

Our Annual Appeal – See Special Insert

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

Tribunus



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November 2018



John Field taking a practice shot at his home field.

Local Man Excels in Competitive Shooting

“FOCUS IS ESSENTIAL,” SAYS JOHN FIELD

By Tom Christopher

“It’s a game of repetition,” Sandisfield resident John Field says of the long-range rifle shooting which is his passion.

“You want to repeat the same thing over and over and over again. It’s the person who makes the least mistakes who wins [the match].” To illustrate, he cites a past world championship match in 2015 – Field shoots at a very high level – in which, using the unaided eye, no scope, he shot nine bulls-eyes out of 15 shots at a distance of 800 yards. That kind of extraordinary shooting only qualified him for 242nd place.

“That’s competition,” he said.

Field has been doing notably better since then. In the Canadian national competition this past summer, he turned in the best score over three days of shooting to win the Champlain Aggregate award.

CONT'D P.4

The Superintendent and the Roads

HIGHWAY BOSS’S JOB “VOLUNTARILY TERMINATED”

By Brigitte Ruthman and Bill Price

Roads are almost as important in Sandisfield as the air we breathe.

Recently, however, a shake-up in the town’s Department of Public Works, which oversees maintenance of Town roads, has left the department without a full crew and the Town’s roads on life-support.

On October 9, Robert “Bobby” O’Brien was “voluntarily terminated” as superintendent of the Town’s Department of Public Works (DPW). He was fired because he lied about his hours, used town equipment for his own business use, and neglected his duties.

CONT'D P.3



RIP: SANDISFIELD’S FRIEND, NORTON FLETCHER

Memorial Day, 2014 Photo: Tom Jacobs

Did Someone Say Penny Auction?

HOLIDAY FAIR, DECEMBER 1

By the Sandisfield Scholarship Fund Committee

Hold the date for the Sandisfield Holiday Fair Saturday, December 1, from 10-2:00 p.m. at Firehouse #2.

In just four short weeks, you will be feasting your eyes on all the new items we brought together for an exciting penny auction experience. We will also be raffling off our top-drawer items and hosting our annual free kids craft table.

Not to mention – wait for it – this year we will be selling a very special item. (Hint: it's close to our Sandisfield hearts.)

Be sure to get there early for crafts, food, and fun. Supplies run out fast.

Bring the kids. Santa may appear.

All of our proceeds go directly to The Sandisfield Scholarship Fund. Scholarship applications for this year's graduating students will be available at our table during the Holiday Fair. Please help support our town's scholars. We are not Town-funded and rely on your generous support. 🍷

Help With 5K Run

By Billie Anderson-Pachulski and Theresa Spohnholz

The Community Center would like to thank everyone who volunteered at our first annual "Where in the 5K is Sandisfield?" run. Without you, Sandisfield's first 5K would not have been such a success.

We are grateful to Ralph Morrison and the Sandisfield Fire Department and Rescue Squad for moving tables, cheering on the participants as they finished, and for having the ambulance available (which thankfully we never needed). Thanks, as well, to Mike Morrison and the Sandisfield Police Department for keeping us safe.

A special thanks to the volunteers who braved the chill air in the early morning to help with set-up: Jen Creales, Dawn Pachulski, Rosie Snyder, and Shea Hull.

We also would like to thank our sponsors – Brian O'Rourke Carpentry, the Sandisfield Recreational Committee, and Bethany Perry of Berkshire Bank for supplying us with bags and bottles.

Finally, a very special thank you to the best water girl ever, 5-year-old Emma Pachulski!

We will be doing the 2nd Annual Where is Sandisfield? 5K Race again next year – same time: the last weekend of September; same place: Cold Spring Road. You have a year to get ready! 🍷

Special Town Meeting Report

EMOTIONS ROIL OVER NEW CPR SYSTEM

By Ron Bernard

We never know what to expect at Special Town Meetings. The warrants usually concern mundane administrative matters that have a time component and pass without comment or potentially contentious special expenditures that can't wait for the next Annual Meeting.

Some of the latter evoke strong feelings from the floor and that was the case on October 16 for Article 2, "To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$14,711.50 for a new CPR System."

The only significant "money issue" on the agenda was Article 1, which sought reauthorization of additional spending to complete the Rugg Bridge repairs. The vote, to move already appropriated funds into a special account, easily passed the 2/3 requirement from the 46 registered voters present. Article 3 was to move already allocated funds into the special Yanner Park account so the work of the new Yanner Park committee could proceed. Articles 4-7 involved administrative and bylaws clarifications, for example to clear the Town's eligibility for grants if designated as a "Green Community."

What turned contentious was Article 2, an apparently routine request to transfer money from the town's stabilization trust fund to the fire department's equipment account for an automatic CPR device that was already earmarked.

As is customary, the Finance Committee was asked by moderator Simon Winchester for its opinion. Chairman Joe Gelinas said that the committee had voted 4-0 against the warrant because the original request for the device lacked proper documentation, including a payment structure as well as training, operating, and maintenance cost information.

He added that the system "is not needed now" and that the article should be taken up at the May, 2019 Town Meeting.

That comment triggered vociferous responses. Police Chief Mike Morrison said, "This is needed now for life-and-death situations. We had four cardiac emergencies in the past year and all of them died."

Fire Chief Ralph Morrison explained that "all of the surrounding towns already have the system in place."

All of the Town's volunteer EMTs, he added, are at risk of injury because they are unrestrained while feverishly performing manual CPR in an ambulance racing to a hospital 45 minutes away. He stated that the situation is unacceptable, and that the town is exposed for law suits. "We need this unit to save the people in the community," he said.

The audience included more than a dozen EMT volunteers, several of whom vouched for need of the equipment. Sandisfield resident EMT Sheri Jennison said, "In my tenure six people have died that might have been saved by this system. A life in Otis, which has the system, has already been saved."

Poignant appeals were made by fellow EMTs Sandra Snyder and Zoe Nelson. Sandra described the hectic, physically tasking, and very stressful nature of performing chest compressions in a moving vehicle. "Outcomes are much worse than when stationary," she said.

The most moving plea came from Zoe Nelson who said, "I have been an EMT in this town for 30 years. In this time, only one person was saved. Nevertheless, I am an EMT because I feel an obligation to my community." Looking directly at the Finance Committee, she suggested "imagine yourself in that situation."

