

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

Tribunus



Plebis

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume IX, Number 9

December 2018

Sandisfield Taps New Highway Chief

By Seth Kershner

East Otis resident Brad Curry has been picked by the Select Board to become the next superintendent of the Department of Public Works.

Curry, whose selection was announced December 3, has served 11 years as Highway Superintendent for the town of Blandford, where he successfully applied for and won state assistance through MassDOT's Small Bridge grants and the Small Town Road Assistance Program. His resume also includes stints as Co-Emergency Management Director and Water Commissioner in Blandford and President of Berkshire County Highway Association.

Eleven applicants applied for the job, which was posted in mid-October following the voluntary resignation of Bobby O'Brien. Since then, selectman Mark Newman has supervised the DPW – which includes the Highway Department – on an interim basis. **CONT'D P.3**



Cindy Ragusa of Otis, a regular contributor of local nature photos to The Times, was surprised to see this obliging barred owl visiting her back porch when she returned home the evening of November 2. Could the word be out among the avian community that Cindy takes great portraits?

Town Tries New Tack on Campers

UNPERMITTED DWELLINGS FACE RESTRICTIONS UNDER BYLAWS

By Sandisfield Times Reporters

After more than a year of debate and complaints from abutters, the Town of Sandisfield is cracking down on property owners who live in campers without proper permits.

Since January, the issue of unpermitted camper living has been a topic of almost weekly discussion at Select Board meetings. Abutters, angry about what they see as a form of blight in their neighborhoods, have spoken publicly at some of these meetings.

The summer months saw the Town make attempts – with mixed results – to reach five property owners with a registered letter informing them of the camper ordinance. Since then, one owner has put their camper to sleep for the winter while another has removed it from their property altogether. In at least two cases, however, property owners have still not responded to the Town's appeals.

Valerie Bird, a Board of Health agent who consults with Sandisfield and more than a dozen other towns, has advised the Select Board on the next steps it can take. In a phone conversation, selectman Brian O'Rourke said that the Board currently has a lot on its plate. But in the coming weeks he expects to present their plan on pursuing action against the scofflaw campers to the Town's zoning enforcement officer and its sanitarian to see who's willing to take the lead in each case.

Town bylaws currently allow little leeway for camper-dwellers. **CONT'D P. 3**

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Lost Dog, Beech Plain Vicinity



Have you seen our dog, Moonshine?

He is a 10-year old un-neutered male beagle, last seen the evening of October 31 at his home on Beech Plain Road near Hammertown Road. Moonshine is tri-color, mostly black, with a white-tipped tail and is wearing a blue collar. He is very friendly but loves to go "hunting" in the woods.

We hope that someone has taken him in. Please contact Nicole Hryckvich, 413-717-7410. 🐾

How Do You Want Your Annual Report?

MAIL, PICK UP, OR READ ONLY?

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. 🐾

Voting Results: November 6

Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko reported 375 voters in the November 6 election, out of 603 registered voters. This was more than 100 fewer voters than in 2016, when a presidential race boosted turnout. Still, Dolores was pleasantly surprised. "It was the largest midterm that I recall," she told the Times. Early voting was especially popular with Town residents, with 63 voting early and 27 casting absentee ballots.

Statewide and County Elections

* Also won state or county district election

SENATOR IN CONGRESS

Elizabeth Warren	236*
Geoff Diehl	126

GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Baker/Pulito	189*
Gonzalez/Palfrey	175

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Maura Healey	236*
James McMahan, III.	132

SECRETARY OF STATE

William Galvin	235*
Anthony Amore.	117

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Andrea Harrington	238*
Paul Caccaviello.	63

UNOPPOSED

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

Richard Neal

SENATOR IN GENERAL COURT

Adam Hinds

REPRESENTATIVE IN GENERAL COURT

William "Smitty" Pignatelli

QUESTION 1:

LIMIT NURSE-TO-PATIENT RATIO

(Rejected Statewide: 70%)

Yes	118
No	238

QUESTION 2:

CREATE CITIZENS COMMISSION

(Accepted Statewide: 71%)

Yes	259
No	94

QUESTION 3:

KEEPING GENDER IDENTITY IN ANTIDISCRIMINATION LAW

(Accepted Statewide: 68%)

Yes	232
No	117



A Distribution Box for The Times

Transfer Station attendant Tony Melloni poses with our new distribution box installed last month at the facility. Mike Loring, a terrific and generous Sandisfield carpenter, donated his expertise and the materials to construct this beautiful box. A very pleased Tony told us, "This is great. I've been hoping for something like this because I don't like to leave copies exposed to the elements." Now readers can be assured of clean, dry copies at all times and conditions.

Photo: Ron Bernard

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

DONATIONS ARE CRITICAL TO OUR SURVIVAL

We are grateful to readers who have supported the paper over the nearly nine years we've been publishing. We're also grateful to those of you who have responded already to this year's Appeal. Your support has grown every year, and we hope that continues. The income from our annual Appeal carries us over the coming year.

This year, for whatever reason, our annual donations and Appeal results through November have lagged a lot.

In fact, your donations are critical to the paper's survival. Advertising revenue helps, but advertising income varies from month to month. Mail subscriptions are important, especially as a service, but do not contribute much to general revenue. Our online edition, free to readers, also has a substantial cost.

Except for professional design, all of us who work on the paper are volunteers. Ours is a labor of love. We hope that we are living up to your expectations and that our love is requited.

We think of The Times as a community builder that helps bring people together, which is especially important in a town with no true center. If it sounds bold to say that The Times acts as the town center, please forgive the hyperbole. But our aim is to keep the community informed and connected. We need your help to continue to do that.

Again, our appreciation to those of you who have already responded to our annual Appeal. To those of you who haven't yet, please send your donation before the end of the year. And thank you.

Happy New Year!!!

Bill Price
West New Boston

Tommy Whelan

Tommy Whelan and I were about the same age. I went to college and he stayed on the farm. (I mostly remember the two of us sitting behind a traveling combine while the soy beans poured all over us.)

We used to go over to Paris, Illinois, Driving 100 miles an hour ... to see our girls Who let us kiss them when we got past The 90 degree corner at Ashmore.

It was 1950, and the Korean War began. I was deferred. and Tommy went to Korea. Tommy learned to shoot, and I drank 3.2 beer. He was captured up on the Yalu River. I was in all the plays, and they tried to twist his brain.

After awhile they gave up and sent him home. He was broken but unbowed. I got drafted too, but the war was over So I ran the movie projector at Fort Monmouth.

The first night home Tommy drove to Paris, Illinois. He missed the corner at Ashmore. They told me he was going 100 miles an hour And was terrible killed.

I'm still around.

Val Coleman
West New Boston

SANDISFIELD TAPS NEW HIGHWAY CHIEF

CONT'D FROM P.1

At the November 19 Select Board meeting, Town residents praised Newman for his work so far, including a regrading of Shade Road.

