penny Auction, sponsored by the Sandisfield Scholarship Fund Committee at the Historical Society's Christmas Fair, is an example of one fundraising effort. The next fundraiser will feature Italian ice; popsicles; and ice cream bars on Saturday, August 8, during the Sandisfield Volunteer Fire Department's Annual Steak Roast. Please show your support by attending these great events!

Anina Carr, Bethany Perry, and Laura Rogers-Castro are committee members. For additional information or to volunteer on the Sandisfield Scholarship Fund Committee, please contact me at 258-4688. The Committee appreciates the generosity of past donors. If you would like to make a donation, please send your check made out to the Sandisfield Scholarship Fund to PO Box 672, Sandisfield, MA 01255. 



## Robert Kahlstrom Awarded Scholarship

Robert Kahlstrom of North Beech Plain Road has received this year's college scholarship awarded by the Sandisfield Scholarship Fund.

Robert, who graduated in June from Monument Mountain Regional High School, will attend Paul Smith's College in upstate New York where he plans to study Fisheries and Wildlife Science. He intends to become an environmental police officer, enforcing hunting and fishing laws. Robert's teachers described him as a self-motivated, hard-working young man with an exceptional work ethic. 



*Music at the Services*

*Sunday services at the New Boston Congregational Church in June were enlivened by the music of, from left, Bob Liberty, Dale Rogers, Dan Damkauskas, and Toby Quirk.*

*Through the "good weather" season, the Church will hold services on the second Sunday of each month, at 10 a.m., July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, and maybe November 8.*



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# T-I-M-B-E-R

## OUR CHANGING LANDSCAPE

By *Brigitte Ruthman*

So deep and dark were the forests here once that native Americans occasionally set fires to create swatches of open land, making room to plant corn and to create diversity in an ecosystem more suitable for edible wildlife than farmland.

It wasn't until European settlers arrived in the mid-1700s that the old growth forests succumbed to a relentless effort to clear them. Sandisfield's windblown forests were among the last to fall, on high, less desirable ground for farming. They were felled by axes and saws, uprooted by teamsters driving oxen that pulled round the stumps and drew wooden boats to clear stones to make the fields. Mostly, the forests were transformed into pasture and orchards on hilly ground.

Nearly three quarters of the hardwood forests had been cleared by the late 1800s. So little of the vast hardwoods remained by the late 1800s that deer had nowhere to hide from the open season on them. Turkey, bear, fisher cats, and wolves lost their habitats or were shot by farmers.

As farms were abandoned, forests reclaimed the open ground. The transition, hastened by technological innovations which made larger farms more profitable after World War II, reversed the percentage. Today, less than 30 percent of the land is open.

The 7,000-acre Sandisfield State Forest is classified as woodland, allowing for periodic managed harvests prohibited on park lands. Turkey, deer, and bear have returned, but their habitat is largely a monoculture and food sources are limited. There is little grass.

The timber in the state forests is owned by taxpayers, a crop of fluctuating value managed by the Commonwealth's Department of Conservation and Recreation through timber harvesting.

In January, the whine of chain saws echoed near York Lake. Cold hardened the ground before deep snow insulated it, enabling forwarders and skidders to harvest logs and pile them on log trucks.

The proceeds of the timber harvest will total \$137,000, the high bid offered by J&J Lumber of Dover Plains, New York. By the time the final log hitch is pulled by a skidder off the 167 acres, Sandisfield will receive 8 percent of the proceeds, about \$11,000.

Forester Jeff Martin examined and identified each of the mature trees – including 1,053 ash trees expected to succumb to the emerald ash borer within a few years; 349 beech; 4 paper birch; 35 yellow birch; 164 black cherry; 261 red maple; 164 sugar maple; 298 red oak; 27 white pine; and



25 Norway spruce. About 551 other trees were suitable only as firewood, yielding 75 cords.

One of them, a red oak, left a stump to prove it sprouted in 1870. The landscape had changed by then and grasses and saplings, and this red oak, previously out by darkness found light to grow.

By May, as the sweet wild ramps poked through the last patches of snow and in some places succumbed to a barrier of tangled limbs and skidder ruts, turkey and deer found new browse. A few locals, keen on the value of firewood residue, claimed a good stash of crooked wood within reach.

In two years, pesticide will be applied to keep less desirable beech trees from claiming the light, leaving space for more profitable cherry, oak, and maple.

About 60 percent of the work has been completed, Martin said. Roads have been improved with gravel supplied by the logging company. The rest of the timber will be harvested later this year, after summer traffic subsides and the ground dries up, or after frigid temperatures again freeze the ground.

The formerly depressed market for timber is now on an upswing, thanks to overseas demand. Martin pointed out that Asian factories are hungry for raw materials with which to make things we want and ship it back to us for a profit. Some of Sandisfield's timber will return with "Made in China" stamped on it. ♡



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## New Selectmen Learn the Ropes

(cont'd from p.1)

Boyd agrees with fellow new Selectman John Skrip on taking aim at the tax rate. There are many lower- and middle-income residents and retirees who simply cannot afford an increase in taxes. Yet preventing tax increases is a special challenge in Sandisfield where so much of the land has been placed in Chapter 61 and so is taxed at a lower rate or, in the case of Sandisfield State Forest, is tax exempt.

Boyd says that her experience as a grant-writer should be valuable in this respect, helping her identify state and federal funds that can be secured to help the town government with its expenses. She also foresees working closely with the state legislators to secure earmarks for things the town needs and "to make sure we get our fair share."

The most immediate challenge facing the town, Boyd believes, is in improving the condition of the roads. This, she admits, will be a big project, given that the state has cut its aid to municipalities for such work by two-thirds over the past ten years. Another immediate concern, Boyd says, is developing job descriptions for the town employees who are currently working without them. "It's not right not to have a job description and not know what's expected of you."