"We need this now!" she said.

Mr. Gelinas rose in reply that that the committee was not against having the system, just that budgetary procedures have to be followed. He also objected to comments he felt were directed at him personally. This was followed by a lively discussion about a perceived lack of communication between committees.

Mike Morrison asked, "Where is our highly paid town administrator? He should have coordinated this. Somebody dropped the ball."

The vote to approve the transfer of funds and for the Fire/EMS department to buy the potentially life-saving CPR system was nearly unanimous. 🍷

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

WHAT WE ARE FOR

In an era of dwindling interest in print journalism, community newspapers are growing stronger, despite the fact that advertising revenue has declined and newsroom employment along with it. And yet, newspapers continue to perform their job.

Democracy, Thomas Jefferson said, depends on an informed populace. We depend on an open and free press that provides information necessary for informed judgments. Although Jefferson was often vilified by newspapers, he said, "If I had to choose between government without newspapers and newspapers without government, I wouldn't hesitate to choose the latter."

The Sandisfield Times was launched to inform. When public disclosure is in order and taxpayer dollars are at stake, we will ask the difficult questions

and report the answers to you. Hopefully, from time to time, we'll even make you smile.

I hope you consider the insert that accompanies this issue of The Times about how to start a local newspaper and – as well – how to keep it going. Ultimately, the latter is up to you, our constituency with open wallets who make that happen.

Everyone at The Times hopes that all of our readers – in print and online – have a gentle and peaceful Thanksgiving holiday this month. Our nation has been going through a trying time. May we all find ways to sit down together, break bread, and move forward.

Bill Price
West New Boston

THE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE ROADS

CONT'D FROM P.1

Mark Newman, Select Board chairman, was named interim superintendent until a full-time replacement is hired. Selectman Brian O'Rourke will fill in at times when Newman can't be on the job.

The Town is also seeking a full-time general worker for the DPW/Highway Department. The new employee will fill out the department to its allotted three worker/drivers and one superintendent.

In the meantime, toward the end of October, the current skeleton crew dealt with "lots of blowdowns," from a severe rain and windstorm, Newman said.

In late September, the Rugg Bridge on Hwy. 57, closed to traffic all last winter and early spring for repairs, needed further fixes to make it roadworthy for snow plows. "They got in just in time to get the temperature they needed to make the repairs work," Newman said. "We'll find out for sure the first time a snowplow goes over it."

He reported also that work is progressing on new town garage. "Electricians have run the final conduit. The concrete guys are almost ready to pour. I think we're good to go."

While the reduced crew is attending to Town roads, questions remain about why Bobby O'Brien was "voluntarily terminated."

The Question Why?

When asked by The Times, the three-member Select Board had no comment, citing a confidentiality agreement with O'Brien.

However, minutes of the Board's September 20 executive session, obtained by The Times after the filing of a public records request, provide at least some of the reasons O'Brien was let go, although much of the minutes were redacted on advice of the Board's counsel. The confidentiality agreement refers to an Employment Settlement Agreement signed October 9. The following information is drawn from the September 20 executive session minutes.

O'Brien was placed on paid administrative leave September 24, following the Board's September 20 executive session. He was fired October 9 for having misrepresented the hours on his time sheet, using town equipment for his construction business, and failing to address town roads following a damaging storm.

Among the details outlined in the executive board minutes, O'Brien claimed to have worked part of the day on August 28 for the Town, while in fact he worked all day with his son, part-time DPW employee Ryle O'Brien, on a project at former Selectman John Skrip's home. From August 27 through the 31st, Ryle O'Brien was reported on town time sheets as having worked every day at least four hours, when in fact he did not work at all for the town on either August 29th or 30th, according to the minutes.

On September 7, O'Brien and his son Ryle worked from 11 a.m. through the afternoon paving a driveway for Ralph Morrison, with equipment delivered on August 30, on a town-owned trailer. According to the minutes, Bobby and Ryle O'Brien "charged" the town for eight hours of highway department work.

On September 10, in answer to a complaint at a Select Board meeting about the condition of town roads following a storm, O'Brien acknowledged to the Select Board that he and his son only worked four hours each on September 7.

On September 14, the minutes state, the board agreed there was enough cause to move forward with a formal investigation. The board met with local Police Chief Michael Morrison to discuss a possible criminal investigation, which was not launched, without explanation.

Three days later, on September 17, Bobby O'Brien submitted, contrary to terms of his contract, time sheets without stating the hours he worked. His contract stated he was to work during normal business hours as a minimum requirement, which required "a daily account of his hours as previously done to keep an accurate account of his time worked versus time off," the minutes state.

Police Chief Morrison then suggested, according to the minutes, "bringing Bob in to justify all issues, have Bob sign a stipulated agreement that he will resign and have no repercussions against the town."

All three selectmen, Mark Newman, Brian O'Rourke, and George Riley, agreed that "Bob has done good work for the town but in light of the evidence he needs to be relieved of his duties."

On October 9, the "voluntary termination" occurred with the confidential Employment Settlement Agreement signed by the Board members and Bobby.

CONT'D P. 7

**LOCAL MAN EXCELS IN
COMPETITIVE SHOOTING**

CONT'D FROM P.1

In February 2019 he's heading to New Zealand as part of the U.S. Palma Team, a select group of 16 long-range shooters (with two alternates) to compete in that country's national championships and then the individual world championships.

Finally the Palma Team match will be fired over two days at distances of 800, 900, and 1,000 yards. The winning team at the end will be awarded the Palma trophy and world championship of long-range shooting. Our man from Sandisfield could be an important part of that team.

Field repeated, "That's competition."

If the repetition of a perfect shot is the goal, Field says that every shot presents unique challenges.

Shooting with a Palma .308 rifle and ammunition that he loads himself (machine-made cartridges are not sufficiently uniform nor tailored for his custom-made rifle), Field must contend with his own limitations: he has to hold the rifle steady without the aid of a rest. Even a heartbeat elevated by anxiety can fatally deflect his aim.

