

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

Tribunus



Plebis

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume VI, Number 5

August 2015

Meanwhile, Down to One Lane

ANOTHER BRIDGE TO FIX

By Bill Price

In early July the State conducted an out-of-sequence inspection of the Rt. 57 bridge across the Clam River near the library. The bridge failed.

Road Superintendent Steve Harasyko said at the Select Board meeting July 13, "Our bridge is in trouble." And then some.

As anyone who uses the bridge already knows, the inspectors reduced the bridge to one lane – and a weaving lane at that –with a 12-ton limit. Logging trucks weigh more than that. So do school buses. So do trucks carrying asphalt to resurface New Hartford Road. The detour may route all heavy rigs north on Rt. 8 from New Boston to Otis Center; then west on Rt. 23 and south on Town Hill Road, a 16.7 mile trek.

The state inspects, but since Rt. 57 through the Berkshires is "owned" in most cases by the towns, the state does not repair.

The Town has engaged Steven Mack, an engineer with Foresight Land Services, to conduct phase one of the

research and analysis and make recommendations for the bridge's repair. His report is expected in 30-60 days. Foresight will also research the state's liability, since the bridge was constructed only in 1993 and apparently the state used an "experimental" surface. The experiment, if such it was, didn't work.

For now, stop signs at either end of the bridge regulate traffic and guide vehicles one at a time in the weaving pattern to the other side. You'll learn more at the Special Town Meeting to be held August 27 at 7 p.m. at old Town Hall.

Following is the Select Board Chairman's "Around Town Hall" column for August.



Around Town Hall \$3m Town Budget ... \$30m Needed

By Alice Boyd, Select Board Chairman

When the call came I wasn't surprised. Our bridge on Route 57 at the bottom of Sears Road (across from River Road) had just failed a State inspection. Initially there was a discussion about closing the bridge but ultimately we were told that it could stay open, one lane, with a 12-ton limit. Not good.

For years I suspected that this bridge was in trouble. I hadn't gone below to look at the stringers but the bridge surface, the "planking," was obviously deteriorating. And I saw that it was getting worse rather quickly; the holes were large enough to provide a direct view into the river below.



"Bob and the Trees" Wins Top Prize

CAPTURES CRYSTAL GLOBE
AT EUROPEAN FILM FESTIVAL

By Bill Price

Director Diego Ongaro's film about a Sandisfield logger was the unexpected winner of the top prize at the Karlovy Vary Film Festival in the Czech Republic.

Filmed in Sandisfield during the tough winter of 2014, "Bob and the Trees" stars Bob Tarasuk, a local forester, farmer, and sometimes logger in a semi-documentary/fiction feature in his first acting role. The part was described by film journal *Variety* as a portrait of a prickly American iconoclast.

Cont'd p.9

Cont'd p.5

**THE SANDISFIELD
VOLUNTEER FIREMEN
STEAK ROAST**

Saturday, August 8, 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.

Another Reason to Live in Sandisfield

TRANSFER STATION FEES ARE LOW, SO FAR

Sandisfield: \$25. Two stickers per household.

Otis: \$50.00. Two stickers per household; additional sticker \$20.00. Rental property: \$6.00 weekly. Business/commercial: \$300.00 annually.

Monterey: \$60.00. Two stickers per household with license plates. Temporary stickers (if you do not have a license plate number) valid for one month at \$20.00 per month (in addition to the \$60 fee).

Tolland: \$65.00. One sticker; additional stickers \$5.00

Granville: \$75.00. For 30 thirty-gallon punches.

New Marlborough: \$105.00

Dump permit fees vary as to number of permits per household and special fees for items such as tires, electronic equipment, building material, and brush.

Source: Town websites. 🗞

Jail Time for Burglars

In early 2013 the Times reported on a series of break-ins in the Sandisfield section of Otis Woodlands and the upper Beech Plain section.

Arrests were made in March that year, and the charges and denials and plea bargains began their stutter-step through the Berkshire County court system. Last month, according reports in the Berkshire Eagle and the Chronicle, the two men charged with the crimes, Brian Snow of Otis and Jeremy Capitanio of Lee, have now pled guilty to “breaking into unoccupied vacation homes and stealing televisions and other items to support their heroin addictions.”

Snow was sentenced to two years in jail, one year served directly and the other suspended, and three years of probation. Capitanio was sentenced to one year of jail time.

Police Chief Michael Morrison reminds residents to keep serial numbers of all electronic equipment, just in case you become a victim of similar burglaries. He says “all flat-screen TVs look alike. There’s no way to trace one that’s recovered after a burglary unless you can provide the serial number.” 🗞

– Bill Price

TAKE THE SANDISFIELD MASTER PLAN SURVEY!

The Town of Sandisfield is creating a Master Plan and needs your help. Your input and opinions will help guide priorities and determine the future of the town.

This survey is intended to gain information and opinions from Sandisfield residents and property owners about the town, its initiatives, services, and resources, and how they can be improved in the future. Information from this survey will be incorporated into the Sandisfield Master Plan, currently being prepared. The Master Plan is a document that will help to guide policy and investment decisions for the town over the next 10-20 years. Please answer all survey questions as an individual, rather than as a couple or family.

The survey is best completed online at surveymonkey.com/s/sandisfieldmasterplan.

Paper copies are available at the Town Hall Annex, the Library, transfer station, post office, Arts Center, and When Pigs Fly Farm. Surveys may be returned to Town Hall Annex or the Library drop box.

The survey will remain open until August 31, 2015. It should take approximately 15 minutes to complete. 🗞



New Library Hours Librarian Job Posting

A temporarily reduced schedule.

- Monday: 9 a.m.-noon
- Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- Saturday: closed.

The library trustees apologize for any inconvenience and hope to be back on a regular schedule by early September.

Vicki Bakunis and Kathie Burrows are filling in as librarians until a replacement for Laurie Foulke-Green can be hired. See Librarian Job Posting, right. 🗞

The Sandisfield Public Library is seeking a person to serve as librarian for 13 hours per week. This person must be computer literate and willing to work flexible hours. The person would be required to take one 4-hour course per year for 4 years to obtain a certificate as a sub-professional librarian. The candidate would need to be a book lover/reader and good with people. The starting salary is \$13.00 per hour.

Please send your resume to Sandisfield Library, P. O. Box 183, Sandisfield, MA 01255. Contact Clare English, Library Trustee, with questions. 🗞

Special Town Meeting

AUGUST 24, MONDAY, 6:30 P.M.

OLD TOWN HALL, 3 SILVERBROOK ROAD

REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
TO FOLLOW THE TOWN MEETING.

Warrant items were announced too late to be included in this issue of The Times. They may include estimated costs of the Rt. 57 bridge repair, hiring an attorney to guide the Town through the Pipeline Expansion issue, additional funds for the coming winter for subcontracting snowplowing, and/or other items. See announcements from the Town Clerk for details.

Residents must be registered in order to vote. The last day to register is August 13 at Town Hall Annex. Absentee voting is not permitted at Special Town Meeting. 🗞

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Normally by now the Colebrook Reservoir, which starts at the southeastern edge of Sandisfield, is low enough that you can drive alongside it on the old highway. It's a pretty drive. This year, however, after a very rainy June and semi-rainy July, the road abruptly ends in water, just about on the Sandisfield-Colebrook border.

On a recent gray, misty morning, the end of the road looked like the photo to the right.

The view seemed to mirror this summer's view *into* Sandisfield. It's been a tough summer for the Town, what with a threatening pipeline expansion, Town buildings needing replacement, the incredible cost of road repair, the possibility of the library shutting down, law enforcement loading bigger weapons. Then the Rt. 57 bridge is narrowed down to one lane for nobody knows how long.

But before I left the reservoir four Great Blue Herons began fishing the shallows, taking off, flying overhead, circling, landing again, adding four grace notes to an otherwise gray morning.