"I don't want to change this town," adds Boyd, "just do a better job at what we do."

### SELECTMAN JOHN

A little more accountability and transparency is what Sandisfield needs from its town government, says Selectman John Skrip. He points out that as a retiree, he has the time to really devote himself to this position. Sandisfield is a town with a budget of about \$3 million and as such, in Skrip's opinion, it needs a Selectman

who will be available to constituents and town employees during business hours, someone who has the time to really scrutinize the expenses that influence the budget "on a day-to-day basis."

Skrip's first project upon taking office is to "assess we have out there." He intends to spend his first 30-40 days as a Selectman sitting down with the head of every department of town government to understand what challenges they are facing and to begin developing responses. In particular, he wants to be more available to town committee members.

He serves on four committees himself: the Farmington River Regional School Board, Cultural Council, Strategic Planning, and the recently organized Highway Capital Equipment Committee (the "Truck Committee"). So he knows how much these volunteer bodies need access to the selectmen and their support.

His biggest concerns are with the town's tax rate and the state of its infrastructure, more specifically the roads. Sandisfield's tax base is stagnant, and although a long-term goal should be to expand the grand list, in the short term he believes that the two biggest expenses of the town, education and the public works department, need to be scrutinized, not for cuts but for potential savings and efficiencies. Indeed, he would apply the same scrutiny to every department; in his view, department heads need to justify their budget yearly, using a zero base budget concept to account for expenditures.

Above all, Skrip wants to express his thanks to those who voted in the recent election – not just those who voted for him, he adds, but all of those who took time to go to the polls and register their opinions.

### UPDATE, JUNE 15TH

After an initial three meetings of the new select board, what strikes John Skrip is the need for

patience. With a board of three members, open meeting rules effectively restrict board business to formal meetings, which means that it can take two or three weeks to settle an issue. Three meetings, for example, were required to get a truck committee appointed. "It's slow-going" says Skrip, but that keeps the board from moving too quickly, without due deliberation. "It's good democracy."

For Alice Boyd, the revelation has been the amount of research required. When it comes to decisions, she said, "You have to listen to everyone and research everything because people have different perspectives. You have to make sure you have correct information yourself every time."

With the proposed repairs to New Hartford Road, for example, Boyd notes that some residents were saying that the town's road building techniques were not best practice. So Boyd took the specs to a state highway engineer to get his insights. "There's so much research. [just on this single issue]: calling the state department of transportation, talking with engineers, meeting with people at the [town's] road department, finding out what other towns are doing."

"If we are going to build a road," Boyd adds, "I want to make sure it's a road that's going to last. But I also want to make sure we can afford to build that road."

Jeff Gray, the single carry-over from the previous board, notes that it is unusual for two new Selectmen to come on board at the same time. "So [right now] we're trying to get used to one another. I think eventually we will get pretty nice," he said.

Communication, Jeff adds, is the key. Communication not just with the other board members but also the department heads. "If we get good communication among everybody, I think we'll do fine." 🇺🇸

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## Around Town Hall...

By Alice Boyd, Select Board Chairman

Change can be tough for some people while others take it in stride. As I look back at the last few weeks I realize that our town is moving in a new direction and not everyone is pleased. But as Tony Robbins said, "If you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always gotten."

We've made some well-considered changes. At the Selectmen's Meeting the Chairman will not only set the agenda but run the meeting. With an eye toward being completely transparent we're providing a weekly Selectmen's Report listing everything we're working on as a Board.

We've initiated Annual Goals for the Board of Selectmen [see adjoining column] and we'll be evaluating our Town Administrator in public session which will lead to creating goals for her. We've started writing job descriptions for key staff and are taking on new projects.


We'll be looking at the negotiations underway regarding the intrusive pipeline project threatening the Beech Plain area and Town Hill Road.

We'll be fixing some very basic items like the playground behind our library, the roof at town hall, and the potholes on our roads. We'll make sure that meeting agendas are posted online, and we can look at alternative funding sources, including grants.

In the next two months we anticipate applying for two grants, one for culverts and another for road improvements. We are at a disadvantage without a Local Comprehensive Plan and without "shovel ready" projects due to the lack of funds for engineering. So at a Special Town Meeting this fall we'll ask voters to allocate funds so that we can have road, culvert, and other projects engineered and ready to go. Meanwhile, the Planning Board and its sub-committee are working on our town's new planning document. We will find ways to work regionally, sharing the costs of equipment and staff with neighboring towns.

The Select Board also provided a charge to the new "Truck Committee" to review the town's equipment needs. First the committee will determine the need for a new truck based upon our recent Town Meeting vote. The longer-range charge is to establish a Capital Expenditures Plan that encompasses our larger equipment needs so that we can plan and budget over the years rather than react.

I'd like to thank Patrick Barrett for his advice, Jeff Gray for showing us the ropes, Mark Moore from the Mass. Department of Transportation for guidance on the New Hartford Road project, and State Representative Smitty Pignatelli for sharing his knowledge and expertise.

But my real thanks goes to you, our residents, for sharing your ideas, concerns, and frustrations. We can't fix it all, but we'll do our best to be thoughtful, frugal, and thorough as we tackle the issues we all face together. 

## Broad Band Sign-Up Goal Attained!

By Jean Atwater-Williams

We did it!


On June 18 the tally sheet at Wired West central recorded Sandisfield "backer" No. 248. We'd reached our 40% minimum sign-up goal. The voters came out strong in May to support the concept at the Town Meeting and then the warrant to guarantee resources to build a true high-speed fiber optic broadband network.