With a fiscal 2019 DPW budget of about \$646,000, the new superintendent will be responsible for overseeing maintenance and repairs to Town-owned roads and properties. Curry will also supervise a staff of three full-time workers who are covered by a contract with the American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees.

Winter maintenance of the Town's 81 miles of roadways has been a subject of numerous complaints from residents over the years. After the surprise snowfall of mid-November, the Connect Sandisfield Facebook page lit up with comments, many noting the stark differences between road conditions in Sandisfield and a neighboring village to the east.

The Town will offer Curry an official contract upon satisfactory completion of a six-month probationary period.

At the announcement of the Board's decision to offer him the job, Selectman Newman said of Curry: "He has a very impressive resume and a large well of knowledge about sources of state funding for small towns like ours. He'll be a great addition to Sandisfield."

TOWN TRIES NEW TACK ON CAMPERS

CONT'D FROM P.1

At an October Select Board meeting, Eric Munson, the Town's zoning enforcement officer and building inspector, explained that a property owner may live in a camper only after first going before the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Board of Health. After completing those steps, the property owner may obtain a special permit to live in their camper from the Board of Selectmen.

However, Munson continued, bylaws identify just one valid reason for the Town to issue this

permit: to accommodate a property owner needing temporary quarters while building a permanent home. None of the camper-dwellers identified by the Town have such a permit.

The Town's attorney has said that in these cases bylaws must be balanced with common sense and a spirit of cooperation. At a Select Board meeting in June, the Board agreed that it was not their intention to stop someone from occasionally using their land for a camper as long as they were no complaints from neighbors and other residents.

Selectman Brian O'Rourke maintained that the Select Board wanted to "take the personal aspect" out of a policy that had for years been inconsistently enforced.

O'Rourke says he understands those who would rather the Town not interfere with anyone's right to live in their camper. Any change to the bylaws would have to go through the annual town meeting, scheduled in May 2019. Until then, O'Rourke says, Town officials have a responsibility to enforce the existing policy. 🇺🇸



A trailer/camper on Dodd Road, inhabited until recently.

Road Superintendent Faced Further Allegations

SECOND REQUEST FOR REDACTED MINUTES

By *Brigitte Ruthman and Bill Price*

The season's first snowstorm in mid-November emphasized the importance of filling what Selectmen George Riley has referred to as the "key position" of highway superintendent.

The vacancy in the position was due to the fact that former DPW Chief Bobby O'Brien, placed on administrative leave September 24, was fired October 11. Select Board Chairman Mark Newman, having served as volunteer interim chief since then, was placed on the DPW payroll in early November. He will serve until a new chief is on the job.

THE REQUEST FOR REDACTED INFORMATION

Minutes of the Select Board executive meeting of September 20, where allegations of misconduct by the former DPW superintendent were discussed, were originally obtained through a public records request by The Times in October. Although heavily redacted, the minutes revealed that an investigation by town officials beginning in July uncovered allegations of theft of time by the superintendent, as The Times reported last month.

Following its original public records request, the Times made a follow-up request for the sections of the minutes that had been redacted. This request was granted by the Sandisfield Select Board in mid-November, with some sections still redacted. The unredacted minutes, however, revealed further allegations against O'Brien: that charges were

made to the town for asphalt used for his personal contracting business and a theft of fuel.

The Board, Selectman Riley said, decided not to press criminal charges because the benefit to the town would have been minimal. Rather, efforts were devoted to the search for a qualified replacement who did not have a conflict of interest with his DPW duties. O'Brien's ownership of a construction business should have prevented his hiring as superintendent based on conflict of interest guidelines, said Riley, who noted that one of the 11 current candidates was disqualified for the same reason.

After Selectmen began "taking notice" of the timesheet discrepancies in July, the newly unredacted minutes show that, in addition to billing the town for time while in fact he worked on two New Boston driveways with his own construction firm, O'Brien billed the town for the purchase of the asphalt used on the driveways. There is no indication that either recipient of the asphalt was aware the material had been charged to the taxpayers' tab.

The asphalt was purchased from Century Aggregates in Canaan, Conn. Century's manager, whose name remained sealed, agreed to sign a statement claiming O'Brien's intention was "clearly to charge the town."

According to the minutes, after learning of the investigation on September 12 O'Brien attempted to "cover or clean up his illegal behavior" by calling Century and claiming "it was a mistake" and offering to pay. Century, having been "directed by Bob to originally charge the asphalt to the town account [would not] have delivered without a payment method prearranged."

According to the unredacted minutes of the September 20 meeting, Police Chief Michael Morrison, in attendance, "reiterated" to Selectmen that "stealing is stealing, whether it is time or asphalt" and recommended pursuing criminal charges. He added that "load slips [at Century] show clear intent of fraud. The timesheets prove

theft of time."

Also revealed in the minutes was an allegation regarding a theft of fuel, that O'Brien had been observed filling his personal excavator in July on Hammertown Road from a town fuel truck.

Presented with the series of allegations in early October, O'Brien agreed to be fired. At press time, he had not responded to a request for comment from The Times.

By press time, a new town garage was expected to be in use, a replacement for the garage lost last December to the fire of unknown origin that destroyed not only the garage but four highway trucks and much of the town's road equipment. Inside the new garage will be four highway trucks in "good working order," Riley said. The four trucks include the "best of the trucks" donated to the town following the fire and two new trucks purchased with insurance proceeds. ❧



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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

Snooper Troopers?

PHOTOGRAPHY WITHIN BOUNDS, SAY STATE POLICE

By Seth Kershner

Nearly a year after pipeline protests ended, state police officials are finally ready to open up – to a degree – about why they routinely took photos and videos of activists and journalists at the protest site along Cold Spring Road.

Demonstrations against pipeline construction on Cold Spring Road lasted between May and November 2017. The months-long security detail resulted in payments of more than \$1 million to the state police from Kinder Morgan.

Media reports at the time reported on residents' frustration with the police presence, and noted troopers who snapped photos of protesters. The Sandisfield Times first reached out to the state police to ask about the photography in December 2017. Two months later the agency's spokesman sent a brief reply by email, but declined to answer specific questions.

Until now.

Using the public records law, The Times has been able to obtain a small cache of still pictures and videos taken by troopers making arrests in September 2017. However, the state police have shown little cooperation in obtaining the full amount of pictures taken. For example, the agency's public records division claimed not to find any photos taken by Lt. Jeffrey McDonald during a protest in early October 2017, even though he had been identified as the snapper by The Berkshire Record.

In a statement to the Times, agency spokesman David Procopio wrote that in order to ensure the "safety and rights of all individuals at large public gatherings of any type," the state police must "document the activity of all participants and interactions between police and civilians, to protect the rights of everyone involved."

According to Procopio, troopers taking photos were assigned to a special division called the Crime Scene Services Section.