— Bill Price
West New Boston



Select Board News

Athena Backs Out

Athena HealthCare Systems has abandoned plans to create a new residential facility in Town. The Select Board and the realtor involved in the plan have both been notified that the Connecticut-based health management firm has withdrawn its offer to purchase a site for a large rehabilitation center on land across from the firehouse on Route 57. Athena will continue to operate the Berkshire Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center in New Boston.

Our Local Pipeline

With front-page reports about the Kinder Morgan/Tennessee Gas Pipeline construction project across northern Massachusetts filling state-wide newspapers, our local pipeline issue is usually overlooked. At the July 27 Select Board meeting, Chairman Alice Boyd said that she and Town Administrator Lisa Blackmer remind officials in the governor's office, our state representatives, and the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission of our pipeline issues every time they meet, which is often. In a related development, Chairman Boyd was scheduled to meet with KM representatives the last week in July.

A Roof Over Our Heads

Bids for the repair for the Town Hall Annex roof were opened at the July 13 Select Board meeting. The winning bid, for \$38,000, was from the Boston Installation Corp. of Boston. Higher bids were \$45,000 and \$54,564. It is hoped that the work will be finished by early fall.

Head for the Hills

Police Chief Michael Morrison reported at the July 13 Select Board meeting that his department had purchased four additional carbines and shotguns to be carried in the Town's police cruisers. The weapons are two Ruger AR-556 semi-automatic patrol carbines with 30-round magazines and two Remington pump-action 870 shotguns that carry 7 cartridges each. In addition, two red-dot scope weapon sights were purchased.

Chief Morrison indicated that the weapons were authorized at last year's Town Meeting when he was given approval to purchase a "fully equipped squad car." The weapons will be carried in the Town's police cruisers. For years, he said, the Sandisfield department has carried "only one shotgun in the old cruiser."

Truck Committee Puts on the Brakes

The Highway Capitol Equipment Committee voted unanimously against buying the new plow truck as proposed at Town Meeting in May. The truck would have cost about \$190,000 with a 6-month wait time. The Select Board will work on contingency plans for the coming winter in case one of the other Town trucks breaks down or if the Town is faced with another particularly bad winter.

Families Need Playgrounds

In what the Select Board terms a "low-cost initiative" to improve choices for Town families with children, the Recreation Committee is planning to improve the playground near the library. Volunteers were invited at the July 27 Select Board meeting to work with an interim Playground Committee that includes Robin Campetti, Anina Carr, Teresa DellaGuistina, Dawn Levin, Courtney Maum, and Alice Boyd. One of their first chores will be to get rid of the wasps. 🐝

A Fire Story

WITH A HAPPY ENDING

By Bill Price

Home for a few days in July after his graduation from Harvard, John Grammer was splitting and stacking wood at his parent's place so they'd have enough fuel this fall and winter when he heard their neighbor, Kathy Wilcox, calling for help.

He went running.

The electrical plug in the dryer room at the back of Kathy's house had overheated and caught fire. The first thing Kathy did was the most important: she turned off the electricity at the main switch box. Then she started yelling.

She had two fire extinguishers. Neither worked. John yelled, "Call 911," and ran back to his parent's place. It's about a hundred yards, two hundred yards back and forth, and up a hill and down a hill.

He grabbed their extinguisher and ran back up the hill to Kathy's. Another hundred yards. Together they sprayed the smoking and melting plug before the surrounding wood caught fire. The house was built by Kathy's father and mother, Bob and Jeanette Ives, in the 1970s and would have gone up in minutes.

Shortly two SUVs with flashing lights and sirens pulled up the hill and into the yard.

By this time, Kathy's husband, Ed Wilcox, who had been mowing in a field below the house and hadn't heard a thing, saw the emergency SUVs. "I hoped wherever they were going they'd be on time," he said a few days later. When he saw they were turning in at his place, he went running himself.

Fire Chief Ralph Morrison leaped out of one SUV and Police Chief Mike Morrison out of the other. Kathy led them around back of the house to the dryer room.

The fire seemed to be out, but they pulled stuff away from the outlet, broke a few boards. Mike ran a heat indicator, a thermal imaging camera, up and down the wall to be sure the fire hadn't spread behind it. The wall was cool.

They all looked at each other, and then they started to grin.

More sirens were coming up the steep Beech Plain Road. Shortly two Sandisfield fire trucks stopped at the beginning of the driveway. They didn't turn up the hill because Ralph told them they didn't need to.



John Grammer and his neighbor, Kathy Wilcox. Kathy said, "He's my hero."

Several of the volunteer firemen walked up the hill in their coats and fire helmets. They congratulated Kathy for narrowly avoiding a devastating fire, and they shook John's hand.




Lessons learned:

In an electrical fire, turn off the main electrical switch. Know where it is and how to get to it in a hurry. Don't search for the switch for that particular electrical line; turn off the main switch.

Have fire extinguishers and check them once a year. A gauge on the handle will indicate the charge. If it is undercharged, get a new one.

If you don't have a fire extinguisher, get one. They cost about \$20.

And, Fire Chief Morrison adds, "Kathy did the right thing first by turning off the electricity. But if you have a fire, call 911 before trying to put the fire out. Get us on the way. If John hadn't gotten back with that working extinguisher, this story would have had a different ending." 



JOSHUA'S FARM

Sandisfield, Massachusetts

New Herd Shares Available For FRESH MILK from pastured cows

no hormones or antibiotics

860-671-0327

www.joshuasfarm.com

1873 East Otis Road
East Otis, MA 01029
413.269.4309



**"BOB AND THE TREES"
WINS TOP PRIZE**

(Cont'd from p.1)

Diego, with his wife co-scriptwriter Courtney Maum, who are both from Sandisfield, Bob Tarasuk, and Matt Gallagher, Bob's son-in-law who is also featured in the film, attended the European premiere in early July and were on hand to receive the Crystal Globe, representing the top prize.



Photos:

Front page: The director of "Bob and the Trees," Diego Ongaro and the star, Bob Tarasuk, receive their award on stage at the festival.

Above: Co-scriptwriter Courtney Maum, co-star Matt Gallagher, and Diego Ongaro react to the standing ovation.

Credit: European press.

It was a black-tie event, a European version of the Oscars. The Karlovy Vary Festival, Eastern and Central Europe's leading film event, was celebrating its 50th year. It featured more than 200 films and drew 12,000 film goers.

Accepting the award, Diego said that winning the Crystal Globe was "quite a surprise." He introduced Bob, adding that Bob was "the man without whom this film would not have been possible."

Bob said to the audience, "Having never acted in my life, and being here to get this award, oh my god at this venue. I never left the United States before, I never had a passport. My grandmother was Czech Republic, my grandfather was Ukrainian. This is for them."

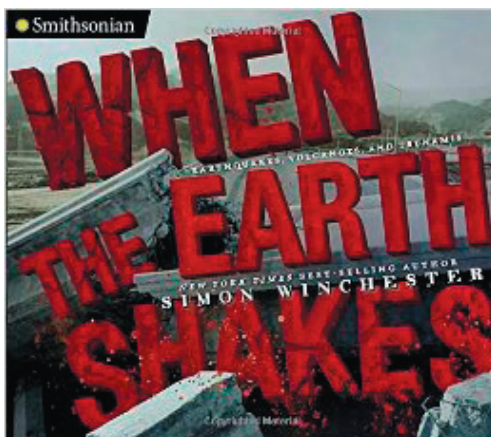
In the audience, the American film actor Harvey Keitel led a standing ovation for "Bob and the Trees" and for the amateur actor who was its star.

The film, which premiered earlier this year at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah, has additionally been selected to play at the Woods Hole Film Festival at the end of July, the Woodstock Film Festival in New York at the beginning of October, and in mid-October at the New Hampshire Film Festival in Portsmouth. 🇺🇸

A First for a Sandisfield Author

Sandisfield author Simon Winchester has written his first book for young readers.