But this result is perhaps even more significant. Already 40% of residences and businesses have committed financially with \$49 advance payments which will be applied towards the first month of service cost. Sandisfield has joined 13 other goal-achieving towns including neighboring Tolland, Monterey, Tyringham, and Egremont. The network is expected to be ready for service in about 2½ years.



*A resident of the Sandisfield portion of Otis Woodlands put Sandisfield over the top on June 18. Here, Debbie Harris received a token of appreciation from Wired West representative Jean Atwater-Williams for her efforts to organize support in the Woodlands.*

But, of course, it's not over. Towns with the highest participation rates will receive first consideration, and this is an important point. If you haven't yet and still mean to send in your advance payment, please do so very soon. Talk to neighbors and friends. Help put Sandisfield at the head of the line.

To sign up, or to follow the standings among the 32 towns in the cooperative, go to [www.wiredwest.net](http://www.wiredwest.net). For more information contact me at 413-269-0012 or by email, [atwaterwilliams@gmail.com](mailto:atwaterwilliams@gmail.com). 

## Truck Committee Drives Ahead

By Bogart Muller


A handful of local truckers, mechanics and finance experts gathered at Town Hall Annex for the first meeting of the newly formed Highway Capitol Equipment Committee. Since the committee's first charge was to figure out if the Town needed a new truck and, if so, what kind, the committee instantly became the "Truck Committee."

The committee's longer term purpose is to determine the general equipment needs of the Highway Department. Road Superintendent Steve Harasyko sat front and center to discuss what our needs are and why. Our current line-up consists of five trucks and five drivers. If a truck goes down during a storm, another driver must take on the route costing time, money, and much frustration. If everything stays afloat throughout a blizzard, the department "makes do with what we have."

There is talk of rehabbing the old geen Osh-Kosh plow truck. It still runs, has a good plow, and the dump body works.

With a little TLC, it could be made into a usable backup truck if one of the others breaks down. Financially, this would be the least expensive option.

Not out of the realm of possibility is subcontracting the major snowplowing. Local companies would be ready 24/7 to handle routes critical to our morning/evening commuters. These drivers have the proper equipment, insurance, skills, and training. The Town currently uses a sub for our smaller roads and firehouses.. A brand new plow truck would come with a \$193K price tag and a 6-month wait time. The committee has, so far, recommended this option.

The committee is meeting every week with very limited time in which to make several important decisions. Committee members are: Chairman John Skrip, Jim Cooley, David Hubbard, Mark Newman, Bogart Muller, Charlie Pease, and Billy Perry. 

# What Do We Want and Where Do We Want It?

*Monterey Town Hall*



*Otis Town Hall*

*New Marlborough Town Hall*



*Granville Town Hall*

*Tolland Town Hall*



*Colebrook Town Hall*

## LAND FOR SALE? Or to Donate to the Town?

In an effort to determine potential locations for the Town Hall/Town Center, the Strategic Planning Committee would like to hear from anyone who is aware of land that may be available. We believe about 8+ acres with visible road frontage would be ideal. This is an informational request and is not to be considered an offer to purchase. The committee still has a lot of work to determine if, when, and where this site will be located.

Please send suggestions to [Sandisfieldsuggestionbox@gmail.com](mailto:Sandisfieldsuggestionbox@gmail.com) or drop it off at the Town Hall Annex.

*Kathy Jacobs  
Co-Chair, Strategic Planning*


# Some Have a Big House; Some Have a Small House

By Sandy Parisky

A report by Bryarly Consulting of Springfield, commissioned by the Select Board in 2014, confirmed the deteriorated conditions existing at town buildings. Bryarly estimated that over \$1 million would be required just to bring both structures up to building codes, ADA requirements, and safety standards without providing any additional space to meet present and future town hall functions.

So, if we build something, what do we want and where do we want it? These are questions co-chairmen Kathy Jacobs and Ralph Morrison and members of the committee (Anina Carr, Gordon Chapman, David Hubbard, John Scrip, and Anna Wald) have been working on since the Bryarly report was completed.

The committee meets monthly to move the project forward by looking at ways to condense and consolidate Town Hall functions and space requirements; establish criteria for selecting a location and identify possible sites; and possible ways of financing and phasing the work — a complex and once-in-a century project for the town of Sandisfield.

The photos of Town Halls in neighboring towns may help residents think about these questions and encourage them to attend the committee meetings and participate in the work of deliberating and moving the project forward. The Strategic Planning Committee meets the third Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., Fire Station #2 on Rt. 57. All are invited and welcome. 

# Sandisfield Goes to the Movies

## “BOB” HEADING FOR THE CZECH REPUBLIC


By Bill Price

“Bob and the Trees,” filmed in Sandisfield, was shown in late May at the Berkshire International Film Festival in Great Barrington before an audience of about 300 film fans. About a hundred of those fans were Sandisfield friends and neighbors who drove into town to take in the matinee at the Mahaiwe. From their point of view the star of the movie was Sandisfield itself.


Produced and directed by local director, Diego Ongaro, “Bob and the Trees” features local forester Bob Tarasuk with his son-in-law Matt Gallagher. Several other actors in the film are local, too, and the audience kept watching for familiar landscapes and faces. They were not disappointed. Several scenes were filmed along Rt. 57 and other local roads, some in the interior of local homes, one memorable confrontation scene between angry loggers

was at the bar at MJ Tuckers, and others were in woods that look just like – and are – Sandisfield woods.

The film’s next stop will be early July at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival in the Czech Republic, the most prestigious film festival in Central Europe. It will be the film’s International premiere. On their way to the festival are director Diego and co-author Courtney Maum, producer Rob Cristiano, and Bob and Matt, the stars of the film who make very persuasive and volatile loggers working under brutal winter cold and snow.

Another local star of the film was Bob’s Brown Swiss cow, Ginger. Bob said, “Ginger died a year ago. She was about 20 years old. It’s really nice to watch her in the film trudging up to the barn through all that snow. She’s been immortalized.” 

