

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

Tribunus



Plebis

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume VIII Number 5

August 2017

Senator Hinds Pays a Visit

By Bill Price




Photo: Ron Bernard

Just before press time, State Senator Adam Hinds came to the northeast corner of Sandisfield to offer support for the people who have been protesting the Tennessee Gas Pipeline expansion project.

Only the most ardent protesters believe the project will be stopped at this point. The line has been bulldozed and widened, trees are down, most of the ditch is ready for the pipe, some of which has been buried already. But the hope of the Sugar Shack Alliance, which has led opposition against the construction for two years and invited Hinds to the site, is to bring attention to their stand against gas pipelines in an era that they believe is tending toward renewable, alternative sources of energy.

Hinds spoke from the open-walled

timber-frame cabin, named for Henry David Thoreau, that the alliance had assembled on Susan Baxter's property within yards of the pipeline right-of-way. He voiced support for the nearly 40 activists from several parts of the state and a few Sandisfielders who stood under an overcast day. He said, "Only by getting out and organizing, being part of the process can we even hope to have an impact."

Other speakers included Susan Baxter and leaders of the Sugar Shack Alliance who described their opposition to the continued reliance on fossil fuels and the destruction of animal habitats by pipeline construction. They reaffirmed their dedication to their peaceful but consistent resistance movement. 



Ode to a Hay Wagon

Story and photo by Brigitte Ruthman

By the time it went up for sale at Sunset Hill Dairy farm in Canaan this spring, the 50-year-old iconic hay wagon had likely ferried tens of thousands of square bales from fields to barns as winter feed for cattle.

The bales would have been stacked against the simple cross-hatched wooden back, supported by a wooden arm bolted to the deck on either side. Correctly placed seven rows high, the wagon could carry 150 bales.

Kickers attached to modern balers eliminate the initial human task of stacking, tossing them instead into manufactured metal wagons.

The rusty heavy steel plates on the old running gear supported two tandem truck wheels on either side without the need for an axle, curved to meet in the front. Worn rubber tires of various vintages and tread types were cracked but still held air. Farmer Albert Giyulian's daughter, Judy Duprey, recalled that the wheels had been found in a local junkyard longer ago than anyone remembers.

It's deck had been replaced a few times, lately with pressure-treated decking boards that stretched to 17 feet, well beyond the length of the eight-foot wide running gear.

The faded John Deere green was from a can, not a factory. All of the wagon was made by hand.

Cont'd p. 8

Have you seen this big cat?

Page 8.



Results of Special Town Meeting


By Times Reporters

At a Special Town Meeting at Old Town Hall at the end of June, attended by about 40 voters, one article was postponed until Town Meeting next spring and three others passed by majority.

A proposed new bylaw that allowed the town to hire a Town Administrator and detailed the administrator's duties was postponed, with a significant deletion, until next Town Meeting. Deleted was the detailed description of duties, which, Lisa Leavenworth and Jean Atwater-Williams, among others, pointed out did not belong in a bylaw. If the Select Board later added to or changed any of the duties, a further bylaw change would be required. It was agreed that the town could proceed with hiring an administrator with the proposed detailed responsibilities serving as a job description.

Articles 2 and 3 were bylaw changes for the Select Board in drawing up the town budget with the Finance Committee. Misunderstanding and some confusion had occurred during the budgeting process for FY 2017. The bylaw changes sought to more clearly spell out the process.

Joe Gelinas, the new chairman for the Finance Committee, and Select Board chair John Skrip had agreed on wording changes before the meeting. While some residents wanted to wait until next Town Meeting to change the bylaws, both the committee and the Select Board said that making the changes now would make next year's budgeting more streamlined. Voters passed both amendments.

Article 4, a housekeeping item to clean up a few town deficits before the end of FY2016 and enable the town to present zero balances to auditors, passed with minimal discussion. 



Joe Gelinas explained the changes in next year's budgeting process.

Lobby When You Can





Senator Adam Hinds made himself available to constituents after speaking at the pipeline demonstration at the Thoreau cabin on Susan Baxter's property. Here, Karleen Blass (left) and Nina Carr lobbied him regarding budget cuts at York Lake Beach. He agreed the cut-backs shouldn't have happened and that the state should do better. His aides took notes. Maybe ... 

Photo: Bill Price

York Lake, Summer 2017

York Lake was included in a guide of Berkshire swimming beaches in the *Berkshire Eagle* on July 2, but the information was out of date. Because of budget cuts at the Department of Conservation and Recreation, clean-up services and toilet facilities are not provided at the beach this summer. A port-a-potty stands near the parking area. The grass is mowed but sometimes gets a little long. The lake and picnic areas are open, but with water-quality testing suspended swim at your own risk. At least user fees have been waived. The rule is that if you carry it in, carry it out.

The Sandisfield Council on Aging has for years held a summer picnic at York Lake. Not this year. Nina Carr is circulating a petition for the DCR to reopen the beach and will submit it to State Senator Adam Hinds, who was just appointed head of the committee that oversees the DCR. Maybe ... 

A Busy Saturday, August 12


The **town-wide tag sale** to support the Jewish History Book Project. On the grounds of the New Boston Inn. Rent a space, sell your stuff. Call Joanne Lazarowitz Olson, 917-686-1985.

Historical Society Oral History Forum. Oldtimers Willard Platt and Francis Deming will tell tales about The Old Red Shop on the very site of the old factory, Roosterville Road at the end of the new bridge across the Farmington. From 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Sandisfield Volunteer Firemen Steak Roast from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Firehouse #2, Rt. 57. Dancing from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets may be purchased from any volunteer or call A & M Auto (258-3381), not available at the door.

Rugg Bridge and an Oops

The next round of bids on the Rugg Bridge project are due August 17. We'll report how that goes in September.

Readers of our July print edition may have been dismayed at numbers we reported for the first bid opening, that the three bids came in too high, at \$2.4K, \$3.2K, and \$1.8K. Of course, the numbers should have read in the millions, not K which stands for thousands. Our reporter submitted the correct numbers, but I changed them at the last minute. An alert reader let me know in time for us to correct the paper on our web edition, but in print the damage was done and on the front page. My regrets to the reporter and to any readers of the print edition who may still be confused.—BP 

Selectman in Motion

By Bill Price

Recently, Selectman Alice Boyd has been spending much of her time caring for her elderly parents on Cape Cod as their needs increased. She wrote to friends in early July, "My hope is to continue my work as your Select Board member for the immediate future. ... I will be calling in to many of the Select Board meetings as policy allows."

She added, "I ask for your understanding as I prioritize my family ... I wish to give them comfort and support as they near the end of their lives. I hope that someone will do the same for me and each of you." Alice had planned on having her parents move to Sandisfield to live with her, however for personal and medical reasons they have chosen to remain on the Cape.

She put her South Sandisfield home on the market, and it is now under agreement. The attractive house on a pond was on the market only two months.

Alice can and will remain a Select Board member through this transition and will remain in office while she legally can do so. An opinion by Town Counsel indicated that once she purchases a home outside of Sandisfield she must resign.

She is working on several of the town's critical issues, completing the town's broadband negotiations between Frontier Communications and the Massachusetts Broadband Institute, and helping in the search for a new part-time town administrator. Regarding broadband, a negotiating meeting is scheduled for July 27 between the town, Frontier, and MBI. News about that meeting will be in the September Times.

Initially elected to fill a vacant one-year term on the Select Board in May 2015, Alice served as board chairman until the recent election in May. She was elected to a full 3-year term in 2016. ♡

Interim Town Administrator at Work

Sandisfield's interim town administrator, Rick White, was greeted on his first day on the job, Monday, July 17, by Select Board Chairman John Skrip. He will serve two days a week until the town hires a new part-time administrator.