Besides the personal, however, there are the environmental challenges. Wind can deflect a bullet several feet over 1,000 yards. If the sun goes behind a cloud, the change in light will move the apparent position of the target and when the wind pauses, heat waves rising off the ground can make the target seem to shiver. All of these factors must be included in the aiming; you need, Field says, to "go to a level of focus, the world could come crashing down around you and you wouldn't even notice."

Focus is an essential element of Field's professional life as well. As the owner of John Field Tree Service in Sandisfield, he knows that, as well in long-range shooting, there is no margin of error when felling a tree. Having started working solo, he now manages two full-time crews with a total roll of fourteen employees.

Born in Monterey, Field has been living in Sandisfield since the age of three. Now 36, he has family in town and is securely settled here with his wife, Tara Birkett, and three children.

"It's a great small town," he said, speaking of Sandisfield. "There's tons of privacy, tons of woods, tons of wildlife." He likes his neighbors and the easy availability of hunting and fishing and the room to carve out his own 300-yard rifle range for practicing his shooting.



*John Field
DCRA 150th Anniversary, Canada.*

Photo: Mia Rhode

The other participants involved in his sport are another aspect of competitive shooting that he likes. The fellowship among the competitors is just "incredible." Having competed all over the United States as well as abroad, Field has friends everywhere he has shot. If a piece of his equipment fails him at a match, there's always someone ready to loan him a piece of theirs.

As for future ambitions, after the Palma competition, Field may set aside his .308 for a while and

return to his roots. He learned competitive shooting from a retired army colonel, a member of a select group of "Distinguished Riflemen" whom the U.S. government's Civilian Marksmanship Program judges to have excelled in competitions with a service rifle, a modified M-16. Field is contemplating pursuing this designation, which has been achieved only by a few thousand shooters nationwide.

All, of course, from his home base in Sandisfield.

**Request from Sandisfield
Cultural Council**

By Lynn Rubenstein, Member

The Sandisfield Cultural Council is soliciting ideas and input to ensure that the priorities of the council are in sync with what people of Sandisfield would like to support.

The Town – through the council – receives State Grant funds from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. These funds are then disbursed to various artists, performers, and educational and scientific groups that promote our mission and our current priorities, in response to applications by the individuals and groups.

Over several years, the council has established the following priorities when considering applications:

- The venue should reach a large group in the community.
- School children and activities related to learning are a high priority.
- Local presenters dealing with the arts, humanities and science are encouraged.

The Sandisfield Cultural Council will present these priorities to the Select Board in November. If you feel we are missing or need to address a priority that is of concern to you, please email us at culturalco.sandisfield@gmail.com.

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**LITTLE BOOK,
COME HOME**

Would whoever removed the Town's public copy of Sandisfield: Then and Now, marked copy No. 456, please return it to the Town Hall Annex. No questions asked. Thank you.

Sandisfield Town Clerk

Select Board Minutes

BROADBAND AND THE ROADS

Submitted by

Dolores Harasyko, Town Clerk

Edited by Bill Price

Minutes of Select Board meetings are available for review at the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall Annex or online at www.sandisfieldma.gov/node/44/minutes/2018.

Broadband: Minutes from October 9 Select Board Meeting

The Broadband Committee was asked to present their plans going forward. Jeff Bye presented two versions of an Action Plan. One path moves us forward more quickly and mirrors the process the town of Tolland is doing. The other places us in a waiting mode for the next 6 to 9 months before we find out if Crocker Communications secures USDA funding. Selectman George Riley felt that if we wait until the third quarter of 2019 it will be a major setback. Signing the action plan does not preclude us from looking into other companies and exploring other options. There is some interest from Charter Communications. Jeff said there has been discussion with other vendors.

Jean Atwater-Williams asked what the shortfall is expected to be if Crocker does not obtain the funding. Jeff responded that it is \$990,000.

The previous Select Board agreed to keep the buildout at 96% of households. Selectman Brian O'Rourke responded that this level of accessibility would not be changed.

Jeff stated that the committee is in the procurement process now and can begin to negotiate with

Crocker. The Select Board agreed to wait one week before signing the action plan. The item was placed on the agenda for the October 16th meeting.

The Roads: Minutes from October 9 Select Board Meeting.

As a portion of state Chapter 90 funds to be released to towns for FY2019, Sandisfield will receive an additional \$65,296 for a total of \$391,778.

The Rugg Bridge repair has been completed. The new highway garage is moving along quickly. The highway crew continues to work on our dirt roads. Hammertown Road is now open and passable.

Chairman Mark Newman explained that it takes seven times the amount of money to maintain a dirt road as opposed to paved roads. A discussion ensued regarding chipsealing. Ron Bernard, who lives on Cold Spring Road commented on the work done by the contractor. (See page 6.)

Route 57: Minutes from October 9 Select Board Meeting

George Riley reviewed the October 3 five-town meeting in New Marlborough. The towns of New Marlborough, Granville, Tolland, Monterey and Sandisfield are taking a united approach towards getting Route 57 repaired and repaved.

From the state, \$5,000,000 will be made available for New Marlborough, Monterey, and Sandisfield for culvert and prep work. The group is seeking clarification regarding engineering funding and is attempting to set up a meeting with Representative Pignatelli and Senator Hines. Nina Carr commended the Board for working with the other towns, adding that this is the most action she has seen on Route 57 in at least 10 years. Brian O'Rourke stated that the goal is to cooperate with the other four towns so Rt. 57 can be deemed shovel ready, in order to facilitate state funding.

Select Board Report

October has been another busy month at the Select Board table. The departure of the DPW Superintendent and of the Town Accountant necessitated a scramble to keep these two crucial departments functioning.

Fortunately, Mark Newman agreed to step in as Interim Superintendent while we search for a qualified manager of Public Works.

Just as fortunately, Margaret McClellan, an accountant experienced in municipal matters, has been appointed Interim Town Accountant. So, we are glad to report that this office can continue its function with minimal disruption.

On other fronts, the Rugg Bridge project is finally nearing completion after encountering some (quite literal!) bumps in the road. And our Green Communities application passed two more hurdles at the Special Town Meeting.

We are continuing to work on enforcement of the Town's bylaws, some of which involve complex and thorny issues. We are also joining forces with four nearby towns to press the State for a remedy for Route 57.

Some progress has been achieved with broadband (detailed left), but many more steps remain.