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# Sandisfield Historical Commission



## THE DEATH OF LADY SANDYS

### Update: Sister City Project

By Ron Bernard

We report the death of Lady Sandys of Ombersley, England, on June 5, age 89. She was the last living descendant of the branch of the Sandys family that traces to 1170. The original land grant that became Sandisfield was named for her ancestor, Lord Sandys (pronounced Sands), a British nobleman who in 1761 was appointed First Lord of Trade and the Plantations, responsible for commerce with the colonies.

We were informed of her death by friends in Ombersley whom we met last July as a delegation from Sandisfield to explore the possibility of a "sister city" relationship between Sandisfield and Ombersley. We met with town officials, local historians, and a trustee of Ombersley Court, the Sandys' c. 1732 manor house and grounds, and were received with exceptional hospitality over several days that established personal connections (see Sandisfield Times, August 2014).

Lady Sands was not in residence at the time of our visit, but sent her encouragement that our towns might establish a long-lasting friendship pact. We regret we did not have the opportunity to meet her.



Ombersley Court, 2014

A reciprocal visit by an Ombersley delegation was tentatively set for this fall. However, just as plans were taking shape we learned that a committee member was seriously ill and that a visit to the Berkshires would have to wait. Still, we hope to receive our new English friends here soon, perhaps even by next fall.

A formal relationship with Ombersley (in Europe the practice is called "twinning") can benefit both communities in a variety of ways such as educational and cultural exchanges and enhanced tourism. Often participants in municipal friendship pacts team up on humanitarian projects in third countries. The Historical Commission will advise as the concept and plans develop.

Lady Sandys was the former Patricia Simpson Hall whom Lord Sandys married in 1961. During our visit last year, we learned that during WW II Lady Sandys worked at Bletchley Park, the secret intelligence base where teams of British and American scholars labored to break the German enigma codes.

Although the young Miss Hall worked in administration, it is possible that she may have known Geoffrey Charlesworth and Norman Singer who were assigned there as code breakers. Charlesworth, an Englishman, was a mathematician while Singer, an American, was a musician. Much later, in retirement, the partners were

well-known residents of South Sandisfield. (For a description of their acclaimed horticultural pursuits in Sandisfield, see *Sandisfield Then and Now*, page 416.)

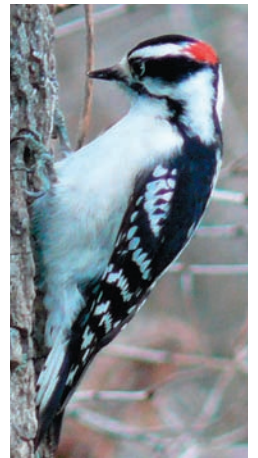
Last year following our visit to England, Lady Sandys extended an invitation to us to visit during our next trip. If that next trip had occurred in time, we would have been pleased to have asked her about that period of history and if she recalled our former neighbors, Charlesworth and Singer. ♣



## Woodpecker Shows His Chops

By Miriam Karmel

The dog and I were ambling down the road when a racket shattered the early morning silence. Why would someone rattle stones in a tin can? Vigorously. Rat-a-tat-tat. A jackhammer? The Town road crew was nowhere in sight. Not a car had passed by. After a brief silence, the noise resumed. Rat-a-tat-tat. Pranksters in the brush?



I traced the sound to a bank of mailboxes in the middle of the road by the Silverbrook. A bird, smaller than a robin, larger than a sparrow, was perched atop one of the boxes, hammering away. It was a woodpecker. A downy woodpecker. A confused woodpecker, I reasoned – one that hadn't yet learned the difference between metal and wood.

Not so, said my birding friend, Margaret. That bird was doing what woodpeckers do, when they're not trolling for suet or bugs in the trees. He was establishing his territory, raising a ruckus to attract a mate. Woodpeckers will peck at downspouts and gutters, metal siding and even antennas. Mailboxes, too. Songbirds warble. Woodpeckers drum. Let the good times roll. ♣



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## Pipeline Update: ConCom Enters the Fray

(cont'd from p.1)

two miles of private property. The corridor will at least double from its current 75-foot width to some 150 feet including 25 feet of new permanent land and at least 50 feet of "temporary" work space.

In a matter of months, everyday life for hundreds of residents of the Beech Plain and northwest Sandisfield, West Otis and Otis Village, and Monterey and Tyringham will be disrupted by heavy construction that will last for almost a year. But most of all the worry is about unavoidable permanent environmental damage on a scale not seen here in at least 35 years and perhaps not since the 1960s flood control projects.

A few new faces in the audience included Sandisfield residents who, in the jargon of the industry, are "abutters or abutters of abutters" to the pipeline or to a work site. They were among dozens who had just received by mail a special notice about this hearing. Residents along almost the entire length of Town Hill Road were surprised to learn that they will be dealing with a "pipe-yard" or equipment staging area of 2.3 acres along the west side of their road.

Others residing in the Cold Spring Road section were apprised that a pipeyard will be located near Spectacle Pond either at the southern tip of the pond just yards away from the source of the Clam River or else across the road on 7.5 acres of hillside meadowland once part of the former Rowley farm, now included in Otis State Forest. Both proposed sites are protected as conservation land under Article 97.

Beech Plain Road abutters learned that yet another staging area of about 5 acres is planned along that dirt road. In its earlier filings the company represented that one pipe-yard in Tyringham near the company's ROW would suffice. However, objection from Tyringham has forced reconsideration and the latest thinking is to have three staging sites, all in Sandisfield.