Trained as a geologist at Oxford University, Simon was a natural choice for the Smithsonian Institution to contribute to its scientific series aimed at readers age 10 and up. He enjoyed, he said, taking a deep scientific look at what happens when the earth quakes, volcanoes explode, and tsunamis crash into shorelines – and the why of those sometimes world-changing catastrophic events. Several of his adult nonfiction titles have dealt with the same subjects.



Writing the book gave him a second opportunity to examine and explain the eruption at Krakatoa in the Pacific in the 19th century, as well as the earthquake that destroyed much of San Francisco in 1906, and the 21st-century tsunamis that devastated Indonesia and Japan.

"Writing this book," he said, "was exactly what I was trained for, those many years ago." 🇺🇸

– BP

SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER



5 Hammertown Rd, Sandisfield, MA
413-258-4100
INFO/TICKETS
SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

august

SAT, AUG 1 4 PM

Tom Christopher: Native Perennials for the Berkshire Garden (Book signing follows)
\$10

In the Gallery

August 8 - 30

Robin Tost:
"Not Your Grandmother's Quilt - Fabrications in Metal"

SAT, AUG 8 2-4 PM

Opening Reception FREE

SAT, AUG 8 4 PM

FORUM: Bill Cohn on American Culture and Wartime Propaganda \$10

SAT, AUG 8 8 PM

Easy Ridin' Papas \$15

SAT, AUG 22 4 PM

Cathy Barrow on Preserving (Book signing follows) \$10

SAT, AUG 29 4 PM

Jo Garfield on the Roosevelts in Sandisfield

***Tickets - by donation**

Funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Local Cultural Councils

New Head of Arts Center

SEEKING THE RIGHT MIX OF EVENTS

By Tom Christopher

The Sandisfield Arts Center, says Marcella Smith, played a crucial role in deciding her to settle in Sandisfield in late 2012. She and her partner, Linda Mironti, had been searching for a second home in southern Berkshire County, and they wanted a community with an active arts scene. The Arts Center persuaded the pair of New Yorkers that our town fit the bill.

When Marcella asked realtor Chapin Fish about the programs offered by the Center, he suggested that she call the then president of the board, Alice Boyd. Almost before she knew it, Marcella was not only a Sandisfield householder but a member of the Center's board. In 2014 she helped found a Gallery Committee, booking art shows for the gallery space in the Arts Center's ground floor. And this last October, Marcella succeeded to the presidency.

With a long career in publishing and book selling in New York City, most recently as a senior executive at Barnes & Noble, Marcella



Marcella Smith at the Arts Center.

has had extensive experience in both the arts and marketing art. Currently, she is the principal of Marcella Smith Associates, a publishing consultant firm that assists both publishers and authors to develop their businesses.

As such, she brings to the Arts Center a skill set well adapted to its present needs as it seeks to capitalize on the innovations of the past few years.

"It's a challenging time for the organization," notes Smith.

Her immediate predecessors as president set the stage for an expansion by increasing the sophistication of the cultural offerings and by developing the capability for online ticket sales. Smith sees her own role as "widening our reach."

This year saw the establishment of a dedicated marketing committee which has pushed aggressively to secure coverage in local news media – an article in the Berkshire Eagle brought an audience from across Berkshire County for a program about Walt Whitman to celebrate poetry month in April.


She can depend on the programming committee, Smith says, to keep the offerings diverse and pitched to a broad range of tastes.

Whether your favorite music is opera or bluegrass, Smith adds, the Arts Center caters to your taste with its concerts. Lectures, workshops and drama also contribute to a series that alternates entertainment with useful information for up to 40 events per season.

One of the organization's challenges, in Smith's view, is its own back yard.

"I want to find a way for the Arts Center to make a deeper connection to the community," she said. "I want to find a way to draw people in."

One key, Smith believes, is to sponsor events that appeal to families, especially parents with children. For its annual Christmas show, the Sandisfield Players are planning for a production of "Hansel & Gretel" using local children for most of the parts. Reduced-price tickets for children are aimed at making attendance more affordable for families.

When asked what she likes best about Sandisfield, Smith doesn't hesitate. "The people," she replies. "We've just been thrilled with all of the people we've met here. It's just been great." 

VILLA MIA RESTAURANT & PIZZERIA

413-258-4236

90 S. Main Street, New Boston
Specializing in Italian food.



Our Locally Famous Spaghetti
Sauce, House-Made Noodles and
Delicious Bureks available every
Saturday morning at the Otis
Farmer's Market. Come See Us!

OPEN DAILY EXCEPT TUESDAYS
11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

 Like us on Facebook.

TONLINO & SONS



**Lee-Westfield Road
East Otis, MA**

**Quarry Phone
413.329.8083**

**Home Office
413.269.4313**

TonlinoandSons@gmail.com

M-F 7-4pm

Screened Fill & Top Soil
available in limited quantities

Tri-Axle & Trailer Dump
Delivery per hour rate

Price per ton picked up in Yard
(\$30 minimum)

A Thank You To:
**Sandisfield Fire
 Department**
Tolland Fire Department
**New Marlborough
 Fire Department**



Lucas Holda

On May 23, my son Lucas Holda and I were at a family picnic in Sandisfield celebrating Hunter Sarcia's 16th birthday.

Around 7:30 it was still light, a friend had offered to take his two children (ages 8 & 10) and my son (then 8 years old) out for a quick ride "around the loop" on the John Deer Gator. This friend had not been drinking and was familiar with the woods, so I said sure, what could go wrong? I figured they would be back in less than 10 minutes and threw a burger on the grill for Lucas to eat when he came back.

Just before 8 when they had not come back yet, I started to get worried as the sun was starting to set. Carlos Sarcia, property owner, suggested the Gator probably just broke down and went out on his quad to find them on the trail. He searched all of the main trails and did not find them. When he came back, around 9, to find they had not returned we knew something was wrong.

It was now pitch dark, there are thousands of acres of woods they could be lost in and they had been gone for 1½ hours. Carlos and Hunter both got on their quads and continued to search further. We called 911.

Sandisfield volunteers responded immediately. Firemen with radios were on the back of Carlos's and Hunter's quad searching further into the woods.

Tolland and New Marlborough were called to assist in the search and rescue. They arrived quickly and with off-road vehicles to help search other areas of woods.

Finally, about 11:45, we heard on the radio that voice contact had been made. The firemen continued on foot to find them stuck

in the woods. It was after 1a.m. by the time they were all out of the woods. They were all a little shaken up but they were all OK!

I am so grateful to the volunteer fire departments in the towns of Sandisfield, New Marlborough, and Tolland. One of the Tolland firemen said that last year they held a fundraiser to purchase their off-road vehicles, and that this was the first time they were used. I cannot express how pleased I am that their inaugural search and rescue found everyone safe and sound. I hope all their rescues have such a happy ending.

To show our gratitude I was planning on sending a donation to each of the fire departments immediately after it happened; however, when my son heard me say I was going to do this, he asked that we wait until after his birthday so that he could help raise more money to send. He asked everyone in lieu of gifts to please bring a donation to the fire departments. The Malanca, Sarcia, Palmer, Ortman, Ley, Napoleone, and Passini/Dimock families together donated \$460, which has been divided evenly between the three departments.

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you for volunteering your time and for safely rescuing my 8 year-old son who was lost in the woods. This is a perfect example of how accidents and mistakes can happen anytime or anyplace. Your dedication and courage help prevent these accidents from becoming tragedies. 🙏

Thank you

Rista Malanca
 Lucas's VERY thankful mother
 Torrington, Connecticut

m¹⁵
*music
 and
 more*
**August-October
 Saturdays at 4:30**

For lovers of world-class
 music and lively literary chat.
 — *Rural Intelligence*

August 8 The Boston Duo

Tatiana Dimitriadis, violin
 Jonathan Bass, piano

An exciting program of sonatas by
 Beethoven, Martinu, Brahms, and Faure.

August 22

Dane Johansen, cello
 Victor Stanislavsky, piano

Sonatas by Beethoven, Elliott Carter, and
 Edvard Grieg.

