

# THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume IX Number 3

June 2018

## Time for Change. Again.

### VOTERS REBOOT THE SELECT BOARD

By Bill Price

Can a town thrive with consistently changing leadership? We'll find out soon.

For the second time in three years, Sandisfield has voted to upend its Select Board.

In 2015, the town elected two new members: Alice Boyd to fill a one-year seat while John Skrip turned two-term Select Board Chairman, Patrick Barrett, out of office. Only one experienced selectman, Jeff Gray, remained to provide guidance on how things got done.

Since then, Alice won a three-year term in 2016. Jeff decided not to run for reelection in 2017, and Mark Newman filled his spot. Then, nearly two years short of finishing her term, Alice resigned her position to move to Boston, leaving a short-handed Select Board to manage the town. Last month the town voted on two Board positions, one to fill Alice's vacant seat and the second to see if the town would reelect Chairman John Skrip.

And voters upended things again.

John Skrip lost to challenger Brian O'Rourke, and George Riley was elected to fill the remaining year of Alice's term. This time, Mark Newman is the remaining selectman with institutional memory.

The new board held an organizational meeting May 17 to get oriented on some of the basics of leading a small town with limited resources.

Mark Newman, with his one years' board experience, was voted Chairman. Brian O'Rourke, starting a three-year term, was voted "secretary." (Sandisfield's Select Board has a "secretary" position, rather than a vice chairman.) George Riley will run again next year at the end of his initial term.

*Cont'd p.7*



Spring brings crab apple blossoms to Silverbrook Road.

Photo: Setsuko Winchester

## Town Meeting 2018

### A FEW ITEMS MADE VOTERS UNEASY

By Times Reporters

All the warrants for the FY2019 budget passed at the Annual Town Meeting May 12, on a drizzly Saturday. As several residents pointed out, at least it wasn't snowing again.

The meeting at Firehouse #2 on Sandisfield Road was attended by 76 voters, about 12 percent of the nearly 600 voters in town and about half a dozen fewer than last year. More than 140 voters attended the 2015 Town Meeting, a record for Sandisfield.

The Select Board and Finance Committee had worked hard to make major changes in the way articles were presented. Last year, residents voted on some 70 articles, a grueling exercise cranked out one at a time with each article read aloud, discussed, and then voted on.

This year many of those individual line items were bulked into related accounts and presented in one warrant article. "For example," wrote Joe Gelinis in a note explaining the new process, "the highway department's nine accounts are now contained in one warrant article. The details are still there." Other accounts consolidated employee salaries, benefits, and insurance within each department's request. Repair of town buildings was consolidated with operations and maintenance of town property.

*Cont'd p.5*

PLEASE DRIVE WITH CAUTION.



WATCH OUT FOR THE TURTLES.


# Results of Annual Town Election, May 14, 2018

To Vote for a Person, Mark a Cross (X) in the Square at the right. <b>X</b>	
<b>MODERATOR - One Year</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>
SIMON B A WINCHESTER 87 Silverbrook Rd., Candidate for re-election	194 *
All others	62
<b>SELECTMAN - One Year</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>
CHARLES A. PEASE, 102 So. Main St., Nomination Papers	120
GEORGE R. RILEY, 24 Cronk Rd., Nomination Papers	130 *
All others	6
<b>SELECTMAN - Three Years</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>
JOHN SKRIP, JR, 123 North Main St., Candidate for re-election	72
BRIAN C. O'ROURKE 2 West St., Nomination Papers	154 *
JEFFREY J. GRAY, 24 Stump Rd. Caucus nominee	26
All others	4
<b>BOARD OF ASSESSORS - Three Years</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>
KATHLEEN K. BURROWS, 174 New Hartford Rd., Candidate for re-election	209 *
All others	47
<b>SCHOOL COMMITTEE - Three Years</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>
BILLIE ANDERSON PACHULSKI, 11 Roosterville Rd., Candidate for re-election	207 *
All others	49
<b>BOARD OF HEALTH - Three Years</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>
ROGER KOHLER, 22 Cronk Rd. Candidate for re-election	209 *
All others	47

To Vote for a Person, Mark a Cross (X) in the Square at the right. <b>X</b>	
<b>PLANNING BOARD - Five Years</b>	<b>Vote for One</b>
WILLARD R. PLATT, 4 Clark Rd., Candidate for re-election	206 *
All others	50

**BULKY WASTE COLLECTION**  
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**Cemetery Cleanup**  
We need help with our scheduled South Sandisfield Cemetery cleanup.  
Saturday, June 16, 9 a.m., meet us at the cemetery on Rt. 183 (Sandy Brook Turnpike) about ½ mile north of Sandisfield Road.  
Bring gloves, bug spray, and a chair to take a break. We'll be dragging brush to the edge of the road for the DPW crew to haul away.  
Thank you. See you there.  
The Sandisfield Cemetery Committee

**INSIDE** 

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**Sandisfield Teacher Wins Award**

Jennifer Pease received The Pioneer Valley Excellence in Education award in February. She was honored at a reception in Holyoke in May, accompanied by her husband Charles.

The Pioneer Valley Excellence in Teaching Award acknowledges an educator's high degree of professionalism, subject knowledge, effectiveness, creativity, student impact, and support for colleagues.

Jennifer has been teaching for 11 years, for the last five years at Kiley Middle School in Springfield where she teaches 6th grade social studies. She is a 2007 graduate of Elms College with a Bachelor's Degree in History and a 2014 graduate of Westfield State University with a Masters in Secondary Education. Jennifer and Charles live south of New Boston on Route 8.



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# Road Treatments Face Criticism Elsewhere

## CHIP SEAL MORE AFFORDABLE, BUT . . .

By Seth Kershner

Summertime is right around the corner. For some of us this means backyard barbecues and time spent at West Lake.

For the Highway Department, summer months are a critical time to catch up on road repairs. Resurfacing of Cold Spring Road, River Road, and the remainder of West Street are among projects slated to begin soon. Although Kinder Morgan may end up paying for Cold Spring Road to be paved with asphalt, West Street and River Road will be finished with chip seal.

Chip seal is a pavement surface treatment that is less expensive, but does not last nearly as long as asphalt. While a road paved with asphalt might last up to 15 years without needing significant maintenance, the chip seal process used in Sandisfield typically lasts five years. In fact, portions of Town Hill Road, finished in chip seal last year, are already pitted with significant pot holes.

Another problem with chip seal is that surfaces may eventually break down into small pieces that can harm pets and create annoying problems for residents.

This spring the City of Pittsfield proposed chip sealing a select number of its roads, prompting weeks of outraged commentary from citizens. As two city residents put it in a letter to the editor of The Berkshire Eagle, “tar and chips” from the chip sealing process “ruined shoes and rugs” when tracked into their house. Recently the writers noted, chip sealed roads are also dangerous for bicycles because chip seal requires a prolonged period of regular auto traffic before the surface is properly compacted.

The result in Pittsfield was that in early May the City Council voted 7-4 to discontinue the practice of chip sealing. According to a report in The Eagle, the Council’s vote came after hearing from “angry residents” so incensed about the prospect of chip seal in their neighborhoods that they “said they’d band together and park cars in the way of city workers.”