Following a presentation by Kinder Morgan, a number of attendees read prepared statements in opposition to the proposal and most also urged the panel not to be hasty to accommodate the company whose sense of urgency is clearly growing. Commissioners and others from the floor directed questions to the experts. One attendee asked whether there might be blasting in wetlands. Until recently and before being challenged on this point by the DCR and others, the company said that blasting was unlikely but that there was a contingency plan. In response to the

direct question, a consultant admitted that in fact they now expect to blast even in wetlands but that they had a safety plan. The company also confirmed that the existing pipelines of 1951 and 1981 vintage, which lie only 25 feet from the proposed new line, would continue to operate during construction. Some recalled the incident in 1981 when blasting for the then-new second line ruptured the live 1951 line. A potential catastrophe was averted but the memory of the event and the "run-for-your-life evacuation" lingers among long-time residents of the Beech Plain.

## "Residents along Town Hill Road were surprised ..."


The company originally estimated that state and federal permits would be in hand by this month with town permits soon following. However, an obstacle has emerged in the form of Constitutional Article 97 which prevents alteration of any kind on state conservation land, e.g., Spectacle Pond /Otis State Forest, without a 2/3 vote of approval of the legislature and the governor's signature. So far no legislator has submitted a bill. Last month State Representative Smitty Pignatelli and State Senator Ben Downing reiterated to constituents that they would not sponsor and would oppose waiver legislation.


Moreover, Kinder Morgan has proposed a major new northern pipeline that would run from the state's western border all the way to Dracut. This has generated alarm in communities across the state and in New Hampshire as well as considerable public and political opposition. It is not clear if these sentiments will further complicate the company's plans to get an Article 97 waiver for the Spectacle Pond section ROW. Opponents worry that a waiver will create a precedent which will undermine the future of land conservation in the state. The company said that in June it received a certificate of approval from the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, a key milestone.

The company also said in the meeting that it expects to get all approvals by the "end of the year" and that the first stage, clearing 75 feet or more in and near the ROW, would commence in early January 2016 instead of in November 2015 as originally planned. They did not indicate how a waiver to Article 97 would be obtained. But LeClair Ryan, a Boston law firm representing

Kinder Morgan, recently crafted "emergency" legislation titled "Proposed Draft Article 97 Legislation" that ostensibly would skirt the normal process. Otherwise it was reported at the meeting that the rest of the project is still assumed to be on schedule with major construction taking place over "three or four months" starting in March 2016. The new line must be functional by the end of November 2016 according to the company's applications.

The Conservation Commission has a lot of work ahead of it starting on July 21 with a vote to approve the hiring (at Kinder Morgan expense) of a wetlands consultant. This will be followed on July 28 with a special continuation meeting for Kinder Morgan. Commissioner Clare English indicated that the Con Com would "take its time" to deliberate and get all the information it needed. She said that the pipeline expansion would be on the agenda of its regularly scheduled monthly meetings for a considerable time to come.

The Commission meets every 3rd Tuesday at the Town Hall Annex, 7 p.m. Meetings are open to the public. For agenda information, check bulletin boards and the Town website, [www.sandisfield.info](http://www.sandisfield.info). 



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# Sandisfield Historical Society



By John Kuzmecz

Our Summer Fair will be on the 4th of July, from 10-2 p.m. We rely on the proceeds of this fair to meet our expenses, so even if you are not a member please come out to support us. We will have colonial re-enactors, many new items for our huge tag sale, some new vendors, and of course a lot of treats, baked goods, hot dogs and hamburgers.

And this year we will have our First Annual Pet Parade! At the Fair, 11:30!

The Society is pleased to partner with Teresa DellaGiustina and the Recreation Committee to sponsor our First Annual Pet Parade! (Last year the parade was held at the Arts Center.) At our Historical Society Fair, at 11:30 a.m. on the 4th of July. dogs, cats, rabbits, pigs, and all other animals are invited to strut their stuff. Prizes will be given for Best Costumed and Best Dressed animal and other categories.

At our June meeting farmer, logger, and orchardist Billy Riiska entertained us with stories and anecdotes about his life in Sandisfield and how he expanded his family farm into the successful Riiska Brook Orchards. Thank you, Bill, and thanks also to your daughter, Bethany Riiska Perry, for serving as moderator. (Some of Bill's stories will appear in next month's Times.)

Our next monthly meeting will be held July 11 at 11a.m. Our speaker will be Bob Grigg, the lively and colorful president of the Colebrook Historical Society. Bob recently described to me the reciprocal relationships that existed between the communities of South Sandisfield and Colebrook. Early on, it was a major undertaking to travel south to Winsted or north to Lee for supplies. So Sandisfield and Colebrook, bound together by isolation and geography, made a thriving commerce between them. A down-to-earth, knowledgeable historian, Bob is certain to be entertaining. His presentation will be followed by our potluck luncheon.

Our meeting is at the Meeting House on the corner of Rt. 183/Sandy Brook Turnpike and South Sandisfield Road. 🍷

## Cemetery Clean-Up Continues



The volunteer work by the Cemetery Committee that had been scheduled for the Sandisfield Center Cemetery was postponed until later this year because of a burial on the same day. The work site was moved to the New Boston Cemetery where spring growth threatened to overgrow some of what the volunteers had accomplished earlier in the year. Committee Chairman Kathie Burrows said, "We trimmed back new growth and cut up some downed trees and concentrated on the back areas that were still covered with snow back in April."

Above, Rich Mercure and Vicki Bakunis cut back plants that had regrown obscuring the tombstones. Right, Kathie Burrows and Wicky Spring took a break for the luncheon provided by the Council on Aging. 🍷

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# Council on Aging



By Susan Galik

This is a great time to join the COA. We are ramping up our activities for the summer. Plus, we will purchase a computer for use by members and a cross-cut paper shredder. When you come for our Wednesday luncheons bring your paperwork to shred. It's the best way to help prevent your ID from being stolen.

