

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

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Volume IX, Number 11

March 2019



Miner Creek curves through the property.

New Wildlife Sanctuary for Sandisfield/Otis FUTURE TRAILS PLANNED

By Bess Dillman

Do you know we have a new Mass Audubon wildlife sanctuary on the border of Sandisfield and Otis?

Although the Cold Brook Wildlife Sanctuary is not officially open, as a Mass Audubon volunteer I have visited it several times and each time wonderful memories flood my mind.

I grew up on part of it. My father and mother, George and Caryl Dillman, loved and cherished and worked on this land for fifty years. They would be overjoyed to know it is now protected as a wildlife sanctuary.

Cora Miller, who bought my parent's property in 1990, lived there until her death in 2015. I am grateful for her generous gift to Mass Audubon that includes my childhood stomping grounds. It is truly a gift to all – humans and wildlife.

Preserving the Land for All

Mass Audubon worked in quiet partnership with Miller for decades, protecting additional lands in the vicinity totaling more than 900 acres. In her lifetime, Cora Miller kept a low

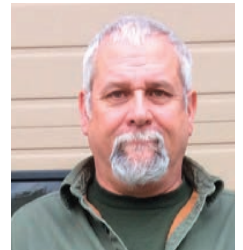
CONT'D P. 10, COLUMN 2

New Highway Superintendent Briefs Selectmen

By Tim Brooks

Barely two months into his new job, Brad Curry, sat down with members of the Select Board on January 31 to talk about the state of our roads and bridges.

“Over the past eight weeks,” said the new highway chief, “I’ve been touring our town, meeting residents, listening to their concerns and advice, and getting a much clearer picture of where we need to go in the future.”



*DPW/Highway Chief
Brad Curry*

*Photo:
Tom Christopher*

Based on his careful review of the projects and issues related to public roads in Sandisfield, Brad identified the following areas as top priorities for the remaining months of this fiscal year:

- adding a final “top coat” on Town Hill Road down to the intersection with Route 57
- preparing plans for a total reclamation of River Road
- adding a final coat of paint to Rugg Bridge

CONT'D P.6

INSIDE



QUEST FOR A PUBLIC SERVICE OFFICER	3
A BRONZE MEDAL FOR OUR TEAM . . .	5
FUROR OVER DODD ROAD.	6
AN ODE TO SILVERBROOK ROAD	7
JERRY RIGGING: MAKING DO	9
SELECT BOARDS SINCE 1751	13-15

Experienced Hires Join Town Staff

By Times Reporters

The town's Finance Committee and the DPW/Highway Department brought two part-time employees on board in February to help with their increasingly complex paper and organization workloads.

Joanne Grybosh brings considerable experience and expertise in local government operations to the position of administrative assistant to the DPW. Having served municipal governments in the towns of Blandford and Wilbraham for several years, she is well versed in the required procedures for using money appropriated by the MA DOT Chapter 90 program, as well as budget preparation, developing bid solicitations, and grant writing.

As current office administrator of Blandford's Highway Department, she supported Sandisfield's new DPW chief, Brad Curry, when he was Blandford's Highway Superintendent. For sure, she says, that "allows her to hit the ground running here in Sandisfield." Joanne earned a MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a BS in Management from Western New England University.

Accountant Kyle Lawrence was hired as Assistant to the Finance Committee. His professional experience includes work with the NY State Department of Labor and as a corporate payroll tax consultant for the accounting firm of Ernst & Young. He is currently a board administrator at the Berkshire Food Co-op in Great Barrington where he does work similar to what he will do for Sandisfield's Finance Committee.

Kyle and his wife, Kim Morgenege, moved to Sandisfield in November, after four years in North Carolina. He wrote that "as we were deciding where to move, we read many back issues of The Sandisfield Times. It helped us get a sense of the community." Since moving to Sandisfield, Kyle has opened Berkshire Payroll Tax, a consulting business where he will help businesses and non-profits save money on unemployment insurance and payroll taxes.

Town Meeting and Election Schedule, 2019

- March 26 Last day to obtain nomination papers
- March 28 Last day to submit nomination papers
- April 11 Town Caucus. Old Town Hall, 7 p.m.
- April 18 Last day to object or withdraw nomination papers
- April 29 Last day to register to vote at the Annual Town Meeting and the Annual Town Election. Registration will be held at Town Hall Annex from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m.
- May 18 Annual Town Meeting, Fire Station #2, Rt. 57, 10 a.m.
- May 20 Annual Town Election, Old Town Hall, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

TOWN OF SANDISFIELD

TOWN CAUCUS

The Town Caucus will be held on Thursday, April 11, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, Silverbrook Road.

Offices up for Election:

Office	Term	Currently held by
Moderator	1 year	Simon Winchester
Selectman	3 years	George Riley
Board of Assessors	3 years	Bethany Perry
School Committee	3 years	John Skrip, Jr.
Board of Health	3 years	Kim Spring
Planning Board	2 years	
Planning Board	5 years	Paul Gaudette
Library Trustee	5 years	Clare English

Nomination Papers Ready

From Dolores Harasyko, Town Clerk

We are preparing for the upcoming Town Meeting and Election in May. Nomination papers are available.

To run for an elected position you must be a registered voter in Sandisfield. Only the candidate wishing to run can request the nomination papers. When collecting signatures please make sure the signatures are legible. If they are creative and unable to read have the voter print their name next to their signature. An unrecognizable signature will not be counted. Also unacceptable are P. O. boxes and route numbers as addresses. The address must have the house number and street name.

The last day to request nomination papers is March 26, 2019 and they are due back by March 28, 2019.

Any questions, call 258-4711, ext. 2.



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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

A Peek At Summer

A wide, recently mowed field. No snow, no ice. Overhead, white clouds in a clear blue sky. After the field was mowed last summer, bobolinks nested there.

We may all be ready for a late winter antidote.

The field in the photo is part of the soon-to-be-opened Mass Audubon's Cold Brook Wildlife Sanctuary located in portions of northeastern Sandisfield and southwestern Otis. As Bess Dillman reports beginning on page 1, the sanctuary may not open for another year. Decisions on trails, visitor parking, and access need to be made and permits obtained – a lot of work before these woods can be visited.



In the meantime, see page 11 for a list of hikes that have been scheduled. It will likely be too late for readers to join the “sneak preview” on March 2, but other hikes are scheduled through July. And maybe the center will hold another “sneak preview” later this summer.

*Bill Price
West New Boston*

Request for Police/Fire/EMS Help Continues

INFORMATION PACKET AVAILABLE

By *Seth Kershner*

A proposed full-time Public Safety Officer position would have a net cost to the Town of \$54,000, the Select Board recently learned. However, advocates for the position point to much greater longer-term costs of having to hire a private ambulance squad to make up for a lack of volunteer EMTs.

Like many small towns in the area, Sandisfield has historically formed a police force by employing several part-time officers. The dwindling number of volunteers staffing the fire and rescue crew in Sandisfield has also long been a problem.

As reported in The Times last month, the Sandisfield fire and police chiefs have requested funding for a new Public Safety Officer.

Citing the challenging recruiting environment and an increase in 911 calls, brothers Ralph and Mike Morrison, respective leaders of the Fire and Police Departments, first proposed the creation of the full-time position at a December meeting of the Select Board. As they describe it, the Public Safety Officer would serve a hybrid role: equal parts police officer, firefighter, and EMT.

“We feel the position is needed in town,” Selectman Brian O’Rourke told The Times. “It will fill a void. The big question is how to fund this position should the town approve it.”

Continuing their request, at a February 13 Select Board work session the Morrisons told the selectmen

that they would each trim their budgets to make room for the proposed full-time position. With those saving factored in, the net cost to the Town would be about \$54,000.

(In fiscal year 2018, the Town paid approximately \$58,122 in total salaries and stipends for police and fire/ EMS, according to information obtained under the public records law).

To illustrate what they considered the expensive cost of doing nothing, the Morrisons presented a proposal from County Ambulance, a Pittsfield company. Asked how much they would charge to provide Sandisfield ambulance coverage seven days a week during daytime hours only—a time when volunteers are spread thin – the firm projected, on a proposal dated February 11, that the annual cost to the Town would be \$345,000.

Chiefs Make Case in Town Hall Info Packet

As this issue of The Times goes to press, copies of a 24-page information packet prepared by the chiefs is available at Town Hall. The packet explains qualifications for the 40-hour per week position. The job holder, who must live within 15 miles of Sandisfield Center, will be expected to be certified to work as a police officer, firefighter, and EMT. A candidate for the job can be hired with only two of these certifications, provided they obtain the third within 12 months of starting work.

The packet also explains how a neighboring town ensures ambulance coverage for its residents. Otis Rescue Squad, operated by a private company, provides professional EMT service during daytime hours, Monday through Friday. To cover the overnight shift, Otis relies on volunteer EMTs. The FY2020 budget for Otis Rescue Squad: an estimated \$200,000.

Finally, the information packet shows how the number

Sandisfield

(dedicated to Walter Howard)

We are blessed
In this little town
With much fraternity.
Most everyone waves
As they go by,
And the crisp smiles
Of common cause
Unite us.

I’ve been elsewhere
Where there’s no such thing,
Just folks at odds
Some old ones, some are new.
Their heads are down,
Their color blue.