When out-of-town protesters drove a van onto the pipeline site in September 2017, police photos would have been useful in making



In September 2017, state police photographers captured this shot of protesters sitting atop an illegally-parked van near the pipeline right-of-way.

their case for prosecution. However, state police photographers kept up their surveillance even on days when no arrests were made. For reasons that are still unclear, troopers also photographed journalists who were at the pipeline site.

Heather Bellow, a reporter who covers Sandisfield for The Berkshire Eagle, told The Times that she had noticed the presence of police photographers from the day protests started in May 2017. But one incident sticks out in her mind. Once, she said, she had been at the protest site when a trooper drove up, parking her vehicle on South Beech Plain Road (where Kinder Morgan had set up a temporary headquarters). The trooper then unpacked her equipment, including a tripod, and began photographing everyone present, showing particular interest in Heather. "I'm sure they took pictures of me before and I just never noticed," Bellow recalled. "But this time they really seemed to be isolating people."

The state police has a history of "isolating people." From the 1950s until the mid-1970s, troopers assigned to the agency's "Division of Subversive Activities" monitored protests, took photos of demonstrators and maintained files on civil rights activists, antiwar college students, and other so-called troublemakers.

But Sandisfielders should be relieved to know that those practices are all – ostensibly – in the past. Procopio maintains that the state police long ago ceased its political surveillance activities.

Winter Advisory

Advice from your Select Board: Several recent accidents in or near Sandisfield have involved vehicles with so-called "all-season" tires. "All-season" is misleading. It's not valid for New England. You need winter tires on your vehicle. If you live here on a dirt road, you probably need studded tires. And don't think 4-wheel drive will help you stop faster on snow or ice – it doesn't. Only winter tires can help with that. So get 'em on. You, and we all, will be glad you did.



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

"Murder in Sandisfield." Really?

By Ron Bernard

What is it about country legends that people love? Maybe it is because the subjects are no longer around to defend themselves? Life is replete with improbable events. Yet, usually there is at least a kernel of truth in them even as a story evolves and is distorted through retelling.

Following is an account of the legend called "Murder in Sandisfield" which supposedly took place in a wild and lawless Sandisfield in about 1901.

The story was last known to have been told by Sam Wilber (1926-83), Sandisfield Chief of Police, probably at a Sandisfield Historical Society meeting maybe in 1972. His account soon appeared in the Springfield Republican, a very reputable newspaper. Some years later the Sandisfield Newsletter, our predecessor publication also very reputable, reprinted it. We reprint it again here, for your consideration.

Wilber was the subject of an article in the Times in April, 2017 ("A Life of Community Service," pp.10-11). He started as town constable in 1949 and retired in 1975 as Chief of Police. Unselfish and affable, Sam Wilber was a beloved figure in the community. He was also known for tall tales which he relished and told with a straight face.

This particular story is shocking to say the least. Could these things have really happened here? But, hey, the story teller was the police chief after all. He wouldn't fib, no way. And he knew what he was talking about, right?

Frankly, dear readers, I have been unable to find any kernels of truth at all. None of the incidents or the names of the wrongdoers are familiar. The premise - buried Confederate treasure in the woods of Sandisfield - defies credulity. In those days Hen Manley, long-time local columnist and irrepressible busybody, wrote weekly about what was happening in this backwater. Nothing escaped him. I have probably read every one of his columns and no such shenanigans were ever mentioned.

However, we thought "Murder in Sandisfield" deserved another reprise. You be the judge. 🍷

Murder in Sandisfield

by Wilhelmina H. Tryon

It is hard to believe that the quiet little Berkshire County hill town of Sandisfield was once known as "Hell's Little Corner." According to the Springfield Sunday Republican of May 7, 1972, the then Chief of Police, Sam R. Wilber said that the Sandisfield area was once the scene of a major crime wave that rivaled the lawlessness of a large city. Chief Wilber, a deputy sheriff in Berkshire County in 1972, was talking about the early 1900s when Sandisfield was known as "Hell's Little Corner."

Sandisfield, at the turn of the century, was a wild lumber town with no regard for law and order. Gang fights took place in the streets. Moonshine flowed like water and there were rowdy gambling dens run by the lumberjacks or their female followers, operating twenty-four hours a day. During this vice and crime period, suddenly they had a series of baffling murders that defined reason and kept the townspeople in constant fear.

A Captain Simon Cahill, a strange seafaring man from New Bedford, rode into Sandisfield on October 3, 1901 and moved into the old Sterk home. In the evening, Cahill went to a local inn and met with a lumberjack named Buck Garriner. They talked for about an hour in the tap room and left. Cahill and Garriner were seen around town together for about five days wearing pistols and carrying picks and shovels.

On October 8th, Cahill suddenly packed his saddlebags, mounted his horse and left town. The next day a wagon driver returning from Granville discovered the body of the captain, lying in a pool of blood, behind some bushes beside the road, about two miles east of Sandisfield. His throat had been slit from ear to ear.

The captain's wallet contained a sizable amount of money and there was no sign of a struggle, so robbery was not the motive. His horse and saddlebags were recovered about an hour later. The captain's pistol had not been drawn, so he had not attempted to defend himself. Had he known his assailant?

Buck Garriner was the first blamed for the captain's untimely death, but then on October 10th, Buck Garriner's mutilated body was found on a wagon road near the West Street section. This time the victim's body had been hacked to pieces with an ax. The ax was found buried in the leaves near the body.

As in the murder of Captain Cahill, there was no apparent motive. Garriner had been armed, was an experienced woodsman and the dry leaves would have warned of anyone approaching. Did he too know his assailant?

For some unknown reason the people of Sandisfield began to refer to the killer as "The Spider." News of the hideous murders had swept through the community like wildfire. Fearful to leave their homes at night, they gathered at the General Store by day to discuss the killer who struck without warning and then, as quickly, disappeared. Little did they know the vicious "Spider" was about to strike again.

At a local tavern, a lumberjack simply known as "Scar" came in on October 13th and ordered drinks. He became very intoxicated and talked about a secret treasure map which showed the location of a buried treasure of 50,000 dollars in gold coin. It was supposed to be somewhere deep in the Sandisfield woods. Although "Scar" didn't reveal the source of his information, he said it was a Confederate payroll that had disappeared from Confederate Army Headquarters in Richmond, Virginia near the close of the Civil War. Did the "Spider" overhear the conversation?

Anyhow, the lumberjack called "Scar" staggered out of the tavern and was never again seen alive. The body of "Scar" was found floating face down in a pool in the Farmington River by a group of boys playing along the riverbank. Lying in the water, his hands tied behind his back: he had been strangled by a piece of barbed wire. Why had he been killed and did he know too much?