August 29

Frank Kelley, tenor
 Joshua Rifkin, piano

Die schöne Mullerin, a song cycle by Franz
 Schubert based on poems by W. Müller.

September 5

Karen Akers, voice
 Don Rebic, piano

Stage and cabaret star performing gems
 from the French and American songbooks

September 12 Les Amies

Carol Wincenc, flute
 Cynthia Phelps, viola
 Nancy Allen, Harp

Music by Ibert, Bax, J. S. Bach, Ravel,
 Devienne, Fauré, and Debussy.

September 19

Harold Lewin Memorial Concert

An all-Bach program featuring works by J.S.
 Bach and C.P.E. Bach.

September 26

Lydian String Quartet

Classical and contemporary quartets by
 Mendelssohn, Philip Glass, and J. Brahms.

October 3

Award-Winning Authors

New host Simon Winchester talks with other
 expatriate writers, Madhur Jaffrey, Peter
 Godwin, and Masha Gessen, about their
 adopted country.

Artist Receptions after the performances

**FOR TICKETS, DISCOUNTS
 AND INFORMATION**

newmarlborough.org

(413) 229-2785

**At the Meeting House on
 the Village Green, Rte 57
 New Marlborough, MA**

Porches Are For Summer OR THAT STATE OF MIND

By *Brigitte Ruthman*

Porches are for summer, or that state of mind.

New England builders – concerned with protecting the interiors of their buildings from the weather – considered porches extraneous space and expense.

A porch is a place for sitting on swings and rockers, but not hard-bottom chairs. Built of wide boards and varying heights, many porches in the Victorian age had ceilings painted sky blue. Colonial porches are more spartan, just high enough off the mud.

A porch is a place where work stops.

Porches were built to be a few steps closer to the moon and the fireflies that would otherwise just stick to the window. They offer a better view of hot orange sunsets that linger in July, flying stars, the broiling dark clouds of an incoming thunderstorm, and the sweetness of May’s first lilacs and summer’s lilies wafting on the breeze.

Made to follow the breadth of the house, they offer a romantic porch swing for a first kiss, or a soft cushion on a cast-off couch to remember it by.



Porches, like front doors hardly used in old New England homes, gather things put there temporarily at other times of the year.

But in a place where the muffled sounds of a household grow to a din, a chorus of crickets or peepers lulls the day to an end. A breeze breaks the midday heat, it beckons through a door left open as the best room in the house.

A porch gives permission to linger in a fleeting time of long days. ♡



Orchid Blossom
Healing Arts
Lauren Paul, Dipl. Ac
413-258-4296
Acupuncture and Shiatsu

MEANWHILE, DOWN TO ONE LANE Around Town Hall...

(Cont'd from p.1)

Until I became a Selectman I assumed that this bridge was on a list and that the state or town would fix it when the time came. I assumed that it just looked worse than it really was. I was wrong on all counts.

Well, there isn't a "list." Our Highway Department knows the roads that are in the worst shape, and they make every effort to keep them open. However, we don't have a formal road maintenance plan. We react rather than plan. That isn't working very well, is it?

To make things worse, the state actually gave Route 57 to the town some years back, likely when they were seeking another way to cut costs. I can envision state officials sitting around a conference table getting a real chuckle over that one.

And so dozens of small towns have been given deteriorating roads and bridges to maintain while our state Chapter 90 highway funds dramatically shrink. We now receive less than one-third of the state funding we received ten years ago.

I'm told that our biggest problem is a lack of money. And that is right. It took the town three years to save enough of our state-funded "Chapter 90" allocation to repair New Hartford Road. We receive approximately \$300,000 per year under this program; the current New Hartford Road contract is for almost \$900,000 and does not even include the top coat.

Sandisfield is a town with a \$3 million annual budget and conservatively we need \$30 million for road and bridgework. Infrastructure across our country is in disrepair and Sandisfield is a microcosm of the larger national issue. Every Berkshire town is dealing with similar issues. A bridge in Southfield is down to one lane and Cheshire Selectmen are determining how to move forward on a recently closed bridge. Let's

face it, these are big-ticket items and hard to manage when we're trying to balance a budget and keep taxes down.

The town is spending money on barrels, signs, lights, and, most importantly, engineering. We will be holding a Special Town Meeting in mid-August to request funds, and we will apply for a "STRAP" grant in late August. It's a long shot because we're not "shovel ready."

What we really need is a new strategy. So we're also working on a Road & Bridge Plan allowing us to prioritize and potentially budget for road repairs.

And we're working regionally on this and other issues. The Route 57 Home Rule Petition is underway thanks to Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli, Senator Benjamin Downing, and Senator Don Humason. This petition, supported by a handful of southern Massachusetts towns, requests that the state take back responsibility for Route 57. A new regional work group is being formed following a meeting I attended with State Senate President Stanley Rosenberg to address our regional road issues and regulations, particularly with regard to engineering and culvert design. And we're beginning to work regionally to seek ways to increase revenues, most notably with the pipeline tax assessment.


So, back to the bridge. When you see a tractor-trailer truck backing up on Rt. 57 or our larger highway department trucks diverted to Rt. 8 and Town Hill Road or a change in school bus vehicles and routes, please know that we're working on it as quickly as possible.

We may ask you to consider bonding the bridge repair so that we can get it fully operational as quickly as possible, but we'll also continue to look at such core issues as improving our Highway Department, grant readiness, and new sources of revenue. And we'll continue to work with neighboring towns to push for what we need.

We will be tenacious, and we will do our best. 

Board of Selectmen Goals

The Select Board initiated a set of short- and long-term goals in June. During the summer months when the Board meets every other week, Selectmen will meet during the off-weeks for "working sessions." Agendas are posted and residents are invited to observe.

- I. Through prudent management and leadership provide the most cost-effective services possible.
 - a. Create 6-year capital plan
 - b. Seek grant funding
 - c. Consider low-cost initiatives providing significant community benefit
 - d. Consider regionalization of resources, equipment, and staff.
- II. Seek alternative energy sources for town buildings.
- III. Through transparency and effective communication better inform and engage residents, boards, and committees.
 - a. Improve communication with Finance Committee
 - b. Make better use of town website for timely posting of agendas, procurement, avoiding meeting conflicts, and improving communication with residents
 - c. Provide Selectmen with packet for meetings and make it available for public review.
- IV. Complete a plan for the repair/reconstruction/replacement of town roads.
 - a. Secure road study and plan from BRPC
 - b. Create long-range plan for road repair/replacement/reconstruction
 - c. Determine standard road specifications
 - d. Seek additional sources of funding to assist with paving and road reconstruction costs.
- V. Work with the Finance Committee, Planning Board, Sub-committees to review building needs and plans
 - a. Remain current with committee progress and recommendations
 - b. Review proposals, costs, options
 - c. Review and determine use of existing buildings and fiscal impact
 - d. Seek advice on bonding options, costs, and impact to taxpayers.
- VI. Work with Town personnel to improve communication, services, align job descriptions, and evaluate key staff.
 - Complete job descriptions for non-elected staff
 - Establish evaluation dates and mechanism for key staff
 - Consider plan for transition of Tax Collector responsibilities
 - Achieve clarity on documentation.
- VII. Seek additional sources of revenue for short-term and long-term needs
 - Review town permit and fee structures
 - Consider potential economic development plans/incentives. 

Consolati Insurance

Frank A. Consolati • Jeff J Consolati

Homeowners / Business

Auto • Boats • Flood • Life • Long-term Care

413-243-0105

413-243-0109

Fax: 413-243-4622 • 71 Main St., Lee

A Sheaf of Poems

By Val Coleman

Wild Abandon

*My fancies haven't changed,
Flowers still open in April
As they did when I was ten or so.
Spring is still insolent
With new and saucy dreams,
And the child in me
Jumps once more
On the merry-go-round
Of the seasons
And rides a painted horse
And flings my arms around like windmills
In the Easter sun.*



Sandisfield, Massachusetts

*You take a small town with five rivers
And no middle ... You fill it up with honey bees
And uncorked wine,*

*Which means it is
All things considered ... sweet,
With vinegar not far behind.*



What's Left to Love?