So I have come here finally
To rest from being brave
And spend my autumn hours
Where I can watch my neighbor
Wave.

*Val Coleman
West New Boston*

of calls for police, fire and ambulance service have increased slightly over the past two fiscal years. The combined total of fire and EMS calls rose from 189 in FY2017 to 199 in FY2018. The packet only presents the raw number of calls going back to fiscal year 2017, and does not indicate the reason for the calls.

Seeking a bigger picture, the Sandisfield Times examined several years’ worth of annual reports stored at Town Hall.

They show two interesting trends. First: the number of fire and EMS calls has steadily increased since 2012. Also, the number of non-emergency calls represents a large share of calls to the fire department.

Between 2012 and 2016, residents complaining of malfunctioning smoke or carbon monoxide alarms accounted for more than a quarter of all reported calls to the fire department. (The 2017 annual report for Ralph Morrison’s department does not indicate the types of calls received).

Annual reports from the Police Department between 2012 and 2016 did not include the number of calls, and no information from Chief Mike Morrison was included in the Town’s 2017 annual report.

If the Morrisons’ request is approved by both the Select Board and the Finance Committee, the final decision will be up to registered voters at the Town Meeting in May. 🗳️

News from the PTA

FARMINGTON RIVER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

By Linda Curtiss and Aimee Magovern

The Knox Trail Inn hosted a community fundraiser in early February on behalf of the Farmington River Student Council.

The owners generously donated 10 percent of all dinner sales that evening to the student council who intend to use the money to start a hiking group, as well as help fund classroom accounts. Peter Sullivan, one of the owners of The Knox, worked with Brodie McNair, president of the student council, to create this opportunity. Two-hundred dollars was raised, and because the Brett Robert Peck Foundation had offered to match the amount raised, as did an anonymous donor, the amount climbed to \$600.

On February 7, the PTA celebrated Terri DiGrigoli, our school counsellor. We love and appreciate Miss Terri for all that she does for our students.


On March 1, the PTA sponsored the second annual field trip to Butternut for a day of tubing. If the weather cooperated, teachers, students, and PTA members hoped to enjoy two fun-filled hours of tubing.

Our annual Cash Calendar Fundraiser is now underway with 39 chances to win. Daily drawings will continue through April 5. A list of winners are sent via email at the end of each week, as well as posted on our school's website (www.frrsd.org) and PTA Facebook page (www.facebook.com/frrsdpta).

Local businesses and families this year have donated a record \$5,200 thanks to the efforts of Dawn Lemon, PTA Treasurer, and Kathy Adams, calendar editor. We appreciate the generosity and support of our entire community.

The Cash Calendar is our most productive way to raise money for the PTA. The income provides Farmington River students, families, and staff with activities throughout the year: assemblies, tubing at Butternut, Ski Program, Field Day, Screen Free Week events, and many more.

Read Across America was celebrated on March 1. Meaghan Martin, 1st grade teacher, and Sarah Tracy, 2nd grade teacher, will coordinate events the week of March 4-8 to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday. We look forward to sharing the details of what happened with you next month.

The next PTA meeting takes place on Thursday, March 21, in the school's library at 3:15 p.m. All are welcome. Child care is available during meetings. 

Funds Available for Home Repair

By Dawn Lemon, TRI


Sandisfield residents are now eligible for a portion of over \$750,000 in loan funds to fix their homes. A Community Development Block Grant submitted last winter through the town of Monterey was awarded and includes funding for Sandisfield, Egremont, and Monterey homeowners.

The program is managed by The Resource Inc. (TRI), for Community and Economic Development, located in Great Barrington.

To participate, residents must be income eligible and need repairs to their home. While the application process is a bit detailed, residents may receive up to \$40,000 as a "deferred payment forgivable loan." There are no payments and zero interest. The loan is forgiven by 1/15th each year for a period of 15 years. Most homeowners never repay a penny, but if you sell your home to someone who is not income eligible during the 15 years a portion of the loan funds may be collected at the closing.

This is a first-come, first-serve program, so the sooner you return the application to TRI with your supporting documentation, the sooner they will be able to look at addressing your needs.

The Resource Inc., which is managing the FY18 Housing Rehabilitation Program, has been a significant contributor to successful housing rehab initiatives in southeastern Massachusetts. "I've been operating this program for ten years on Martha's Vineyard and it's a huge success. We can replace your older windows and doors, repair septic systems and wells, roofs, foundations, and make a home handicap accessible," says Melissa Vincent, Program Manager. "We have a long waitlist on Martha's Vineyard but here in Sandisfield the program is brand new so now is the time to sign up. The funds won't last,"

If you're interested you can contact Melissa Vincent, Program Manager, or Dawn Lemon, Assistant Program Manager, at TRI's office on Main Street in Great Barrington, over Tom's Toys. Telephone at 413-645-3448 or via email at melissa@theresource.org or dawn@theresource.org. 



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Recreation Commission: Kathy Carroll, Bill Dyer, Mary Adams, Dana Pustinger
 Program Supervisor, Patricia Richard; Movie Night Supervisor, Tom Soules





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Local Man Helps US Team Win Bronze

LONG-RANGE RIFLE SHOOTER JOHN FIELD

By Tom Christopher

It took more than 40 hours for John Field to make the trip from Sandisfield to Trentham, New Zealand, scene of the 2019 Palma Match, the world championship of long-range rifle shooting.

But, says John, the trip was well worth it. In two days of competition, February 9-10, the 25-man United States rifle team won a bronze medal.

The shooting, at ranges of 800, 900, and 1,000 yards, was even more challenging than usual. The New Zealand range is on a peninsula surrounded by the sea, and winds were both powerful and highly variable. A sudden shift in wind direction can deflect a bullet several feet at such long ranges, so that the match became largely a test of a shooter and the coach's skill at reading the wind and making the shot before the wind changed.

The United States team rose to the occasion, posting the third best score of the seven national teams participating. John Field says he is "super happy" at this result and predicts great things for the U.S. team if it continues on its present trajectory.

In the photo, John is in the second row, directly below the flag, without a hat.

Select Board Report

Aside from our regular meetings, much of the past month has been spent on the department budgets. We are also still sorting out the final bills for the Rugg Bridge.

We have some very good news in the form of two new Town staff members. Please welcome Joanne Grybosh and Kyle Lawrence as new Administrative Assistants. Joanne will be working for the DPW while Kyle has been assigned to the Finance Committee. Both of them are highly qualified and experienced and will be important and valuable assets to these departments.

Thanks to Brad Curry's efforts we have received a \$500,000 Small Bridge Grant for a repair on Route 57. We have also applied for \$25,000 of insulation and lighting upgrades for the Town Hall Annex as part of our Green Community award.

The Town will take over the operation of the transfer station on July 1, and we are now seeking bids for hauling materials as of that date.

The most difficult issue facing us now is the Farmington River School budget. A proposed nine percent increase would have a major impact on the Town's upcoming budget.

And by the time you read this, the Select Board will have had, in addition to our weekly meetings, a Special Town Meeting on February 25; a joint work session with the Finance Committee on February 27 to discuss the school budget; and an executive work session with the Treasurer on February 28 concerning tax liens.

Maybe we should put in for overtime? 

Mark Newman
Brian O'Rourke
George Riley

The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a church building with a steeple. Overlaid on the image is the text: "ANNUAL CORNED BEEF DINNER To Benefit the NEW BOSTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH Sat., March 16 • 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Firehouse #2 on Rt. 57". A small cartoon leprechaun is positioned next to the word "DINNER". Below the main text, it says "Corned beef & cabbage dinner and all the rest. Assorted desserts." and "Corned beef & cabbage dinner and all the rest. Assorted desserts." at the bottom.

The advertisement is enclosed in a decorative border. It reads: "Fleur de lis Housekeeping Licensed, Bonded and Insured Deep cleaning from top to bottom Suzanne Hoynoski, Owner (413) 258-4070 (860) 309-6598 Est. 2002".

NEW HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT BRIEFS SELECTMEN CONT'D FROM P.1

- touching up selected sections of Route 183
- replacing the radio and tower for the DPW garage that were lost in the fire,
- and following up on repairs to town equipment which were damaged in the blaze – namely, a backhoe, a grader, and a Ford F550 truck. Items that cannot be repaired will be replaced.

Brad has completed an inventory of street signs that need replacement, as some are missing and others damaged. He also wants to make sure all our bridges have the necessary signage to avoid damage by oversized vehicles.

He has concerns about the poor condition of many of the unpaved roads throughout Sandisfield. Whether dirt or gravel, he has found many roads in need of proper grading and general repair. (See related articles on Dodd and Silverbrook Roads).


Also discussed was the need to repair a number of culverts located on or near many of our roads, especially those which are not heavily traveled. (Editor's note: A culvert is a structure – typically made from a pipe, reinforced concrete or other material – that allows water to flow under a road).

To date, Brad has identified the need for culvert repairs on or near properties located on Silverbrook Road, Sullivan Road, New Hartford Road near Shade Road, and Dodd Road. He also suggested removing the culverts currently stored at the town cemetery and addressing drainage issues on Cronk and Viets Roads.

Brad discussed the current and future DPW budget with the Selectmen – and a number of money-saving suggestions on how to acquire the necessary supplies, which will help stretch the limited budget. He also confirmed that the town has over \$300,000 remaining from Chapter 90 funds (provided by the State of Massachusetts for capital improvements such as highway construction, preservation, and improvement projects) which can be directed to the high urgent issue projects he identified.