July 8 is our annual Picnic at York Lake, 11 a.m. Please bring a salad or some other picnic-type item to share. Meat will be provided. If it rains, we will move the picnic indoors to the COA meeting hall downstairs at Town Hall Annex. Call Linda Riiska, 258-4816 to find out what we still could use.

- July 22 is our monthly Blood Pressure clinic. 11 a.m. to noon.
- July 29 a Home Safety talk will be presented by the Sandisfield Board of Health and the Police Department. 11 a.m. to noon.

- Qi-Qong and Line Dancing are both finished for the season. They will begin again in the fall, with Line Dancing on Thursday nights from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and Qi-Qong Monday mornings from 11 a.m. to noon. Each class is a stand-alone, so you can skip one or go to them all. We will have 7 weeks of classes, with a cost of \$2 per class. All residents of Sandisfield and bordering towns are invited to join us. For information, please call me at 258-4113.

**Events in the works for August:**

- Fire Extinguisher safety class, August 5th, 11:30 a.m., presented by the Fire Department.
- Blood Drive, August 12th. Time to be announced.
- Salt and Its Effects. August 19th, 11 a.m. to noon. Please bring salt-friendly food for that Wednesday's Pot Luck.
- Blood Pressure Clinic. August 26th, 11 a.m.-Noon.

If your event is listed here but you haven't been contacted, call Linda Riiska at 258-4816

We're looking into the following possible events: Chimney inspections (possibly cleaning); Cake decorating; Flower arrangements for Thanksgiv-

ing or Christmas (please contact us as to which you would prefer).

Reminder. We have a group that walks. Mondays and Fridays on River Road. They start at the bridge near Edna Leavenworth's at 10:30 a.m. and go as far as each individual is willing to go.

Bring a dish to share on Wednesdays for sharing at noon. A Bingo game starts at 12:30 p.m., but if enough attend who do not want to play Bingo, we can do something else. Take a walk on the Clam River trail behind the Annex, play board games, or put puzzles together. You come up with the activity. Call either Linda Riiska at 258-4846 or me at 258-4113 with suggestions. Or show up and tell us what you would like to do. ♡



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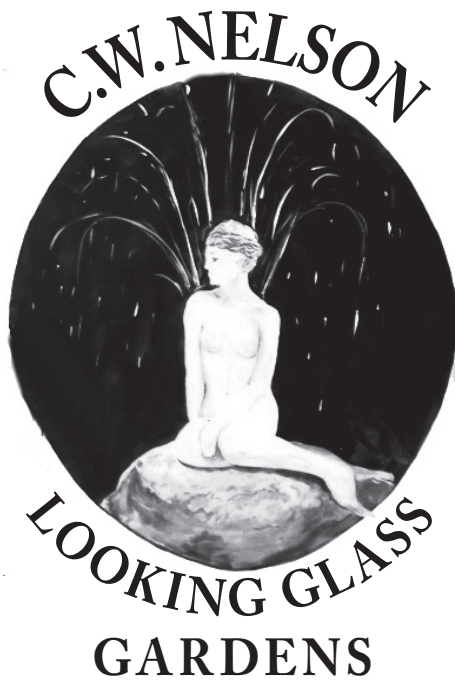
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## Thanks for a Great Year

*From Thomas Nadolny*

**Principal, Farmington River Regional Elementary School**

As the school year closes, our minds and hearts are filled to the brim. It's been a great year! What a school! Together we've learned much and shared experiences that will remain with us in the years to come. The strength of our community and the passion to make our school a wonderful place of learning – for our children primarily, but also for all of us – makes Farmington River Elementary truly a special place.

*Special Thanks* to all of you who have contributed in ways small, large, and unimaginable! For helping with our drama productions, volunteering in our active PTA, chaperoning field trips, helping with Field Day, providing food and organizing lunches for our teachers and staff, organizing events and working at these events, showing up at Open House and other school activities to support your children, and serving on various committees.

Thanks for getting your kids to school on time each day, for kind notes of encouragement that mean so much, for sending your children in with healthy lunches packed with love, for making sure homework gets done – and turned in.

Thank you for providing rich, engaging, and well-rounded experiences for your children and knowing that education is about joy, wonder, and fostering curiosity, along with the development of social skills so needed to succeed.

For these, and a million other things, we are truly grateful.

To those of you who are leaving us for new places and adventures, we wish you all the best. Congratulations to our very capable 6th graders who are on to a new stage in their academic career!



## Sixth-Grade Graduates:

*Charles Annecharico*

*Joseph Beardsley*

*Dylan DeCelle*

*Dean Fredo-Argiro*

*Hanna Hall*

*Sophia Howard*

*Jessica Hryckvich*

*Samuel Kresiak*

*Natalia Layne*

*Tyrayna Lebaron*

*Cole Margraf*

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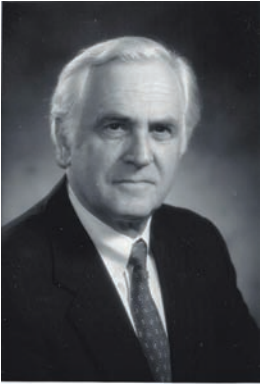
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fax 413-258-2884

[nbcss@verizon.net](mailto:nbcss@verizon.net)



# Comings & Goings



## DR. SIDNEY PINSKY

1928 – 2015

Dr. Sidney Pinsky, known by many of us in Sandisfield as Sid, died in Pittsfield on May 26. He was 86 and had been ill for some time.

Sid was born on a farm in Sandisfield, November 19, 1928, to Ukrainian-Jewish immigrants who spoke little English and had little formal education. Sid was the youngest of six children. His parents were poor and rented rooms in their old farmhouse to families from New York City seeking to escape the stifling summer heat in the city.