Only the week before the Select Board had voted to move ahead with an interim administrator since it could take weeks to hire a replacement for Willie Morales, who resigned last month. "We don't want to lose momentum on the major projects we have underway," John said. "We wanted someone with experience right away. We're glad to have Rick at Town Hall."

Rick, who retired in April after more than eight years as Town Administrator in Dennis, a town of 12,000 on Cape Cod, has nearly forty years' experience as a town administrator and manager in a number of Massachusetts communities. He was town manager in Bedford for 20 years.

As for Sandisfield, he said, "It's unlikely that I'll see problems here that I haven't seen before. Small-town issues, small-town challenges. They're never exactly the same, but they are similar."

On his first day at work, Rick said, "I've talked with most of the key staff members, they're all dedicated and committed to the town. You can't ask for more than that."

Select Board member Alice Boyd, who knew Rick from Dennis where she administers CDBG grants, recommended him for the temporary position. "Rick has

always impressed me with his ability to see the 'big picture' but deal with the details. His expertise will be invaluable."

Of three experienced town administrators considered, he was the only one who could begin immediately. He will commute from his home in Lexington.

Before he retired from Dennis, Rick joined a municipal management consulting firm, now Groux-White Consulting, that advises town governments and organizations on efficiency and effectiveness. Groux-White also helps recruit executives and key staff. One of Rick's duties in Sandisfield will be to help the town hire a new part-time administrator, his replacement. ♡

Hannah Van Sickle in an otherwise positive report in the Berkshire Edge about "The Stamp Collection" allowed as how my poems were "perfunctory." My reply follows:

"Perfunctory"

Hannah thinks my poems are shallow
Knocked-out rhymes,
Feeble, callow.

But I think that she is swell,
A matriarch,
Not Jezebel.

So in the end, I'll play the dunce
And never rhyme again
Except this once.

*Val Coleman
West New Boston*



Rick White at Town Hall Annex

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

Leather Shop Expands to Sell Guns BUT IT WON'T BE A "GUN SHOP"

By Bill Price

A Sandisfield business specializing in hand-crafted leather pistol holsters, D'Andrea Gun Leather, has applied for a special permit to expand their operation to include the buying and selling of guns. The business, owned by Connie D'Andrea and her husband, Andre, operates out of their home at 12 Silverbrook Road. Andre, a leather craftsman, makes the holsters and other leather goods.

Connie appeared before the Select Board July 17 to apply for the permit. She explained that they will sell pistols and other guns from a separate building, but, Connie added, "It will not be a gun shop." Customers will have to make an appointment to be admitted.

Abutters were given opportunities to ask questions. Next-door neighbor Jill Reiter said she didn't want her residential road changed to a business strip. She asked if there would be a sign directing customers to the house. Connie said, "There will be no sign." She reassured Jill that there would be no random "drop-ins" by customers.

Another abutter, Dan Pinsky, had two concerns. Would there be shooting at the location? Would the state track who the weapons were sold to?

Connie replied that there would be no shooting at the property regarding the gun sales. She said it is illegal for a buyer to fire a firearm when purchasing it. She said that current shooting on the property is for practice and recreation. Later, Connie said that she and her neighbors had exchanged numbers. "They'll let us know if they have guests," she said, "and want us not to practice."

In answer to the question about the state tracking gun purchasers, Connie said they will abide by all federal, state, and local laws. They currently have Federal Firearms License AKA FFL-1 which includes the sale of guns and legal transfer of gun ownership and are seeking local licensing.

After stipulating that if Connie wanted to sell ammunition she would have to apply for a different permit, the board voted to approve her application. Following a 21-day appeal period during with residents can comment, the Select Board will meet again in order to grant or disapprove the special permit to sell guns.

Connie previously owned and operated the Silverbrook Café and Country Store, which closed in October 2014.

From Your Select Board Chair

By John Skrip

The town is in the process of being audited by the Commonwealth, a necessary and mandatory requirement. A successful audit will make our town bond ready. We will share the results when we hear the news. Our town hall office staff has been working diligently to provide the auditors with the many documents they have requested.

The Select Board is organizing and completing job descriptions for each town position. The special town meeting decision not to include the job description for the administrator in the by-laws makes sense and is being abided by, but all job descriptions will be updated and held in a personnel policy manual. We hope to finish this project before the next budget process begins. As we move forward we will need to make a few adjustments to the by-laws dealing with what positions are appointed and which elected. These decisions have been approved by the voters but it seems the by-laws have not been updated.

The police department, under the direction of Chief Mike Morrison, has agreed to provide the Select Board with a more thorough monthly police report, always staying within the guidelines of protecting privacy. We will attempt to provide this report on the town website.

The Select Board has hired an interim town administrator to help complete projects presently on the table, including the Rugg Bridge, full-depth reclamation, i.e. oil and stone application Town Hill Rd/West Street, broadband, and completing and filing various applications to allow us to bid on equipment and contractors.

I am happy to hear from townspeople regarding issues that are troublesome to them. Two issues brought forward this month were:

1. Trailers on private property and septic issues, occupancy, and whether this type of dwelling is in compliance with Town by-laws. A cursory review by me leads me to discuss this at a Select Board meeting and then request that the planning and zoning

boards attend to this. I will ask for a timeframe for completion of this project.

2. Several residents have noticed that the same roads need to be regraded every year. The question is "can something different be done to prevent the water washouts" to permanently fix the problem? I will add this item to the Select Board agenda for further discussion.

We are all working together, and I appreciate your calls and comments. Please note that Alice is continuing her work on broadband and Mark is working with the DPW. As we move forward, a Selectman will be attending various committee meetings to increase visibility and communications.

Take time to enjoy the beautiful Berkshires.



The Hillside Garden Inn
An Intimate B & B
The perfect place for your out-of-town guests!

- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- Five-Star Trip Advisor® Rating
- Sumptuous, Multiple-Course Homemade Breakfast
- Screened-In Patio Overlooking Tranquil, Park-like Grounds and Beautiful Lush Gardens
- Welcoming Wraparound Porch Overlooking the Farmington River
- Easy Access Flexible Check-In/Out Times

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Offering gracious, warm hospitality and charming, immaculate accommodations in the historic c. 1785 Elijah Twining house.

3 Tolland Road
Sandisfield, Mass.
413.258.4968
www.hillsidegardeninn.com

recreation committee

By Lynn Rubenstein

On July 22 the new Community Center Committee joined the Recreation Committee to hold a “beach party” behind the Library. About two dozen kids came out on a hot Saturday to play in the water (water slide, wading pool, water squirters) and in the new sand in the playground. It was like a beach, almost.

We applaud the Community Center Committee and their helpers for cleaning up the playground area behind the library. The playground looks quite spiffy. The picnic tables had seen better days and had to be disposed of, but no worries. The Recreation Committee donated two new tables just in time for the “beach party” on the 22nd. We were asked for assistance with the event and are more than happy to co-sponsor with them. (Thank you, Bobby O’Brien, for solving our dilemma with the tables.)

On June 24 we held our annual “End of School Picnic/Splash” at Tolland State Park.




Trying to get organized for the water balloon toss at the “beach party” behind the Library.
Photo: Bill Price

While we were holding onto our hats due to extreme wind, the kids and their families enjoyed swimming and chowing down on hot dogs, watermelon, and veggies with lots of different dips. (Yes, your kids eat veggies!) The kids made friends with the resident Duck Momma and her ducklings, which patrolled the water like feathered lifeguards. Floating noodles and water squirters were the hot items of the day. To wind the day down, the kids made calming jars, which did indeed do the trick. Many thanks to all who helped out.

Ann Wald of the Historical Society donated a Bingo machine to us, so get your markers ready. Thanks, Ann.