Mark Newman, Chairman
Brian O'Rourke
George Riley



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Living With Chipsealing

OTIS GETS ASPHALT, WE GET BLACK GRAVEL

By Ron Bernard

Last year, portions of West Street and a big stretch of Town Hill Road were rebuilt with the chipseal method. This year after months of unexplained delays and nearing the seasonal time limit, sub-contractor All States Asphalt chipsealed nearly four miles of Cold Spring Road, completing the work mid-October.

According to a June Sandisfield Times report, both the Sandisfield DPW and town administrations in 2017 and 2018 advocated for asphalt to restore Cold Spring Road, which suffered serious damage during pipeline construction in 2017. Kinder Morgan, which was only required to repair roads back to "original condition," insisted on chipsealing, a less costly approach with a reported saving of \$180,000.

As part of the same road repair, All States repaved a ½-mile section of Cold Spring Road in West Otis.

Residents were surprised to see that the Otis section was repaved with asphalt while the entire Sandisfield section was chipsealed. I understand that Otis paid for the asphalt possibly entirely or maybe they covered the difference. If the latter is the case, or even if it is not, and the \$180,000 Sandisfield savings figure is accurate (seems low to me), the question



A smoother Cold Spring Road, but gravel and tar are a problem, especially for walkers.

Photo: Ron Bernard

becomes why would the Town of Sandisfield not do the same as Otis? After all, discussions about repaving had been going on for quite a while.

We residents of the Beech Plain section are coming to terms with our new road, a very different animal than what we knew.

For example, right now it is more difficult to walk or ride a bike or motorcycle on this surface because the top layer is granular. Braking at the posted speed is dicey.

Dogs hate it. Grimey gravel can get stuck in their paws. With chipsealing, roadsides are dirtier. Apparently, drainage was not part of the contract – erosion from rain is already evident.

Numerous furrows of chipstone have created a rumbling washboard effect at certain points. The resultant traffic calming is not unwelcomed, however. There is considerably more road noise than before. While annoying, that offers a possible safety benefit because walkers are better alerted to approaching vehicles.

It appears that an extra-thick final layer of chipstone was applied, perhaps as a precaution or for insulation due to the late-season construction. Or maybe it was a standard amount and the contractor expected that traffic would quickly mash and compact the material. Unfortunately, there is not that much traffic on Cold Spring Road to compress the top layer, especially now in colder conditions.

If this top layer of material remains loose much longer and is not swept up before snowplowing, there will be a mess to deal with next spring. Impact on the abutting wetlands is inevitable and could be a problem. Who will be responsible for remediation?

Traffic appears to be going more slowly than before, which is good. Probably drivers want to reduce the amount of tar-laden gravel kicked onto their cars (or at pedestrians). Also, one month in, a new uncomfortable road-feel may be discouraging some through traffic which is noticeably less.

At the October 9 Select Board meeting, the subject of our roads was, as usual, front and center. Chipsealing came up and some of its merits and disadvantages were discussed. Selectman Brian O'Rourke, who has been doing homework in the subject, said that this method is substantially less expensive than traditional asphalt – perhaps as much as 70% cheaper.

It was also stated that the cost of maintaining dirt roads is an astonishing seven times more than for paved roads.

Asphalt lasts for about 15 years while the useful life of chipsealing is five years; around here, maybe less. Then what?

I asked if resurfacing by chipsealing would be the destiny of Sandisfield's paved secondary arteries? It is certainly looking that way. O'Rourke replied, "not necessarily."

Perhaps some of our ancient dirt roads could be chipsealed too, although they are in abysmal condition and would first require significant regrading. We'll see, but financial considerations will drive decisions.

Meanwhile, why not take a ride up there soon and see for yourself? Let me know what you think.

Ron Bernard, a resident of Cold Spring Road since 2001, can be reached at ronbernard@aol.com.

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OUT ON A LIMB: AN OP-ED

Subjects should be interesting to most of us and have a strong link to Sandisfield, written by and for Town residents.

Address either PO Box 584, Sandisfield, or email editor@sandisfieldtimes.org

Vote, November 6

EARLY VOTING AVAILABLE, NOV. 1 AND 2

By Bill Price

The state-wide election will be held November 6 at Old Town Hall, 3 Silverbrook Road, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Registration is closed for this year's voting.

Absentee ballots can be obtained at Town Hall for three specific reasons: (1) Absence from the Town during normal polling hours. (2) Physical disability preventing you from going to the polling place. (3) Religious belief. The last day to vote absentee is November 5, 12:00 noon.

Early voting is available at Town Hall Annex, Thursday, November 1, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., and Friday, November 2, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For questions about voting in the state-wide election, call Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko or Pauline Bakunis at 258-4711, ext. 2.

What Happened in the Primaries?

Of 596 registered voters in Sandisfield, 136 voted, 100 Democrats and 36 Republicans.

For the U.S. Senate, Geoff Diehl won the Republican primary. Democrat incumbent Elizabeth Warren,

running unopposed, won 92 votes of the 100 Democrats voting and is expected to win in November.

In the Republican primary for governor, incumbent Charles Baker won, with 19 votes over Scott Lively's 17. Of the Democrats, Jay Gonzalez won, 51-29, over Bob Massie. Baker is favored to win a second term.

For State Senator and State Representative, incumbent Democrats Adam Hinds and Smitty Pignatelli ran unopposed. There was no Republican candidate for either seat.

The most contested primary was District Attorney for Berkshire County. There was no Republican candidate. In the Democratic race, incumbent Paul Caccaviello faced two challengers, Andrea Harrington and Judith Knight. In Sandisfield, Knight won with 49 out of 100 votes; Harrington second with 38; Caccaviello third with 13 votes. In the full Berkshire County race, Harrington won, becoming the Democratic (and officially only) candidate. Caccaviello, however, has mounted a write-in campaign to challenge Harrington for the DA job. 🗳️



“Good News and Bad News”

FY 2019 PROPERTY TAXES UPDATE

By Times Reporters

Town Assessor Beth Perry on October 9 introduced her briefing to the Select Board about the latest revaluation and its effect on upcoming property tax bills with the phrase, “There’s good news and bad news.”