When reached by The Sandisfield Times, Road Superintendent Bobby O’Brien said that most of the problems noted in Pittsfield were only relevant to the days and weeks immediately after a road is chip sealed. “You do have some residual stone left around after it’s freshly done,” he acknowledged.

Farther south, another community that faced

similar complaints found an innovative solution. This spring the city council for the Hartford suburb of Southington adopted a new surfacing method which lasts up to 10 years – twice as long as with traditional chip seal. O’Brien said that budgetary constraints are keeping his department from using such methods.

One method that O’Brien says he is familiar with is known as fog seal or “fogging,” which involves spraying asphalt emulsion on top of a pavement. In 2011, a trade publication noted that in rural areas such as South Dakota fog seal can “extend the life of chip-sealed roads” and reduce maintenance costs over time. O’Brien noted that fog seal might double the longevity of a pavement’s surface, “but it triples the cost” – making it a non-starter for Sandisfield.

“I’m trying to get the most bang for my buck out of our Chapter 90 money,” O’Brien said, referring to the state program that supports local road and bridge transportation projects. “If we spend too much repairing our paved roads then there’s not going to be enough left over for the gravel roads.”

O’Brien, who along with other town officials sat in on a listening session with Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito last month, is hopeful that Boston will see the light and provide more resources for cash-strapped rural communities like ours. Until that day, chip seal may continue to be the go-to method for town road repairs. 

# Crossing the New Rugg Bridge

By Bill Price



*First across the reconstructed Rugg Bridge was Kaleb Wadhams, 4, of Sandisfield Road. A preschooler at Farmington River, Kaleb enjoyed the smooth ride. He peddled fast with the wind in his face, but did not exceed the speed limit.*

*The team from J.H. Maxymillian, the Pittsfield-based construction firm which has been rebuilding the deck of the bridge and strengthening its beams since mid-November, pushed hard the last few weeks to finish a bit ahead of schedule.*

*They wanted to finish in time for the Sandisfield Memorial Day Parade to march across it, rather than taking the narrow River Road detour which has bedeviled drivers on Route 57 all winter. Drivers were surprised by the absence of the detour barricades over the weekend.*

*For the time being, however, drivers should be prepared for brief, periodic bridge closures and a return to the detour.*

*The bridge still needs to be painted and the town DPW will complete work on the approaches this summer.*

*So for the time being, approach the bridge with caution.*

*Photo: Dawn Lemon*

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The Sandisfield REC COMMITTEE sponsored FUN bus will be leaving from the Library/Community Center early Sunday Morning, June 24<sup>th</sup> for an adventure filled trip to Boston!

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- Adults - \$10.00
- Children - \$5.00
- Seniors - \$8



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Reservations or questions can be made by emailing your request to sandisfieldreccommittee@gmail.com or stopping by the Sandisfield Free Public Library.

Seats cannot be held without payment.

First come, first served. Cash, Check, or Money order.  
No credit cards.

## The Face of Autism

By Theresa Spohnholz



Joshua Poirot is a bright 11 year old, in the 5th grade at Farmington River Regional School. He loves reading, especially Harry Potter and Dav Pickney books.

He is one of Sandisfield's own, and he has autism.

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) is a complex developmental disability; signs typically appear during early childhood and affect a person's ability to communicate and to interact with others. ASD is defined by a certain set of behaviors and is a "spectrum condition" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees. There is no known single cause of autism, but increased awareness and early diagnosis/intervention and access to appropriate services/supports lead to significantly improved outcomes.

A team has been formed with Autism Speaks and Joshua needs your help.

On September 22, TEAM JOSHUA will participate in the Western Massachusetts Autism Speaks Walk. Participating in this walk will help Josh understand his own disorder, meet other autistic children and adults, and help him realize he can live a very full and dynamic life.

So let's show Josh that the Sandisfield Community stands and supports its own. Be a part of something and someone special – walk, donate, support this young boy on September 22.

And before that, on July 7, TEAM JOSHUA will have a bake sale table at the Sandisfield Historical Society event from 10 to 2 at Firehouse #2. Buy goodies, donate goodies, sign up for the walk!

For more information check the website, www.autismspeaks.org. Josh's captain is his Mom – Billie Anderson-Pachulski.

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## Town Meeting 2018

*Cont'd. from page 1.*

The result was that instead of discussing and voting on 70 items the town would consider only 25. It seemed that the process would be easier and a lot faster. Still, the meeting lasted nearly three hours, only about half an hour shorter than last year.



*Right to left at the head table: Moderator Simon Winchester, Selectmen John Skrip and Mark Newman, and Town Manager Fred Ventresco. Photos: Heather Bellow, The Berkshire Eagle. Used with permission.*

Moderator Simon Winchester kicked off the meeting promptly at 10. Three articles related to school finances were moved up front so members of the school committee could attend another scheduled event. The school articles passed almost without comment, except for gratitude expressed to the School Committee.

The meeting slowed down with Article 2. When voters saw that town employee salaries had been added to employee benefits such as health insurance, sick, and vacation time, they balked. Many in the audience wanted to see just how much employees were "paid," not the entire expense. The rather extensive discussion resolved itself with an agreement that next year salary and benefits would be broken out separately.

That sort of set a tone for the rest of the Town Meeting.

John Skrip and Mark Newman, the town's two Selectmen, sat at the head table along with the Moderator, Town Council Brian Maser, and Town Administrator Fred Ventresco. Each of them had a turn at explaining one item or another in the budget. The Moderator was kept busy corralling audience questions and calling on whoever would try to answer the question.

One of the most contentious articles had to do with the Highway Department, the name of which is shifting to the Department of Public Works. It turned out that Highway Superintendent Bobby O'Brien had received two raises in his yearly salary over the past several months. When questioned about the "out of sequence" raises, Selectman John Skrip explained that this amount had been agreed to when O'Brien was hired. "Most highway superintendents are paid

more than we offered Bobby, and we agreed to raise his salary if he could show that he was saving the town money."

The Select Board believed that Bobby had done that, running the department with himself and two employees rather than five and with the highway department taking on other jobs that could have cost much more, including \$125,000 from the bridge reconstruction. Questions were raised whether there had been a formal review of O'Brien's performance in order to grant the raise, if the town had approved the raise, and where the extra money had come from. Answers were ambiguous because the audience started talking and the Moderator had to call for order. There are precise procedures for granting raises and raising money with which to pay them and the Select Board and Finance Committee believed they had followed those procedures correctly.

One resident questioned the performance of the Highway Department during the tough winter months, pointing out that three employees cannot keep up with unexpected snowfalls even with the help of hired contractors. Brigitte Ruthman said her experience this year "was the worst as far as getting into and out of my place. The dirt roads weren't plowed after the April snowstorms. They were waiting for it to melt. Our dirt roads are horrible and need a lot of work." Another resident praised the department.



*Voters signify "yes" or "no" by holding up orange slips.*

When it came time to vote, the budget article for the Department of Public Works was approved.