SAVE THE DATE:

- Saturday, August 19, noon to 3 p.m. Le Trois Winery in New Marlborough will host a winery tour and tasting. The tour begins at 12 p.m. sharp. Please RSVP to me by August 14, 413-269-7357. Free for Sandisfield residents/taxpayers and their guests. Residents of other towns, \$10. Must be 21 or older. Join your friends and neighbors for a lazy afternoon filled with music and noshes. Don’t want to leave Fido home along? Le Trois is dog friendly.
- Free monthly kids’ crafts at Sandisfield Public Library/Community Center
- Saturday, August 12, 10 a.m.-noon. Sand Art.
- Saturday, September 9, 10 a.m.-noon. Grandparent’s Day gifts.
- Terry, our librarian, holds Storytime at 9:30 a.m. before the Crafts. Come for the story, stay for the crafts.

We have some great new ideas for upcoming events. How about you? Have any ideas you would like to share? Give us a call. 

- Robbin, 413-717-1833
- Theresa, 413-258-2821
- Bethany, 413-374-0772
- Lynn, 413-269-7357



C.W. NELSON
LOOKING GLASS

GARDENS
A Full Service Nursery and Design Center

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

Over 50 Years Experience

www.lookingglassgardens.com
www.cwnelson.com

Mon-Sat 8am - 4pm

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

NEW BOSTON CRANE SERVICE & SLEDS

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

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





 • Husqvarna • Timberwolf •  • STIHL • 

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

Too Many Bears?

While this black bear, which captured Calvin Rodman and Emily Melchior's bird feeder on Fox Road near the end of June, was enjoying the birdseed he was captured himself, on film.

The same bear, or his cousin, has been roaming along River Road in West New Boston where he's visited half a dozen homes, at least. He's stopped in at night and during daylight at the Badrachs, Margaret O'Clair's, the Prices, Hamiltons, Bakunis, and up the hill at the Blass place where he helped himself to some eggs and tried to get the chicken feed.

Like most roaming black bears he departs quickly when yelled at, but he's becoming a familiar neighborhood presence.

Advice from Massachusetts Wildlife is to interrupt the bear's reward cycle. He'll keep coming back to where he ate once, hoping to eat again. Remove the bird feeders, lock up the chicken feed, if trash must be left outside leave an ammonia-soaked cloth on top of it. If you see the bear, haze it away, throw things, spray it with water. Make things unpleasant. The idea is to get him to break his routine. With no reward, his routine will change and usually he'll move his route elsewhere.

Bear nuisance calls for our region can be made to MassWildlife, Western District, at 413-684-1646.



Decidedly. Different.

**300+
Homes
Sold!
Over \$300
Million**

We are passionate about the homes we market, exceptional homes at every price point. We have the greatest respect for our clients. We love what we do. We have a unique ability to match just the right home to the right homeowner. We work very hard. Because we care.

**Nobody Sells more real estate in the Berkshires than Chapin Fish
Nobody Sells more real estate in Sandisfield than Brockman**

Highest dollar volume 2013, 2014, 2015 according to stats from the Berkshire County Board of Realtors

BROCKMAN
real estate
the berkshires

Learn how we are different by calling or visiting us on the web!

berkshiresforsale.com
413-528-4859

Visit us at our store & office!
276 main street, great barrington

**Chapin Fish
The
Berkshires
#1 Selling
Realtor®
Last 3 Years!**

farm & home

American-made goods and furniture for the home and garden



Moreover...

Would We Like a Covered Bridge in Town?

A WOODWORKING SCHOOL MAY COME TO SANDISFIELD

By Simon Winchester

“Bridges Freeze Before Highways” say the yellow warning signs. Well, they needn’t. The reason that they do is that in winter – and I am loath to say this: but the season is soon to be upon us again – gets at them from both above and below. But if they were *covered* – well, half of the problem is solved. Covered bridges don’t freeze.

The Chinese, who invented them, called them *corridors*, or “wind and rain bridges,” and plenty are still around there. Many survive in Germany and Austria too, where the local woodworkers used massive sub-Alpine timbers to make beams and trusses that have lasted for centuries.

Once there were legions of such bridges in America – 12,000 existed at the turn of the last century. Now there are just 1,500. Most are in Pennsylvania, with fair numbers in Vermont and New Hampshire. Surprisingly there are a scant six only in Madison County, Iowa, despite the best efforts of Meryl Streep and Clint Eastwood to bring Robert James Waller’s famous novel to the screen. Only a few remain in Massachusetts, with at least two in Berkshire County.

There could, however, be more – a matter which came up during a recent encounter with Kevin Kiwak, one of Sandisfield’s more private citizens. He and his family have been living here quietly for a decade, during which time they have quite heroically built their own house and a variety of outbuildings using timber-framing techniques of old – and using trees that grew on their land which they felled and sawed themselves.

Now Kevin has decided to parlay his skills as a woodworker into the public arena and open a small school to teach others who may be interested. To do this he needs a permit, as well as the approval of those who abut his land off Sears

Road – which is why recently he appeared before the Select Board to make his pitch for creating a small woodworking academy here. His proposal was well received, but he has just started the permit process.

Kevin has already been teaching part-time for the past several years at the Heartwood School, a renowned center for the woodworking arts up in



“Tannery Bridge,” built by the Campetti family in 2008, connects their residence in Tolland with Sandisfield. It crosses the Farmington River on Rt. 8 above New Boston.

Photo 2011, Sandisfield Then and Now.

Becket run by the world-respected timber-frame specialist Will Beemer. Kevin has taught students in particular how to make Windsor chairs – those big, solidly old-fashioned wooden chairs with

their legs and back components all round-tenoned into the wooden saddle-shaped seats, the making of which instructs students in some of the myriad complexities of carpentry.

While not wishing to compete with Heartwood but aware that the Beemers are slowly drawing-down the number of courses they teach there, Kevin would like to offer his skills here at home. So it may well be that Sandisfield will before long develop a reputation a center for the craft of woodworking – which would be more than appropriate, given the vast preponderance of forests in our fifty-odd square miles of real estate.

And one of things timber-framers like Kevin Kiwak and Will Beemer and their students could in theory do is build covered bridges – which are classic exemplars of the craft. We discussed the possibility of doing just that at the Rugg Bridge on Route 57, which so urgently needs replacement. A nice idea, all agreed – except that Route 57 is a state road, and regulations would render such a project well-nigh impossible.

But there are other bridges on purely town roads which also need work – and one of them, the tiny crossing of the Clam River that allows access to Beech Plain and River Roads – would it not be a delight to see an old-fashioned New England covered bridge rising there? Maybe we would get Bill and Kevin to build it, and Meryl and Clint to come here and open it. Adding Sheffield to Sandisfield we would then have two: *The Bridges of Berkshire County* – a love story in the making. Stranger things have happened. 🍷



Sunny Rose
Farm

Now accepting new students!

Group or private riding lessons available at your home or on our Sandisfield farm.

Lessons available for all ages.

Specializing in Eventing, Dressage, and Hunter-Jumper lessons

•

Rose Nelson, Instructor and Owner

•

Massachusetts certified,
Pony club eventing participant and USEA eventer

Email: sunnyrosefarm@yahoo.com • Phone: (413) 446-4944

Ode to a Hay Wagon

Cont'd from p.1

At auction, the wagon sat halfway down the row along with various implements and essential manufactured or custom-made tools once essential to dairy farming, now archaic and often valued more for form than function.

The wagon was up for sale to the highest bidder, the best of three old wagons and the only one still healthy enough to be drawn away on a hitch,

There were corn planters, rolls of rusty barbed wire, tillers, manure spreaders, and tractors of various vintages in various stages of running. Wilford Cass learned welding as a boy when he went to work as a hired man.

Walking with a crippling limp he'd had since birth, Wilford learned welding by doing it and watching others with an unusual sense of ingenuity. His welds might not have been pretty, but none ever failed, said dairy farmer John Bottass who hired Cass in the early '70s after he left Sunset Hill.