He said another priority was “keeping our town residents informed about all the current and upcoming projects.” To this end, he hopes to make more effective use of the town's website and the Sandisfield Times.

Finally, work is nearly complete on the new town garage, located on the site of the old garage on Silverbrook Road near Route 57. In early spring the Select Board expects to set a date for an open house when residents can take a tour and meet the new DPW Superintendent.

The selectmen thanked Brad and plan to have him give regular progress reports at future meetings. Another working session with the superintendent, which will be posted and open to residents, will take place in March. 



Furor over Dodd Road

PARTS OF TROUBLED BYWAY “NO WIDER THAN A COW PATH”

By Seth Kershner

Sandisfield has a number of sparsely populated dirt roads, but Dodd Road is definitely not one of them. With around a dozen homes occupied year-round, and at least three businesses, the 1-½ mile road surely qualifies as one of the most heavily trafficked in Town.

Yet as anyone who has tried to traverse it knows, it is also one of the most challenging roads to maintain

– especially in winter or spring. In 2018, its conditions were a frequent topic at Select Board meetings. Culverts failed, causing water to accumulate in spots; when spring snow came, Town plows steered clear of the road for fear of sinking into the muddy terrain.

Brigitte Ruthman, who owns and operates Joshua's Farm at the end of Dodd Road, says that more than once this winter her car has gotten stuck. In each case she was forced to trudge home in the dark after a long day at work.

Zoe Nelson has lived on the road more than 35 years and has seen it progressively deteriorate during that time. The rutted, slippery conditions have caused headaches for her and her husband, Chuck, who run several businesses from their property, including Looking Glass Gardens, an outdoor wedding and event space.

“We have had problems getting supplies in the spring and summer for our landscaping business,” she told the Times, “and I know potential clients for my event and wedding business who have been discouraged by road conditions.”

Nelson said that she and her husband have shared their complaints about the road with Town officials but have so far not received an adequate response.

The Incredible Shrinking Road

Dodd Road leads west from New Hartford Road, between Shade and South Sandisfield Roads, ending just past Joshua's Farm. The road once continued west to intersect with the York Lake road, but has basically deteriorated into two parallel trails through the woods.


Where Dodd leaves New Hartford Road it is 17 feet across. By Joshua's Farm, it has narrowed to just seven.

Commenting on the same issue at an August 2017 Select Board meeting, another resident described the portion of the road by Joshua's Farm as “no wider than a cow path.”

Residents say the more slender sections present a public safety issue. Some worry that in the event of an emergency a fire truck would not be able to negotiate the turn onto some of the driveways.

During a discussion of Dodd Road, at an April 2018 Select Board meeting, Fire Chief Ralph Morrison agreed that some of the dirt roads in town are a risk to public safety.

Highway Superintendent Brad Curry has been listening to complaints from Dodd Road residents. He wants them to know that help is on the way.

“We are currently in the planning phase to determine the most cost-effective solution for Dodd Road,” Curry said in a phone interview with the Times. “Obtaining a STRAP grant for the Town may be possible,” he added, “and I am looking into eligibility. This could potentially free up Chapter 90 money for other road projects.” 

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A Road to Remember

AN ODE TO KEEPING SILVERBROOK ROAD OPEN

By Bogart Muller

Coming home from an awesome day of intense skiing at Butternut, I direct my friend to turn down this road. "It's called Silverbrook, it's a shortcut," I say.

The walls of snow are 4 feet high on either side, pushed back with mechanical force as far as the contour allows. What a pretty sight, winter sunshine glistening off the trees on that stretch just past 5 A's Farm, straight and narrow. We barrel along down until the Silverbrook Dam is in plain sight.

Every single time my friends have come from far away and somehow wind up partying at my place after an epic day of skiing and boarding, they have always insisted we "go down that cool road" on the way home.

Once, we broke out the boards and rode that dam to the bottom. Turned around and did it another five times. I have seen ice fishermen drive cars out onto the frozen water and figured, "Well, nobody wants to walk all the way back to the car for a cold beverage and there is plenty of parking."

This road has Sandisfield written all over it.

You could see Anita Carr with her personal lawn-mower cutting the grass across the top of Silverbrook Dam. You can see Bob O'Brien harvesting wood

from his property across the road. You may see Mike Lutynski flying a model plane in the sky or Simon Winchester carrying even more books to his study.

From the paved bottom to the always muddy spot in the middle to the due west line at the top, this road gets used a lot and anyone who uses it knows it can be a major shortcut in either direction.

Wildlife flourishes up here and it's not uncommon to see bear, deer, and even moose. A huge female cow the size of a truck didn't like the sound of the mower and chased me off Adam Manacher's lawn last year. You should have seen me running.

I once had the opportunity to blast down the snowy Silverbrook Road in a 1984 Land Rover Discovery, exercising the vehicle for an out-of-the-country client. But in February of 2008, I didn't need 4x4. The road from top to bottom was a clear as a dirt road in July. Much to my dismay, I really wanted to see what this car could do but the road was just fine. Visions of me starring in a 4x4 commercial were flushed down the drain.

Silverbrook Road will always be a road for locals. Those who know will use it as often as possible, leaving the traffic of Route 57 behind and enjoying the peaceful ride up or down.

But this winter has been tough on the road. The drainage and grading was neglected for too long through the late fall and at least one section of the road, during this particularly rainy winter, became borderline impassable. And the snowplowing has been spotty. The road could be closed for the rest of mud season.

Silverbrook is an important thruway, especially for the folks who live on it. Let's try hard to keep it open all the way. ♣

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

recreation COMMITTEE

By Theresa Spohnholz

The Sandisfield Recreation Committee is dedicated to providing recreational and cultural activities for the whole community, young and old. We believe that by enhancing people's personal health and wellness through fun and enjoyable social activities we strengthen and enrich the lives of our townspeople. Our mission is to provide opportunities for residents of all ages and interests to participate in various activities to promote community spirit in Sandisfield.

The current seven-member board has five active members who, this past fiscal year, dedicated themselves to rebuilding the almost disbanded committee.

Last year the committee proudly sponsored Sandisfield's Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Santa's Holiday shop at the Christmas Fair.

A trip to the Boston Aquarium was a huge success with bus seats sold out. The committee also sponsored various activities at the Library/Community Center including "Beach Day," the Halloween Monster Bash, and a variety of arts and crafts for kids throughout the year.

Last fall the Committee was one of several sponsors of the first-ever Sandisfield 5K Run! The Fall season was ushered in with the very popular Halloween Trunk or Treat and the annual Monster Bash at the Community Center.

Come spring the traditional Easter Eggstravaganza will take place at the Library/Community Center. Other events planned for the year are a family BBQ, a repeat of last summer's successful Beach Party, another trip to Boston for more museum fun, and a bus trip to feature beaches and perhaps a concert or show.

The Sandisfield Recreation Committee is about the people of Sandisfield. The events that the group sponsors are centered on bringing the community together and enjoying life in Sandisfield.

The committee chooses events from your ideas and suggestions. New ideas are always welcome as well as ways we can improve traditional events. Send your thoughts to the Recreational Committee at sandisfieldrecom- mittee@gmail.com or at the Town Library at 258-4966. ♣

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Spirits
(as seen on
syfy Channel)

ST. PADDY'S WEEKEND
 March 14-17
 Live Irish Music
 Sunday, the 17th, 1-5pm
 Irish menu! Corn beef & Cabbage



Police/Fire/EMS Logs



POLICE

January 2019 Incidents, 911 Calls

- January 1 Wires down, Silverbrook Road
- January 2 CO alarm, Sandisfield Road
- January 7 Citizen complaint, Sandisfield Road
- January 9 Court service, Carpenter Lane
- January 10 Domestic disturbance, South Beech Plain Road
- January 11 Unwanted party, South Beech Plain Road
- January 14 Fire alarm, Stump Road
- January 15 Medical, Town Hill Road
- January 16 Medical, Sandisfield Road
- January 17 Burglar alarm, Willow Lane
- January 17 Erratic motor vehicle operation, South Main Street
- January 18 Erratic motor vehicle operation, North Main Street
- January 20 Chimney fire, Main Road
- January 21 Medical, Sandisfield Road
- January 21 Medical, Sears Road
- January 21 Burglar alarm, Hammertown Road
- January 22 Motor vehicle accident, Tolland
- January 28 Medical, Sears Road
- January 30 Animal rescue, Town Hill Road



FIRE

January 2019 Incidents, 911 Calls

- January 1 Tree on power lines
- January 2 Carbon monoxide alarm, investigate, test home
- January 14 . . . Fire alarm activation, second floor, no fire
- January 20 Mutual aid, standby for Otis, Otis to Blandford
- January 30 Assist with animal rescue



EMS

January 2019 Incidents, 911 Calls

- January 1 Medical call, Tolland, transport to Noble Hospital
- January 8 Medical call, assist Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Service, no transport
- January 10 Medical alarm, cancelled by homeowner
- January 10 Medical, transport to Fairview Hospital
- January 12 Medical call, transport to Winsted Hospital
- January 15 Medical call, no transport
- January 16 Medical call, transport to Fairview Hospital
- January 21 Medical call, transport to Fairview Hospital
- January 21 Medical call, transport to Waterbury Hospital
- January 22 Motor vehicle accident, Tolland, cancelled en route
- January 28 Medical call, transport to Charlotte-Hungerford Hospital
- January 31 Medical call, transport to Fairview Hospital

WINTER SNOWFALL AND EXTREMES



2018-2019 to date, as measured/estimated at a Beech Plain back-yard weather station.