Another contentious item was the combination of Operation, Maintenance, and Repair of All Town Buildings & Property. This amount was reduced by \$16,250, which was objected to by Fire Chief Ralph Morrison who pointed out the poor condition of town buildings and how little maintenance work had been done for years. "The town buildings are falling apart," he said.

Joe Gelinas, for the Finance Committee, said that this year's projection was estimated based on several years of actual expenditures. Morrison moved that the Fiscal Year 2019 request be upped to \$85,000 rather than \$62,750 and that the money actually be spent for building repairs. His motion passed and the amount

was increased. Gelinas said he hoped there would be plans put into place to repair particular buildings.

The last contentious item dealt with the funds received from the Yanner Park logging operation. The income of some \$108,500 was divided \$36,000 to the Yanner Park Stabilization Fund and about \$72,500 to the Capital Improvement Stabilization Fund.

Adam Brown asked why all the income gone hadn't gone to the Yanner Park fund when that had apparently had been the wishes of Jack Yanner, who donated the land to the town. The answer was that there were no specific proposals or plans to develop Yanner Park, and that if plans did develop and the \$36,000, plus the \$13,800 already in the fund, were not sufficient, money could be transferred to help pay the costs.

Larry Dwyer pointed out that the town had already increased the funds for Operation, Maintenance and Repair of town buildings by some \$22,000 with Ralph Morrison's motion regarding Article 14, and that with this additional amount for Capital Improvement that the town would have some significant money with which to repair a few buildings.

Adam Brown's motion that the total amount be paid to the park fund was defeated in a majority vote. And both articles dealing with Yanner Park logging funds were passed as written.

Bob Tarasuk pointed out that he believed it was unethical for the town to use the Yanner Park income for purposes other than the park.

The last article up for vote detailed the new town bylaw regarding Solar Photovoltaic Installations. The bylaw passed after discussion regarding small-scale installations, whether wording should be changed from 1/8th acre of a lot to 16 kilowatts. Gary Bottom of the Planning Board said the selected wording was the same as that used by surrounding towns in writing their solar bylaws. The five-page bylaw was passed as written.

After John Skrip summed up that the meeting was "democracy in action," Moderator Winchester announced the proceedings completed and everyone went home, talking all the way to their cars. 🇺🇸

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# THANK YOU

## FROM JOHN SKRIP, FORMER SELECT BOARD CHAIRMAN


It has been my honor to serve the taxpayers of Sandisfield over the last three years as a Select Board member and chairman. I have forwarded all documents I was working on to the newly elected board.

A few housekeeping items:

I sent a letter to Kinder Morgan formally accepting a donation of \$50,000. This letter does not absolve Kinder Morgan of the road responsibilities negotiated last year, but acknowledges their in-kind gift.

The Select Board members, town administrator, DPW supervisor, and several town hall staff members met with Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito in early May to discuss issues specific to the Town. It was a very productive meeting; she was receptive to our concerns and encouraged Sandisfield to continue to avail itself of resources and grants available through the Commonwealth. We submitted an environmental impact grant proposal soon after the meeting. This grant, if approved, would go a long way toward improving our dirt roads.

Jeff Bye and I have been in negotiations with Crocker Communications and have received a formal proposal. I will continue working on this project with Jeff as the Select Board has asked for continuity.

I wish the new Select Board success in all their endeavors and, again, I thank the people of Sandisfield for giving me the opportunity to serve as a Town Selectman. 



## Letters to the Editor

### OUR THANKS TO JOHN

As owners of a second home, we don't vote in the local elections, but we do have a stake in them. That stake makes us appreciate the often thankless work our Selectmen do dealing with the many challenges our town has experienced in the last few years – the Tennessee Gas pipeline, failing bridges, broadband plans and reversals, the DPW equipment going up in smoke right before a horrible winter, and more.

We want to take this opportunity to thank outgoing Selectman John Skrip for his unfailing responsiveness to our concerns large and small, whether it was saying "Send me a picture" about the devastation to Hammertown Road (and following up with Kinder Morgan) or getting answers about emergency evacuation for those of us who might be in the path of a pipeline explosion and weren't comforted with other officials' saying "It could never happen."

There may have been an issue or two where we didn't agree with John, but his commitment to public service and serving the citizens and future of Sandisfield is a model, and as he now gets to take a break from being on-duty 24 hours a day, we want to say "Thank you."

*Hilde Weisert  
Barbara Penn  
Jack Sanders  
Hammertown Road*


# TO THE VOTERS OF SANDISFIELD

## FROM GEORGE RILEY, SELECTMAN

Thank you to all 256 voters who came to vote on May 14. This is a large (70%) increase over last year's turnout and is an encouraging measure of the strength of our local democracy.

Thank you also to the many Sandisfield residents who took the time recently to share your concerns with me.

There is a value that we don't hear much of these days and may even strike us as quaint and out-of-date. This now-belittled value is that of "the public good." I believe that this ideal, which has often held sway in American life for two centuries, is one of the major foundations of our country's success and its leadership. This idea, that we sometimes need to put aside our narrow private interests in order to further the well-being of many others, has enabled this country to take great strides toward becoming a strong, just, and democratic society.

I hope that I can, in my own small way, be of service to this ideal as your Selectman, and I'm asking for your further support so that we all may work together for the public good. 



Congratulations to my fellow opponent, George Riley, on his election to the Select Board. I also thank the people of Sandisfield who supported my campaign. It was a both gratifying and humbling experience.

Sincerely,  
Charles A. Pease



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Happy Father's Day to  
**FRED SLATER**

I love you to the moon and back.  
Your daughter, Wendy

## Time for a Change. Again.

Cont'd. from page 1.

At the organizational meeting, Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko handed the two new selectmen, Brian and George, a thick packet of material, including state regulations on the open meeting law and the news that they would soon be taking an ethics examination.

"We were given the Selectman's Handbook for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts," said George. "It's 254 pages long. We'll need to learn it."

The first meeting of the new Select Board was May 21, with Mark and George present. Brian and his wife, Sadie, had left a few days before on a long-planned vacation. He returned in time for the next Board meeting, May 29, the day after the Memorial Day holiday. News from that Board meeting will likely be too late to fit into this issue of The Times. But we'll catch up next month.

### GETTING DOWN TO WORK

Three years ago it seemed that Sandisfield was about to enter the 21st century. Broadband was coming to town. Sandisfield was going to rebuild or replace old town buildings and was considering putting up a new town hall and town center. There was expectation in the air.

Now, Broadband is still "in the works." The town nearly bought property for a new town hall, but the proposal was voted down at Town Meeting. Since then, the town has been repairing bridges, maintaining roads, and trying to do other things without spending too much of the taxpayers' money. There has been no new income except occasional logging sales. Its town garage burned to the ground with the trucks inside. And the town has fallen even further behind on maintenance of its remaining buildings.

That may be about to change.

Mark Newman, new to the board himself and now Chairman, will work with two enthusiastic new Selectmen.

"I think we're all interested in the same things for the town," Brian O'Rourke told The Times. "We want to make it more livable for everyone and to grow. I think we'll have a good transition. I'm excited and apprehensive at the same time."

In an interview with The Berkshire Eagle following the election, Brian said the election is "changing the direction of the town. Everybody's for change until change happens, and then people dig their heels in." He said he had been advised to "take a deep breath and get a thick skin."