Cass, who died in 1984 without an obituary, made the wagon and another one like it during the slower winter months. The wheels were centrally located to keep the weight off the baler and facilitate easy turning, but the wagon also saw use delivering cub scouts around the farm.

The welds held firmly while allowing for pivoting points, a plan not found on any blueprint or assembly line.

Sitting atop his truck-drawn podium, the auctioneer finally reached the wagon "Who'll give a thousand," he said clearly, then stuttering off into

the indecipherable cadence of an auctioneer's song, unique to America since the Civil War.

He chanted on in rhythmic monotone, engaging the mostly well-versed audience in his game of "Simon Says," punctuated occasionally by clearly stated numbers.

"Three hundred," he belted out.

A man near me nodded ever so slightly, looking at the wagon, not the salesman.

"I have three hundred," the auctioneer said, "now four, four, four hundred. Where is four hundred?"

I waved my number, to be sure I wasn't mistaken as a bidder's wife.

"I have four hundred," he said, affirming my pitch into the game.

"Five hundred," he demanded, and got it from the man on the other side of the wagon who nodded again.

"Now six," he said, and looked at me, his hand outstretched.

I paused, then drew a curved hand across my chest.

"Five fifty," he said, understanding my bid for half the stated increase.

"Six hundred?" he asked again, and again.

"Going once, going twice, SOLD for \$550," and the old girl was mine.

I proudly pulled the trophy home-made all-American hay wagon home to Sandisfield where it will be given a coat of rust proofing to serve, for now, as an elevated storage platform for round bales and for years to come. 🍷

Big Cat Sighted Here

By Ron Bernard

A Hammertown Road resident reported a close-up sighting of a large cat on that road early Thursday morning, July 20.

It was "shiny midnight black, standing about two-and-a-half feet tall, very long with a long tail." According to the resident, the animal appeared to be possibly smallish, perhaps young and "seemed skinny." It headed towards the Clam Dam reservoir.

The sighting was reported to the Massachusetts DEP, Wildlife and Fisheries section in Boston. A DEP official suggested that this animal is probably a jaguar, the only leopard subspecies native to the Americas. Black coloring ("melanistic") is relatively common in the species which is otherwise exceedingly rare in the U.S. Small populations survive in Florida and perhaps near the Mexico border. The official suggested that this cat may have

been someone's "pet" (very illegal) and escaped or was released when it became unwanted.

The physical description fits the profile of a young or female jaguar, according to web sites consulted. The description does not match the profile of mountain lions which have purportedly been seen in this region. Mountain lions are smaller and never black. No other reports of this animal had been filed with the DEP whose policy is that multiple sightings are needed before action can be taken.

Fire Chief Ralph Morrison told the Times that there have been large black cat sightings in the vicinity of Tuckers restaurant on Route 8 but "none very recently," as far as he knew.

Sightings should be immediately called into the DEP Wildlife and Fisheries office at (508) 389-6300. 🍷



Going ... Going ... Gone!

Story and Photo by Lynn Rubenstein

Ever drive down one of our town roads recently and wondered why some trees had a blue mark on the trunk?

There are multiple crews in town, contracted by Eversource, to cut down those marked trees (over 860 of them, and that's just in our town).

They sure do know how to take down those trees quickly. Along Town Hill Road last month, by the time I found my camera, the trees were down to eye-level.

The crews arrive equipped with a chipper, which distributes the wood chips into the woods. If the trees that come down are near your place and you would prefer the keep the chips, just let the crew know.

As far as the wood goes, take it or leave it. They will be back at a later date to haul it away.

The crews I've met are quite the friendly bunch. And not only were they whistling while they worked, but they cleaned up the mess. Yay! 🍷



Road Rage on Route 8

By Ann Wald

Recently I was involved in an automobile accident on Rt. 8 near the Verizon telephone building. Neighbors Lori Loring and Jay Reynolds immediately jumped in to dial 911 and direct traffic. Because we had to leave the cars in the road, traffic continued at an amazing fast rate. Jay was signaling to get traffic to slow down, but one driver from Connecticut stopped, put his car in park, came over and wanted to punch Jay.

All Jay was trying to do was to get people to slow down.

Naturally this all happened before the state police arrived. I still cannot believe how fast the cars were traveling there when the speed limit is 20 mph.

Does anyone recall that when a speed tracker was positioned not far down Rt. 8 the top speed recorded was 77 mph?

I believe we are in need of flashing speed signs at each end of town. How to go about this I do not know, but rest assured I am going to do my best to find out. I am not sure how much this will help but it is worth trying. If anyone

knows how to go about this please call me. In the meantime I am going to make a few calls myself.

I would like to thank Lori and Jay and the firemen who put their lives on the line that day standing on the side and even in the road to direct traffic until we were allowed to move out of the way.

Believe me, I have a new respect for the 20 mph speed signs now. 🙏

Out on a Limb: an op-ed

Subject should be interesting to most of us and have a strong link to Sandisfield, written by and for Town residents. The Times does not accept Out on a Limb contributions submitted anonymously, but if the author identifies him or herself to the editor and asks not to be named in the article we may agree to withhold the author's name on a case-by-case basis.

Send to Editor, Sandisfield Times, P.O. Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255 or by email to editor@sandisfieldtimes.org.

Times Reporter Honored AND BEGINS A NEW GARDENING COLUMN

Tom Christopher, who often writes for this newspaper, is in fact a professional horticulturist who has published several books on gardening.

His most recent book, *Garden Revolution*, co-written with landscape designer Larry Weaner, was honored at an awards dinner in June in Alexandria, Virginia, by the American Horticultural Society as one of the five best gardening books



of 2016. The book presents an ecological approach to gardening that goes against the grain of counter-productive, time-consuming conventional planting and will help anyone looking for better, smarter ways to garden.

Tom recently began writing a new column, "Be a Better Gardener," in Berkshire Week, distributed by the Berkshire Eagle. The column, sponsored by the Berkshire Botanical Garden, is published in 17 print and online newspapers from southern Vermont to upstate New York, with a circulation of 250,000. Tom said, "I'm pretty excited about that many readers." 🙏

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

Music
and More

Saturdays at 4:30 pm

August 26-October 8

At the historic Meeting House
In scenic New Marlborough, Mass.

August 26 Gossamer Trio

The collaboration of New York Philharmonic Principal Harpist Nancy Allen, with internationally renowned flutist Carol Wincenc and emerging artist Claire Solomon, cello, playing a program of Fauré, Villa-Lobos, Ravel, and Gaubert.

September 9 The Power of a Woman's Voice:

Tina Packer with Calliope Renaissance Band

Join us for a fascinating program of readings and music with Tina Packer, doyenne of the Shakespearean world, and the venerable Calliope Renaissance Band. This spirited event will include English women's voices from 16th and 17th century literature and complimentary music with which they would have been familiar, on replica Renaissance instruments.

Receptions with the artists after the performances - Art Gallery shows through Oct. 2nd

September 16 Jay Ungar and Molly Mason

Perform their own work as well as 19th-century classics, lively Appalachian, Cajun, and Celtic fiddle tunes and favorites from the golden age of country and swing. A Family Event with special pricing!

September 23 Kyra Xuerong Zhao

Internationally renowned Pianist Kyra Xeurong Zhao performs pieces by Ligeti, Debussy and Beethoven.

October 7 Award-Winning Authors with Host Simon Winchester

Simon Winchester interviews guest **Roy Blount, Jr.**, a humorist and prolific writer of prose, poetry, song and speech, with an approach to life and its foibles and follies such as Mark Twain might have offered up.