To this day no one knows the identity of the "Spider" and the murders remain unsolved. In the words of Chief Wilber in 1972, "Back in those days, the rough and tumble lumberjacks had their own code of law and let it be known they wanted no interference from outsiders was very difficult for a police officer to get anyone to testify in a court of law, regardless of what the case might involve, including homicide. If "Scar" was correct about that army payroll, some fortune seeker may yet look for the buried gold in the West Street woods. Would he be superstitious and fear the return of the "Spider"? 🍷

The Sandisfield Newsletter acknowledged thanks to Hazel Lee & Fred Slater who uncovered this forgotten article.

Select Board Report

Never a dull moment at the Select Board. A few major projects have been completed: the Rugg Bridge is done, except for the approaches, but we are still sorting out who pays for what; our Green Communities application was submitted on time, thanks to valiant efforts by many, especially Nina Carr and Larry Dwyer. We are now awaiting a response from the State.

Progress is also being made on several fronts: Mark Newman was officially appointed as Interim DPW Superintendent and by all accounts is doing a heroic job in organizing the Department as well as keeping up with our snow- and rain-hammered roads. (Incidentally, he reports to the Town Administrator, and has recused himself from any DPW business before the Select Board.) The walls are up at the new DPW garage, the roof nailed down, and the building enclosed. Mark expects the DPW can move in by the beginning of December.

We have screened applications for a new DPW Superintendent, and by the time this issue of the Times goes to print we will have made a decision on who will lead the department. We also hired Keith Larson as a DPW Laborer, just in time for the snow to start flying. We are delighted to have him as an excellent addition to our highway crew.

Margaret McClellan has also come rapidly and smoothly up to speed as Town Accountant, for which we are grateful as we head into the thick of budget season.

We received and fulfilled a public records request from the Sandisfield Times.

Budget work sessions are in progress, and we had a joint work session with the Finance Committee. Selectmen Riley and O'Rourke attended a Berkshire County Selectmen's meeting with Senator Hinds, with Chapter 90 funding being a major focus. For FY2019, we are pleased to report that Sandisfield has been awarded an additional \$65,296 for a total of \$391,778.

As regards Route 57, we hosted a second 5-town meeting, attended by Rep. Smitty Pignatelli, who encouraged us to continue working together. Next steps include counting culverts and stream crossings, collecting traffic data, and seeking estimates for engineering work, all of which will have to be done before presenting a comprehensive multi-year plan to the State for the entire stretch of 57 that runs from Monterey to Granville.

Bylaw enforcement continues to be a problem. Troublesome culverts, trailers, and the transfer station represent issues that are still resistant to our efforts.

But we may soon be making some progress with broadband! Stay tuned... 

Mark Newman
Brian O'Rourke
George Riley



Beech Plain resident Jeff Gonyeau captured this nonchalant fellow reposing at eye level on a tree branch near Cold Spring Road on November 4

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Transfer Station Fee

2019 fee will remain at \$65 per household.

Stickers are available at Town Hall annex Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. or by mail. By mail, include name, mailing address, Sandisfield street address, license plate numbers of up to two vehicles, and number of stickers needed (one or two). Send a check made out to Town of Sandisfield to PO Box 163, Sandisfield, MA 01255, and include a self-addressed stamped return envelope.

License plate numbers for each vehicle/vehicles on which the stickers will be placed must be provided or stickers will not be issued. Each household needs its own sticker number. If you have a caretaker or someone who picks up trash for you, they must have a sticker number for your household.

Questions, please call 258-4711, ext. 2.

Police/Fire/EMS Logs



POLICE

October 911 Incidents

- October 1 Sandisfield Road, assist citizen
- October 1 Silverbrook Road, unwanted party
- October 3 Sandisfield Road, investigation
- October 3 S. Beech Plain, court paperwork service
- October 3 Sandisfield Road, medical
- October 6 West Street, citizen notification
- October 8 Deer Run, fire alarm
- October 10 . Sandy Brook Turnpike, domestic disturbance
- October 10 South Beech Plain, medical
- October 11 Sandisfield Road, medical
- October 11 . . Sandy Brook Turnpike, citizen notification
- October 11 Clark Road, citizen assist
- October 11 Sandisfield Road, well-being check
- October 13 Silverbrook Road, medical
- October 15 Sandisfield Road, assist citizen
- October 16 Tamarack Trail, burglar alarm
- October 20 Rood Road, illegal dumping
- October 20 Viets Road, fire alarm
- October 23 Sandisfield Road, suspicious activity
- October 24 Main Street, erratic operator
- October 24 North Main Street, suspicious activity
- October 25 Sandisfield Road, suspicious person
- October 27 Lower West Street, investigation
- October 27 New Hartford Road, tree on wires
- October 27 North Beech Plain, fire alarm
- October 27 Sandisfield 911 hang up
- October 27 Sandisfield Road, wires down
- October 28 Sandisfield Road, investigation



FIRE

October 911 Incidents

- October 8 Fire alarm activation, no fire
- October 10 Fire alarm activation, accidental
- October 13 . . . Fire alarm activation, accidental (cooking)
- October 15 . . . Fire alarm activation, accidental (cooking)
- October 20 . . . Fire alarm activation, accidental, no fire
- October 27 . Tree and wires down, stand-by for Eversource
- October 27 . . Power lines down, stand-by for Eversource
- October 27 . . . Fire alarm activation, accidental, no fire



EMS

October 911 Incidents

- October 1 Medical call, transport to Fairview
- October 1 Medical call, mutual aid to Tolland, Granville Ambulance transported
- October 10 Medical call, no transport
- October 11 Medical call, transport to Fairview
- October 13 Medical call, no transport
- October 13 Medical call, mutual aid to Tolland, transport to Charlotte-Hungerford
- October 15 Medical call, no transport
- October 26 Medical call, transport to Charlotte-Hungerford
- October 26 Medical call, Otis Ambulance responded since Sandisfield EMS was on prior call
- October 27 Medical call, mutual aid to Tolland, transport to Charlotte-Hungerford, patient transferred from ambulance to LIFE STAR helicopter at hospital
- October 27 Medical call, transport to Fairview

Sandisfield Historical Society



Homage to Norton

By Ann Wald, President

The society's November meeting was held on the 10th dedicated in the honor of our past president, Norton Fletcher, who died on October 10. It was a great day.

A full house was in attendance to tell stories and share memories of this wonderful man who will be sorely missed. Grateful thanks to everyone who brought an abundance of food to share. Lunch was followed by our annual wine and cheese social. Ray Bakunis made the ramp that allowed one of Norton's oldest friends to take part.

Our Christmas fair will be held on December 1 at Fire House No. 2 with vendors from near and far. Hope to see you all there. Thanks to all for supporting the society through this year and all through 2019.



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Yuletide Celebration at the Arts Center

CLOSING OUT THE SEASON WITH WINCHESTER, WHEELER, AND FAMILY FUN

By Hilde Weisert

Along with a gorgeous full moon rising, November at the Sandisfield Arts Center ended with an annual treat – Simon Winchester’s talk on his latest book. This year, the masterful *The Perfectionists: How Precision Engineering Created the Modern World*, was bracing enough to lift anyone out of their post-Thanksgiving funk.