EXTREME TEMPERATURES

- Nov 22, T'Day 2 degrees F
- Nov 23 -1 degree F
- Dec 20-22 2.71 inches rain
- Jan 21 -12 degree F
- Jan 31 -8 degrees F

SNOWFALL

- November Total 11.5 inches
- December Total 4 inches
- January 201915 inches
- February 12 5 inches
- February 18 3.5 inches

SEASON TO DATE . . 39.0 INCHES

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Jerry Rigging

FIXING THINGS TO GET BY

Photos and story by Brigitte Ruthman

It's about the rigging.

And nailing, tying, and sticking. Makeshift, of course.

It's not about Jerry, who must have been born in New England where winter can last most of the year and there is hardly time or money during fly season for a proper fix.

It's about ingenuity.

When a fencepost leans in a heaving spring thaw, then freezes at its awkward angle without assuring a barrier, there are options to consider.

An old door squared up with rope will do for now, with an extra stretch of barbed wire, tied around the failing post at its highest point. A new post hole will have to be dug in the spring, deeper this time.

When the hinge on the henhouse door broke, a 2x4 board could be leveraged against it to prop it open. Repairing the hinge would wait until fingers could be let loose from gloves in a subzero wind.

When a door knob froze in the open position in a freezing rain and wouldn't move, a cord around its neck pulled against a nail on an outside wall sufficed.

Jerry Rig, or jury rig, is said to have been a term used by sailors who raised a temporary mast to replace a proper one lost to battle or weather. Jury rigged became a term for an ingenious makeshift construction. Jerry built more clearly defined poor original construction but the terms have become interchangeable in the vernacular.

Jerry rigged gained its most common usage during World War II when it was used to describe repairs made with scavenged parts.

Instructions aren't easily had for most things that break on a farm.

Things have gotten complicated.

It used to be easy to change out the tractor's battery, brake pads, or spark plugs in an engine compartment that looked a lot like the one in my brother's first car, a 1964 Thunderbird. There was a spare part to be found even if it wasn't the right one – scavenged from another piece of equipment lying around somewhere or a junkyard.

Modern farm equipment is so proprietary that even John Deere won't let you fix anything without calling a technician.

Farmers are used to doing it themselves, so much so that the American Farm Bureau Federation pushed a right-to-repair-things law by amending the digital millennium Copyright Act.

There is no going back to a simpler time.

Older tractors are less safe and can't pull heavy attachments.

We can't milk by hand for others because it wouldn't suit food safety standards.

When the pulsator stopped clicking the other day, the apple-sized mechanism at the top of the milking bucket had to be replaced at a cost of \$94 plus overnight shipping. There was no rigging the tiny mechanisms to slide freely.



Stop-gap, but fixed for now.

It's easier to fix old things, but then I wonder if I'm doing it as well as the thing's maker.

Old doors, for instance. Most of the old painted doors in my house have seen one repair or another, a better option than making a new one when they were made and fitted artistically by hand. Their unevenness feels right, and worth putting the hinges on the other side when the joint wears out.

Wooden bowls, too, were given dovetail joints and even metal patches to keep the salad dressing from leaking out through cracks.

That was before you could buy a new plastic one.

Jerry rigging is good exercise for the mind when there is no easy solution or no new thing to be had.

Go ahead, try to find a YouTube video for how to keep the snow from blowing through soffits made to let summer breezes circulate around hay bales. ♡

Local Audubon Walks, Spring/Early Summer

All are free, supported in part by Sandisfield and Otis and Cultural Councils. To register and for more information, visit: massaudubon.org/pleasantvalley or call 413-637-0320.

Exploration of Cold Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, Saturday, March 2, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Get a “sneak preview” of the newest Berkshire wildlife sanctuary, Cold Brook in Sandisfield and Otis, before it officially opens. We’ll have fun exploring the forests and wetlands of this peaceful property. Hiking poles recommended but not required.

Spring Wildflowers Walk at Cold Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, Saturday, May 25, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Search for meadow and woodland wildflowers and other signs of spring. Enjoy a leisurely walk and observe early blooming flowers. We’ll look up plants we discover along the way. Bring curiosity and a magnifying lens if you have one.

Firefly Watch at Cold Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, Friday, June 28, 8:00 p.m.–9:30 p.m. Suitable for adults and families with children of all ages. Free but with suggested contribution of \$4 per adult and \$10 for families. Experience a magical summer light show and help us track firefly numbers and diversity through the Firefly Watch program. Learn about fireflies and how best to view or gently catch and release these mystical glowing lights of summer. We’ll take an evening walk in the meadows for firefly viewing while keeping our eyes open for stars, planets, and twilight birds and mammals. Directions to the meeting place provided upon registration.

New Moon Night Watch: Stars, Planets, & Nighttime Wildlife at Old Baldy Wildlife Sanctuary, Otis, Tuesday, July 2, 8:00–10:00 p.m. Suitable for adults and families with children of all ages. Enjoy a summer evening on the top of Old Baldy. After a very short walk to the summit, we’ll take in the ethereal twilight before beholding a sparkling, moonless night sky in one of the darkest corners of the Berkshires. We’ll orient ourselves to the stars and planets, listen for wildlife sounds, and enjoy refreshments.

New Wildlife Sanctuary for Sandisfield/Otis Cont’d from p.1



Examining wood chips made by a pileated woodpecker. On right, Becky Cushing, Director of Mass Audubon’s Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries.

Photos: Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries

profile and did not want public acknowledgment for her generosity, which was guided by her deep and genuine conservation ethic.

Cora Miller is also responsible for the preservation of a 157-acre hilltop with 360-degree views on Norton Road in Otis called Old Baldy Wildlife Sanctuary. In the early part of this decade the property was slated to be auctioned and possibly subdivided and developed, but Miller, working in coordination with Mass Audubon and the Mass Department of Conservation & Recreation, bought it and gifted it to Mass Audubon.

Additional land conservation efforts in the vicinity are in process. For example, the Fischer family has generously donated their adjoining 3-acre property that fills in a gap on the western side of the Cold Brook sanctuary on Beech Plain Road. Douglas Fischer explained, “We are delighted that it will be preserved. We trust that under Mass Audubon’s stewardship many future generations of birds and animals will enjoy the same wild blueberries and protected environment that brought joy to our mother’s heart.”

Planning for the Future at Cold Brook Sanctuary

Director of Mass Audubon’s Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries, Becky Cushing, is thrilled to be working on the new sanctuaries in Sandisfield and Otis.

“The land is conserved for wildlife,” she said, “and now public access trails are being designed and will be built. We are committed to free access to everyone, and we really want Sandisfield and

Otis residents to feel like this is their local sanctuary to help steward and enjoy. Working with Mass Audubon’s regional scientist, we are studying the property and determining our ecological management strategies.”

Mass Audubon is monitoring the nesting birds to better understand where wildlife is using the sanctuary. Changes in when and how often to mow fields has provided an increase in suitable grassland bird nesting habitat. “Already,” says Cushing, “the bobolinks are singing and breeding because many of the fields are not mowed until after nesting is over and the baby birds have fledged.

“We are considering an ecological restoration and will be looking at reducing the human footprint on the property over time,” she added. “That will include removing some structures in a phased manner and salvaging materials whenever possible.” The location and construction of the visitor parking area and information signage must also be decided and all permitting obtained.

Mass Audubon’s design of walking trails requires thorough research, taking into consideration the best views, interesting features, and areas that should not have trails because of wildlife or rare species. There must also be a plan for who will build and who will maintain the trails. Construction will likely not begin for another year but in the meantime Cushing is committed to offering free guided programs so that the public, including school students, can enjoy the sanctuaries.

Caretakers Cameron Pease and Colleen Granahan currently live on the site, keeping an eye on the buildings and property. They report seeing deer, coyote, fox, porcupines, turkey, and black bear. Others have seen signs of fisher, beaver, bobcat, and other wildlife.

Cushing says, “We are excited to be working with the Sandisfield and Otis communities, not only with students at the Farmington River School

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References Available




A field on the sanctuary property, near Rt. 8.

which we have been doing since 2016, but also on this important large sanctuary which will ease the movement of wildlife throughout the landscape, and provide a place for hiking, wildlife viewing and nature programs.”

“While we have decisions still to be made and work to be done before the property is ready for visitation, we have a guided hike in early March. Please join us in an early exploration of this wonderful property!”

Also, keep your eye out for additional Mass Audubon programs and presentations at community venues, such as the Sandisfield and Otis libraries, this spring and through the summer and fall.

Cushing is committed to listening to the ideas of the community about the future of this sanctuary. You may reach her at: bcushing@massaudubon.org. 

Bess Dillman, who grew up on what is now the Cold Brook Wildlife Sanctuary and presently lives in South Egremont, is a member of the Berkshire Wildlife Sanctuaries Advisory Board.



A guided tour through the former agricultural fields near the residence buildings.