He told The Eagle that he hoped the election was a sign that residents may be ready to move away from what he says has been a cautious, cost-saving approach to budgets at the expense of long-term investments that could nourish the town.



The new Select Board. From left, Mark Newman, Brian O'Rourke, and George Riley.

Photo: Annalee Riley

"I learned a long time ago," he said, "that you need to spend money to make money – cutting costs and reducing budgets does not help economic growth."

O'Rourke, who has owned a construction company for nearly 30 years, said he'd like to begin by meeting with the Finance Committee about the budget, and particularly, the capital improvement fund. He added that solar farm companies that provide tax revenue and other fees to the town could be courted and any electrical wiring investments to that end be made to ensure long-lasting annual revenue.

Brian told The Times that he had called John Skrip "to thank him for his three years of service and to let him know my running for the office was a business decision and not personal. I told him I wasn't looking for him to go away and that his input would be valuable, especially at this point regarding Crocker and Broadband. John said he'd be happy to do that."

Speaking of the new Select Board makeup, George Riley, a consultant to non-profits, said, "I think we'll be a pretty good team. Each of us has expertise in a different area and balance each other out. What I know nothing about, Mark and Brian probably do, and I may know some things they don't."

He added, "I'm feeling pretty positive."

Both Brian and George agree that the pending repair of Rt. 57 will be a major effort for the town. With 8.2 miles of pavement and a cost of about \$1 million per mile, the resurfacing of the deteriorating highway hovers over the town like a dark cloud.

George told The Eagle that the town has been patching the road under great strain. "It hasn't been paved since 1986, and doing so would bust the town's budget several times over. It's one of the main thoroughfares in town, and we only have a couple of main thoroughfares."

Generous help would have to be forthcoming from the state Department of Transportation, said both new Selectmen.

"Town was given the responsibility of Rt. 57," said Brian to The Times. "but no resources with which to take care of it. I think we can work with the state and come to agreements as to how to proceed."

"It will all take some time," he said. "Ideas are not implemented in a couple weeks." 🇺🇸

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# Counting the Votes

## HOW DO YOU GET THEM RIGHT?

IT'S NOT, "HERE'S ONE FOR JACK. HERE'S ONE FOR JILL."



Shirley McArthur with Nina Carr; and in the background Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko with Connie Canty.



Counting paper ballots is a complicated procedure and Sandisfield still does it the old way, one at a time, but with serious checks and balances. The need to get the numbers right was especially important this year since George Riley defeated Charlie Pease for a Selectman's seat by only 10 votes, 130 to 120. A high percentage of voters turned out this year, almost 40 percent of the 600 registered voters in town.

Above, Laura Rogers-Castro with Christine O'Brien; Left, Pauline Bakumis with Vicki Bakumis.

Photos: George Riley

## Help Wanted

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## OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS



A former Sandisfield resident/booster now in New Marlboro, **Liana Toscanini** founded the Nonprofit Center of the Berkshires in Great Barrington two years ago. In late May, the Center hosted a sold-out crowd of 240 at a breakfast presentation and celebration at the Country Club of Pittsfield. The event honored nonprofit sector employees and volunteers for their commitment and contributions to the Berkshire community. From left, Carole Siegel, winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award, **Liana**, and State Representative Smitty Pignatelli, emcee.

### NEW BOSTON CRANE SERVICE & SLEDS

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# June at the Arts Center

ART, MUSIC, THEATER, FAMILY FILM NIGHT, FREE PASSES

**And a Film Featuring the Silverbrook Café!**

By Barbara Penn, Co-President

After a great opening show with Erika Crofut's art and a gala fundraiser, hosted by Linda Mironti and wined and dined by Adam Manacher and a dozen hard-working volunteers, our May events ended with a bang with the ever-popular Family Cabaret produced by Anni Crofut and involving almost 30 local grownups and children.

Here's a preview of some of the June events we're very excited about – and we hope you will enjoy them with us.

Photographer Neil Nourse's pictures including "local landscape views ranging from the Berkshires to Kenya" will be in the Gallery for the entire month, with opening reception Saturday, June 2, 2-4 p.m.

Free Movie Nights kicks off this year on Friday, June 8 at 5:30 – watch the website for details.

Beginning a series of Saturday performances, the Center is presenting, on Saturday, June 9 at 8 p.m., playwright Larry Zingale's "One Night Stand, a "modern-day trilogy that spans a tumultuous 50-year history."


Saturday, June 16 at 8 p.m., the Berkshire Chorus aka "Sweet Adelines", an award-winning 27-member, all-women barbershop chorus will lighten up our stage with ballads and show tunes, pop and patriotic songs.

If you remember when the Silverbrook Café was a Sandisfield institution, you'll want to come to the

film, "A Tree. A Rock. A Cloud." Saturday, June 23 at 7:30 p.m. Filmed at the café, decked out as it might have been in the 1940s, the film is the directorial debut of award-winning actor Karen Allen of Great Barrington.

Finally on Saturday, June 30 at 8 p.m., the inimitable music of guitarist Bobby Sweet will once again grace our stage.

In June we continue our mission of putting the "community" in the Arts Center by inaugurating our free event passes. Passes for seniors and Sandisfield residents will be at the Library, the Council on Aging, and the Post Office. Get yours while they last and come enjoy with us.

Next month in The Times, we will premier our plans for our new Community Outreach Program. This program is for you, and we are very excited about it. It builds on past and current community outreach activities and over time will expand beyond Sandisfield to reach, first, our neighboring towns and then to all of Berkshire County. But always with a focus on you as Sandisfield residents. We will be talking with community organizations, committees, various groups – including you – to get your ideas for programs, events, and workshops at the Arts Center. Details in next month's issue. 

## Cabaret

By Times Reporters


As always, Anni Crofut's "Cabaret" at the Sandisfield Arts Center on May 19 had that wonderfully improvised spontaneous comedy which everyone anticipates.

The Inspector Clouseau skits which she introduced eight years ago were the funniest ever in the case of "The Missing Cookies." Other skits poked fun at *addicted gardeners*, *hopeless ballerinas*, *uncontrolled dogs*, *dating games* and *pharmaceuticals*.

There was an array of top shelf local talent in the acts, from



Left to Right: Tina Sotis, Steve Kopiec, Anni Crofut  
Photo: Jennifer Browdy

Richard Stanmeyer's jazz trio to Liv Cummins' comedy, Nancy Tunnicliffe's bagpipe, Olivia Idella performing jazz dance, Vita Kay's Bossa Nova, Lisken Van Dus and Rober Dus' Martial Arts to the Monument Valley Middle School's singers. 

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## JUNE

IN THE GALLERY JUN 2 - 30

Neil Nourse


RECEPTION: SAT, JUNE 2, 2 - 4 PM

FRI, JUN 8 5:30 PM   
FREE Movie Night!