After his graduation from Lee High School, Sid moved to Washington, D.C., where he worked in his brother-in-law's dry cleaning business. He joined the National Guard. In 1950 he entered Rochester University in upstate New York, later transferring to New York University where he completed his undergraduate work and obtained a Masters in Social Work. In 1974 he completed his Ph.D. from Columbia University.

During the early 1960s, Dr. Pinsky worked on the Lower East Side of Manhattan at Mobilization for Youth, an early and nationally celebrated program designed to combat and prevent juvenile delinquency. Dr. Pinsky was appointed a director at the Hillside Hospital Division of the Long Island Jewish Medical Center where he developed and implemented the Queens Field Instruction Center, a highly respected program designed to train Masters-level Social Work students throughout the New York area. He remained at Hillside until his retirement. Dr. Pinsky also taught at Columbia, Fordham, Yeshiva, and Adelphi universities.

Outgoing, gregarious, and friendly, Sid was loved by everyone who knew him. He coaxed several of his New York City friends to move to Sandisfield and the Berkshires, where he helped create and enhance the community we enjoy today. Sid and his wife were major participants in the founding of the Sandisfield Arts Center (SArC). He also played an important role in establishing the Barrington Ballet in Great Barrington with his wife, Theresa Pines Pinsky, who died in 1992.

In his later years Sidney was blessed with three granddaughters who were his pride and joy. He spent time with them throughout their growing years, and they were always there for him as well.

Sid is survived by daughter and son-in-law Nina and Victor Hryckvich, son and daughter-in-law Daniel and Victoria Pinsky, and his three granddaughters, Theresa, Nicole, and Jessica Hryckvich.

He will be sorely missed by his family and many friends.

Private funeral services were arranged by Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home in Great Barrington. A celebration of Sid's life was held June 20 at the family home on Silverbrook Road.

## Memories of Sid

By Val Coleman

Every town has its paterfamilias. Sandisfield was blessed with Sidney Pinsky, an abiding gentle soul, never downstage ... but always with us, a courtly reminder of civility, sanity, and grace.

Sid died last month after a long silent illness. Typically, he wouldn't bother his neighbors with his troubles so his final months were undramatic as he slowly faded away ... tended by his loving family.

Sid Pinsky began and ended here in Sandisfield. He was born in the "birthing room" of the old white boarding house on Silverbrook Road built by his parents Libby and David Pinsky. The house (which burned to the ground in February 2008) was a magical place. Originally a dairy farm, it became a summer refuge for immigrant Jews coming up from the slums of New York City. Sid grew up in a noisy gang of transplanted children and adults. His incredible gifts as a humanitarian and social worker were born and nurtured here.

I met Sidney Pinsky in 1965 at the War on Poverty's flagship program, Mobilization for Youth, deep on Manhattan's Lower East Side. There were five of us at MFY who remarkably ended up with connections to Sandisfield: Marilyn and Bob Gore, Danny Kronenfeld, Sid, and myself.

I was the PR guy. The others were organizers of one sort or another: organizing rent strikes, food cooperatives, medical clinics, and demonstrations targeting the landlords. We were part of a wave of social and political action unlike anything New York City had seen. Sid was at the heart of it ... but unlike the fire-breathers (such as myself) Sid was always a gentle, rational activist who sought solutions and sustainable change.

I love to tell the story of an evening at the Plaza Bar on Houston Street during MFY's heyday when Sid threw me over his shoulder, hailed a taxicab, and took me (absolutely drunk) all the way home to 106th Street.

Those were the days! I think it's fair to assume that without Sid, some of us (certainly me) might well be dead.

After MFY, Sid got his Ph.D. in psychiatric social work and began a 30-year career as an "advocate" psychiatric social worker at Hillside Hospital. Finally, Sid and his beautiful-dancer wife Terry Chapman Pinsky settled in up here in the old white house where he was born. Terry joined the Barrington Ballet and under her leadership it became a nationally celebrated school of dance. Terry died tragically in 1992.

Here's the thing: Sidney Pinsky throughout his life carried the world gracefully on his shoulders ... tending us, teaching without hectoring, loving without demand, and speaking softly with a wisdom that I will never forget. 🍷

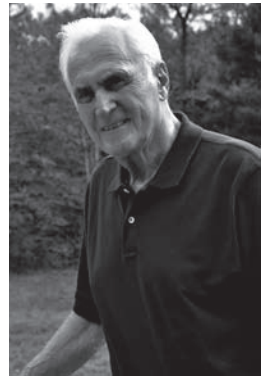


Photo: Setsuko Winchester

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Librarian Laurie Foulke-Green has resigned from the library effective mid-July. Library Trustee Clare English asks that anyone qualified for the position call her at 258-4901.

By Laurie Foulke-Green, Librarian

**New Books on Order:**

- The English Spy/Daniel Silva
- Summer With My Sisters/Holly Chamberlin
- The Color of Light/Emile Richards
- Ideal/Ayn Rand
- The New Neighbor/Leah Stewart
- A Place for Us/Harriet Evans
- Go Set a Watchman/Harper Lee
- Badlands/C. J. Box
- The Evidence Room/Cameron Harvey
- Lord of the Wings/Donna Andrews
- The Novel Habits of Happiness/Alexander McCall Smith
- Someone Always Knows/Marcia Muller
- The Best Ever/Stephanie Evanovich
- Looking Through Darkness/Aimee Thurlo
- Perfect Touch/Elizabeth Lowell
- Twice in a Lifetime/Dorothy Garlock
- Thrill Me/Susan Mallery
- Wired/Julie Garwood
- Black-Eyed Susans/Julia Heaberlin
- The Forgotten/Heather Graham
- The Naked Eye/Iris Johansen
- Nemesis No.19/Catherine Coulter
- Tom Clancy's Under Fire/Grant Blockwood
- Moon Shadows/Julie Weston
- The Rumor/Elin Hilderbrand

**New DVDs:**

- Outlander
- Turn
- Call The Midwife
- Murdoch Mysteries
- Sherlock
- American Sniper

## A NEW ERA

Thank you for the June 2015 issue of *The Sandisfield Times*. It was filled with wonderful information. It ushered in a new era in Sandisfield; it spoke with a strong voice of optimism and with a deep appreciation of our special town. Thank you for the leadership and participation that are so evident at this time.