FOR TICKETS & INFORMATION: www.newmarlborough.org

(413) 229-2785

Postage for a Magical Journey

"THE STAMP COLLECTION"

BY VAL COLEMAN

By Barbara Penn

Photos by Ali Uzpervis and Peter Baiamonte



"The Stamp Collection" performed by the Sandisfield Players, directed by Ben Luxon, is one of those rare theatrical events when cast and characters, writer and director come together in such a way that the audience believes they are participating fully in the lives of the characters on stage.

The play is a jewel that in only six scenes and with that many actors totally fulfills Coleman's wish to "put my own small town on the stage and to capture that soft sweet pace and side of life in Coles County, Illinois, 1941."

While the play looks deceptively simple, it is actually complex, operating on many levels. What is truth? Does it really set us free? How do we judge and balance religion and science, life and death, war and pacifism? And while these questions inform the action of the play and its people, what makes this play grip our heart is how it works on the level any great play must work on, the connections and the believability of its characters. And work it does, a credit to its writer and to the deft hand of director Luxon.

The play takes place in the summer of 1941 in a small town in rural Illinois, just before the US entry into the Second World War. It is set in Shirley Trimble's living room, also an antique shop, filled, as Coleman says, "with all manner of treasures." Coleman, portraying rumpold "old" Beverly Reynolds, 65-year-old poet and professor, sits in the apron of the stage, the spotlight on him at each transition between scenes. The character provides the glue, the bridge between the action on stage and the memories of old Beverly's childhood. Coleman is pitch perfect.

The plot revolves around Olga Trimble (played by Tina Sotis), who is battling an incurable form of hemophilia, "Christmas disease," and her husband Shirley (played by Adam Manacher) who persists in his belief that the right doctor will cure her -- and in the meantime, he will make things light and happy to give her hope. Sitting at Olga's side is Mrs. Eliza Quigley (played by Mary Ann Grammer), a Christian Scientist who feels that only by finding the truth through "Christ the scientist" and hearing his words read to her will Olga be healed.

Into this summer and this antique shop comes 10-year-old Beverly Reynolds (Gabe Lassar) who, in exchange for the promise of receiving a priceless album of American stamps (the Stamp Collection of the title), has promised to sit with Olga for the summer. Also comes the town undertaker, Harry Usher (Charles Fidler), who wants to set up a "Slumber Room" at his mortuary by buying most of the furniture in the antique shop. Dorothee Reynolds (Jean Atwater-Williams) as Beverly's mother opens the play and sets it in motion.

The individual worlds, hopes, dreams, and fears of the characters are shown through the metaphor of the Stamp Collection, as Coleman says, a "magical book ... full of enchantment, spells and charms ... the tiny pictures are its secret." Hidden in these small engravings are all of history, mysterious places like the majesty of Niagara Falls and the vast blue of the Pacific Ocean, and people as diverse as Jefferson Davis and black dancers.

In lesser hands than Luxon's, this play might have drifted into melodrama or emotional knee-jerk responses, but in his hands and those of Coleman the characters

are understood so profoundly that they become entirely sympathetic and real.

On one level, this is a play about and even a plea for pacifism, with Olga's bleeding a symbol for the futile shedding of blood in wartime; a symbol also of the blood that Christ, the Prince of Peace, shed to save us. When she looks at a stamp of an American soldier of the Great War, Olga is everywoman as she recalls, "When Shirley got to France they had forgotten why they were fighting ... At Christmastime the soldiers stood up in the trenches and held tiny Christmas trees above their heads, and for a time, the killing stopped. They had forgotten why they went to war."

But, to me, it is also and primarily a play about love, the love and connection between these human beings.

About the Production

The period atmosphere was beautifully captured in the set, in the lighting by Abbie Lombard, and the sound (music on the phonograph, Olga's voice reading her letter at the end) by Jerry Herman. The entire cast performed uniformly at a such a high level of skill that one could forget this is an amateur theatre group.

Jean Atwater-Williams as Beverly's mother reminds us that the impact of a role is not measured by its duration. Through her skills and ability to capture character, and attention to details down to her 1940s dress and seamed stockings, she transports us to the magic time and place in only about 24 lines, setting the stage for the period and feeling that follows. Atwater-Williams always delivers, and she delivers brilliantly here.

Mary Ann Grammer as Mrs. Quigley has taken a character who might have been rigid and stiff and made her sympathetic. Her exchanges with Harry Usher the undertaker (Charles Fidler) on their very different views of life and death are played with humor and gentleness. The audience felt that despite their differences, they like one another. Grammer, like Atwater-Williams, is a pro and here she shines.

Adam Manacher as Shirley Reynolds was a delight. His command of movement and voice is remarkable. In the second scene he dons a huge red nose and orange hair to become Sarsaparilla the Clown hoping to bring a smile to Olga's lips. In addition to complete control of the character, he has complete control of juggling a set of balls. Great work in a tour-de-force scene of humor and warmth.

Gabe Lassar as the 10-year-old Beverly was perfect, refreshingly natural and not at all actorly. His body language and demeanor were convincing as a young boy of the 1940s. I'm sure we will see much more from this young actor in the future.

Special praise goes to Tina Sotis and Charles Fidler.

As Olga, onstage for almost the whole 80 minutes, Sotis must carry the play's believability and she did it seamlessly. The deepening bond between her and young Beverly extended to the audience, and we sensed the growing tenderness and love between them. As Beverly said near the end of the play when his parents, aware of Olga's dire condition, forbade him to return to the antique shop, "How could they possibly know





the magical things that Mrs. Trimble and I have shared? How could they know that I was becoming a brand-new, different person?" Sotis moves between humor and poignancy effortlessly. The death scene, a challenge for any actor, is handled well. Sotis is coming into the star we saw the seeds of in her first roles with the Sandisfield Players. Brava.

Charles Fidler is an actors' actor. As Harry Usher, the undertaker, he was flawless delivering humorous lines and putting across a wonderfully realized character who could have been a caricature. He commanded the stage, sweeping us up in his role. In every performance I have seen him in, he has been perfect – delightful, compelling, magical. It is a privilege to be in the audience when this man is on stage. Particularly poignant was his exchange with Beverly as he looks up from a clipper ship stamp to describe a real ship going to sea. We see in his face, and feel, the longing and perhaps regret of his not going to sea as a young man. When he looks out at the audience and says to Beverly, "There she is, comin' at you," we see the ship too.

Ultimately this is a play about time and its illusions, time recalled and time lived, converging in memory. The play ends with young Beverly reading a letter Olga left for him after her passing, asking him to someday write her a letter in reply. With the spotlight returning to him, Val Coleman

closed the play in a very moving moment by turning to the audience and saying, "This play is that letter."

And this play is like looking at a diamond held up to the light and seeing in its netting all of the hidden connections, each point reflecting all the others. To Val Coleman, poet, playwright, social activist, philosopher, and ruffled, brilliant guy, what an achievement. Congratulations. We are so lucky to have you, your talent and insight, in our midst. ♡



BEAUTIFUL AND HONEST

The play filled the Art Center for both performances, July 8 and 9. Afterward, director Ben Luxon wrote to his cast: "What a memorable few weeks this has been and I would like to thank you all for the work you did in bringing Val's lovely play totally to life and to congratulate you all for delivering what I think were the best possible performances you could have given at this time. ... Your performances and characterizations were worthy of a professional stage. ... The actors ultimately have the responsibility to bring [a play] to life and once again I thank you all for achieving this so beautifully and honestly."



Council on Aging



Reminder: **Foot Clinic** August 1 from 9 a.m. until noon. Call 258-4816 for information.

Note: **COA Business meeting moved from August 2 to the second Wednesday, August 9, at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall Annex (August only)** so that members can attend a meeting in Pittsfield at ESBC (Elder Services of Berkshire County) with representatives from Governor Baker. Call 258-4816 for information.

Please plan to attend a **Medicare Fraud information session** on August 9 at 11:00 a.m. at Town Hall Annex to learn how to identify Medicare fraud. Lunch will be provided at noon.