Local preservation expert George Wheeler kicks off December with “Remember the Alamo,” a slide presentation and talk providing new insights into an emblematic building whose history continues to play a role in current events (December 1, 4 p.m.).

The 2018 season wraps up with a holiday-themed family weekend, beginning with the free “Yuletide Festival” with crafts, ornament-making, caroling, and more (December 8, 1 p.m.). Return on Sunday, December 9 at 2 p.m. for the “Yuletide Extravaganza,” with humorous and entertaining vignettes from the Sandisfield Players, the Sandisfield choir, and other special performances. That’s also the last day to see artist Susie Crofut’s show in the Gallery downstairs.

Soon after the Festival, a team of volunteers will put the Arts Center to bed for the winter, draining

pipes, and securely stowing paper cups, napkins, and other supplies out of reach of wily Sandisfield mice. This year, we’ll also put our new Steinway baby grand into hibernation with its own coat, little heater, and humidifier to keep the sounding board from cracking and the key felts from drying out.

In this season of thanksgiving and celebration, we are grateful for the people who make our programs possible and keep our historic building safe and sound: our trusty, hard-working volunteers, our donors (still time to donate for 2018 at www.sandisfieldartscenter.org!), our audience, our local advertisers, the Cultural Councils of Sandisfield, Otis, and Massachusetts, and the wonderful Sandisfield community, our home.

Looking ahead to next April, the water will be turned on, mice escorted out, and our doors will open on a season to include a free workshop on taking better pictures with your smartphone, a return performance by mesmerizing pianist Frederick Moyer (he of the Moyercam keyboard projection system), more free family and grown-up films, and the Sandisfield Players in “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.” See you in the spring!

FOR ONLINE READERS: A Special Christmas Tree

A short story by Val Coleman, “The Christmas Tree,” is posted on The Times’ website at <http://sandisfieldtimes.org/TheChristmasTree.htm>. The story will be read by the author at the Sandisfield Arts Center at the Annual Yuletide Extravaganza, December 9, at 2 p.m. Don’t miss it. The leading character in Val’s story is a Sandisfield pine tree that just wants to be left alone.




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A Work of Many Hands

By Lorraine German

From the preface to *Soil and Shul in the Berkshires*:

In the summer of 2012, Sandisfield celebrated its 250th anniversary. One of the products of that celebration was *Sandisfield Then and Now: 1762-2012*, a book by local author Ron Bernard that chronicled the town's history. As extensive as the book is, it didn't sufficiently tell the story of the Jewish community that has been part of Sandisfield since the early 20th century.

Three years later, in the fall of 2015, Sandisfield Arts Center board member Sandy Parisky and his wife, Flora, invited Albert Stern, editor of the Berkshire Jewish Voice, to visit the Arts Center. Sandy and Flora asked Ron to join them to provide some historical background on the building, first as a Baptist church and later as a Jewish synagogue. The visit prompted Sandy, Flora, and Ron to take another look at documenting a long-neglected piece of Sandisfield's history. In February 2016, Ron asked me if I would write the story. Flora's article about Sandisfield's historic synagogue in the April 2016 issue of the Berkshire Jewish Voice helped generate interest in the book project.


The project's first step was to form an advisory committee and this book wouldn't have been possible without the efforts of its members: Ron Bernard, Nina Carr, Steve and Lorraine German, Joanne Olson, Flora and Sandy Parisky, Cindy Pinsky, Anita Shapiro, and Charlotte Westhead. Some of the members are descended from the original Jewish community. Others joined because they believed it was a story that needed to be told. Sadly, Sandy didn't live to see the publication of the book he had championed for so long.

The Board of Directors of the Sandisfield Arts Center arranged for the Arts Center to be the project's fiscal sponsor. Our committee is deeply grateful to them for their support. We would also like to thank the Wasserman Streit Y'DIYAH Memorial Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, the Sandisfield Cultural Council, the Otis Cultural Council, and the Feigenbaum Foundation for their generous grants.

The story of Sandisfield's Jewish community is a story of families, and our committee members were gratified to hear from so many families who had ties to that community. My thanks to Michael Barrie, Gertrud Michelson, Eleanor Skolnick, Rose Petrokofsky, Robert Schachter, Marvin Sandler, Jerry Jacobson, George Rothstein, Marilyn Leiman, Nina Carr, Joanne Olson, Steve German, Cindy Pinsky, Trude Reisner, Helen Nejfelt, Madeline Johnson, Paul Newman, David Moss, Martha Conway, Joan Petrokofsky, Bernice Jensky, Arie Haller, Linda Boteach, Barbara Boas, Carol Kessler, Sheila Gamradt, Fred and Michelle Harwood, Ron Linder, Andrew and Lynn Pyenson, Paul and Lucille Siegel, Toni Conn, Miriam Bazensky, Nina Hryckvich, Walter Linkovich, Norton Fletcher, Keith and Brenda Larson, and Linda Kaplan for sharing their stories, memories, and photographs.

I'm also indebted to Charlotte Westhead for providing me with much of the information she's accrued over the years, to Nadav Sela and Arie Haller for their help translating Hebrew text, and to Elizabeth Strauss of the Amenia Historical Society.

Additionally, I would like to thank my editor, Bill Price; my graphic designer, Tina Sotis; and our grant writer, Liana Toscanini.

To my husband, Steve, I am more appreciative that I can express for his love and support during my two-year mission to transform countless hours of research into the story of real people. 



Steve and Lorraine German

BOOK REVIEW

Soil and Shul in the Berkshires

TO FULFILL A STATED DREAM

By Simon Winchester

Like most of us who live in these parts, I fancied I knew a little about the Jewish community that briefly flourished here, knew something (if mainly through the sagging wreckage of the barns on Town Hill Road) of their famed chicken farms and recognized in the names – Dryansky, Pinsky, Shapiro – the few survivors of the briefly grand agricultural experiment that had so swiftly and so sadly vanished clear away.

But I knew nothing of the details, nothing of the warp and weft of the so-called farm colonies of the American East – until now, and thanks to Lorraine German’s masterly and scrupulously researched new narrative.

The story is a noble one.

The Jews came – mostly from the crowded slums and sweatshops of Manhattan’s Lower East Side (to which in turn they had arrived, by way of Ellis Island, from the pogroms of eastern Europe) – to fulfill a stated dream: “The idea in the whole plan of all these colonies,” wrote an elder in 1897, “is to give the Russian Jew the chance to regain the self-esteem and the self dependence that has been crushed out by the Old World’s oppression.”