SAT, JUN 9 8 PM \$15  
*One Night Stand*

a play by Larry Zingale

SAT, JUN 16 8 PM \$15  
Berkshire Hills Chorus  
(aka "Sweet Adelines")

 This program is supported in part by a grant from the Otis Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

SAT, JUN 23 7:30 PM \$10  
*A Tree. A Rock. A Cloud.*

Filmed in Sandisfield

Directed by Karen Allen

SAT, JUN 30 8 PM \$15  
Bobby Sweet



# Honoring All American Veterans 2018

Once again, the Memorial Day Parade kicked off from Old Town Hall on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. After a stop at the New Boston Cemetery for an honoring ceremony, the parade continued across the newly reconstructed Rugg Bridge and on toward New Boston. A second stop at the Berkshire Skilled Care & Rehabilitation facility honored veterans at the center before the parade continued to the American Legion Pavilion.

The parade was sponsored by American Legion Post #456 and the Sandisfield Fire Department. Maria Domato, Commander, and Fire Chief Ralph Morrison shared chairmen responsibilities.

*Photos: Elijah Holland*



*A decorated parade participant.*

*Photo: Dawn Lemon*



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# IN HONOR OF VETERAN'S DAY

By Mary Ann Gacek

## Soldiers Died to Make Us Free

Soldiers died to make us free,  
Now in their graves  
Not weeping, nor crying  
Saying, proudly, that we are still free

*Written in 1968, published in the World Treasury of Great Poems, Vol. II, by John Campbell, editor, in 1989.*

## Veteran's Day

Our country free and true,  
Our flag, red, white and blue,  
Our Soldiers, Sailors and Marines,  
Today we honor you.  
For on this day we shout and cheer,  
For all our Veterans far and near,  
So brave and strong, so kind and true,  
On Veteran's Day we honor you.

*Written by my mother and me for my 4th grade class, for Memorial Day, 1961*



# Thanks Everyone

The Sandisfield Fire Department and American Legion Post #456 express appreciation to everyone who contributed to this year's parade and to all those who turned out to watch the parade and honor veterans.

And a special thank you to the Marching Band of local residents, a volunteer group of a half-dozen drummers organized this spring by Tom O'Gara. Great job, drummers.





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## The Librarian's Corner

By Terry Spohnholz

### Library Hours:

Monday and Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.;

Wednesday, 2:00-5:00 p.m.; Thursday, 5:00-7:00 p.m.;

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-noon.

*It was June, and the world smelled of roses. The sunshine was like powdered gold over the grassy hillside.*

- Maud Hart Lovelace, Betsy-Tacy and Tib

Well, finally, those golden days of summer have arrived when all I want to do is lay in that gorgeous sunshine, listen to the birdsong, crickets, and river tumbling by while deeply engrossed in a story. So much for grass mowing.

### Happenings at the Library

Saturday, June 2 from 10 a.m. until noon, Lynn Rubenstein will be doing Kids Crafts. This will be a great crafting day with Dad's Day as the theme. All ages welcome! This will be the last Kid's Crafts Day for the summer. Lynn will return in September for more fun and creativity.

Saturday, June 30, at 1:30 p.m., **Ed the Wizard** returns to the library for his Rocket Building workshop. Learn the basics of flight and test your skills. The workshop is geared for Grades 1 and up, but all are welcome. Join us after the rocket launches for summer treats.

Every Monday morning from 9:30 to 11:00, **Community**

**Play group** in the Sandisfield Community Center (below the library). Free play and table top activities and a trip upstairs for story time in the library.

**Summer Reading Program.** The library will kick off the summer reading program beginning June 30. The theme this year is "Superheros – Reading is a Super Power." Prizes, fun activities, and, of course, a party at the end of the summer to celebrate our "Super Readers."

### New Books in the Library

*Beach House Reunion* by Mary Alice Monroe. Number 5 of her Beach House Series. A tale of the struggles and triumphs of the historic Rutledge family of Charleston, South Carolina.

*Barracoon* by Zora Neal Hurston. The story of the last "Black Cargo." Hurston uses her skills as an anthropologist and writer to bring to life a black slave's singular voice in a poignant, powerful tribute to the disremembered and the unaccounted.

*Circe* by Madeline Miller. Vivid characters, mesmerizing language, and page-turning suspense. A tale that is a thousand years old full of family rivalry, palace intrigue, love and loss as well as a celebration of indomitable female strength in a man's world.

*The Feather Thief* by Kirk Wallace Johnson. Though non-fiction, this book reads like a classic thriller. Beauty, obsession, and the natural history heist of the century.

*After Anna* by Lisa Scottoline. This popular author's latest standalone thriller deals with grief and family issues, topics everyone can relate to. A great summer read!

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with  
**Ed the Wizard!**  
Blasting Off at 1:30 p.m.

**Saturday 30 June**  
at the  
**Sandisfield Library**

This program is 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.

And other things.....

Berkshire Museum, the Clark, Hancock Shaker Village, and more. The library has several family passes for various museums around the area. Stop by the library and inquire.

And so, find a cozy spot in the sun this summer, get your pile of adventures in book form, and indulge yourself! That's what I'll be doing. 



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# Champions

Two Monument Mountain Regional High School wrestlers from Sandisfield took part in the 2018 Western Massachusetts Division III Wrestling Championship held in Pittsfield in February.

Both Sam Cormier (left) of Norfolk Road and John Field of Road Hill Road won their matches to become Western Massachusetts champions.

A Berkshire Eagle article reported that last year Sam Cormier finished third at 120 pounds, while his older brother, Nate, was a Western Mass. champion. This year Sam wrestled at 132 lbs. He said, "Two years in a row, a Cormier in the finals. I'm happy to represent the name and the team as a whole." He will be a junior in the coming school term.

In the same article, a competitor said of Fields, who wrestled at 170 lbs., "He's the toughest kid, probably, in Western Mass. It's awesome." John, who graduated this month, will join the U.S. Marine Corps this summer.

Photo: Danielle Surlong



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# Police/Fire/EMS Logs



## POLICE:

### March 2018 Incidents

- Mar. 2 Motor vehicle accident, Town Hill Road, report taken
- Mar. 2 Medical call, Viets Road, refused
- Mar. 7 Medical call, Sandisfield Road, responded
- Mar. 8 Mutual aid, fire, Granville, responded
- Mar. 10 Medical call, West Street, transported
- Mar. 13 Disabled motor vehicle, West Street, transported
- Mar. 13 Tree on wire, South Main Street, notified DPW
- Mar. 19 911 misdial, Sandisfield Road, contact made
- Mar. 21 Mutual aid, fire, Granville, tanker response
- Mar. 22 Gas spill, Clark Road, responded
- Mar. 23 Court service, West Street, no service
- Mar. 24 Court service, West Street, papers served
- Mar. 24 Shots fired, South Sandisfield Road, responded
- Mar. 27 Erratic motor vehicle operation, Sandisfield Road
- Mar. 29 Lifting assistance, Slater Lane, responded
- Mar. 29 Suspicious party, New Hartford Road, person located, OK