Cards/games and pizza on August 16 at noon.

Blood Pressure Clinic on August 23, 11 a.m. until noon.

Note: COA has a few Farmers Market Coupon Booklets available for qualified seniors. Call 258-4816 if interested.

Reminders:

- Paper Shredder available on Wednesdays for community use
- Computer available for community use in the COA rooms (marked for public)

The Senior Citizen Tax Work-Off Program is still available. Present jobs are Highway: sanding and painting snow plows; Town Clerk: gardening and organization and filing. For information, contact Barbara Cormier, 258-4402.

A fifth vendor at the COA Wellness Fair in June was the SBETC van. Dawn, the director, and Kevin, the driver, brought the van from Great Barrington and outlined their services. Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation offers low-cost van service Monday-Friday for people age 55 or older or for disabled persons of any age. Reservations are required 14 hours in advance. Telephone 413-528-4773, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. weekdays. (This is the van service listed on the town's warrant each year.)


OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Ida's Pond resident **Margo Morrison** – and her house – were profiled in the July *Berkshire Magazine*. The profile was written by editor **Anastasia Stanmeyer** who resides in the Sandisfield section of Otis Woodlands. The pond, built by the Annecharicos in the 1950s, was originally known as Ida Pond but usage may have added the "apostrophe 's'."

Former Town Administrator **Lisa Blackmer** will run in the Democratic primary for the state representative seat (First Berkshire District) formerly held by Gailanne Cariddi, who died in June. Lisa served as Sandisfield's first town administrator from 2013-15. Currently treasurer and tax collector for the town of Buckland, she has been a City Councilor in North Adams for nearly 10 years.

The Berkshire Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center appreciates the flowers generously donated by the Girl Scouts of Winsted. The flowers were planted in the front of the building with the help of staff and residents. The Center wrote: "Thank you very much for brightening up the summer for residents, staff, and families who visit our facility."

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

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. Come See Us!

OPEN DAILY (EXCEPT MON/TUES)
 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

 Like us on Facebook.

New Boston Inn
 Restaurant, Tavern & Lodging

Lodging five days a week, Thursday - Monday
 Private Baths, free WiFi • We are PET FRIENDLY
 CLOSED TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY

RESTAURANT HOURS:
 Sun. & Mon. 12:00 - 8:00 PM • Thurs. 12:00 - 8:00 PM • Fri. & Sat. 12:00 - 9:00 PM

Corner of Routes 8 & 57, Sandisfield, MA
 www.newbostoninn.com • 413-258-4477 *Built in 1737*



It Gets More Interesting

THE PIPELINE IN JULY

Story and photos by Ron Bernard


Tree clearing and removal gave way last month to trenching and assembly. Gone too were most of the excavators, the fearsome feller bunchers, and the giant chipping machines and their crews.

In their place came about the same number of workers (many hauled in on repurposed school buses) and new kinds of equipment. Now came the pipeline assembly. The workers brought different specialties and new kinds of machines.

Scores of very noisy, noxious trucks of all types and sizes continued to roam Cold Spring Road from as early as 5:45 a.m. until dusk, six days a week. Road deterioration continued. Round-the-clock security seemed heavier than before.

Trenching was completed except in the wetlands. Numbered sections of 36-inch pipe were strung all along the ROW, inspected, and welded. The process, described by an observer as "slow and strange," included bending, x-rays, and coating. Obviously a big emphasis is on welding quality control. Some sections of pipe were assembled and lowered into trenches. Because much of the pipe stock had rusted, workers repaired the ends using hand-held grinders, creating dust and smoke on top of the generous emissions caused by the heavy diesel-powered equipment.

Maybe the most complicated aspect of the pipeline project, relocating the valve station (PIG station) from Town Hill Road 3.8 miles east to the line's terminus on Beech Plain Road (Hryckvich property), has begun.

Residents were treated to the spectacle of even more amazing machinery – pipe-bending machines and specialized bulldozers with huge magnetic booms and excavators that can lower welded pipes into place. 



SNOW FARM - as fresh as it gets!



Unless it comes right out of your own garden, you won't find fresher produce than our naturally-grown veggies. Visit Snow Farm's farmstand in Sandisfield and select from a variety of seasonal produce--all at the peak of freshness and flavor.

Open Thur-Mon 8am-5pm (413) 717-0579 Learn more at Snow-Farm.com



The Librarian's Corner

By Terry Spohnholz

Everything good, everything magical happens between the months of June and August. Winters are simply a time to count the weeks until the next summer.

Jenny Han, The Summer I Turned Pretty

Mother Nature waves her wand, and the woods are bursting with greenery, the mist rises from the wet earth in the afterheat of a summer drenching, and the birds conduct orchestral music as I nod sleepily in the bright sunshine. At my side, lots of books, books I intend to read, books I might read, books that beg to be read and books I should read.

So if your pile of books are dwindling and you need to replenish that pile of literary works or have an aching for summer beach reads, have I got a place for you – the Sandisfield Free Public Library.

NEW ARRIVALS

The Wildling Sisters by Eve Chase

Camino Island by John Grisham

Matchup by Lee Child

Beautiful Animals by Lawrence Osborne

Paradise Valley by CJ Box

ADVENTURES OUTSIDE

THE BOOK

Looking for things to do with the family? Check out (just like a book) passes to the following and quench your thirst for knowledge and fun:

- The Berkshire Museum
- Hancock Shaker Village
- Bidwell House
- The Clark Museum
- Connecticut Science Center

SUMMER READING PROGRAM (AGES 2-16)

Calling all Pirates and Mermaids looking for reading adventure! Treasure chests, prizes, stickers, and a Treasure Hunt at the end of the summer. Check with Captain Redlocks (the librarian) for details and sign on.

SAVE THESE DATES

August 12

Kid Craft Day. Lynn Rubenstein works her magic with Sand ART. Story time in the Library at 9:30 and crafting on the lower level from 10 to noon. Come and be inspired and amazed.

August 26


Ahoy Maties! **A Treasure Hunt** at the Library and Library playground. Festivities begin at noon. Pirate and Mermaid costumes encouraged but not necessary. Prizes, laughter, and end of summer fun. 



Photo: DeMars image, c.1905, courtesy Great Barrington Historical Society

"Visit" the Old Red Shop

TALK WITH TWO OF ITS VETERANS

By John Kuzmech


On August 12 you can stand on the site of Sandisfield's fabled Old Red Shop and talk with two individuals who remember when the factory was a going concern.

Two of the liveliest and most colorful old-timers in the area, Willard Platt and Francis Deming, longtime friends both now in their late 80s, will team up to relate their exclusive first-hand knowledge about Sandisfield's one-time largest building, the water-powered factory where school desks, chairs, and any number of other items were manufactured.

The Farmington River was tapped to feed water through a canal in the basement of the three-story building to power a large turbine (a "dynamo") which by a long leather belt drove saws, lathes, and mortise-and-tenon machines.

After the building was declared dangerous in the 1960s, it was burned by the fire department. Part of the foundation and a bit of equipment still exist on the site.

But Willard and Francis will fill in the details. Willard has vivid memories of the employees, mishaps, and phantom faces in the shop windows. For many years, Francis' father, Clare Deming, owned the shop where he made fishing poles, barrel heads, and dowels.

Be at the intersection of Roosterville Road and Clark Bridge Road at 2 p.m. August 12. For information, call John Kuzmech at 258-4906 or Ann Wald at 258-4415. 



HOMEIMPROVEMENTS

STEVEN SEDDON, SR.

Building and Modifying Homes
in the Berkshires

Since 2001

413 563 1483

sshhomeimprovements@live.com

www.sshhomeimprovementsma.com

MEMORY LANE

SANDISFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Harold Smith

By Ron Bernard



Photos: The Record/
Sandisfield Times
Archives


Harold W. Smith of South Sandisfield, who died in 1985 at the age of 91, was the last resident-member of one of the largest families in town history, the Smiths, original settlers and town founders in the 1750s. Through his mother he was also the last member of the once prolific Webster family that settled in South Sandisfield before the Revolutionary War.