And so, beginning in 1902, they came and colonized and settled, from Montville to New Boston – by ones and twos, and then in a steady stream, to buy (for as little as a few hundred dollars) farms and scores of acres, in the process rescuing what was then an economically distressed Sandisfield from near-certain abandonment.

Some of the Jews stumbled. But many prospered; many of the latter chose chicken farming as their preferred “back to the land” income-generator.

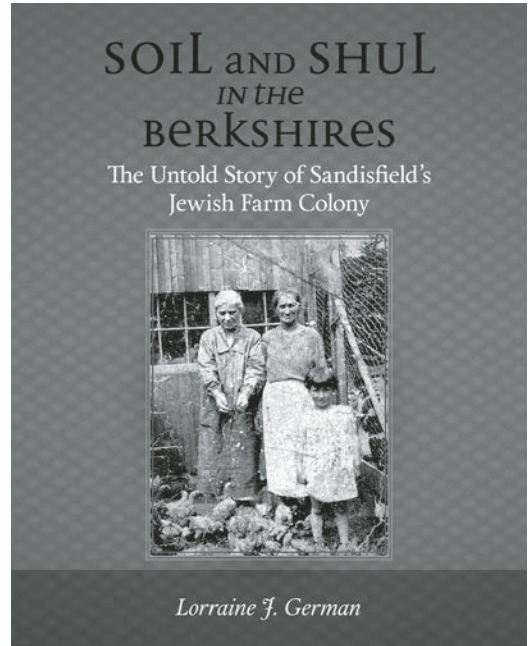
But the grand experiment itself was short-lived. In time the settlers’ educated offspring opted to seek their own fortunes back down in the city (the opening of the Williamsburg Bridge meant they could now easily go over to Brooklyn); and factory henhouses in the midwest, slashing egg prices, did for the Sandisfield chicken industry.

By the Sixties most of these idealistic newcomers had left; nowadays the sound of Yiddish conversation – once quite familiar here – has been all-but silenced. It had all lasted half a century – and the stories of

the characters who came here, unearthed by a diligent Ms. German, are poignant and touching, and often funny. The stories – and the many photographs, some 100 years old – provide a superb polychrome memorial to the colony’s brief presence.

Few are the books I have read in recent years of which I can say, as I do of this, that every page holds a surprise, that every chapter is endlessly fascinating. *Soil and Shul* is a joy to consume in a single sitting. So very clearly a labor of love, our Lorraine German is to be commended for writing a text that is as important as it is necessary, a document for the ages that imparts the charm and quirky details of a local history that deserves never to be forgotten. ♡

SOIL AND SHUL IN THE BERKSHIRES: The Untold Story of Sandisfield’s Jewish Farm Colony, by Lorraine German. 260pp. Privately published. \$25.





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The White, Cold Season

I wonder if the snow loves the trees and fields that it kisses them so gently? And then it covers them up snug, you know, with a white quilt; and perhaps it says, 'Go to sleep, darlings, till the summer comes again.' - Lewis Carroll

Having spent the Halloween weekend as Alice in Wonderland, with a full cap of blonde curls – (maybe blondes do have more fun, I certainly did) – and an entourage of the White Rabbit, Cheshire Cat, the Mad Hatter, Abselem, and the Queen of Hearts, I think I am going to fall down a rabbit hole and indulge in all of Lewis Carroll's books!

Or because winter storm Avery blew in a few weeks ago and very determinedly decided, "Enough with Autumn! Off with their leaves! And on with their coats of white!" instead of Lewis Carroll I should find something thick and deep? *War and Peace?* *Fathers and Sons?* *The Last of the Romanovs?*

Yes, I am leaning towards very Russian wintery with hints of Siberia – chased down with large amounts of hot chocolate topped with whip cream!

HAPPENINGS AT THE LIBRARY

Lynn Rubenstein, our wonderful craft person, is back for Monthly Kids Arts and Crafts at the Library. Join us for cutting, pasting, imagining, and a fun-filled time. On one Saturday a month, 10 a.m.-noon. Late comers welcome. Check with the librarian for December schedule (258-4966).

Community Play Group is back! Join this weekly play group for families with children ages birth to five. Free play, table-top activities, and story time in the library. Every Monday morning, 9:30-11:00 in the Community Center (below the library). No registration, free, just bring the kids.

NEW ARRIVALS

Winter in Paradise by Elin Hilderbrand – Rich with the warm and lush beauty of the tropics (who doesn't want to spend the coldest days of winter on a warm Caribbean beach), this novel is filled with drama, romance, and intrigue. It is also the start of Hilderbrand's new series.

Bridge of Clay by Markus Zusak – The author of *The Book Thief* makes a long-awaited return with a profoundly heartfelt and inventive story of a young life caught in the current of risking everything in order to save it.

The Traveling Cat Chronicles by Hiro Arikawa – a powerful, compassionate story of a cat and his owner as they set out on a journey through Japan to visit old friends. A loving book, short but bittersweet, that can teach us about love, choices, and going forward. Have tissues handy when reading.

The Clockmaker's Daughter by Kate Morton – Told by multiple voices across time, Morton's latest novel is a story of murder, mystery, and thievery, of art, love, and loss. Flowing through its pages like

a river is the voice of a woman who stands outside time: Birdie Bell, the clockmaker's daughter. *The Man Who Came Uptown* by George Polecanos – While locked in a jail cell awaiting trial for armed robbery, Michael Hudson discovers his love for reading. Each week, personal librarian Anna Byrne selects books she thinks Michael will enjoy, each one designed to take him outside the confined prison setting – a temporary fix that allows him to escape, figuratively, but does little to prepare him for his *actual* escape.

When Life Gives You Lululemons by Lauren Weisberger – Chick-lit at its best, a quick read that is by turns juicy, tart, indulgent. A second spin-off of the author's best-known novel, *The Devil Wears Prada*.

Red, White, Blue by Lea Carpenter. Dark, powerful, and subtly crafted, *Red, White, Blue* traces the intertwined fates of a CIA case officer and a young woman forced to confront her dead father's secret past. The novel is filled with duplicity and espionage, love and loyalty, a China Ops gone wrong, and the collision between one's deepest personal ties and the most exacting and fateful professional commitment.

YOUNG READERS

Dork Diaries Friendship Box
by Rachel Renee Russell

OR THE WEE ONES

This is My Book by Mark Pett
Huff and Puff and the New Train by Tish Rabe
Pretty Kitty by Karen Beaumont
A Big Mooncake for Little Star by Grace Lin
A Couch for Llama by Leah Gilbert

BOOK REVIEW

Southern Berkshires

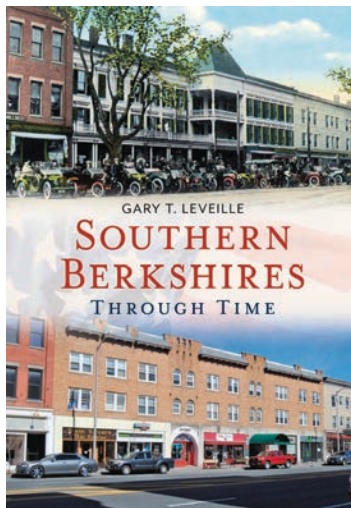
Through Time

OLD-TIMES AND NOW

By Ron Bernard

If a picture is worth a thousand words, a delightful new anthology of historical images of south county towns by Great Barrington historian Gary Leveille is worth a lot of words indeed.