The good news, she said, is that our tax rate is going down for fiscal year 2019 to a mill rate of 12.03 vs. 13.29 in FY2018, a drop of about 9.5%. Normally, that should mean lower taxes, assuming all things remained basically equal.

However, she said, the calculation of Town taxes is a complicated, dynamic formula involving many elements that include the Town’s budget needs and other state and local funded receipt revenues. Thus, the bad news. Other factors have offset the rate drop producing a slightly unfavorable result for individual taxpayers this time around.

The main problem – which is nothing new – is that Sandisfield’s tax base is overwhelmingly

residential, 86.5%. The commercial and industrial sectors contribute only 2.6% of the base and there has been virtually no growth in these categories. The rest is personal property.

The pipeline expansion added about \$10 million in valuation, which generated an extra \$120,000 in taxes. However, that was offset by more land going into Chapter 61 abatements, an \$85,000 increase in the Town’s budget, and an expected drop of about \$31,000 in local receipts. 🗳️

The Assessor’s office estimates that the average residential tax bill will increase by about \$50.

THE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE ROADS

CONT'D FROM P. 3

Next Steps

A New England Newspaper Association attorney, speaking on behalf of The Sandisfield Times and the interests of taxpayers, said the redactions in the Executive Session minutes appear not to be regarding sensitive privacy matters, which are protected, but further reasons for the termination, and that from the unredacted information there appeared justification to begin a criminal investigation, rather than simply a time-sheet issue. Select Board member George Riley told The Times that no criminal complaint was lodged.

As of press time, the attorney was drafting a formal complaint under the Commonwealth’s Open Meeting Law requesting full disclosure of the minutes.

In its announcement about the termination of the superintendent’s contract, the Board stated that the agreement did not “entail any financial expenditures whatsoever by the Town to Mr. O’Brien.” The Board initiated a widespread search for qualified candidates to fill the superintendent’s position.

The Board is asking all residents of the town “to join it in giving Mark our wholehearted support during this time of transition.” 🗳️

Editor’s Note

In its October issue, the Times reported that a Select Board Executive Session, called for October 2nd to discuss the legal situation regarding the Town’s highway superintendent, was delayed following the resignation of the highway department secretary on the same day. In a clarification, Selectman George Riley wrote in an email that the Times’ report “is technically correct, but could be construed as a cause-and-effect connection. In fact the delay was needed for other reasons.” The Times regrets the implied connection.



Police/Fire/EMS Logs



POLICE

August 911 Incidents

- August 5Motor vehicle accident, Sandisfield Road
- August 5 Dispute, South Beech Plain Road
- August 5Mutual aid, fire, Granville
- August 5Mutual aid, standby, Tolland
- August 6Disabled motor vehicle, South Main Street
- August 13 Disturbance, Sandisfield Road
- August 13 Tree down, Tolland Mountain Road
- August 14 Wires down, Tolland Mountain Road
- August 16 Fire alarm, New Hartford Road
- August 16 Assist individual, Lower West Street
- August 17 Burglar alarm, Sandisfield Road
- August 18 Flooded basement, Sandisfield Road
- August 18 House struck by lightning, Hammertown Road
- August 18Medical call, Sandisfield Road
- August 21Medical call, Sandisfield Road
- August 22 Assist other police department, Route 8
- August 28Motor vehicle accident, Stump Road

September 911 Incidents

- Sept. 1 House/garage fire, Tolland Clubhouse Road
- Sept. 1Medical, Tolland, Clubhouse Road
- Sept. 6Medical, Tolland, Colebrook River Road
- Sept. 8Burglar alarm, Sunny Acres
- Sept. 8Motor vehicle accident, New Hartford Road
- Sept. 9Medical, Sandy Brook Turnpike
- Sept. 10Medical, Sandisfield Road
- Sept. 11Motor vehicle accident, Sandisfield Road
- Sept. 13Burglar alarm, South Sandisfield Road
- Sept. 16Medical, Tolland Rd Otis
- Sept. 18Erratic operation of motor vehicle, North Main Street
- Sept. 19Fire alarm, Sandisfield Road
- Sept. 20Registration check, Sandisfield Road
- Sept. 24Keep the peace, Sandisfield Road
- Sept. 26Burglar alarm, Lake Shore Drive
- Sept. 27Medical, Sandisfield Road
- Sept. 27Court papers service, South Main Street
- Sept. 27Suspicious person, South Main Street
- Sept. 27Suspicious activity, Sandisfield Road
- Sept. 30Unwanted Person, South Main Street



FIRE

August 911 Incidents

- August 5Standby for Tolland FD, on mutual aid call in Granville
- August 5Standby for Tolland FD, on mutual aid call in Granville (rekindle of previous fire)
- August 13 Tree down on Route 57 near Tolland line, DPW assist
- August 16Fire alarm activation, investigate, no fire
- August 18Flooding on Sandisfield Road, DPW assist, check New Hartford Road, Route 183, Silverbrook Road closed
- August 18House struck by lightning, investigate, no fire
- August 28Motor vehicle accident, utility pole and wires down, request Eversource

September 911 Incidents

- Sept. 1 Structure fire, Tolland FD assist, mutual aid
- Sept. 1Rekindle of structure fire, Tolland FD assist, mutual aid
- Sept. 8Assist at motor vehicle accident and landing zone for LIFE STAR helicopter service
- Sept. 11Assist EMS at motor vehicle accident, New Marlborough; ambulance transported patient to Berkshire Medical Center, Pittsfield.
- Sept. 19Carbon monoxide detector activated, evacuated building and investigated



EMS

August 911 Incidents

- August 4Medical call to Tolland, transport to Charlotte Hungerford, Torrington
- August 5Medical call to Tolland, transport to Charlotte Hungerford
- August 5Motorcycle accident, Sandisfield accident on prior call, Southern Berkshire transport to BMC, Pittsfield
- August 10Medical call, Tolland
- August 13Medical call, transport to BMC, Pittsfield
- August 18Medical call, transport to Charlotte Hungerford, Torrington
- August 18Report of tree fallen on motor vehicle, Sandisfield ambulance on prior call, Otis responded, accident unfounded
- August 21Medical call, transport to Fairview Hospital, Great Barrington
- August 28Medical call, Sandisfield unable to respond due to downed utility pole and wires. Southern Berkshire responded and transported to Fairview