### April 2018 Incidents

- Apr. 2 Animal call, horse in road, Sandisfield Road, owner located
- Apr. 2 Medical, transported, Sandisfield Road
- Apr. 4 911 hang up, resolved, Sandisfield Road
- Apr. 5 Disturbance, resolved, South Main Street
- Apr. 6 Motor vehicle accident, towed, Sandy Brook Turnpike
- Apr. 6 Disturbance, resolved, West Hubbard Road
- Apr. 10 Medical, transported, South Main Street
- Apr. 14 Medical, transported, Sandisfield Road
- Apr. 17 Medical, transported, South Main Street
- Apr. 18 Medical, transported, Sandisfield Road
- Apr. 19 Medical, transported, Sandisfield Road
- Apr. 19 911 hang up, resolved, Sears Road
- Apr. 20 Medical, assisted, Sandy Brook Turnpike
- Apr. 22 Medical, suspicious activity, transported, Sandisfield Road

- Apr. 24 Medical, transported, New Hartford Road
- Apr. 26 Suspicious activity, South Main Street, unfounded
- Apr. 26 Suspicious activity, Norfolk Road, unfounded
- Apr. 27 Motor vehicle accident, transported, Sandisfield Road
- Apr. 29 Disabled motor vehicle, assisted, tow, Roberts Road
- Apr. 29 Disturbance, assisted, Sandisfield Road
- Apr. 30 Medical/disturbance, assisted, Sandy Brook Turnpike



## FIRE:

### March 2018 Incidents

- Mar. 8 Standby for Tolland Fire Dept., Tolland to Granville
- Mar. 21 Standby for Tolland Fire Dept., Tolland to Granville
- Mar. 22 Propane leak

### April 2018 Incidents

None



## EMS:

### March 2018 Incidents

- Mar. 2 Medical call
- Mar. 7 Medical call, Otis ambulance did call
- Mar. 10 Medical call, transport to Berkshire Medical Center, Pittsfield
- Mar. 14 Medical call, transport to Fairview Hospital, Great Barrington
- Mar. 19 Medical call, transport to Fairview Hospital
- Mar. 22 Medical call, Tolland, transport to Charlotte-Hungerford, Torrington
- Mar. 24 Medical call, Tolland, no transport
- Mar. 29 Assist individual
- Mar. 31 Motor vehicle accident, Tolland, transport to Baystate Noble Hospital, Westfield

### April 2018 Incidents

- Apr. 2 Medical call, transport to Fairview Hospital
- Apr. 3 Medical call to Tolland, cancelled en route
- Apr. 6 Motor vehicle rollover, no transport
- Apr. 14 Medical call, transport to Fairview Hospital
- Apr. 17 Medical call, no transport
- Apr. 18 Medical call, Otis ambulance, transported
- Apr. 19 Medical call, transport to Fairview Hospital
- Apr. 20 Medical call, lift assistance, no transport
- Apr. 22 Medical, transport to Berkshire Medical Center
- Apr. 24 Medical call, New Marlboro, transported to Fairview Hospital
- Apr. 27 Motor vehicle accident, Otis, transported to Fairview Hospital
- Apr. 30 Medical call, transport to Berkshire Medical Center

### A THANK YOU TO THE EMS SERVICE

A heartfelt thank you to the Sandisfield Ambulance Squad for their quick response and great care when I recently needed to go to Fairview Hospital.

- Rosemary (Rosie) Allan  
Tannery Road

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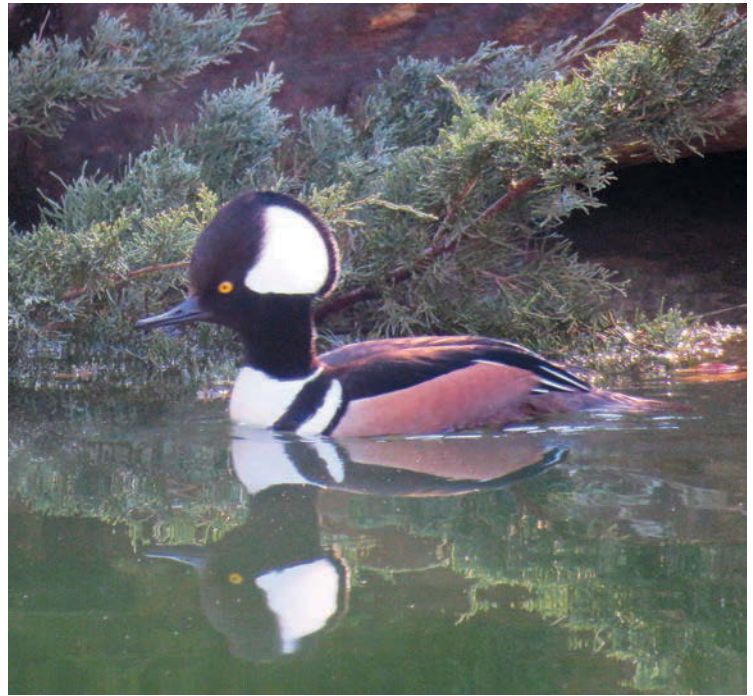
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# Two Feathered Friends Drop In

Ron and Jean on Cold Spring Road reported that there seem to be more birds and variety than usual this year, “despite,” Ron said, “our crummy weather last April.”

## *Hooded Merganser*

This delightful visitor swam around the Bernard/Atwater-Williams’ backyard pond early morning, April 14. According to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (see [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org)), “Hooded’ is something of an understatement for this extravagantly crested little duck. Adult males are a sight to behold, with sharp black-and-white patterns set off by chestnut flanks. Females get their own distinctive elegance from their cinnamon crest. Hooded Mergansers are fairly common on small ponds and rivers, where they dive for fish, crayfish, and other food, seizing it in their thin, serrated bills. They nest in tree cavities; the ducklings depart with a bold leap to the forest floor when only one day old.”



## *Pileated Woodpecker*

The day after the Hooded Merganser dropped in, this mature Pileated Woodpecker took up a position for a while in the ancient apple tree in Ron and Jean’s side yard. In more than 17 years of seeing these bright creatures in the neighborhood, this was the first time one stayed put long enough to be photographed. Normally they are seen from afar, are elusive, and they move fast. 📷

*Photographs by Jean Atwater-Williams*



### MY APPLE TREE

THIS MORNING  
 OUTSIDE MY BEDROOM WINDOW  
 MY APPLE TREE  
 (THE ONE WITH SNAKES FOR BRANCHES)  
 PICKED UP A TRUMPET  
 AND AWAKENED SPRING.  
 THIS OLD FAKER OF A TREE  
 WAS ALL BLOSSOMS,  
 THE DEVIL IN A RED DRESS.  
 YOU SEE, HE PUNKED-OUT BROWN BY FIVE O’CLOCK  
 AND LEFT ME WONDERING  
 ABOUT APPLE TREES.

VAL COLEMAN  
 WEST NEW BOSTON

**Sandisfield  
 Historical  
 Society**



# Appraisal Day a Success

*By Ann Wald, President*

Our recent antiques appraisal day was a great success, thanks to local appraiser David LeBeau and our fantastic volunteers.

David made the day a wonderful experience. Some people were very happy after showing their possessions to him - not only did he give an appraisal but he explained the history of the piece.

A few others were surprised that their items were not quite as valuable as they thought.

Our next meeting is Saturday, June 9 at 11 a.m., at our meeting place on Sandy Brook Turnpike (Rt.183). All are welcome.