For many years a beloved and respected figure in town, Harold Smith is pictured above on his birthday in June 1983 when a large gathering of friends honored him for years of community service. (Can you identify anyone?)

Harold served in World War I as an Army officer, winning citations for bravery. During the Second World War, Captain Smith served as Officer In Charge of the Connecticut National Guard Company in Winsted.

After 28 years with the US Postal Service in Winsted, he became active in Sandisfield, serving as Moderator (1955-72)

and on numerous boards and committees. He was a founding member of the Sandisfield Taxpayers Association (1949). As unofficial town historian, he was a founder of the Sandisfield Historical Society and president 1977-84, helping to establish the Society for many years as an important community institution.

His great-grandmother, Sarah Webster Smith with whom he was close, was the last postmaster in South Sandisfield (1872-1914). In 1912 at age 80 The New York Herald referred to her as "the oldest postmistress in the country." She had donated a parcel of land next to the family homestead on Sandy Brook Turnpike for a new church in 1909, following the loss by fire of the Congregational Church in Sandisfield Center. It was fitting that this replacement church building was secured by Harold, in 1977, as the headquarters of the growing historical society. 

Local Couple Support Art Exhibit

By Times Reporters


Two longtime Sandisfield resident/activists are involved in a Pittsfield art exhibit that will take place in August.

Last summer Josephine and Barry Freedman, members of the Pittsfield Sister City Committee, visited Pittsfield's sister city of Cava de' Tirreni, Italy. When they learned the exhibit would be travelling to Pittsfield, they offered to help out.

Pittsfield and Cava have been sister cities for over 30 years. Several exchanges of students and musical groups have taken place.

The artist, Adriana Sgobba, is a well-established painter and ceramist from Cava who has had a great number of shows in Italy and abroad during a long career. A reception for the exhibition of paintings on canvas, paper, and ceramics will be held Friday, August 4 at Downtown Pittsfield Inc., (33 Dunham Mall, opposite Pittsfield City Hall, 70 Allen St.) from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The exhibit will remain open until August 12.

A public reception with the Mayor of Pittsfield and a delegation from Cava, including Cava's Mayor, will be at City Hall 11 a.m. on August 4.

Josephine, an artist herself, was in charge of framing and setting up the exhibits while Barry acted as a support person, driver, and exhibit photographer. 



Extra Work for Tony, July 22

Someone, maybe from out of town, left garbage when the Transfer Station was closed. The bear found it, had a field day. Attendant Tony Melloni, who got to clean it up, said, "It's the first time in six weeks, but here it is again."

Photo: Bill Price

Fire/EMS/Police Logs

Police:

911 Calls by Sandisfield Residents

Submitted by Michael Morrison, Chief

South Main is Rt. 8 south of Tolland Road;
North Main is Rt. 8 north of Tolland Road.



June, 2017

June 2. 911 Hang up, Sandisfield Road	June 16 Motor vehicle accident, South Main
June 3. Motor vehicle accident, South Main	June 19. Burglar alarm, South Beech Plain Road
June 7. Breaking and Entering, South Main	June 19. Burglar alarm, Sage Road
June 7. Erratic motor vehicle operation, North Main	June 24. Motor vehicle accident, North Main
June 14. Motor vehicle accident, South Main	June 30. Assist Animal Control Officer, Silverbrook Road
June 14. Unwanted party on premises, South Sandisfield Road	

Fire:

May, 2017



Tractor/trailer accident,
South Beech Plain Road 1
Fire alarm system malfunction 2

June, 2017

Motor vehicle fire 1
Power lines down 1
Motor vehicle accident, no injury. 1
Fire alarm system malfunction 2

EMS:

May, 2017



EMS calls, excluding vehicle accidents. .11

June, 2017

Vehicle accident, check for injuries. 1
EMS calls, excluding vehicle accidents. . . 3

**CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR
INFANT OR TODDLER'S DEVELOPMENT?**

Call PDC SOUTH today & we'll set up an appointment to come to your home to talk with you about any concerns you might have. Trained therapists offer evaluation & home visits to eligible children.

Dept. of Public Health Certified Early Intervention Program.
We're located at: 924 S. Main Street in Great Barrington.
You can reach us at: 413-717-4083.
www.pediatricdevelopmentcenter.org

Carl Codling Construction

Tiling Baths Doors Kitchens Flooring
Trimwork Windows Custom Cabinetry

Insured
MA CSL #103868
MA HIC #165386
Member
HBRAWM, NAHB

www.carlcodingconstruction.com

(c) 413.854.8136 (h) 413.258.4150 carlecod1@verizon.net

**30+ YEARS EXPERIENCE
REMODELING DONE RIGHT**

**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

Sandisfield Historical Society



Thanks and See You August 12

By Ann Wald, President

Our flea market held the first of July at Fire House #2 was a great success. Twenty-five tables filled with unique items from crocheted throws to wooden bowls to antique guns and swords. Thanks to everyone from the vendors to our wonderful members. They all did a fantastic job and helped out wherever they were needed.

A special thank you to Gary Bottum for moving out and putting back the fire engines and staying all day to help us solve any problems. Our thanks to the firemen for allowing us to use their house.

Some great items were donated. Also a variety of delicious baked goods. The ladies from the Little Brown Church served the most flavorful hamburgers and hot dogs.

On August 12 we will meet at 2 p.m. on Roosterville Road across from the new Clark Road Bridge where either Francis Deming or Willard – and maybe both of them – will be our guest speaker and explain the workings of the “old desk factory,” usually known as “The Old Red Shop.” The building has been gone since the 1960s, but the foundation remains. Please try to join us.

On September 10 we will sponsor an open house with a speaker at the society building and begin our membership drive. Come join us and see for yourself all the wonderful items on display. 🍷



Barbara and Jack Newsom

How We Remember

THE NEWSOMS OF GREMLER ROAD

Barbara Newsom wrote to us recently from Florida to let us know of the death of her husband, Jack. Barbara and Jack have been gone from Sandisfield a long time, but kept up with town events through their subscription to The Times. Barbara wanted us to know what Sandisfield had meant to Jack and still means to her. They lived in the c. 1764 Constant Bosworth House on Gremler Road from 1961 to 1978.

In a booklet about her husband, Barbara wrote:

“Living in Sandisfield shaped a large part of our lives. New York defined our weekdays, and for sixteen years, Sandisfield, that consuming patch of ground in the Berkshires, absorbed our weekends. Jack opened up paths in the woods, cleared brush, rebuilt stone walls, made lifelong friends, and added to the 18th-century house that had become almost as much home to visitors as it was to the owners themselves ... As retreats in the country have ever been for urban dwellers, owning the Sandisfield house and its 45 acres of woods and trails was seductive.

“When Jack’s 20-year-old son was killed in a motorcycle accident in France, he quit his job as president of Earl Newsom Company on Madison Ave., and together we decided to take a year off, as Jack wrote his partners, ‘to move to our house in Massachusetts, cut expenses to the bone and do some of the reading and thinking and perhaps even formal studying that we have not taken the time for in recent years.’ We were in Sandisfield the winter of 1969-’70.”

Barbara added, “When the year was over, we did go back to New York for another ten years before moving on to New Hampshire, but neither of us ever quite got over our love affair with that house on Gremler Road – or the rural way of life it let us enjoy.”

John Newsom, known as Jack, died at the age of 91 last January. During his long career he served as a foundation and public affairs executive for entities as varied as the U.S. Information Agency, the Fund for the City of New York, and the Vera Institute of Justice in New York.