*Ghosts at noon and whippoorwills,
Small-town mothers and vitamin pills.
Watercolors, kittens, and sonnets,
Irish hearts and Easter bonnets.*

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



Northern Lights

*It must have been August.
Mom had closed Swann's Way that afternoon
With the soft sound of a book's breath.
The first Concord grape was about to bloom
To flag the summer.*

*As it turned out, the sunset was just overture ...
From the White Mountains
Orange colors geysered up
To paint the clouds.*

*So it was that I went to sleep
Thinking of porcupines
And my mother by the grey wood well.
Sleep at six or seven can be plain and deep.*

*All of a sudden, my father waked me up.
He smelled like a pine tree.
And he took me in his arms
And he ran out the screen door
And he stood me on the grey wood well
And said, "Look!"*

*And there, above, boiling out of the zenith
Was every color I had ever seen
Racing to the edge of the world.*

*It was all around me, all of the flags and fires
And radiance!
There were reds, noble and velvet,
Yellows and whole waterfalls of blue.
And above all, white!
Darting, moving curtains of white
Stretching down from heaven out to dry.*

*Oh my God it was beautiful!
And I was six or seven and struck dumb.*

*That was the last summer in Maine before the war.
Nothing then or since has moved me more.*



Seasons

*It was cold today.
Life itself is tentpegged to the seasons.
Now that I've grown old and sweet
I find but nose-gays in the Spring,
Summer to be insolent and short,
Fall dressing up to die,
And Winter as my winding sheet.*

First Two Stanzas of Sandisfield Poem, July 2012

*This old town
Was hammered out of the 18th Century
And set down among the timber
And fresh rivers
Of a strange continent.*

*And here it sits
For two hundred and fifty years
By turns growing and dying,
Beginning over and over again
Like the tune of a fiddle
Or a memorized prayer.*



Daffodils

*I may have mentioned earlier
That in the winter my daffodils live
Down near the aquifer
Exercising on a tiny treadmills
Made of roots and berry seeds,
Preparing to embarrass me
When they appear in May
All yellow, firm and beautiful
Having wasted nothing
In their underground ballet.*

*On the other hand
I don't use my winters well at all.
I cuddle, kiss and eat too much
And thrash the Gods for freezing me,
And get so fat and anxious gulping pills
That in a jealous rage
I go out
And pick my daffodils.*



Roses

*There are roses on my stone wall,
A mob of them
Like the notes of a busy score.
My stone wall is the music rack of a harpsichord.*

*In the middle of the night
Someone plays my roses
And this music, a wisp of smoke,
Drifts into my room.*

*Thus I sleep in the lap of old rose psalms,
And blossom minuets, a thicket's country air.
And since I plan to die asleep
The flowers and the music will be already there.*



About Val



Born and raised in a very small town in southern Illinois, Val Coleman graduated from Antioch College and the U.S. Army in 1953. He worked as a publicist for United Artists Corporation until he joined the Civil Rights Movement in 1960. He became the press secretary for CORE, Mobilization for Youth, the New York City Commission on Human Rights, and the New York City Housing Authority. He joined the faculty of Columbia University in 1980. When he retired in 1989, he bought his log cabin home on Town Hill Road. He was a founding member of the Sandisfield Arts Center and calls himself a "caretaker" at SArC. He is a senior member of the Sandisfield Players. Currently a reporter and poet-in-residence for The Sandisfield Times, he is the author of "Beverly & Marigold" and other books.

FLEUR DE LIS HOUSEKEEPING

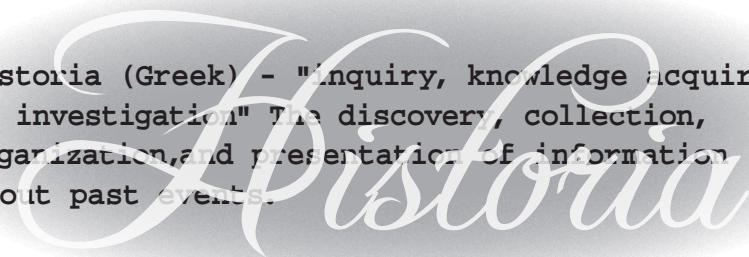
HOUSE CLEANING, LINENS & LAUNDRY, ERRANDS,
SHOPPING ASSISTANCE & COMPANIONSHIP.

- All Specified to your INDIVIDUAL NEEDS -
(413) 258-4070 & (860) 309-6598

SUZANNE HOYNOSKI

Honest, Professional and Reliable
References Available Upon Request
flewrdelis@yahoo.com

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



PRESERVATION OF THE THEOPHILUS HUBBARD FARMSTEAD

OWNERS RECEIVE "HERITAGE HERO" AWARD

By Ron Bernard

The remarkably unchanged Hubbard farmstead is tucked away on remote East Hubbard Road in the northwest section of town. In May, owners Michael and Patti Wittkowski were the first recipients of the Sandisfield Historical Commission's "Heritage Hero" citation.

They received the award because of their efforts to preserve the architectural integrity and historic

setting of their early 19th century home and grounds. A photo of Michael receiving the award was in the Times in June.

The Wittkowskis enjoy snowmobiling on Berkshire trails and back roads, which is how, a few years ago, they discovered Sandisfield. Mike said, "We found this spot one winter and were immediately taken by the old-time atmosphere of

the setting and the farm buildings." They bought the place.

Reality soon set in. The house had been altered through the decades and was dilapidated. A garage and a mid-19th century barn were in worse shape. In fact, the structures were tear-down candidates. But Mike had a hunch that with some vision and the right help at least the house and barn could be saved.

"We carefully peeled away failing plaster," Mike said, "and removed 20th century sheetrock and other interior modifications to reveal original hand-hewn posts and beams. I got inspired." Inspiration is one way to put it. Mike's friends and relatives were less impressed. Suggestions included, "Hire an excavator and some big dumpsters."

But the couple persevered and sought professional help from local builder Brian O'Rourke.

Fascinating old lathing was left as revealed in the kitchen. Wide-board flooring and pegged joinery on both levels were also exposed. Important exterior architectural elements were addressed, including new windows to replicate the 6-over-6 style of the day and handsome wood clapboards replaced aluminum siding, a material that is abhorred by old-house enthusiasts.

Meanwhile, across the road another challenge loomed. The Hubbard's old pole barn needed serious attention. Its sagging roof was rebuilt. Deteriorated and unsafe floor boards and some four feet of dirt were removed to allow for refitting and repair of the field-stone foundation. Boards from the hay loft were used to make a "new" floor below, restoring an original appearance. An old mill stone was unearthed, a legacy from Sandisfield's rich farming and mill traditions.

A long series of owners

In his 1885 history of Sandisfield, George Shepard mentioned former owners of houses and farms along mostly unnamed roads. We pick up the story of this property from his account of "the road which leads to the old Tyringham road" [West Street]. He said, "...the next place was that of Theophilus Hubbard." The farmland was originally owned by Theophilus' father, George Hubbard. Theophilus married Prudence Rogers in Hudson, New York, in the late 1790s. Their first child, Charles Harvey, was born in Sandisfield in 1800, and he was followed by two sisters. Prudence died, and Theophilus remarried in about 1817, which was the year his father gave Theophilus the land. Probably at that time Theophilus built the house now owned by the Wittkowskis.

Just before Theophilus died in June 1844, his son by his second wife, John Paine Hubbard,

RALPH E. MORRISON

413-258-3381



A & M AUTO SERVICE

COMPLETE AUTO & TRUCK CARE
IMPORT AND DOMESTIC

24 HOUR HEAVY DUTY & LIGHT TOWING & RECOVERY
FLAT BED SERVICE

ROUTE 57/EAST

SANDISFIELD, MA 413-258-3381



WHEN PIGS FLY FARM

A FAMILY FARM WITH FAMILY VALUES

222 SANDISFIELD ROAD
SANDISFIELD, MA 01255

whenpigsflyfarm1@verizon.net

413-258-3397

FARMSTAND

Open Sunrise-Sunset



Veggies. Herbs. Berries.
Flowers. Eggs. Breads.
Honey. Maple Syrup.
and so much more



The Wittkowskis at home in Sandisfield.

obtained title to the property. John married three times and had a total of eight children, although at least four of the six children with his second wife, Laura Olds, died young. He

farmed almost until his death at 68 in 1890, by which time the farm was 230 acres with an estimated 1,000 maple trees, one of the largest sugaring operations in town.