Be sure to visit our Summer Fair at Firehouse #2 on July 7. If you are a vendor interested in joining us, please call me at 413-258-4415 to reserve your spot.

Or you can contact me at [annaw2@verizon.net](mailto:annaw2@verizon.net). 📷

## They're Baa-ack!

By Ron Bernard

Major installation work on the Tennessee Gas pipeline extension through the Beech Plain section was completed in early December.



With winter closing in, the expanded right of way, now with three separate lines, required environmental protection and left in place miles of unsightly black plastic silt fencing to prevent erosion. Certain other aspects of the project also could not be completed before winter snows fell.

In mid-May, third-party crews arrived along with trucks and trailers of equipment, large and small, to finish the work.

Besides removal of the silt fencing and signs, land restoration this spring and early summer will include significant repair work at the Beech Plain Road pipe yard. Cathode protection equipment may also be replaced. There will be more seeding and new plantings in the right-of-way, particularly in wetlands.

According to environmental rules, much of this work cannot begin until 80 percent of vegetation has been reestablished. The company expects to complete all of the work by mid-June. Outside environmental observers will be on site until the end of June.

Reconstruction of sections of Cold Spring Road and repair/enhancements of the boat launch area at Lower Spectacle Pond are also expected this summer, although timetables and descriptions of the work have yet to be announced.

Remediation and monitoring of the invasive phragmites will continue for at least five more years.

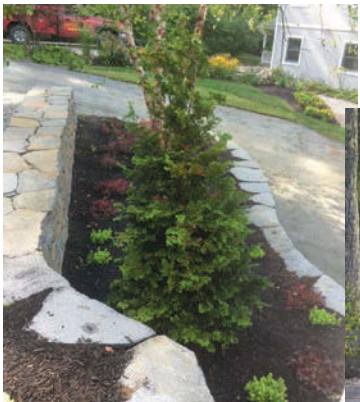
Meanwhile, Beech Plain residents who have been preoccupied and exhausted by nearly five years of meetings and protests and especially by the massive disruptions of the pipeline construction last summer and fall can look forward to peace and quiet. Soon. Finally. 🙏





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Comings and Goings

**JACK MELE**

Jack Mele, of East Hartford, Connecticut, part-time resident of Sandisfield since the mid-1980s, husband to Gail Mele, passed away at the age of 84, Monday, May 21, 2018.

Jack enjoyed hunting and fishing in Sandisfield with family and friends. With the help of his family, he built a home in Sandisfield and enjoyed gardening on the property. He will be missed.

He is survived by his wife, Gail Mele, of 55 years; daughter and son-in-law, Hannah Mele-Andrews and Fran Andrews; and two sons, Mark Mele and Peter Mele.



**Speak Memory**  
ONE-DAY WRITING  
WORKSHOP

Nabokov called his memoir "Speak Memory." This introductory workshop, conducted by Berkshire resident Sonia Pilcer, author of six published novels, is for writers who've wanted to get stories from their lives on paper, but haven't known how to begin. The goal can be publication, a legacy for family, or the adventure of seeing your words on paper. Sonia Pilcer will demonstrate how fiction techniques can make the material come alive, with in-class writing exercises to help trigger memories. No writing experience necessary.

Saturday, June 16, 2-4 p.m., at the Monterey Community Center, 468 Main Road (Route 23) corner of New Marlborough Road. Workshop fee is \$20. To register and pay for the workshop, go to [www.ccmonterey.org](http://www.ccmonterey.org).

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# Now Hear This!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro.

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

## JUNE

**Crafts with Lynn** at the Library on Saturday, June 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This month will feature gifts and cards for Dad! Crafts are designed for children ages 2-12. Story time in the library at 9:30 a.m. Please call the library for more information: 258-4966.

**Opening Reception: The Photography of Neil Nourse** on Saturday, June 2, at 2:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center located on 5 Hammettown Road, off Route 57 in Sandisfield. Neil uses his artistic vision to capture images from the Berkshires to Kenya. The Gallery will be open during performances through June.

**Playgroup** on Mondays, June 4 and 11 from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Sandisfield Library Community Room (below the library). Pre-registration not necessary. Suitable for children up to age 5 accompanied by caregiver. The playgroup features a story time in the library. Led by Nina Carr.

**Historical Society Meeting** on Saturday, June 9, at 11:00 a.m. at the Old Meeting House on Route 183 at South Sandisfield Road. Stay after the meeting for a potluck lunch. All are welcome.

**Free Movie Night** on Friday, June 8, at 5:30 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center located on 5 Hammettown Road, off Route 57 in Sandisfield. This month's selection will be suitable for the whole family and posted on [www.sandisfieldartscenter.org](http://www.sandisfieldartscenter.org).

**"One Night Stand," a play** by Larry Zingale on Saturday, June 9, at 8:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center located on 5 Hammettown Road, off Route 57 in Sandisfield. A love story and modern-day trilogy, "One Night Stand" spans a tumultuous 50 years, from the summer of Small Town USA circa 1918 to 1968, as two lonely strangers meet on a darkened New York City Street. \$15.

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

**Cemetery Clean-up** on Saturday, June 16, at 9:00 a.m. at the South Sandisfield Cemetery located on Route 183 (Sandybrook Turnpike) about half a mile north of Sandisfield Road. Bring gloves, bug spray, and a chair to take a break. Participants will drag brush to the edge of the road for the DPW to haul away.

**Berkshire Hills Chorus** on Saturday, June 16, at 8:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammettown Road, off Route 57 in Sandisfield. The Berkshire Hills Chorus is a 27-member award-winning women's

barbershop chorus. \$15. Tickets can be pre-purchased at [sandisfieldartscenter.org](http://sandisfieldartscenter.org).

**"A Tree. A Rock. A Cloud.."** a short film directed by Karen Allen on Saturday, June 23, at 7:30 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center located on 5 Hammettown Road, off Route 57 in Sandisfield. Based on the short story by American writer Carson McCullers, the film is set at a roadside cafe on a spring morning in 1947. It was filmed at our own roadside café, the Silverbrook, last year. \$10.

**Fun Bus to Boston** Sponsored by the Sandisfield Recreation Committee on Sunday, June 24, leaving early in the morning. Cost includes roundtrip luxury bus to Boston, tickets to the New England Aquarium, and afternoon on your own. \$10 for adults (\$8 for seniors) and \$5 for children. Seats cannot be held without payment. For additional information, email [www.sandisfieldrecrecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:www.sandisfieldrecrecommittee@gmail.com) or stop at the Sandisfield library. First come, first served.

**Ed the Wizard** on Saturday, June 30, at 1:30 p.m. at the Sandisfield Library. Ed the Wizard returns for his Rocket Building Workshop. Learn the basics of flight, and test your skills. This workshop is geared for grades 1 and older and limited to 30 patrons.

**Bobby Sweet** on Saturday, June 30, at 8:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center located on 5 Hammettown Road, off Route 57 in Sandisfield. Stylistically, Bobby Sweet's music resembles elements of John Prine, Jackson Browne, Guy Clark, and a countrified Bruce Springsteen. He's just finished his fourth U.S. tour playing guitar with Arlo Guthrie. \$15.