THE PREVIOUS OWNERS

The newly formed Cold Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, located on Miner Road off Rt. 8 near Cold Spring Road, had two other owners in the last 80 years.

From 1939 until 1989, the property was the home of George and Caryl Dillman. Their daughter, Bess, author of the adjoining report, writes that for many years her parents operated a summer camp on the property with a focus on nature and the outdoors.



Cora Miller with one of her champion Whippets

Classes from private schools in New York City attended week-long spring and fall programs which combined farm and outdoor experience with the students’ history and social studies classes.



The Dillman family, 1954. In the middle, George, Susie, Caryl, and Bess.

Her family sold the property in 1990 to Cora Miller, formerly of Atlanta, Georgia, who raised Afghans and Whippets, including a number of champion dogs that were born and trained at what she renamed “Hound Hill.” Miller’s father, a well-known Atlanta business man, served on boards of directors of local Atlanta companies, including the Coca-Cola Company and Delta Airlines.

A lifelong philanthropist who shied away from recognition and attention, Cora Miller was a major benefactor of the University of Georgia, particularly the Hugh Hodgson School of Music and the College of Veterinary Medicine. She also generously supported the Massachusetts Audubon Society. At her death in 2015, her final gift was to donate the property surrounding Hound Hill to the Audubon Society for the enjoyment of humans and wildlife.



Moreover...

Numbers



By Simon Winchester

Considering our town's long historical association with the raising of chickens, most of us in Sandisfield can perhaps be forgiven for overlooking the fact that from last February 5th we have begun celebrating The Year of the Pig.

The previous year was that of the Dog; the one after this belongs, unappetizingly, to the Rat. But until the next Chinese New Year in February 2020 this is to be the pig's glorious twelvemonth – about which most of us here will display no more than a passing interest.

Although, come to think of it, perhaps we should.

The reason is bound up in numerology, which many in the eastern world take very, very seriously. And in this context it has just been revealed that the three numbers which Chinese pig-admirers regard as lucky, uniquely for this piggy year, are the digits two, five, and eight.

For me this was an *aha!* moment. The very second that I read this forecast in a Chinese horoscope the penny dropped, and I suddenly realized the coincidence.

Because as most of us here know all too well, the telephone exchange long assigned to our village by Verizon, or Nynex, or back in the day, by New England Telephone, is of course the very same three numbers: 2, 5, and 8. A confection of integers that are regarded by more or less half the world's people to be just as lucky as numbers can be.

Some numbers are lucky. Some very much less so. I lived in Hong Kong for many years, and came pretty catastrophically unstuck – in numerological terms – when I moved into my first apartment and acquired my first telephone and my first phone number. It was 433-4747. To me it seemed a perfectly easy number to remember, and so I wandered down to the stationers to have it printed on my name card.

The head printer looked down at it, and immediately dissolved in a paroxysm of laughter. You can't be serious, he said. You accepted that? Are you mad? What's the problem? I asked, with wide-eyed innocence. He then repeated it, out loud, in Cantonese, and all his colleagues began to laugh as well. It sounds, he then explained to me, as if you are saying: *I will be dead. I want to be dead, I really want to be dead.* Change it, as soon as you can.

So I called Hong Kong Telephone, explained the problem, and the Chinese operator began to laugh as well. You really want to be dead? she said. Whoever gave it to you was making mischief. You're a *gweilo*, a foreigner, you don't know or care. But everyone who hears your number will think terrible things. It is a bad, bad number. I give you another.

And so she did, on the spot. She came up with 868-1818, which I had for all the thirteen subsequent years I lived in the territory – and which, because of the way the numbers sound to the Chinese ear, signifies that *I love life*, and that *I love money* even more. Long life and good fortune, all wrapped up in a telephone number: who could wish for anything better?

All nonsense, of course. Except. A few years ago, while planning a birthday party for an elderly relative, I rented a room in a Japanese-owned hotel in New York. It was room 404, and I half-jokingly remarked to the receptionist

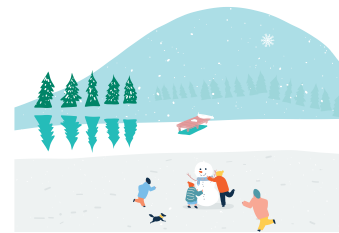
that this, because of its number, must be the death-floor. She smiled grimly, and as she handed over the key said that they only gave this floor to foreigners. Asian visitors would shy away from it.

Well, as it happened, the lady for whom we threw the party dropped dead in mid-celebration. As we all filed out with the EMTs, the receptionist, as shocked and dismayed as the rest of us, threw me what I can only describe as an *I told you so* glance.

So perhaps it is not all fanciful nonsense, this numbers business.

Let us hope that is the case for Sandisfield, now that we know that the best numbers for the Year of the Pig are two, five, and eight. During this coming year let's hope we will be guided – both by our calendar and our phone numbers – by the belief that we will enjoy good health (the combination of 2 and 5) and adequate funds, which is what the number 8 sound like to a Chinese speaker.

May our little town have an ample abundance of both – at least until next February. And then maybe, if the following Year of the Rat is similarly generous with its numbers, even beyond, and into a happy, healthy, and prosperous future. 🍀



A Little Vignette from the Road

Ron Bernard, Sandisfield Times reporter, local history columnist and Jack-of-all-trades for this paper, sent the following dispatch from New Mexico near the border.. Ron and his wife, Jean, are on another epic RV tour of the USA, this time on a path that took them due south to Savannah, Georgia then west across the deep South heading to the Grand Canyon. They thought you might enjoy a little incident that occurred one day last month.

Columbus, NM, Feb. 16, 2019. So there we were in the town of Deming, pulled up to the “last-chance” gas station. Like the town, the station was an old, dusty place with only a few worn pumps. Several lines of beat-up pick-up trucks with bored cowboy-type drivers patiently waited their turns – plus us. It seemed like a scene out of some 1950s movie.

Eventually we eased our huge RV into the space for two pump spots and started feeding it 45 gallons in slow-mo from one of the old pumps. As the process dragged on I noticed that nearby customers seemed to be staring at us disapprovingly.

Then a car horn started honking. Four or five long, loud blasts! Cause for concern!

Anyone would assume that one of the other customers was miffed by this fancy Massachusetts behemoth RV thoughtlessly hogging so much space and time.

Jean looked around for the agitated honker in order to apologize. But the blaring was coming from OUR VEHICLE!

Our furry Keeshond dog, Zeek, was in the driver's seat looking for us. He was leaning or sitting on the horn, presumably expressing his impatience. Everyone around laughed liked hell. Embarrassed, we joined in. Folks there probably went home and told this story. It was a delicious, hilarious moment. 🍀

Select Board Members, A Long List

A SPECIAL PROJECT FOR THE ASSISTANT TOWN CLERK

By Ron Bernard

On the following two pages of this issue of the Times is a rather amazing – and daunting – list of more than 250 years of town leaders, all of the good citizens who served on the Sandisfield Select Board since the town’s beginning in 1751 until this month. All deserve our thanks and remembrance.

“It had been on my mind for quite some time,” Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko told me recently. She was referring to an earlier inquiry if a complete historical list of town office holders was available. This information is useful and even valuable to officials, historians, biographers, genealogists, and reporters – like me – among others.

Fortunately, we have Flora Rhodes, Sandisfield’s incomparable Town Clerk between 1972 and 1996, to thank for compiling meticulous listings of constitutional office-holders and commissions from the Town’s inception up to about the mid-1980s. But since then regular maintenance of Rhodes’ ledger has fallen between the cracks of daily Town Hall work.

“It’s time-consuming,” Dolores said. “Other priorities always seem to get in the way.” Nevertheless, it is the responsibility of town clerks to maintain such records.

Finally, a resource has become available in the

person of Pauline Bakunis who was hired in late 2016 part-time as Assistant Town Clerk. Pauline recently worked on the project and brought the list up to date.

I asked Pauline how things were going generally. “This is my first job,” she said, “and I love it. Every day brings something new.”


Of her big project of completing the list, Pauline said that the project “was especially interesting because I saw how the Town was connected through time, and I learned that some of my ancestors held these positions. I am proud of that. I am also learning a lot about how and why the Town looks and functions the way it does. And how in many respects not much has changed here.”

The daughter of Vicki Hamilton and Ray Bakunis of West New Boston, Pauline is a great-granddaughter of Fannie Spring Hamilton (1917-2004). Being a descendant of Fannie makes her Sandisfield blue blood, a member of the oldest continuous settler family, that of Henry Spring Jr. (1761-1832), who with his father operated the legendary Spring Tavern near upper Spectacle Pond.

I asked Pauline what were her regular Town Hall responsibilities? “Basically anything that Dolores needs help with, such as meetings and elections preparations. I handle some of the routine matters like conflict of interest files, dog licenses, and transfer station stickers. This job is great for life training such as social skills because I’m meeting and dealing with all kinds of people and situations.”

Asked what was ahead for her, she said, “I am interested in a nursing career and plan to take some courses at NW Community College in Winsted and then enroll in nursing school.”

At this point Dolores exclaimed: “Don’t count her out as future Town Clerk!”

We certainly won’t. But with her great attitude, friendly personality, and eagerness to learn, we’re sure that no matter which vocation she pursues, Pauline has a bright future. We also hope it includes Sandisfield. 