Albert Hubbard of Canaan, Conn., possibly John's son, handled the sale of the family estate in 1891 to Jasper Bills of Monterey. The transaction included "...the homestead farm [and] all sap and sugar utensils, one horse cart, one harrow, and grain bin."

The subsequent ownership trail includes a series of absentee owners or landlords until 1926 when the Dominic Cardillo family acquired this still-working farm. That agreement mentioned, "...4 cows, 2 calves, a horse and a harness, a wagon, a carriage, a buggy, between 15 and 20 chickens, 1 goose, 2 coal and kerosene stoves and all the hay in the barn." With 17 children, the Cardillos became the largest known family in Berkshire County. In 1950, Cardillo sold to Vincenzo and Carmella Mazzaferro, restaurateurs from East Longmeadow. Their son, Vincent ("Tom") and his wife, "Mert," inherited the place in 1973 and resided here full-time until Tom's death in 2010.

They sold to the Wittkowskis, and the work began. ♣



A Stand of Maples

The former Hubbard farm probably has the largest number of surviving sugar maple trees of any property in town. By the 1880s Sandisfield was the largest producer of maple syrup in the Berkshires. Some farms, like this one, had a thousand or more trees. By the early 20th century the landscape was virtually devoid of sugar maple trees. Most were harvested as charcoal or for fuel for industry. East Hubbard Road is still lined with these beautiful trees, iconic symbols of New England heritage. The Hubbard stand is now professionally cared for by arborists.



The Hubbard house as it appeared in 1985, left, and as renovated, 2015.



**FIRE
AND
EMT
CALLS**
JUNE 2015

FIRE CALLS	
Building fire	1
Search and rescue	1
Fire alarm/smoke detector activation	2
EMS CALLS:	
Medical	8
Motor vehicle accidents	2
Search and rescue	1

NEW BOSTON CRANE SERVICE & SLEDS

Snowmobiles, ATV's, Generators, Trailers,
Lawn & Garden Equipment, Log Splitters

Parts & Service available for most
bikes, ATV's & snowmobiles



OPEN: Tues - Fri 9am - 6pm / Sat & Mon 9am - 3pm
Sun 9am - 1pm / closed Mon (Nov 1-April 1)

Route 8 / P.O. Box 691
Sandisfield, MA 01255
www.newbostoncrane.com

413-258-4653
fax 413-258-2884
nbcss@verizon.net

Good Advice About Tick Bites

TAKE THEM SERIOUSLY

Adapted from the July 2015 Otis Observer by Bill Price. Used with permission.

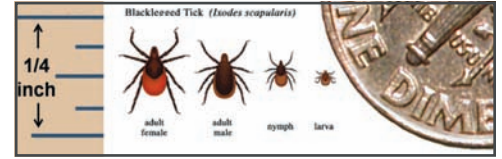
Amy Hardt, an anthropologist who has worked on community health projects around the world, knows about ticks. Well, we all know about ticks, but probably not as much as Amy. She lives in Otis and currently studies nursing at UMass Amherst.

In "Tick Talk," an advisory article in the July Observer, Amy provided a lot of straight-up information about ticks and the discomforts and sometimes disease they can give us – from Lyme disease to rashes, headaches, fevers, fatigue, and joint pain.

For some people," Amy wrote, "tick-borne illness may simply feel like the flu, while others may not even notice any symptoms at first. To avoid long-term neurological damage, it is extremely important to take tick bites seriously. Any time you have been exposed and experience the symptoms or you find a tick that may have been attached for more than a day, call your health provider right away. An early course in antibiotics almost always does the job. Waiting only increases the chance that antibiotics will not work later on."

She wrote that it is important to remember that, in most cases, "ticks need to be attached for at least 36 hours in order to transmit any infection through their saliva. This gives us time to find and remove them. Daily tick checks are a must."

Avoid ticks. "Remember," she wrote, "ticks can't fly, drop from trees, or be carried by the wind. They tend to hang out on the ground or on low bushes and plants at about knee height, just waiting for a warm-blooded host to brush by

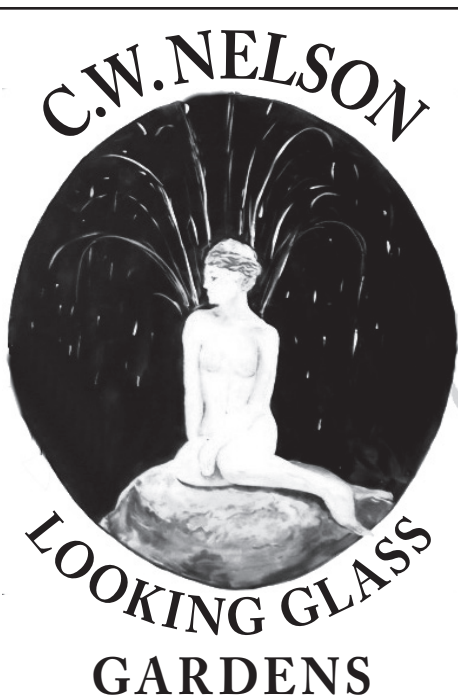


them. We can lower our exposure by walking in the center of the trail, not sitting on the ground, and by avoiding high grassy areas." Tuck pants into socks and spray DEET tick repellent on exposed skin.

Amy offered good advice to hunters. "Hunters need to be especially cautious when harvesting deer, since it will likely be covered with ticks." Wrap the deer in a bed sheet and throw the sheet away afterwards. "Check your pickup truck bed for ticks as well." Plus, "any engorged female ticks that fall into your yard could lay eggs that later hatch into a local infestation." "Hang the deer over a tub of soapy water for a little while before butchering. As the ticks drop off the deer and fall into the soapy water, they will die."

Be aware that jackets, clothing, and outdoor gear often give ticks a ride into the house. Any unattached ticks should be crushed against a hard surface, as they don't squish easily."

Attached ticks should be removed right away." Use pointy tweezers to pull the tick straight out using a slow, steady motion. "Never jerk, twist, or burn the tick first. Once the tick is out, wash the area with antiseptic, and keep an eye out for a bulls-eye or other rash that may indicate infection, and don't delay in seeking medical attention if symptoms appear."



**A Full Service
Nursery and
Design Center**

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

Our 30th Anniversary

www.lookingglassgardens.com

www.cwnelson.com

Mon-Sat 8am - 4pm

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



Its Time to Get Your Hands Dirty

Tilia LANDSCAPE +
GARDEN
COACH
nature tamed

www.tilialandscapedesign.com • (917)796-6002

New England Cottontail Walk

Two landowners who are supporting habitat management will host walks on their properties in late August. State wildlife officials will lead the walks to outline conservation efforts and help others understand what they can do to become involved. Topics will include the New England Cottontail Conservation Strategy, planning, funding, and permitting habitat projects. Be prepared for a short walk on level but uneven and muddy terrain. The first walk will be hosted by Chad Pease at 228 Sandisfield Road, Sandisfield, on August 21, 5:30-7:00 p.m. The second by Charlie Sheets on Main Road (0.1 miles east of Sheets Road) in Granville on August 24, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Contact Marianne Piché at 508-389-6313 or via email, marianne.piche@state.ma.us, for more details. 🐇



Walter's Culvert

During Select Board meetings last winter, Walter Linkovich of Sandisfield Center complained about the roadside drain in front of his house that allows rainwater and snowmelt to run through a culvert under the road and into the field beyond. Dirt and debris often clog the drain and sometimes even the culvert itself. Walter believes the best fix would be to replace the gravel dirt bank with a grassy slope, some solid turf.