September 911 Incidents

- Sept. 2Medical, transport to Fairview
- Sept. 4Medical, no transport
- Sept. 8Motor vehicle accident, move patient to LIFE STAR helicopter transport
- Sept. 9Medical, transport to Fairview
- Sept. 10Medical, Otis ambulance responded, mutual aid
- Sept. 10Medical, transport to Fairview
- Sept. 22Medical, transport to Charlotte-Hungerford
- Sept. 27Medical, transport to Fairview,
- Sept. 27Medical, mutual aid to Tolland, transport to Noble in Westfield

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A Gift to Sandisfield

PRAISE FOR A “SMALL GEM OF A FILM”

Reviewed by Barbara Penn

“A Tree. A Rock. A Cloud.” marks the directorial debut of Karen Allen, the actress and Berkshire resident. The midsummer showing at the Sandisfield Arts Center of the film was its debut in our town, where the story was filmed. The standing room only crowd was enchanted from beginning to end, recognizing familiar places like North Beech Plain Road, the Beech Plain Cemetery, and the Silverbook Café, which was transformed to a 1940s rural roadside café.

Allen’s black-and-white film is based on the short story of the same name by Carson McCullers, who was only 25 when she wrote it. McCullers’ stories are multi-layered with philosophical, religious, and psychological themes surprisingly complex for someone so young.

Allen was also in her twenties when she first read McCuller’s stories and became intrigued by their honesty and uniqueness. As she explained in a discussion after the film, when she first read “A Tree. A Rock. A Cloud.” she could not get the story out of mind. So much so that decades later and after two years of fundraising and meticulous production work on site in Sandisfield, Allen brought the story to life.

Most of the 29-minute film takes place in a rural country diner (our Silverbrook Café), but for this reviewer the opening shot that sets the tone of the film. Allen draws the viewer in with a delicate, almost dream-like feel, as we watch a young newspaper delivery boy riding his bike down a dirt road on a misty early morning, then stopping to sit down in a roadside cemetery under a tree. In this gentle beginning, we can feel the loneliness and longing of the boy – portrayed wonderfully by first-time film actor and Berkshire resident Jackson Smith – without a word being said. All of this being perfectly captured by the achingly beautiful original music of Mark Kelso.

Once the boy enters the diner, he gets a cold reception from the counterman (portrayed by James McMenamin of “Orange is the New Black”).

Jeffery DeMunn, an actor known for his roles in “The Shawshank Redemption” and “The Green Mile” plays an old man sitting alone in the diner who breaks the silence with a declaration aimed at the boy: “I love you.” The boy is as startled as we are, but he does not run away. He sits down in a booth with the man to listen.

Here Allen brings us into the mysterious heart of the story, in dialogue magnificently underplayed by DeMunn. He describes, seemingly out of the blue, being left by his much younger, pregnant wife a dozen-odd years ago, someone who came from “these parts.”



*Karen Allen on the Arts Center stage.
Photo: Peter Levine*

We wonder if the boy could be his son. Or is he everyone’s son, and the old man a kind of master transmitting wisdom to a young disciple?

The contrast between the people at the counter who ignore one another, and the urgent conversation with the boy about connections made and lost, missed and fulfilled, is almost as if McCullers is saying that through heartbreak and loss, there is the possibility of seeing something else, something not personal, but universal.

When the old man says, “When you really get what love is about, you love everyone, and everything,” he echoes both the Buddhist and Christian definition of love. Love, he tells us, for even a tree, a rock, a cloud. Which brings us back to the images from the opening scene.

Many thanks to Karen Allen not only for this transformative film but for her generosity, and that of producer Diane Pearlman, assistant director Midoria Nakumara, and other members of the crew who came and engaged in a lively post-film dialogue with the audience. Also to all of the actors who were each outstanding and contributed to the spell cast by this small gem of a film.

And a very special thanks to Arts Center Board member Peter Baiamonte, who not only worked on the film, but brought it home to Sandisfield. 🍷



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Numbers Never Lie. People Do.

By Chandru Paspuletti

I read the October issue with the article about our Highway Department. Very illuminating.

A travesty caused by the apathy of our residents in not seeking where and how our tax monies are spent to get the best VAR (value added returns) for all our residents, permanent as well as second-home owners.

The income gauge for all locals in our town is telling to say the least. On average, a working resident of Sandisfield makes \$37K annually. Household income in our town ranges \$47K to \$66K versus \$55k in county, \$75K in state and \$58K nationally. (Census, BLS, Capital, Google.)

As an example: an average highway superintendent generally makes in the mid 50K's in towns much larger than ours. Our malaise is our lack of involvement in the town we live in and enjoy every day.

That each of our valuable dollars, earned by our sweat, is not accounted for in due process is unacceptable. Unilateral decisions without satisfactory compliance is not conducive to good government. Don't we all seek the best bang for our buck?

I think second homeowners have as much right as residents in giving their views in town fiscal matters. We need all homeowners involved in being cost effective and efficient that is mutually beneficial to all.

I suggest we form a Compliance Committee to review all matters regarding our town financial matters. This should include – but not limited to – hiring, procurement, infrastructure, and other endeavors that require spending our hard-earned tax dollars.

My family has been in Sandisfield for a couple of decades. My wife has always done her civic duty, be it at school or other projects that enhance our town image. We care and love the people in our town. Sandisfield is a bucolic yet modern in its offerings, melding in a country environment.

Bottom line. We need input from more people to ensure our town's future. We all need a say and we need to say it. 🇺🇸

Chandru Paspuletti and his family have lived on South Beech Plain Road since the mid-1990s.

OUT ON A LIMB: AN OP-ED

Subjects should be interesting to most of us and have a strong link to Sandisfield, written by and for Town residents.

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The Sandisfield Book Club in early October invited author Gareth Higgins, a friend of June Wink, to join in their discussion of Cinematic States, his irreverent but moving examination of major American myths through their most powerful form – motion pictures.

Front row, Jeanne Randorf, Barbara Elton, and June Wink. Second row, Connie Canty, Anita Carr, author Higgins, Steve Kopiec, Susan Van Sickle, and Flora Parisky. Photo: Ellen Crobier



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To Mail or Not to Mail

HOW DO YOU WANT YOUR ANNUAL REPORT?