### SAVE THE DATE

**Flea Market** on Saturday, July 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Fire Station #2 on Route 57. Raffles, baked goods, tag sale, vendors, and more to benefit the Sandisfield Historical Society.

## OTHER JUNE EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

**Mindful Art-Making Workshop** on Sunday, June 3 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. with Kit Patten at the Monterey Community Center on 468 Main Road (Route 23). Kit will help participants focus on the process of creating rather than the outcome on the page. Some materials provided but bring your own supplies, too. \$30. Registration is required. Contact [www.ccmonterey.org](http://www.ccmonterey.org).

**Speak Memory** on Saturday, June 16 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. with Sonia Pilcer, author of six published novels, at the Monterey Community Center on 468 Main Road (Route 23). Sonia will demonstrate how fiction techniques can make your material come alive. No writing experience necessary. \$20. Registration is required. Contact [www.ccmonterey.org](http://www.ccmonterey.org).

**Sup & Swing Annual Community Picnic/Supper** on Saturday, June 16, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Izaak Walton Pavilion off Route 8 in Otis. Wanda Houston and her band will provide music for dancing.

**How Can I Keep From Singing Program** on Tuesdays, June 19 through July 31 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. led by Oren Rosenthal at the Monterey Community Center on 468 Main Road (Route 23). The program will focus on a repertoire of easy, fun, uplifting songs. All levels of singers are welcome. No fee, no sign-up, just come.

**Summer Solstice Celebration** on Thursday, June 21, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Bartholomew's Cobble in Sheffield. Members (\$5), nonmembers (\$10), and children free.

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# SANDISFIELD TOWN DIRECTORY

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

**TOWN WEBSITE:** www.sandisfieldma.gov

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

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

**ANIMAL WARDEN/DOG OFFICER:**

Kim Spring: 258-4450

**ASSESSORS OFFICE:** 258-4711 x 6

Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs. 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Meets 2nd Tues: 5 p.m.

**BOARD OF HEALTH:** Victor Hyrckvich: 258-4711 x 3

Meets 2nd Tues: 7 p.m., Old Town Hall.

**BROADBAND COMMITTEE:** Jeff Bye: 258-4711

Meets as needed. Check for schedule.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR:** Eric Munson Jr.: 258-4590

**COMMUNITY CENTER COMMITTEE:**

Billie Pachulski: 413 652-0252

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION:** Meets 3rd Tues: 7 p.m.

**CONSTABLES:**

Nazario Sanchez: 258-4705 John Burrows: 258-4943

**COUNCIL ON AGING:** Linda Riiska: 258-4711 x 8

Wed: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Senior Center/Town Hall Annex

Business Meeting 1st and 3rd Wed: 10 a.m.

**FARMINGTON RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOL:**

North Main Street, Otis, 413 269-4466; Thomas Nadolny, Principal

**FRRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE** meets 1st Mon: 7 p.m.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Joe Gelinas: ugelinas@bentley.edu

Meets as needed. Check for schedule.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Emergency: 911

Ralph Morrison, Fire Chief: 258-4742

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** Ann Wald, President

258-4415 or annaw2@verizon.net.

Meets 2nd Saturday, Apr-Nov. Sandy Brook Turnpike/Rt. 183.

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE:** John Skrip: 258-4788

**LIBRARY:** Librarian: Theresa Spohnholz

258-4966 or sandisfieldlibrary@gmail.com

Mon/Tues: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Wed: 2-5 p.m.; Thurs: 5-7 p.m. / Sat: 9 a.m.-noon

**NOTARY:** John Skrip: 258-4788

Theresa Spohnholz: 258-4966 or 258-4711 x 4

**PLANNING BOARD:** 258-4711 x 5

Meets 2nd Tues: 6 p.m., Old Town Hall

**POLICE-LOCAL: Emergency: 911**

Michael Morrison, Chief: 258-4742

**POLICE-STATE:** Lee Barracks: 413 243-0600

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

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

Delivery boxes in both lobbies accessible 24 hours.

**RECREATION COMMITTEE:** Billie Pachulski, 413-652-0252

**ROAD SUPERINTENDENT:** Bobby O'Brien, 717-7627 cell /

Office 258-4711 x 7

**SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER:** (May-December)

5 Hammertown Road, PO Box 31

258-4100; www.sandisfieldartscenter.org

**SANDISFIELD TIMES:** Bill Price, editor: 413 429-7179

Published monthly (Jan/Feb combined)

PO Box 584, Sandisfield or editor@sandisfieldtimes.org

**SELECT BOARD:** 258-4711 x 2

Meets Monday with working session at 2:30 p.m. or regular meeting,

7 p.m. Town Hall Annex. See posted agenda for time.

**STATE OFFICIALS:**

Smitty Pignatelli, State Representative.: 413 637-0631;

rep.smitty@mahouse.gov

Adam Hinds, State Senator; 413 344-4561; adam.hinds@masenate.gov

**STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE:**

Chairman to be announced. Meets 2nd Tues: 6 p.m., Old Town Hall

**TAX COLLECTOR:** Theresa Spohnholz

**Tax collector assistant:** Christina O'Brien; 258-4911 x 4;

Mon/Tues, 11:30-4 p.m.; Wed/Thurs, 9-2 p.m.

**TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE:** Paul Jacoby

258-4682 or pauljacob53@gmail.com

Town computers and technology.

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT:** Dawn Odell Lemon, by appt. 258.4711 x 5

or accountant@sandisfieldma.gov

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:** Fred Ventresco, Mon: 9-8, Tues-Fri 9-5 or by

appointment. 258-4711 x 1 or townadmin@sandisfieldma.gov

**TOWN CLERK:** Dolores Harasyko

PO Box 163 or townclerk@sandisfieldma.gov

Town Hall Annex: 258-4711 x 2

Mon: 8 a.m.-2 p.m./6 p.m.-7p.m., Tues-Thurs: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. or by appt.

**TOWN HALL:** At Town Hall Annex, 66 Sandisfield Road, PO Box 90, 01255

Open Mon-Thurs: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mon: 6-7 p.m. or by appt.

**TOWN TREASURER:** Theresa Spohnholz

**Treasurer assistant:** Christina O'Brien, 258-4711 x4

or treasurer@sandisfieldma.gov, Hours: Mon/Tues, 11:30 - 4 p.m.;

Wed/Thurs, 9-2.

**TRANSFER STATION:** Tony Melloni: Wed: 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

Sat/Sun: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**VETERANS SERVICES:** Laurie Hills

528-1580: Great Barrington Town Hall

# THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

P.O. Box 584

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

*Susan Diamond*

*Joe & Sally Salzano*



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

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Diner, Otis Poultry Farm, Otis Woodlands (May-September), Knox Trail Inn, and the Laundromat. Locations in Monterey include the Library and the Roadside Cafe. Available also at the Southfield Store in New Marlborough. Back issues are available for purchase.

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## **Editorial Staff**

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*Graphic Design: Tina Sotis*

*Website: Jean Atwater-Williams*

*Now Hear This!: Laura Rogers-Castro*

*Founding Editor: Simon Winchester*

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