Déjà Vu Again

Apparently dissatisfied with the paving for the approach to the Rt. 8/57 bridge that was recently completed across the Farmington, the State asked the construction company for a do-over. Toward the end of July, residents were surprised to see the road being redone so soon after completion, but not really.

Photo: Bill Price

wm. brockman real estate

the berkshires

You should not list your home or land with us because we have sold 14 properties just in Sandisfield (or almost half of all sales) in the last two years, from \$70,500 to \$3,500,000. Or because we have the Top Selling Broker for 2013 in all of Berkshire County.

You should have us represent you because what we do "best" is custom-tailored every time, to every client, and every experience.

Achieving your goals is what we do best.

Your satisfaction is our only measure of success.

Visit berkshiresforsale.com and brockman.us (coming soon) to see our nearly 60 listings and to search for your new home!

- West St. 6.77 Acres with wide road frontage and two brooks. \$55,000
- Otis Wood Lands Premium Building Parcels \$150,000 to \$178,000
- 1850's farmhouse bordering Silver Brook. 3 bedrooms \$163,000
- 2 BR Contemporary - Private & affordable! Big screened porch! \$200,000
- 1 bedroom home a short stroll to West Lake & 1200 ac. State Forest Just \$125,000



LUXURY & PRIVACY! Stunning 6 BR Colonial, Kitchen with Wolf Range, Subzero fridge, Great Room+stone fireplace; Full Home Automation. Amazing land & views! \$1,750,000

Chapin Fish, Broker-Partner 413-258-4777

info@wmbrockman.com (413) 528-4859
berkshiresforsale.com

Sandisfield Historical Society



By John Kuzmecz

We took a break in July from our "Local Oral History Project" to hear straightforward local history.

We heard the incredible early account of the birth of roads in this area by historian Bob Grigg of Colebrook. Bob's discussion ranged from colonial times through the railroad that was never built to the Route 8 realignment along Colebrook Reservoir. This valuable history was recorded. And Mr. Grigg learned a thing or two from our member, Mr. Willard Platt, during their meeting after the meeting.

We were also busy with the Historical Society Fair this month. We have a small budget and with a de-humidifier running, our bills can be higher than our income.

I thank the many members of the community who volunteer their time. Without our members there is no Historical Society.

Michael Babey of Trumbull, Conn., a relative of former Society member Kate Dirgo, donated significant antiques and collectibles Kate had collected over her lifetime. Mike White donated his time to make this happen.

In addition, the Bakunis family worked tirelessly organizing the donations to sell at the tag sale during July's fair. They moved and priced items and spent a lot of energy for us. This is a big-hearted family. They managed the entire sale alone. The antique toys were kept out of the sale and remain with us at the moment.

Ron Bernard sold some local history books with proceeds to us, and it was Ron's suggestion that the Society host the Pet Parade this year. The parade was a big draw for locals and weekenders who had never been to a Historical Society fair. Teresa DellaGuistina managed the parade and the lively Jeff Gray officiated. About 30 pets and their owners took part and amazingly every animal won a prize.

We had volunteer-baked treats and burgers and hot dogs, tastily prepared by volunteers Kathie and John Burrows. John has mastered charcoal cooking. The Burrows seem to have their hands in something positive all over this town.

Sonja Gray helped break down after the event, despite the rain. Marcia Ignace did a ton of work managing things and donated time and lots of

money and food. Norton Fletcher manned the raffle booth all day and chatted with visitors. We later renewed Norton's earlier vow in our last business meeting: to only buy the best meat for our burgers. Ron Pachulski has donated his time and equipment to mow our field this summer; he won't even accept gas money.

Lou and Judi Friedman provided manual labor, as well as more higher-ordered thinking on managing the bake sale and cookbook sales, paying bills, and keeping track of expenses.

Next month, from the records of Sandisfield Select Board meetings there will be an account of an 18th century slave's petition for freedom to the Select Board. This is a timely topic as we as a nation deal with the murders in Charleston and the final lowering of the Confederate flag.

He is preparing a slide show, and I would like to fill seats to welcome him. Please stay for the potluck lunch afterward.



At the Historical Society we welcome everyone to our meetings. Come check us out and help us keep the Society going. Like all organizations in this town, we are a small group, but there is a sense of community. You can reach me at 258-4906.

Our Next Meeting

On August 8, 11 a.m., our speaker will be Dr. Charles Russell, a retired dean at Mattatuck Community College in Waterbury (now Naugatuck Valley Community College). Dr. Russell, a history professor and author of seven books, splits his time between Houston and northwestern Connecticut. He has researched Norwegian immigration history. He will speak on the importance of local historical societies as demonstrated through his latest book *Wilhelm*. He also happens to be my father-in-law. 🐾

The Pet Parade at the Historical Society's 4th of July picnic was a success, despite a light rain. Contestants included a chicken (well trained) and a frog, a turtle, a hamster, and many dogs. There may have been a snake. No cats bothered to enter. All contestants won prizes.

Photos: Miriam Karmel



BEER ★ WINE ★ LIQUOR

Domaney's



Fine Wine ★ Unique Beer ★ Discount Liquors
Temperature Controlled Wine Room ★ Cigar Humidor

66 Main St. Great Barrington, MA 01230
p. (413) 528-0024 ★ f. (413) 528-6093

www.domaney.com

Comings & Goings



LOUISE A. ROBITAILLE 1961-2015

Louise A. Robitaille died Sunday, July 5, surrounded by her family at her home on Hilltop Court in Becket. Born in Waterbury, Connecticut, she was the daughter of Ralph and Edna MacMullen Leavenworth. She attended schools in Waterbury and graduated from Monument Mountain High School in 1979. She married Harold Robitaille, Jr., in 1980.

She was a member of the Goodwill Chapter 112 of Connecticut and a member of the Morning Star Chapter 217 of Massachusetts. Louise especially enjoyed spending time with her family.

She is survived by her husband; her mother, Edna Leavenworth of Sandisfield; two sons, Harold Robitaille II of Housatonic and Jason Robitaille, Sr., and his wife, Hope, of Becket; a daughter, Gina Monahan and her husband, John, of Pittsfield; a brother, Ralph C. Leavenworth of Sandisfield; a sister, Lisa Bachman of New Mexico; and nine grandchildren: Dakota, Jonathan, Tyler, Zara, Jason Jr., Caleb, Dylan, Kendal, and Gabriella.

A celebration of Louise's life was held on July 16 at Crissey Farm in Great Barrington. Friends may make a donation in her memory to the Eastern Star Charity Foundation of Connecticut Sunshine Fund or to the Grace Church in care of the Kelly Funeral Home, 3 Main St., Lee, MA 01238.

HOWARD SMITH 1929-2015

Howard Smith, a former resident of Sandisfield, passed away peacefully with his family at his bedside on June 20.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, Howard was the son of Edward and Dorothy Knoll Smith.

He served during the Korean Conflict as an Army 2nd lieutenant. His graduation from Williams College in 1951 was a defining experience in his life. He played football for Williams and was an active alumnus. He graduated from Harvard Divinity School in 1957 with a B.D. degree.

He married Valerie Lebrun in October, 1957.

The United Church of Christ was his passion for many years. He was also deeply committed to the Civil Rights Movement and worked tirelessly with various agencies throughout his career to promote the quality of life for minority families.

Howard's career began as Associate Pastor and Minister to Students at Dartmouth College. He then became Pastor of Christ Church in Saxton's River, Vermont. He was involved with the National Council of Churches in New York City and Washington, D.C., the Commission on Religion & Race, the Chicago Conference on Religion & Race, and the Connecticut Housing Investment Fund.

After living on the south side of Chicago in an attempt to racially integrate neighborhoods there, he and his wife, Valerie, and their three young children moved to West Hartford, Connecticut, where he began a career as an executive-search consultant. He conducted, managed, and marketed hundreds of executive searches in the insurance, banking, and real estate investment arenas.