By Bill Price

“One size doesn’t fit all anymore” was the consensus of the Select Board in a recent discussion of whether or not to mail the Annual Town Report to the household of every registered voter.

Printing and mailing costs of the estimated 80-page report have become prohibitive, especially, said one Select Board member, “If they just wind up in the wood stove.” The reports are useful for understanding how the Town works and what departments and commissions do and what they cost, but if, however, they are not read they are an unnecessary expense to the Town.

The board this year is asking voters to let them know whether:

1. You prefer a published book in the mail;
2. You will pick up a copy at Town Hall Annex, the Town Library or in May at the Annual Town Meeting;
3. You will read the full town report as posted on the town’s website.

Send your preference to Town Clerk, PO Box 90, Sandisfield, MA 01255 or email to TownClerk@sandisfieldma.gov.



JOHN M. CAMPETTI 1948-2018

John Campetti, a lifelong resident of Sandisfield, died October 15 at his home. He was 70.

The only son of the late Maurice and Joyce Allen Campetti, John was born October 13, 1948. He learned his strong work ethic on Tuffy and Joyce’s farm in Roosterville.

He graduated from the former Searles High School in Great Barrington and later attended the Benjamin Franklin Institute in Boston, earning an engineering degree.

A respected land surveyor, John worked for the same company, Foresight Land Services in Pittsfield, for 50 years, ultimately becoming a partner in the firm.

When Tuffy and Joyce later owned what is now MJ Tuckers on Rt. 8, John pitched in to help. An avid motorcyclist, he raced dirt bikes into his 60s and continued riding on the road with friends and family. He loved live music, especially anything he could dance to.

John will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and colleagues.

He is survived by his daughter Jill Campetti of Northampton; his son John Campetti of Bloomfield, CT; his son Christopher Campetti and his wife Randi of West Boylston, MA; his stepson Geoffrey Paletsky of Morris, CT; and his granddaughter Willow Campetti. He also leaves his sister Joy Greenleaf and her husband Thomas of Pittsfield; his sister Candace Craig and her husband George of Torrington; his sister Dawn Pachulski and her husband Eric who reside on the family farm in Sandisfield; as well as many nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

Memorial donations may be made to the Sandisfield Fire Department through Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. To send remembrances to his family please go to the website www.finnertyandstevens.com.

Services for John were held at the Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home in Great Barrington, October 18, with burial at the Sandisfield Center Cemetery.

Sandisfield Historical Society



Honoring Norton

By Ann Wald, President

It is with heavy heart that I write this column this month. We have lost a wonderful man – Norton Fletcher – who had an abundance of historical knowledge, not only about Sandisfield, which he loved, but also of the world.

Norton was loved by everyone who knew him. I was honored to have him in my life and to call him my friend.

November 10, at 11 a.m., we will meet at our building on Rt. 183 to remember Norton, long-time past president of our group and proud veteran of the U.S. Navy, as well as to honor all Sandisfield’s veterans. We invite anyone who would like to share memories or photographs of Norton to join us.

After our meeting, we will have a potluck lunch and host our Annual Wine and Cheese Social.

Ron Bernard’s previously scheduled presentation about Revolutionary War hero and member of the town’s founding family, Col. John Brown, has been postponed until the Society resumes its monthly meetings next year.

Our Christmas Fair will be held Saturday, December 1, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., at Firehouse #2 on Sandisfield Road/Rt. 57. A wide variety of vendors – from Fuller Brush to Lavender soap and all that is in-between – will be on hand for your Christmas and every-day shopping. We say with emphasis – SHOP LOCAL.

We’re looking forward to seeing everyone at both events: to honor Norton and at our Christmas Fair.



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Comings & Goings



NORTON FLETCHER 1923-2018

When Norton Fletcher died October 10, Sandisfield lost one of its most senior citizens as well as much of the living memory of the Town.

"Norton was a member of the Sandisfield Post of the American Legion for 42 years," said Post Commander Maria Domato, "27 years as chaplain. He served in World War II as a cook in the U.S. Navy, and he cooked at all our Legion events. He was famous for his clam chowder. He was a great person, loved by all."

Norton, 95, died after a series of falls at his home and more recently at Lee Healthcare. He was born May 21, 1923, at Lawrence, Long Island, NY, the son of William and Edith (Duthie) Fletcher. A graduate of the Lawrence High School class of 1942, he joined the U.S. Navy for the duration of the war, serving at bases in Portsmouth, NH and New London, CT, until 1946.

His association with Sandisfield began in 1927 when, as a boy of four, his English-born father was chauffeur for Ethel Perkins, a prominent Long Island resident with a summer home in Sandisfield. Mrs. Perkins purchased a small house at the foot of South Beech Plain Road for a residence for her chauffeur and his family. Summering here every year since then, Norton considered that he "grew up" in Sandisfield. When asked at a Historical Society event in 2014 if the town had changed much, he replied, "Fundamentally, no. Living is much more expensive, of course, but Sandisfield today is basically the same place I knew."

After the war, he worked as a chef at the New Boston Inn from 1946 to 1949; a private chef for Mrs. Perkins from 1951 to 1962; and for 15 years a chef at the A. Holly Patterson Home for the Aged in Uniondale, NY, retiring in 1977.

Norton and his wife, Julia (Grosse) Fletcher, whom he married in 1962, moved permanently to their Sandisfield residence in 1977. Norton enjoyed drawing and playing the organ. He was the fifth president of the Sandisfield Historical Society, serving from 1987 until 2006. He returned as president reluctantly in 2008 and served several more years until John Kuzmech was elected president.

Local historian Ron Bernard remembered Norton as an inspiration for those who care about preserving the heritage of Sandisfield. "For 30 years," he said, "Norton carried on the work begun by Harold Smith and others who established the historical society in the early 1970s. He raised awareness and interest in the legacies of our forebearers who built our town. Norton's many contributions are a valuable legacy, and he will be missed."

Norton's wife, Julia, died in 2011. Norton is survived by nephews Steve Reilly and Robert MacKenzie and several cousins.