Southern Berkshires Through Time, is a collection of some 200 images, half historical, half contemporary in nearly 100 pages in the then-and-now-style. Author Leveille, who writes the popular "Then and Now" column for *The Berkshire Record*, has compiled an especially captivating and fun collection of images from 15 area towns including Sandisfield



and our neighbors, Monterey, Tyringham, Otis, and New Marlborough.

The collection spans about 150 years and captures both the classic beauty and the architectural

and social heritage of the Berkshires. Each set has its own page with an informative caption which explains the historical significance of the subject or scene. Many of the images show iconic village centers, cultural landmarks, or historic buildings as they once appeared juxtaposed with today's street view (in color) of these familiar places.

If you are as fascinated by local history and this technique as I am or know someone who is, by all means pick up a copy or two. Whenever you pass by these sights in the future, you will see and appreciate them in a new way.

Southern Berkshires, part of the "America Through Time" series by Arcadia Publishing, is available at The Bookloft in Great Barrington and Barnes & Noble in Pittsfield. Signed copies are available from the author by sending a check or money order for \$23.99 plus \$4 postage to Gary Leveille, 5 Brook Lane, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

E-Book Change

AN EXTRA FROM YOUR LIBRARY

Over the last few months, the library has changed catalogues for ebook orders. We are now using the SAILS catalogue, rather than the Axis 360 ebook library catalogue. The change was initiated by the Massachusetts Library System. For those of you who use ebooks as well as those who would like to test the waters, following are the new web instructions. I followed them myself, and it worked like a charm.

WEB/DESKTOP:

- Go to <https://sails.overdrive.com/>
- Find the Sign-in button (right-hand side in blue)
- On the “Select Your Library from the List Below” section, choose “MassCat Library Patrons”
- Sign in with your barcode and PIN/password (this will be the same info as what you used for Axis360). Your PIN is the last four digits of your library card number.

APP:

- Download the “Libby, by OverDrive” app from the Apple app store or Google Play (FREE)
- Follow the prompts to search or select a library

- Search for “SAILS Library Network”
- Follow the prompts for and select the “I have a library card” option
- On the “Select Your Library from the List Below,” choose “MassCat Library Patrons”
- Sign in with your barcode and PIN/password (this will be the same info that you used for Axis360). Your PIN is the last four digits of your library card number.

SUPPORT:

- www.support@sailsinc.org

EXTRA:

In addition to being able to access a richer collection, connecting with the SAILS network has even more benefits. SAILS is part of a reciprocal lending agreement that includes the Minuteman Library Network and Old Colony Library network. This means that users will have access to those collections as well. Plans are underway to add the other automated networks in the state.

The login process to access the **Minuteman and Old Colony Library** network collections are the same as above except that users would select the other collections at the beginning. This is what it would look like:

WEB/DESKTOP:

- Go to <https://ocln.overdrive.com> or <https://minuteman.overdrive.com>
- Find the Sign-in button (right-hand side in blue)
- On the “Select Your Library from the List Below” section, choose “MassCat Library Patrons”
- Sign in with your barcode and PIN/password (this will be the same info you used for Axis360)

APP:

- Download the “Libby, by OverDrive” app from the Apple app store or Google Play (FREE)
- Follow the prompts to search or select a library
- Search for “Old Colony Library Network” or “Minuteman Library Network”
- Follow the prompts for and select the “I have a library card” option
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FARMINGTON RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOL

PTA REPORT, DECEMBER

By Katharine Adams and Aimee Magovern

Farmington River's annual Holiday Shop, a tradition for our school since the 1970s, will be on December 13-14 this year.

Visiting classrooms will enter Mrs. Catullo's Art Room where volunteers will have "stocked the shelves" with affordable gift ideas, many donated by our generous community. Children can hand-pick presents for family members, teachers, friends, and even their pets. Helpers will be on hand to wrap two gifts per child and assist with budgeting and shopping lists. Multiples of items will be doled out slowly, so every child enjoys a fair browsing experience. It is a great time for all.

To fill the shop, we seek donations of handmade local items (jams, hot sauces, pickles, honey, or maple syrup products). Large, reusable holiday gift bags are also welcome. If you can help, please get in touch with the PTA by Friday, December 7, via email to: PTA@frrsd.org.

The PTA's annual ski program at Otis Ridge will begin in January. This is a convenient, inexpensive way for children of our community to learn to ski or board. The PTA is proud to partner with Otis Ridge and, once again, offer this program to provide our students with a valuable life-long sport.

Be on the lookout for the popular Farmington River Cash Calendar fundraiser in late January. This is how we fund the majority of our PTA efforts, and we are very appreciative of the local businesses and families who sponsor squares. We hope you'll support us and purchase a calendar (\$10 each) from one of our students or staff members.

November's PTA News "Spotlight" introduced Jamie Foster, 6th grade teacher at Farmington River, as well as math teacher of 4th, 5th, and 6th grades.

Quote of the Month: "Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world ... and all there ever will be to know and understand." - Albert Einstein

This fall's SaveAround coupon book fundraiser raised \$1,063 for teachers and students. Teachers voted to split profits equally. Fifty percent of funds are available to classroom teachers, the balance deposited into classroom accounts to offset the annual 6th grade field trips to Boston.

Dr. Dennis Regling and his Wonder Shows delivered a hit performance of magic wizardry on Family Fun Night in early November. "The Magic of Science" presented chemistry, mathematics, electricity, optical illusions, and physics all merged together into a fun show for adults and children alike. The PTA hosted a pizza dinner for Farmington families prior to the show, which was open to the public.

Thanks for your ongoing support, and best wishes for a merry holiday season! 🍷



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Comings & Goings



CAROL ELIZABETH CAMPETTI

1927-2018

Carol Campetti, 91 of Sandisfield died Thursday, October 25, at her home in Tolland, near the border with New Boston.

In the 2011 Sandisfield Times obituary for Carol's husband, Angelo, their daughter Susan Murray wrote: "New Boston will always be home to Angelo 'Jappy' Campetti. He has a big family who will always be here in Sandisfield to carry on his legacy."

The same can be said of Carol.

Carol was born in Winsted, Conn., on July 6, 1927, the daughter of Einer K. and Elna (Jespersen) Thomsen. She attended Winsted schools. Carol and Jappy met at local square dances not long after his return from Air Force service during World War II. They married in 1948.