While in Hartford, Valerie and Howard purchased the historic Sears-Hawley House on Silverbrook Road in Sandisfield. Howard cherished the many hours spent tending his blueberry bushes and apple trees, but was happiest mowing the fields on his tractor! He was an outdoor enthusiast, having hiked in the Tianshan Mountains, the Alps, and the White Mountains, among many others. As a young man he was an accomplished athlete. Later in life he could be seen walking his whippets, who gave him so much pleasure!

He is survived by his wife, Valerie Smith; his sister, Susan and her husband, Bill Helman; his three children: Ann Smith, Michael and his wife, Lauren, and Julie Smith and her husband, Tim Oakes. He also leaves seven grandchildren: Brendan, Claire, Peter, and Katherine Smith, Mateer Hudgens, and Eva and Angus Oakes.

A memorial service will be held at a date to be announced. Donations in Howard's memory may be made to either Fairview Hospital or the Berkshire Humane Society through Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.



THE ENCYCLICAL LETTER

I am thrilled by The Sandisfield Times and the important and interesting news it contains. In addition, I am overjoyed by the Pope's Encyclical Letter, "On Care for Our Common Home." He states that "a technological and economic development which does not leave in its wake a better world and an integrally higher quality of life cannot be considered progress."

Therefore, I can strongly assume that his message would oppose the expansion of the natural gas pipeline through wetlands and conservation areas as well as the use of pesticides in state forests.

Judi Friedman
People's Action for Clean Energy, Inc.
Sandisfield Center

A SUBSCRIBER WRITES

I am a subscriber way over here on the other side of Massachusetts, in Ipswich by the sea. I like your paper very much, how you cover issues.

I subscribed because when I visited Roberta and Ronnie Myers I became interested in issues in your area that concerned them. Now they are no longer there, but I remain interested in your ongoing coverage, of the pipeline issue in particular, and how laws meant to protect the state's land may no longer do so ... are powerless.

Alicia Moore
Ipswich



Photos: Setsuko Winchester; Brigitte Ruthman; Bill Price

Summer Calves AT JOSHUA'S FARM

By Brigitte Ruthman

Meet Simon, born on a Thursday in late June, and Chip, born hours later the following day.

They share the same sire, a roan bull named Motown. Their dams (mothers), Thyme and Titiania, had a rough start to this year's calving but are now doing well.

Left, Thyme and her calf Simon greet each other for the first time. Middle, Simon and Chip touch noses

not long after Chip's birth. Right, side by side in the barn, they wait out the midday heat.

The milking shorthorn breed gives them the strength to grow into a strong team of oxen. Once, oxen were the tractors that cleared New England forests and powered work in woodlots. Today, they are used largely for demonstration purposes and, for some, to carry on the ancient skill of being a teamster. 🐮

Computer Woes?

Expert setup and support
Desktops Laptops Tablets
Phones Faxes Printers
Databases Websites Wired &
Wireless Networks Internet
Virus Removal & Coaching

*Serving individuals and small
businesses in South County*

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

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

TOLLAND MOUNTAIN

HIL #144855 MA LIC #38268

BUILDERS LLC

"When Quality and Professionalism Are a Must"

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

NOW HEAR THIS!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro.

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

AUGUST EVENTS

Sandisfield Historical Society Meeting on Saturday, August 8, at 11:00 a.m., at the Meeting House on the corner of Route 183/Sandy Brook Turnpike and South Sandisfield Road. Featured speaker will be Dr. Charles Russell, a history professor and author of seven books. Dr. Russell will speak on the importance of local historical societies as demonstrated through his latest book, "Wilhelm." For information, contact John Kuzmech (258-4906).

Tom Christopher on Native Perennials for the Berkshire Garden on Saturday, August 1, at 4:00 p.m., at the Sandisfield Arts Center, 5 Hammertown Road. \$10.

Gallery Opening Reception on Saturday, August 8, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., at the Sandisfield Arts Center. The Gallery will feature fabrications in metal by Robin Tost. The exhibit is on display August 8-30 and open during performances and Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Sandisfield Forum: Bill Cohn on American Culture and Wartime Propaganda on Saturday, August 8, at 4:00 p.m., at the Sandisfield Arts Center. \$10.

Sandisfield Volunteer Firemen Steak Roast on Saturday, August 8, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Dancing from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. At the Fire House on Route 57. Tickets are available from any of the volunteers and are not available at the door. Call A & M Auto, 258-3381 for tickets. Buy ice cream bars afterwards to benefit the Sandisfield Scholarship Fund.

Easy Ridin' Papas on Saturday, August 8, at 8:00 p.m., at the Sandisfield Arts Center. \$15. The group plays country blues, jazz, southern gospel, and jugband.

New England Cottontail Walk, Two events: Friday, August 21, 228 Sandisfield Rd., Sandisfield, 5:30-7:00 p.m. And Monday, August 24, Main Rd. (0.1 miles east of Sheets Rd.) Granville, 5:30-7:00 p.m. See page 15 for details or contact Marianne Piché, 508-389-6313 or via email, marianne.piche@state.ma.us.

Cathy Barrow on Preserving with Book Signing on Saturday, August 22, at 4:00 p.m., at the Sandisfield Arts Center. \$10.

Jo Garfield on "The Roosevelt in Sandisfield" on Saturday, August 29, at 4:00 p.m., at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Donations accepted.

AUGUST EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

Robin O'Herin, Delta blues musician, & Tap Artist **Stefanie Weber** on Saturday, August 15, at 7:30 p.m., at the Knox Trail Inn in East Otis. Sponsored by the Otis Cultural Council. For more information, visit robinoherin.com

The Tolland Ladies Aid Society's Community Tag & Craft Sale will be held on Saturday, August 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., on the Tolland Town Green. Interested vendors can contact Jean at 413-258-4105 or jarmclark@verizon.net. \$15 for a 10x10 space.

Otis Library Book & Author Night on Wednesday, August 26, at 7:00 p.m. Sandisfield resident Sheila Weller will discuss her book, "The News Sorority: Diane Sawyer, Katie Couric, Christiane Amanpour and the Triumph of Women in TV News."

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: Sandisfield Public Library Hours: Temporary reduced hours: Monday, 9 a.m.-noon; Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Phone: 258-4966.

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

The Hillside Garden Inn

An intimate B & B, offering gracious hospitality and charming, immaculate accommodations in the historic c. 1784 Elijah Twining house.

The perfect place for your out-of-town guests!

Innkeepers

Rosanne Carinci-Hoekstra
Steven Hoekstra

3 Tolland Road
Sandisfield, MA
413.258.4968

www.hillsidegardeninn.com

KWIK^{color} PRINT
INCORPORATED
EXPERIENCE • SPEED • QUALITY

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

35 Bridge Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230

Ph: 413.528.2885 Fx: 413.528.9220

typesetting@kwikprintinc.com
www.kwikprintinc.com

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

P.O. Box 584

Sandisfield, MA 01255

www.sandisfieldtimes.org

*We acknowledge with gratitude a
donation from the following:*

Alexander Bowman



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.

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.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

PO BOX 584, SANDISFIELD, MA 01255

Name _____

Address to where *The Times* should be delivered:

City, State, Zip _____

Email address: _____

Phone (only used if paper is returned by USPS) _____

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

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

Editorial Staff

Editor: Bill Price

email: w.billprice@gmail.com or cell 413.429.7179

Advertising/Subscriptions: Ron Bernard

Graphic Design: Tina Sotis

Website: Jean Atwater-Williams

Now Hear This!: Laura Rogers-Castro

Founding Editor: Simon Winchester

How to Contact Us

Letters to the editor: . . . letters@sandisfieldtimes.org

News, ideas, tips & photos: . . . editor@sandisfieldtimes.org

Advertising questions: . . . advertising@sandisfieldtimes.org

Entries for calendar of events: . . . calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org

Birth, marriage, and death notices: . . . registrar@sandisfieldtimes.org