Assistant Town Clerk Pauline Bakunis.
Photo: Ron Bernard



The View From the Road
A barn that has been collapsing for several years at J. Jorgenson’s property on New Hartford Road has claimed another winter victim – a car that has been parked there since before the roof started to come down. Photo: Brigitte Ruthman

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Sandisfield Board of Selectmen 1751-2018

The position of selectman (in Massachusetts) is steeped in nearly 400 years of tradition. Though they earn only a small stipend, if anything, for their work on behalf of their hometowns, selectmen have played significant roles over the years in shaping the future of their communities. They are looked to for leadership and integrity, particularly in difficult times. Local government has changed dramatically since colonial times, but selectmen continue to lead increasingly complex enterprises. Handbook for Massachusetts Selectmen, 4th ed.

- 1751 – Daniel Brown, Daniel Denny, John Harwood
 1752 – Daniel Stewart, Daniel Denny, Samuel Bishop Jr.
 1753 –56 Daniel Brown, John Harwood, Samuel Bishop Jr.
 1757 –61 Daniel Brown, John Stillman, Benjamin Meaker
 1762 – Daniel Brown, John Stillman, Thomas Brown, Hezekiah Hall, James Ayrault
 1763 – Corneluis Thayer, John Stillman, James Ayrault
 1764 – Solomon Smith, John Stillman, Hezekiah Hall
 1765 – Daniel Brown, Samuel Smith, Nathaniel Bozworth
 1766 – Thomas Brown, Samuel Smith, James Ayrault
 1767 – Thomas Brown, Samuel Smith, Elisha Kilborn
 1768 – Thomas Brown, Samuel Smith, John Stocking
 1769 – Thomas Brown, Gideon Wright, John Stocking
 1770 – Thomas Brown, Samuel Smith, John Stocking
 1771 – Thomas Brown, Samuel Smith, Samuel Smith Jr.
 1772 – Thomas Brown, Samuel Smith, James Ayrault
 1773 – Matthew Williams, Samuel Smith, Nathaniel Smith
 1774 –75 Thomas Brown, Samuel Smith, Benjamin Smith
 1776 – Daniel Brown, Samuel Wolcott, Gideon Wright, Solomon Robbins, James Ayrault
 1777 – 78 Gideon Wright, Samuel Smith Jr., Benjamin Smith
 1779 – 80 Gideon Wright, Samuel Smith Jr., Elijah Deming
 1781 – Gideon Wright, Samuel Smith, Jabez Bozworth
 1782 – 83 Gideon Wright, David Deming, Josiah Stillman
 1784 – John Kellogg, David Deming, Josiah Stillman
 1785 – Elijah Deming, John Canfield, Stephen Smith
 1786 – 87 John Kellogg, David Deming, Josiah Stillman
 1788 – Drake Mills, Benjamin Clark, Phinehas Kingsbury
 1789 – Drake Mills, James Ayrault, Phinehas Kingsbury
 1790 – Drake Mills, Benjamin Clark, Phinehas Kingsbury
 1791 – Drake Mills, Abel Wilcox, Nathan Spelman
 1792 – Drake Mills, James Ayrault, Stephen Smith
 1793 – Drake Mills, Benjamin Clark, Jabez Bozworth
 1794 – Stephen Smith, Benjamin Clark, Jabez Bozworth
 1795 – Stephen Smith, James Ayrault, Samuel Wolcott
 1796 – 97 John Picket, Jarius Barker, John Allen
 1798 – John Canfield, Jarius Barker, Elijah Deming
 1799 – John Canfield, James Ayrault, Elijah Deming
 1800 – John Canfield, Brainard Selby, Elijah Deming
 1801 – John Canfield, Brainard Selby, John Allen
 1802 – John Canfield, Brainard Selby, John Picket
 1803 – John Canfield, Eliphalet Baker, John Picket
 1804 – John Canfield, John Allen, John Picket
 1805 – Daniel Barker, Jarius Barker, John Picket
 1806 – John Canfield, John Allen, John Picket
 1807 – 08 Uriel Smith Jr., Jarius Barker, John Picket
 1809 – Amos Hall, Jarius Barker, Israel Jones
 1810 – Amos Hall, John Allen, John Picket
 1811 – 12 Uriel Smith Jr., Samuel Merrill, John Picket
 1813 – Samuel Merrill, Eliakim Hull, Israel Jones
 1814 – Uriel Smith Jr., Eliakim Hull, Israel Jones
 1815 – Uriel Smith Jr., Eliakim Hull, Samuel Fargo
 1816 – Uriel Smith Jr., Eliakim Hull, James Adams
 1817 – Josiah Wolcott, Erastus Beach, James Adams
 1818 – Joseph Sears, Eliakim Hull, Israel Jones
 1819 – Uriel Smith, Eliakim Hull, Daniel Sears
 1820 – Samuel Merrill, Eliakim Hull, Church Smith
 1821 – Joseph Sears, Stephen Smith Jr., Jonah Wolcott
 1822 – 23 Joseph Sears, Eliakim Hull, Joseph Wolcott
 1824 – Joseph Sears, Stephen Palmer, Thomas Deming
 1825 – Joseph Sears, Uriel Smith, Thomas Deming
 1826 – 27 Joseph Sears, Uriel Smith, Joseph Fuller
 1828 – Joseph Wolcott, Uriel Smith, Lyman Brown
 1829 – Erastus Beach, Uriel Smith, Joseph Fuller
 1830 – Samuel Smith, Stephen Smith Jr., Jarius Barker
 1831 – Jabez Bozworth, Uriel Smith, Josiah Hubbard
 1832 – Sylvester Jones, John Allen, Josiah Wolcott
 1833 – Stephen Smith, Uriel Smith, Ira Smith
 1834 – Jabez Bozworth, Stephen Palmer, Joseph Fuller
 1835 – Jabez Bozworth, Calvin Burt (replaced Levi Parsons), Henry Abbey
 1836 – Erastus Beach, Lyman Sage, Henry Abbey
 1837 – Samuel Parsons, Lyman Sage, Henry Abbey
 1838 – Elizur Deming, James Jones, Josiah Wolcott
 1839 – Jabez Bozworth, Amariah Smith, John Spring
 1840 – Russell Deming, Amos Sears, James Jones
 1841 – Sylvester Jones, Amos Sears, Lyman Webster
 1842 – Joshua Sears, Amos Sears, Friend Burt
 1843 – Erastus Beach, Josiah Wolcott, Joseph Fuller
 1844 – Abner Webster, Joshua Sears, John Allen
 1845 – Edwin Bosworth, James Jones, Henry Abbey
 1846 – Joshua Sears, Josiah Wolcott, Audelotia Crittenden
 1847 – Joshua Sears, Torril Parsons, John Hubbard
 1848 – Joshua Sears, William Parsons, Henry Abbey
 1849 – Milo Stratton, James Jones, Josiah Wolcott
 1850 – Joshua Sears, Henry Sears, Henry Abbey
 1851 – William Brown, Orlow Northway, Lemuel Strickland
 1852 – Samuel Parsons, James Jones, Joseph Fuller
 1853 – Abner Webster, Orlow Northway, Henry Abbey
 1854 – J H Norton, William Brown, Andelotia Crittenden
 1855 – Miles Hawley, Henry Deming, Andelotia Crittenden
 1856 – Joshua Sears, Henry Deming, Albert Hull
 1857 – Joshua Sears, Joseph Fuller, Edward Wolcott
 1858 – Joshua Sears, Henry Sears, Franklin Abbey
 1859 – Newton Phelps, Chester Claflin, Samuel Parsons
 1860 – William Brown, Orlow Wolcott, Samuel Parsons
 1861 – 62 Lucian Hotchkiss, Edward Wolcott, Milton Abbey
 1863 – Lucian Hotchkiss, Joshua Sears, Edward Phelps
 1864 – 65 Orlow Wolcott, Edward Ingham, Samuel Parsons
 1866 – Lucian Hotchkiss, Julius Mansfield, Edward Whitney
 1867 – Orlow Wolcott, Milton Abbey, Elind Taylor
 1868 – Orlow Northway, Edward Ingham, John Baker
 1869 – 70 Orlow Northway, Edward Ingham, Joseph Fuller
 1871 – Orlow Northway, Milton Abbey, Miron Smith
 1872 – Byron Persons, Samuel Emmons, Joseph Fuller
 1873 – Byron Persons, Carlos Denslow, Joseph Fuller
 1874 – Byron Persons, O B Jones, Joseph Fuller
 1875 – Bruce Persons, Milton Abbey, Joseph Fuller
 1876 – Henry Wilcox, Austin Hawley, Joseph Fuller
 1877 – Henry Wilcox, Henry Mellen, Joseph Fuller
 1878 – Henry Wilcox, Byron Persons, Joseph Fuller
 1879 – 83 Henry Wilcox, Edward Hood, Joseph Fuller
 1884 – 85 Henry Wilcox, Henry Deming, Joseph Fuller