For another report on the Newsom’s in Sandisfield, see Barbara’s memoir of Jack and the Sandisfield Taxpayers Association in The Times, September 2013. 🍷

SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER



5 Hammertown Rd, Sandisfield, MA
413-258-4100

INFO/TICKETS:
SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

august



In the Gallery AUG 5 – 26

ANN-MARIE LIGHT

Opening Reception, Sat, Aug 5, 2 - 4 PM



FRI, AUG 11 7:00 PM FREE

MOVIE NIGHT!

“CHARLOTTE’S WEB”



SUN, AUG 27 11:00 AM FREE

Donations welcome for the
Sandisfield Jewish History Book Project

SOIL and SHUL in the BERKSHIRES:

The Untold Story of Sandisfield’s
Jewish Farm Colony

Presented by Lorraine German



These programs are supported in part by a grant from the Sandisfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Fleur de lis Housekeeping

A fully bonded & insured company

Suzanne Hoynoski

Owner

(413) 258-4070

(860) 309-6598

A “Full Service” Company



It's A Boy!

By Ron Bernard

Last December when Rose Nelson of Sunny Rose Farm adopted "Honey Bee," a homeless donkey from Texas, little did she suspect that this good deed would include a bonus.

The bonus became obvious in mid-June when Honey Bee showed signs of pregnancy. "Until then," Rose said, "we had no clue." The vet told her the gestation period for donkeys is 11 to 14 months, information which was of limited usefulness in this case. So Rose and her parents, Chuck and Zoe Nelson, could only wait and watch.

They did not wait for long. Rose said: "I went shopping on Sunday, July 2, and returned about 2 p.m. There she was with her foal resting in the field."

She intends to keep mother and son, which she named "Buzz Bee." After all, Sunny Rose Farm on Dodd Road is an equine riding school and boarding facility. "We are thrilled," she said. "And I'm learning a lot about donkeys, let me tell you."

Lemonade

By Bill Price

For two days in the July heat, the Murray bunch sold lemonade at a stand in their driveway on Town Hill Road. From left, they are Maggie (in the background in the hat), Gavin, Maeve, Ryan, and Claire Murray. Despite not a lot of traffic, they had repeat customers. And their stand was legal:

Officer Mike Johnson, passing by in his patrol car, issued them the necessary sticker permits. The kids of Mike and Katherine Murray, their grandmother is Sue Murray, co-owner of the former New Boston Store.



FARM STAND

OFFERING:

Eggs, Maple Syrup,
Honey, Veggies,
Herbs, Flowers,
Berries in Season

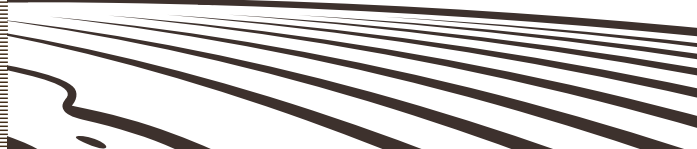
WHEN PIGS FLY FARM

222 SANDISFIELD RD., SANDISFIELD, MA 01255

A FAMILY FARM WITH FAMILY VALUES

whenpigsflyfarm1@verizon.net

413-258-3397



Orchid Blossom Healing Arts

Lauren Paul, Dipl. Ac

413-258-4296

Acupuncture and Shiatsu

Now Hear This!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro. Please send notices for Now Hear This! to editor@sandisfieldtimes.org.

AUGUST EVENTS

Sandisfield Arts Center-In the Gallery: Ann-Marie Light, Opening Reception on Saturday, August 5, at 2:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammertown Road. The show will be on display August 5-26. For information, visit www.sandisfieldartscenter.org.

Free Movie Night! Featuring "**Charlotte's Web**" on Friday, August 11, at 7:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammertown Road. Online tickets (free) are recommended to ensure a seat (www.sandisfieldartscenter.org).

Town-Wide Tag Sale on Saturday, August 12, on the grounds of the New Boston Inn to support the Jewish History Book Project. To rent space, contact Joanne Lazarowitz Olson, 917-686-1985.

Crafts for Kids with Lynn on Saturday, August 12, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Library, lower level. This craft day, led by Lynn Rubenstein, will feature Sand Art. There will be story time at 9:30 upstairs, prior to crafting.

Sandisfield Historical Society **Oral History Forum** on Saturday, August 12, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Roosterville end of the new bridge across the Farmington River. Longtime Willard Platt and Francis Deming will discuss "The Old Red Shop," the water-powered factory that once stood there. For information, call Ann Wald (258-4415) or John Kuzmech (258-4906). See page 14.

Sandisfield Volunteer Firemen Steak Roast on Saturday, August 12. Dinner from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Dancing from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Firehouse #2 on Rt. 57. Tickets may be purchased from any volunteer or call A & M Auto (258-3381). No tickets available at the door. Save room for an ice cream bar to support the Sandisfield Scholarship Fund (\$2).

Church Service on Sunday, August 13, at 10:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church, Route 57. All are welcome.

Soil and Shul in the Berkshires: The Untold Story of Sandisfield's Jewish Farm Colony on Sunday, August 27, at 11:00 a.m. presented by Lorraine German at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammertown Road.

Treasure Hunt at the Library! on Saturday, August 26 at 12:00 p.m. Pirate and mermaid costumes are encouraged but not necessary. Prizes, laughter, and end of summer fun!

AUGUST EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

Yoga in Tolland on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. and Mondays at 9:00 a.m. at the Public Safety Complex. Sponsored by the Tolland Council on Aging, \$5.

Art Exhibit, Adrianna Sgobba from Cava de'Tirreni, Italy, on Friday, August 4 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Downtown Pittsfield Inc. (33 Dunham Mall, opposite Pittsfield City Hall, 70 Allen St.) The exhibit will remain open until August 12. The exhibit was supported by Josephine and Barry Freedman. See page 15.

SAVE THE DATE

American Legion Annual Turkey Roll on Friday, September 22, 7-11 p.m., at the Pavilion. Free admission.

Cemetery Clean-Up on September 23, 9:00 a.m., at the South Sandisfield Cemetery on Sandy Brook Turnpike, Rt. 183. Volunteers needed for pruning and general clean-up. If time permits, the crew will then head south to the Roberts Road Cemetery. Sponsored by the Cemetery Commission.

AT THE NEW BOSTON INN

In the Gardens

Free concerts | Bring a chair or blanket
Rain or shine | Sundays, 2 – 5 p.m.
August 6, The Shinning with Debra and Bill
August 13, Blue Yonder with Jeanie and Ken
August 20, Music with Pat
August 27, Rick Weldon and Rich Winkler

In the Ballroom

Sunday, August 20, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Free and open to the public, plenty of space.
Free seminar on marketing for small business
Call to confirm 413-258-4477.

In the Field

Tag sale to benefit the
Jewish History Book Project
Saturday, August 12
Tables available, \$5 donation
New Boston Inn, Route 57

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



FARMINGTON
RIVER DINER

**119 South Main Road
Otis, Massachusetts 01253**

413-269-6874


THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

P.O. Box 584

Sandisfield, MA 01255

www.sandisfieldtimes.org

*The Times is grateful to readers
who have donated this month.*

Peter Baiamonte & Midori Nakamura

Ted & Judy Goldsmith

Lila Innes

Natalie Powell



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 any amount 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, the Library, and Town Hall. Copies are

also available in Otis at Berkshire Bank, Katie's Market, Papa's Fuel, Otis Library, Farmington River Diner, Otis Poultry Farm, Otis Woodlands (May-September), and the Laundromat. 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.

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

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) _____

How to Contact Us

Mail can be directed to

The Sandisfield Times, PO Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255.

If internet accessible, all letters, news events and tips, ideas, obituary and family announcements, photos (600 dpi if possible) and advertisement queries to editor@SandisfieldTimes.org.