Lou Friedman  
Sandisfield Center



## COVER-TO-COVER AND BACK AGAIN

I want to compliment *The Times* for an excellent issue for June 2015. I usually read "the paper" carefully once and then go back to read articles that I find especially interesting.

Well, I read the entire June issue, cover-to-cover, including the advertisements. Then, I read it ALL again, cover-to-cover, word-for-word.

As a part-time newcomer to Sandisfield I rely and depend upon *The Times* for most of my local information. As a little boy, I lived in Clinton, Louisiana, and our local country paper was named *The Watchman*. It was filled with extraordinary news and was the lifeblood of the community regarding social, civic, government, and personal news and commentary.

So, too, is *The Times*. What a jewel in the crown for Sandisfield. Extraordinary!

With appreciation and thanks for all the hard work from you and the staff,

Andrew McDowell  
Lower West Street and West Hartford, Conn.



## FIRE AND EMT CALLS APRIL/MAY 2015

**APRIL**

FIRE CALLS	
Illegal brush fire	2
Wires Down	1
Assist EMS	1

**AMBULANCE CALLS**

EMS Medical	3
-------------	---

**MAY**

FIRE CALLS	
Search & Rescue	1
Standby/Mutual Aid	1
False alarms	1
Carbon monoxide detector	2

**AMBULANCE CALLS**

EMS Medical	3
Search & Rescue	1

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# NOW HEAR THIS!

*Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro.*

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

## JULY EVENTS

**Sandisfield Historical Society Summer Fair** on Saturday, July 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Meeting House on the corner of Route 183/ Sandy Brook Turnpike and South Sandisfield Road. Tag sale, food, and Pet Parade (with prizes!) Information, contact John Kuzmeh (258-4906).

**Pet Parade** on July 4 at the Historical Society Summer Fair. See item just above.

**COA York Lake Annual Picnic** on Wednesday, July 8. Please bring a salad or picnic-type item to share. Meat will be provided. In case of rain, picnic will be moved indoors to the COA meeting hall downstairs at Town Hall Annex. Call Linda Riiska (258-4816) for what we still could use or for information.

**Edward Hopper Lecture** by Gail Levin on Friday, July 10, at 7:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center, 5 Hammertown Road. \$20.

**Gallery Opening Reception** on Friday, July 10, from 8:00-10:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. The Gallery will feature a collage memoir, "On NOT Becoming an Artist," by Gail Levin. The exhibit is on display July 10-26 and open during performances and each Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**Grand Opera Night** featuring New York City area musicians on Saturday, July 11, at 7:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. \$60, includes light supper.

**Sandisfield Forum on History: The Civil Rights Movement** by Val Coleman on Saturday, July 25, at 10:00 a.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. \$10.

**COA Home Safety presentation** on July 29, 11a.m. to noon. Presented by the Sandisfield Board of Health and Police Department.

## EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

**Faith Weldon Artwork Reception** on Wednesday, July 8, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Otis Library, Otis Town Center, Route 8.

**Otis Library Country Craft Fair** on Saturday, July 11, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Otis Town Hall Lawn.

**Sunrise & Java Hike** on Sunday, July 12, and second Sundays through August, from 6:00 to 10:00 a.m. at Monument Mountain on Route

7 in Great Barrington. Hike, hot coffee, and breakfast treats. Sponsored by the Trustees of the Reservation. Members, free; non-members, \$10. RSVP 413-532-1631, ext. 10.

**Tolland Volunteer Fire Department Steak and Lobster Dinner and Dance** on Saturday, July 18, from 5:00 to 11:00 p.m. at the Tolland Public Safety Complex, Route 57. Steak dinners are \$25, Lobster dinners are \$25, and Steak & Lobster dinners are \$40. Phil N the Voids will provide listening and dancing music. For tickets call 413-258-2859.

**Otis Library Book Signing** on Wednesday, July 22, at 7:00 p.m. Chef Michael Ballon talks about his book "A Chef's Life: Farm to Table, Cooking in the Berkshires."

**8th Annual Otis Arts Festival** on Saturday, July 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Farmington River Elementary School on Route 8 north of the Otis Town Center.

## ONGOING EVENTS

**Select Board**, during July and August, every other 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.

**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 Monday of the month, 7 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.; Thursday, 2-5 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-12 noon; Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Phone: 258-4966.

**Historical Commission:** First Wednesday of the month, 7 p.m., Town Library.



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# THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



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

Copies of *The Sandisfield Times* are available in Sandisfield at A&M Auto, the Arts Center (in season), the Transfer Station, Post Office, the New Boston Inn, New Boston Sleds, Villa Mia, MJ Tuckers, When Pigs Fly Farm and Town Hall. Copies are also available in Otis at Berkshire Bank, Bruce's Hardware, Katie's Market, Papa's Fuel, Otis Library, Farmington River Diner, and Otis Poultry Farm. Locations in Monterey include the Library, the Store, and the Roadside Cafe. Available also at the Southfield Store in New Marlborough. Back issues are available for purchase.

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PO BOX 584, SANDISFIELD, MA 01255

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

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

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Now Hear This! Laura Rogers-Castro

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