1886 – Edward Hood, Henry Deming, Joseph Fuller
 1887 – 90 Henry Wilcox, Henry Deming, Joseph Fuller
 1891 – Charles Claflin, Henry Deming, Joseph Fuller
 1892 – Charles Claflin, Henry Deming, Byron Persons
 1893 – 94 Charles Claflin, Charles McCaffry, Frank Rugg
 1895 – 96 Charles Claflin, Edward Northway, Frank Rugg
 1897 – Charles Claflin, Lyman Clark, Frank Rugg
 1898 – Charles Claflin, Edwin Deming, Frank Rugg
 1899 – Charles Claflin, Lyman Clark, Frank Rugg
 1900 – 01 Charles Claflin, Lewis Shepard, Frank Rugg
 1902 – Charles Claflin, Lewis Shepard, George Blake
 1903 – 05 Charles Claflin, Lewis Shepard, Frank Rugg
 1906 – Charles Claflin, Joseph Lipsitz, Frank Rugg
 1907 – 08 Arthur Strickland, Joseph Lipsitz, Frank Rugg
 1909 – Lyman Clark, Joseph Lipsitz, Frank Rugg
 1910 – 11 Edman Strickland, Lewis Shepard, Frank Rugg
 1912 – 13 Edman Strickland, Edwin Soule, Frank Rugg
 1914 – Edman Strickland, Michael Waters, Winthrop Twining
 1915 – 16 Edman Strickland, Thomas Fox, Frank Hawley
 1917 – 18 Charles Soule, Thomas Fox, Frank Rugg
 1919 – William Gremler, Thomas Fox, Frank Rugg
 1920 – Charles Strickland, Thomas Fox, Daniel Gage
 1921 – Charles Strickland, Charles Trask, Edman Strickland
 1922 – Charles Strickland, Thomas Fox, Edman Strickland
 1923 – Charles Strickland, Thomas Fox, Howard Spring
 1924 – Charles Strickland, Thomas Fox, Fredrick Whitney
 1925 – 26 Henry Dodd, Jason Sears, Fredrick Whitney
 1927 – 40 Henry Dodd, Jason Sears, Frank Hawley
 1941 – 45 Henry Dodd, Jason Sears, Charles Allan
 1946 – 49 Henry Dodd, Marvin Rowley, Charles Allan

1950 – 52 Newton Orso, Russell Chapin, Charles Allan
 1953 – 56 Martin Pinsky, Russell Chapin, Charles Allan
 1957 – 58 Martin Pinsky, Stanley Linkovich, Charles Allan
 1959 – 64 George Lundgren, Stanley Linkovich, Charles Allan
 1965 – 66 Cecil Mahood, Stanley Linkovich, John Potter
 1967 – Cecil Mahood, Stanley Linkovich, David Kelley
 1968 – 73 Samuel Wilber, Stanley Linkovich, David Kelley
 1974 – 75 James Carr, Stanley Linkovich, David Kelley
 1976 – James Carr, Herbert Messanger, David Kelley
 1977 – 79 Roberta Myers, Robert Freeman, David Kelley
 1980 – 87 Ludwick Tluszcz, Robert Freeman, David Kelley
 1988 – Ludwick Tluszcz, Robert Freeman, Charles Nelson Jr
 1989 – Robert Freeman, Charles Nelson Jr, Shirley McArthur
 1990 – Charles Nelson Jr, Shirley McArthur, John Brock
 1991 – Shirley McArthur, John Brock, Michael Salame
 1992 – 93 John Brock, Michael Salame, Michael Morrison
 1994 – 95 James Carr, John Brock, Michael Salame
 1996 – 98 Michael Salame , Willard Platt, Michael Cormier
 1999 – Victor Hryckvich, Michael Salame, Willard Platt
 2000 – 03 Richard Campetti, Willard Platt, Victor Hryckvich
 2004 – 06 Maybelle Jaquemin, Victor Hryckvich, Richard Campetti
 2007 – Elaine O'Brien, Victor Hryckvich, Richard Campetti
 2008 – Patrick Barrett, Richard Campetti
 2009 – 10 Patrick Barrett, Richard Campetti, Jeffrey Gray
 2011 – Patrick Barrett, Jeffrey Gray
 2012 – Rosaria Messina, Jeffrey Gray, Patrick Barrett
 2013 – Jeffrey Gray, Patrick Barrett
 2014 – 16 John Skrip, Alice Boyd, Jeffrey Gray
 2017 – Alice Boyd, John Skrip, Mark Newman
 2018 – Mark Newman, Brian O'Rourke, George Riley

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Arts Center Kickoff, Coming Up

“INTRO TO SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY”

By Hilde Weisert

Are too many of your smartphone or tablet photographs of your right knee? Too many breathtaking sunsets that are depressingly drab when you get home? Or cute canines that are not cute?

If you want to take your photographs to the next level, or just improve them a bit, or learn what you're doing wrong (or right), mark Saturday, April 27, 1:30 p.m. for a free one-hour workshop with well-known local photographer and teacher Thad Kubis.

Following the workshop, “Capturing Light,” a show of Thad’s own photos, will open, so plan to be at the Center at 1:30 to learn and stay afterwards to enjoy Thad’s unique combination of conventional and innovative ways of creating images.

Like all our Gallery events, gallery shows are always free, with opening receptions around the beginning of each month. The openings are great places to mingle with friends while seeing top-notch painting and photography.

Every year the Arts Center presents an array of free programs for the community, and 2019 will be better than ever. The popular Free Family Film Nights hosted by Bogart and Tina Muller will resume early this summer. Enjoy free popcorn, meet your neighbors, and watch a movie!

Later in the summer, on August 24, Berkshire children’s author Jana Laiz, writer-in-residence at Herman Melville’s Arrowhead; will read from and talk about her recent books such as Blanket of Stars and A Free Woman on God’s Earth: The True Story of Elizabeth “Mumbet” Freeman, The Slave Who Won Her Freedom (which will soon be a feature film with Octavia Spencer as Executive Producer).

A writer with a purpose, Laiz’s goal is to “change the world one book at a time.” With the help of a Sandisfield Cultural Council grant, we will be able to provide some of her books to the Sandisfield Library and to the Farmington River Regional School. For this event, bring your kids for a magical family afternoon!

Do you tend to stress out while getting ready for Thanksgiving? On November 22, our free “Open Mic plus Grown-Up Show and Tell” may be just the ticket to loosen things up and reconnect you with your inner diva, or storyteller, or collector, or whatever-you-wish.

Although it’s not free, we are also delighted to finally present the amazing local favorite, the Wanda Houston Band, rocking the house on Saturday night, September 21, R&B and jazz from the ‘40s, ‘50s, and the ‘60s. The charge for this popular event will be \$20, but if we haven’t sold out the day of, we’ll make some free seats available.

In April’s Times, we’ll provide a preview of other season highlights – music, talks, plays, poetry, and more. And remember: If you find your smartphone Gallery app is full of pictures of your right shoe, awesome sunsets that are awful when you show them to friends, or your cute cat whose tail winds up dominating the shot, do come to Thad Kubis’ workshop on April 27! 📷



A Sandisfield Barred Owl George Wheeler captured this photograph of a barred owl near his home on Rt. 57 near the former Silverbrook Café on February 23.

Among the largest owls in North America, the calls of a barred owl are famously interpreted to sound like “who-cooks-for-you? Who-cooks-for-you-all?” George wrote that he and his wife had often heard the distinctive “hoot” without ever seeing an owl, but, he added, “Just got lucky today.”

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Comings & Goings



STANLEY F. KOLOSKI

1937-2019

Stanley F. Koloski, 81, passed away February 2 at his Otis home following a long illness.

Prior to moving to Otis two years ago, he had been a longtime resident of Chatham and Valatie, New York. Born in Great Barrington, April 3, 1937, he was a son of Stanley J. and Olga Koloski (née Gregoski), a Sandisfield native.

Stanley attended Sandisfield's West New Boston one-room school for five years until it closed in 1950, graduating from the consolidated New School in 1951. He then attended Searles High School in Great Barrington where he was active in basketball and soccer and was class president and valedictorian of the class of 1955. He enrolled at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York, obtaining his Electrical Engineering degree in 1959. He was a member of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity and was in the ROTC. Upon graduating, he was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant and served in both active and reserve duty in the USAF as a Radio Engineer and Ground Electrical Officer. Following his time in the Air Force, he worked for 32 years as a regional manager of the New York Telephone Company (Beltel-Verizon), taking him from Westchester to Buffalo.

It seemed he enjoyed working more than retirement, so from 1989 to 2015 he served as a NY State Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer from New Lebanon to Claverack before retiring a second time.

One of his greatest joys was serving in many capacities for the Tri-Village Fire Company. He served as president and secretary for over 30 years, was named Firefighter of the Year in 1996, and was instrumental in building the company's beautiful new firehouse. He also served on the Columbia County HAZMAT team and was president and secretary of the Columbia County Building Inspectors' Association until 2015.

Stanley's family presence in Sandisfield dates to 1921 when Vasil Gregoski and his wife, Anna Zeida, Russian immigrants who landed in New York in 1913, bought the former Lumen Bosworth farmstead in Sandisfield Center. (The c.1840s house burned in 1986 and was rebuilt by then owners Bob Donaldson [deceased] and Connie Canty, who is resident today).

Olga Gregoski married Stanley J. Koloski in 1936. In 1946, the couple bought the iconic former Jabez Bosworth Tavern in Sandisfield Center where Stanley F. and his siblings were raised. The house is now the seasonal residence of Bob Mayer and Sharon Zimmer of New York.