Together they started the New Boston Fuel Company in 1948, which was in business 64 years at the intersection of Rts. 8 and 57, near the Farmington River bridge. The family sold the business in 2012, the year after Jappy's death.

Carol was a member of the American Legion Ladies Auxilliary, Post 456, in Sandisfield for many years. She is survived by three daughters, Susan Murray of Sandisfield, Bonnie Harbour and husband Roger of Sandisfield, Karen Anderson of Great Barrington, and two sons, Dominic "Ben" Campetti and his wife Connie of Sandisfield and Richard "Richie" Campetti and his wife Robbin of Sandisfield, two sisters-in-law, Theresa Koszalka of Otis and Norma Thomsen of Winsted, eleven grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. In addition to her husband Angelo, Carol was predeceased by two brothers, Leo Thomsen and her twin Carl Thomsen, and two sisters, Agnes English and twin sister Selma Parsons.

Funeral services for Carol Campetti were held in early November in Great Barrington, with burial in the family plot in Sandisfield Center Cemetery.

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Letters to the Editor

KEEP ON GOING

My wife Jo Ann and I love your Sandisfield Times. We lived in Otis for 12 years before moving to Hinsdale. Your paper is a vital bridge to our fond memories of Otis/Sandisfield. Keep up your great effort and keep on going!

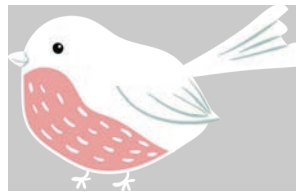
Robert Austin
Hinsdale, Mass.

FOND MEMORIES

I've been a part-time resident in the Tolland/Sandisfield area annually since 1938. I have fond memories of Lost Wilderness Ranch, Gracie Allan, York Lake, and dining at the New Boston Inn and at Firehouse #2 events. Also (I want to mention) Steve Campetti and the New Boston general store, Francis Deming and Walter Linkovich.

Thank you to the Sandisfield Times for the very professional publication that it is and for making it available to me online. I read every issue thoroughly including the ads. My donation is enclosed.

James A. Nugent
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SUSAN CROFUT Watercolors

The Sandisfield Arts Center
5 Hammertown Road, Sandisfield, MA

THROUGH DECEMBER 9



The gallery will be open during events and performances at the Arts Center. Private showings are available by appointment with the artist by emailing susiecrofut@gmail.com.

INFORMATION:
SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG



SUSAN CROFUT, "MORNING FOG", 2018 | WATERCOLOR ON PAPER, 22" X 30"

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Now Hear This!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro.

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

DECEMBER

Playgroup on Mondays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Sandisfield Library Community Room (below the library). No pre-registration necessary. The playgroup features a story time in the library. Led by Nina Carr. Free!

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

Sandisfield Holiday Fair on Saturday, December 1, from 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!

Remember the Alamo: A Presentation by George Wheeler on Saturday, December 1, at 4:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center located on 5 Hammertown Road, off Route 57 in Sandisfield. The presentation discusses the history of the Alamo and the nature of its construction materials, how those materials have changed over time, how we understand them today, and how to preserve them for the future. For more information or tickets, visit www.sandisfieldartscenter.org. \$10.

New Boston Church Service on Sunday, December 2 at 10:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church, Route 57. All are welcome. This will be the last service until spring. Thank you for your support during 2018.

Foot Care Clinic on Tuesday, December 4 at the Council on Aging, basement level of the Town Hall Annex. Call (258-4816) for information and an appointment.

Council on Aging Business Meeting on Wednesday, December 5 at 10:00 a.m. at the Council on Aging, basement level of the Town Hall Annex.

YOGA with Alex on Thursday, December 6 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 (COA). Free! May continue further into December and January. Contact COA for an update. 258-4816.

Yuletide Festival on Saturday, December 8, at 1:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. To acknowledge the spirit of December, regardless of the way you celebrate, the Arts Center invites you to a festival with crafts, ornament-making, tree-trimming, crunchies, and caroling. And, of course, there will be lots of refreshments. Free.

Yuletide Extravaganza on Sunday, December 9, at 2:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center located on 5 Hammertown Road, off Route 57. Enjoy a special holiday celebration as the Arts Center presents a variety of performances in the spirit of this festive season. The program will include offerings from the Sandisfield Players, the local Sandisfield choir, and other special performances. \$15, adults; \$5, children.

OTHER EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

Winterlights at Naumkeag on Thursdays through Sundays, November 23 through December 30 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The gardens will sparkle with thousands of shimmering holiday lights. Each weekend features performances and activities for the whole family, from the young to the young at heart. Visit thetrustees.org for tickets. \$12, members; \$17, non-members; children 12 and under, free.

Holiday Magic in Historic Colebrook Center on Saturday, December 8, beginning at 8:30 a.m. with Breakfast with Santa at the Congregational Church, followed by a traditional Holiday Fair until 3:00 p.m. at the Town Hall and Community & Senior Center on 562 Colebrook Road. For more information, visit www.townofcolebrook.org.

New Marlborough Central School Holiday Fair, Saturday, December 8, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Great food, live music, and Santa will stop by for a visit and photos from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be games, make & take crafts, and a Kids Only room where they can shop for gifts. All kinds of handmade treasures and treats for yourself and others at the bazaar, including a mouth-watering Cake Stall. Be sure to arrive in time for the famous Silent Auction, which closes at 2:30 p.m.

Ceremony at CCC Memorial, by DCR State Forest staff on Rt. 183, just south of East Hill/York Lake Road, New Marlborough. Sunday, December 16, 2:30 p.m., weather permitting. In 1934 on that date, five members of the Civilian Conservation Corps were killed in a traffic accident in Great Barrington; the ceremony honors them. Roadside parking is available. For information, call 413-426-7890.

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: 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 Hyreckvich: 258-4711 x3.
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.
Email: concom@sandisfieldma.gov.

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.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT: Superintendent to be determined.
717-7627 cell/Office 258-4711 x 7

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: Roger Kohler: 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

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

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.

TOWN ACCOUNTANT: Margaret McClellan
by appointment; 258-4711 x 5 or accountant@sandisfieldma.gov

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Fred Ventresco
Mon: 9-8, Tues - Friday 9-5 or by appointment.
258-4711 x 1 Email: townadmin@sandisfieldma.gov

TOWN CLERK: Dolores Harasyko
Town Clerk Assistant: Pauline Bakunis
PO Box 163 or townclerk@sandisfieldma.gov
Town Hall Annex: 258-4711 x 2
Mon: 8 a.m.-2 p.m./ 6 p.m.-7 p.m.
Tuesday - Thursday 8 - 4 pm 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
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



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We are grateful for your donations now and throughout the year.



*The next issue of
The Sandisfield Times
will be our annual combined
January/February issue,
due about January 15.*

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, Town Hall, and the Council on Aging meeting room.

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

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

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How to Contact Us

Mail can be directed to

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

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