Vicki Bakunis of River Road, a neighbor of Norton's since the 1970s, was his caregiver for many years. Vicki wrote in an email: "Earlier in our friendship, I helped drive Norton and Julia to appointments. After she died Norton needed someone to help. Whenever we went for a drive

he'd tell me things he remembered as a kid or teenager. He was full of stories. He would have me in stitches. He was quick as a whip!

"The last ten years I became closer to him, and he was a regular at our family gatherings. We will miss him saying grace before our Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas dinners. But I know he's where he wanted to be since the day he lost his Julia.

"There's a saying about cardinals, that they are a sign from heaven: if you see one it's a loved one visiting. The afternoon Norton passed we had a pair, male and female, in our crab apple tree. It was the first time they'd been there in months. The male could not get close enough to the female and chased her all over the tree. Right then and there was my Norton, chasing his Julia. I knew he was happy, and he wanted me to see that he was."

A graveside service was held October 15 at Sandisfield Center Cemetery. The temperature that day was 46F with fog, a constant drizzle and gusty wind. One of the attendees said, "This is an appropriate kind of day. Norton came from good English stock, and he got English weather for his ceremony."

In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made to the Sandisfield Volunteer Ambulance Service in care of the Birches-Roy Funeral Home, 33 South Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

A memorial gathering in his honor will be held at the Sandisfield Historical Society on Sandy Brook Turnpike (Rte. 183) on Saturday, November 10, at 11 a.m. Please come to share pictures, memories, and stories about Norton.

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Smitty At Work

By Tim Brooks

Our state representative in the Massachusetts House, Smitty Pignatelli, is seeking to protect a unique natural monument from losing its protected status, granted in 2016 by the Obama administration. Over 50 of his fellow legislators have signed a letter to the current administration urging protection be maintained for the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument from commercial fishing operations and oil and gas development.

The Monument covers a 5,000 square-mile area approximately 130 miles off the coast of Cape Cod containing deep-sea corals, extinct volcanoes, underwater canyons, and a unique array of marine wildlife. The Antiquities Act designation prevents any commercial extractive uses from taking place within monument borders.

In a press release, Smitty said, "We have data to prove that commercial fishing operations have not suffered in the region since the area was protected, so there is no need to lift any of the current restrictions."

A federal judge denied a lawsuit recently brought forward by fishing associations contesting the creation of the monument, indicating it was within the former administration's authority to protect the underwater area. In the interest of balanced reporting, The Times acknowledges the authority of the current president to erase that protection.



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Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro.

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NOVEMBER

Playgroup on Mondays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m., at the Sandisfield Library Community Room (below the library). Pre-registration not necessary, just bring the kids. The playgroup features a story time in the library. Led by Nina Carr. Free!

YOGA with Alex on Thursdays at 3:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall. This class will feature both chair and floor yoga for all levels including beginners. Sponsored by the Council on Aging.

Crafts with Lynn at the Library. Call the library for information (258-4966).

State Election Voting on Tuesday, November 6, from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall on Sandy Brook Turnpike off Route 57.

Historical Society Meeting & Wine and Cheese Social on Saturday, November 10, 11 a.m., at the Old Meeting House on Sandybrook Turnpike. We will honor our former president, local historian and long-time Sandisfield resident, Norton Fletcher, who died in October. A wine and cheese social will follow. For more information, contact Ann Wald (258-4415 or annaw@verizon.net).

New Boston Church Service on Sunday, November 11 at 10:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church, Route 57. All are welcome.

Free Movie Night for Grown-Ups with Potluck Dinner on Friday, November 9, 6:00 p.m., at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Bring a dish to share.

Pizza and Cards on Wednesday, November 14, noon, at the Council on Aging, basement level of the Town Hall Annex. Also, a salute to our veterans. Open to all seniors.

Fall Flower Arrangement Class on Friday, November 16, 2:00 p.m., at the Council on Aging, basement level of the Town Hall Annex. Please call 258-4816 or 258-4700 to register. \$10.

Simon Winchester on *The Perfectionists* on Saturday, November 24, 4:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. In his new book, Simon traces the development of technology from the Industrial Age to the Digital Age, exploring the single component crucial to advancement – precision – in a superb history that is both homage to the past and a warning for our future. \$25.

Blood Pressure Clinic on Wednesday, November 28, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., at the Council on Aging, basement level of the Town Hall Annex. Come and talk to the nurse about any concerns you may have. Free.

SAVE THE DATE

Sandisfield Holiday Fair on Saturday, December 1, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at Firehouse #2 on Route 57. Penny Auction, Raffles, Crafts, Food, and FUN! Maybe Santa will make a visit!

After you go to the Holiday Fair, stop at the **Monterey Holiday Market** on Saturday, December 1, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Monterey Community Center, 468 Main Road. Silversmith, blacksmith, handcrafted items and paintings from Monterey artisans. Homemade food on-site, Berkshire Sting Honey. Call 413-528-3600 for information.

OTHER EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

Green Friday on Friday, November 23, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Bartholomew's Cobble in Sheffield. Hit the trails and hike off that Thanksgiving dinner! Admission and parking is free. Visit thetrustees.org for more details.

Mandala Magic Workshop on Wednesday, November 28, 10 to 11:30 a.m., with Susan Cain at the Monterey Community Center. Participants should bring Bristol paper (available at any art store) and a coloring medium of choice such as gel pens, colored pencils, or markers. All other supplies will be provided. Please register at center@ccmonterey.org or call 413-528-3600. Free.

OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Former Sandisfield resident **Liana Toscanini** announces the 2018-19 issue of "Giving Back: Your Guide to Charitable Opportunities in the Berkshires." Published as a service by the Non-Profit Center of Berkshires, the guide is a directory of some 1,000 Berkshire nonprofit organizations. The Sandisfield Times and the Sandisfield Arts Center have sponsored pages in this issue. Copies are available in town at the Arts Center, the post office, and the library. For more information, contact the NPC at (413) 441-9542 or liana@npcberkshires.org.



SUSAN CROFUT Watercolors

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The Times' founding editor and
the place of the newspaper in the Town.*

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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), Knox Trail Inn, and the Laundromat. Available also at Roadside Café in Monterey, the Southfield Store in New Marlborough, and at the general store and post office in Colebrook. Back issues are available for purchase.

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