Stanley is survived by his wife, Katherine Henri Koloski; his daughters, Dr. Dee Koloski of Loveland, Colorado, and Kathleen Koloski of Fox River Grove, Illinois; his brother, Donald Koloski of Hudson, Florida; and two sisters, Ann Koloski-Ostrow of Newton, Mass., and Susan Koloski of Winsted, Conn. He was predeceased by his first wife, Judith Callinan Koloski.

The Koloskis maintained their interest in the Sandisfield community and the town's history. They often attended events at the Arts Center and subscribed and donated to the Times.

In accordance with the family's wishes, services will be held in the spring. In the meantime, donations may be made to the Tri-Village Fire Company or Hospice Care in the Berkshires through Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main St., Great Barrington, MA 01230. Remembrances may be sent to www.finnertyandstevens.com.



FRANK ROWLEY

1935-2019

Frank H. Rowley, 83, died February 16 at his home in Otis surrounded by his family.

Born November 10, 1935, at his family home in Sandisfield, Frank was the son of William H. and Ruth Snow Rowley. He attended Sandisfield Schools and graduated from Lee High School in 1956.

Mr. Rowley worked for Hebert Construction in Monterey from 1954 until 1983 and then Williams Stone Quarry from 1984 to 2015. During the 1960s he owned and operated the school bus bringing kids from Otis to Lee. He was an Otis Selectman from 1977 until 1986. A member of the Hilltown Rodders Car Club from 2012-2018, he enjoyed showing his antique vehicles which included a 1949 Chevy Dump Truck and a 1963 Ford Falcon. Mr. Rowley also enjoyed farming, gardening, woodworking, fixing just about anything mechanical, spending time with family, and traveling.

He is survived by his wife, the former Irene Miner, whom he married on November 2, 1957. He is also survived by one son: William F. Rowley and his wife Barbie of Otis; two daughters: Linda M. O'Neil and her fiance Ray Chapdelaine of Otis and Christine A. Cernik and her husband Randy of Seabrook, Texas; one sister: Nancy Loring of Otis; four grandchildren: Timothy O'Neil, Heather Ogle, William F. Rowley Jr., Marina Cernik; and five great grandchildren along with many nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews. He was predeceased in death by two sisters: Thelma Kennedy and Mary Shalley.

Funeral services for Frank Rowley were held February 20 at the Kelly Funeral Home in Lee. Burial will be at the Otis Cemetery in the Spring.

Donations to Frank's memory may be made to the Otis Rescue Squad, Otis Fire Department, or Hospice Care in the Berkshires. Please send in care of the Kelly Funeral Home, 3 Main Street, Lee, MA 01238. If you would like to leave a message of condolence or share photos with the family, please visit www.kellyfuneralhome.net.



The Librarian's Corner

By Terry Spohnholz

Library Hours:

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

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

Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-1 p.m.

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Spring is On The Way. Soon.

*The river is moving,
The blackbird must be flying,
It was evening all afternoon.*

*It was snowing
And it was going to snow.*

*The blackbird sat
In the cedar-limbs.*

-- Wallace Stevens

At this time of year, when the sun barely crests the mountains and daylight is weakened, the lines from the poem "It was evening all afternoon" capture these long, bitter cold days. The pop of the deckboards as they shriek at the deep cold causes me to huddle inside my great coat and scamper into the warmth of my home where the pellet stove is glowing and my arm chair awaits me. It is there that I seek the salve to my chilled bones. I will slowly unchill and sit, warm tea in hand, and conjure images of a garden filled with green plants, seeking a yellow sun with upturned leaves, bright red cardinals preening in the woods, and chirps of migrant songbirds filling the air. And for a few moments I will dream of spring and ignore the winter. AND dreams will come true!

New Book Arrivals

Long Road to Mercy, David Baldacci. The best-selling author introduces a new character in his most recent novel – Atlee Pine, an FBI special agent assigned to the remote wild of the western United States.

Look Alive Twenty-Five, Janet Evanovich. Stephanie Plum faces the toughest puzzle of her career in the twenty-fifth entry in Janet Evanovich's New York Times bestselling series.

The Reckoning, John Grisham. Set in 1946, World War II hero Pete Banning returns home a changed man, packs his wife off to an insane asylum, and shoots the town's popular Methodist minister all the while refusing to explain either action. In the rich literary tradition of Southern authors Grisham confronts a culture of white supremacy and its aftermath: corruption and violence and a general cultural miasma.

Paper Ghosts, Julia Heaberlin. Four cold cases across Texas, a suspected serial killer with dementia, and one obsessed young woman at the wheel determined to find her sister's killer. Your librarian loved this thriller!

Nine Perfect Strangers, Liane Moriarty. Could ten days at a posh health resort really change you forever? In Moriarty's latest page-turner, nine perfect strangers are about to find out ... and the results are killer.


Kingdom of the Blind, Louis Penny. The new crime thriller featuring Chief Inspector Armand Gamache who receives a letter inviting him to an abandoned farmhouse outside of Three Pines to discover that a complete stranger has named him executor of her will.

Once Upon a River, Diane Setterfield. On a dark midwinter's night in an ancient inn on the Thames, the regulars are entertaining themselves by telling stories. The door bursts open on an injured stranger and in his arms is a drowned child. So begins a dark story.

Happenings at the Library

Arts and Crafts at the Library. On March 9, 11 a.m., the Library will be having a fun crafty event for kids. Flower pot decorating – because SPRING WILL COME. Join us!

Also, **Arts and Crafts for Kids every second Saturday of the month**, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Library Passes. Tired of watching old DVDs, bored, looking for something different? The library has passes to five Springfield Museums as well as the Clark Museum in Williamstown. Go explore your world. 

Council on Aging Getting Through Another Winter



By Nina Carr

As all of us in Sandisfield know, winter here in the "hill country" can really affect your life. We're trying hard to keep smiling and keep as active as possible.

We continue to meet every Wednesday at about 11:30 for lunch and conversation at the Town Hall Annex. Sometimes we play bingo and sometimes cards. We also continue to offer a free blood pressure clinic and visit with the visiting nurse from Porchlight VNA on the fourth Wednesday.

We had a very informative meeting with Peg McDonough from Berkshire Regional Planning about the MVP program on February 6. This program will try to identify how we can better serve our seniors during emergency weather situations. She was very interested in the feedback from our board members and will return in the spring.

On March 20, Vin Marinaro from "Age Friendly Berkshires" will be here to show a video and to get our suggestions on how we can help make Sandisfield more "age friendly."

In April we are planning another chair yoga class and also a visit from the "foot nurse." Dates and hours will be in next month's Times. You can also find our activities on the town's website. Look for COA events on www.sandisfieldma.gov.

Please contact Linda at 258-4816 or Nina at 258-3314 with any questions. 



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Now Hear This!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro.

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

MARCH EVENTS

Winter Hike on Saturday, March 2 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Cold Brook Wildlife Sanctuary on Miner Road in Sandisfield/Otis. A sneak preview of the new Audubon location (see the article on the front page of this issue). For more information and to register, visit Massaudubon.org/programs. Free.

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.

Wednesday Weekly Gatherings from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Council on Aging, basement level at the Sandisfield Town Hall Annex on Route 57.

St. Patrick's Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner on Saturday, March 16, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Fire Station #2 on Route 57. The dinner is sponsored by the New Boston Congregational Church. Tickets are available at the door and take outs are offered. \$12 for adults; \$6.00 children under 12.

Free Irish Music! on Sunday, March 17, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the New Boston Inn located at the junctions of Routes 8 and 57. Enjoy St. Patrick's Day at a local restaurant!

Nomination Papers Deadlines. The last day to obtain nomination papers for the Town Election is Tuesday, March 26. The last day to submit nomination papers is Thursday, March 28. Visit the Town Hall Annex for more information.

Blood Pressure Clinic with Porchlight Visiting Nurse Association on Wednesday, March 27 at 11:30 a.m. at the Council on Aging, basement level at the Sandisfield Town Hall Annex on Route 57.

OTHER EVENTS IN NEARBY TOWNS

Free Community Suppers on Mondays from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Berkshire South Community Center in Great Barrington. Beat cabin fever. Enjoy a delicious free meal prepared by some of the finest chefs in the Berkshires. Greet your neighbors and meet new friends. Donations are gratefully accepted. Call 413-528-2810, ext. 32 for more details.

Rabies Clinic on Saturday, March 2, from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. at the Otis Town Hall Gym. \$12. For more information, contact Lyn (269-0100). Bring your pet's prior year's papers to determine which vaccination is due.

Berkshire Botanical Garden's Bulb Show beginning Monday, March 4 through Friday, March 29. Enjoy hundreds of flowering bulbs in an annual exhibition in the greenhouse featuring New England springtime favorites and a collection of South African bulbs rarely seen in the northeast. The bulb show is open weekdays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and weekends, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission is free.

Berkshire-Grown Winter Farmers Market on Saturday, March 16, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Monument Valley Middle School on 313 Monument Valley Road in Great Barrington. The market features locally grown and produced foods and gifts.

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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.

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. Locations in Monterey include the Library (temporarily located at the firehouse) and the Roadside Café. Also available at the Southfield Store in New Marlborough, and at the general store and post office in Colebrook. Back issues are available for purchase.

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

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

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