

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

Tribunus



Plebis

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume X, Number 6

September 2019

Ode to Winsted

A VISIT TO THE TOWN SOUTH OF TOWN

By Bill Price and Seth Kershner

For many families who've lived in Sandisfield for generations, Winsted has been the go-to town all their lives. Summer folks who come to Sandisfield from The City often drive up Rt. 8, and Winsted is their last stop before the near wilderness that is Sandisfield.

Winsted thus is often the first – or the last – stop.

Plus, the drive, only about 12 miles from here to there, is beautiful, no matter how you go.

Heading south, if you like back roads, you can take any of several narrow country lanes or even, if you prefer, the main “back” road, Rt. 183 through Colebrook. 183 ends at Rt. 44. Turn left and you'll be on the western edge of Winsted.

The main road to Winsted, heading south on Rt. 8, is a wide, recently re-paved highway of gentle curves, easy driving, a few beautiful views of Colebrook River Lake on your left, cliffs and steep slopes on your right. Soon you'll be in Connecticut on a lovely drive at 45 mph through a residential section that leads through Winchester to the north side of Winsted.

Which is closer than anywhere else, and a pleasure to get to.

Once you're there, you'll find – for the most part – what you need. And an interesting town with a fascinating history.

Winsted is unique. Its Main Street has only one side, the north side. Most of the south side of Main Street went missing more than 60 years ago during the Big Flood of 1955, washed away down the Mad River, some of it likely winding up in Torrington.

But what remains is what you need in a town.

If you're thirsty and you enjoy local breweries, you're in a good place. Not far from the Beardsley Library, you'll see a bridge across the (now tamed) Mad River where



Winsted, Connecticut, ca. 1877, Sara E. Harvey, Princeton University Art Museum. Used with permission.

you'll find the Little Red Barn Brewery. It's brand new, its beer is cold and fresh, and you'll quench your thirst.

If you're hungry and you like Italian, you're in a good place. It seems that northwestern Connecticut was peopled, after the Native Americans, by Italians who came to build the cities and bridges of New York and New England and stayed to make their homes and raise their families. They're still here. You can stop at Mario's Restaurant on Main Street. Or the Monaco. Or ABC Pizza. Or Noli's. Or, east of town, at Sophia's. You won't go wrong at any of them.

If you're hungry for something else, you can stop at The Winsted Diner or Noujaim's Bistro or Hunny Bunn's Bakery. Or the Tributary for a fresh fish supper. The Tributary offers lobster nights every Tuesday in July and August (write that down for next summer).

Or, on the days when it is open, stop at Padre's Mexican Cantina. Padre's has a wall of tequilas you've never heard of but will be glad you sampled. But don't taste them all, or at least take your time. Try a margarita. The New York Times did, in 2010, calling the place “the very definition of a hole in the wall” before praising the drinks and the food to all its city slicker readers.

Cont'd p.2

Why an “Ode to Winsted” in The Sandisfield Times?

Sandisfield has a long personal connection with Winsted. The stage ran up from there until 1919; the U.S. mail came/went from there; the first phone lines came through Winsted and a few land lines still exist with exchange numbers from that time; many residents, done with farming, moved to Winsted with its services and good homes between the 1890s and 1920s; the market was important for decades, especially for South Sandisfield farmers. And Winsted, as our closest “big town,” remains our good neighbor.

Ode To Winsted

Cont'd from p. 1

Or the new Mama Pho on Main Street where the specialty dish is pho, a type of Vietnamese soup of broth, noodles, herbs, and beef. Mama Pho also serves a wide variety of vegetarian dishes this time of year. Follow whatever you



The Gilson movie/dinner palace, Winsted.

order with a delectable Vietnamese iced coffee.

There is a row of antique stores, good for stopping in and carrying something home.

Across the Mad River, you can have your boat shrink-wrapped for the winter at Laurel City Marina or replace your windshield wipers at Levine Auto Parts.

If you want ice cream in the spring, summer, and fall, stop at the Dairy Queen, like the one you went to as a kid.

A lot of Sandisfielders buy their week's groceries at Stop&Shop, a full-service grocery just east of town at the Ledgebrook Plaza. Dog

grooming and the Ledgebrook Spirit Shop are around the corner, near Sophia's Restaurant.

A little further along 44, at Mallory Brook Plaza, is a Tractor Supply Store, where you can get a new shirt, chicken feed, or a Husqvarna chain saw. Across the plaza is the multiplex Apple Theatre. But a row of empty storefronts is discouraging. You can read what used to be there.

As with many small American towns, Winsted has its share of deserted manufacturing buildings that with hard work and a lot of money could be restructured into businesses or apartments. But that last idea is long in planning, long in coming, and expensive. Whiting Mills and the new Little Red Barn Brewery are examples of what can work, like the reconfigured Gilbert Clock Factory apartments along the Still River just north of town.

Several stores along Main Street are empty. One of the empties is the Semi-Auto Gun Shop, which may be the only closed gun store in America.

Visit the American Museum of Tort Law, an idea of Ralph Nader, a Winsted native. Or work out at the YMCA which has a very good weight room, a good pool, a basketball court, and offers 3-month memberships for not a lot of money.

Visit R&B Sports World, located behind the Tributary Restaurant. Batting cages, a go-cart track, miniature golf, an incredible ultra-modern play space for kids (socks only), and noisy games that can separate you from your coins, but you'll have fun anyway.

Time your visit right and you can take in a movie at the Gilson Café Cinema and order supper on a tray right at your seat. It is a rare treat. No one in Sandisfield – or Winsted – should miss it. The Gilson shows current movies that you want to see.

If you head home on Rt. 8 at lunchtime, stop for a hand-made sandwich at John's Import Deli. Get a beer next door at John's Package Store. Probably you can't wait to get home to eat that sandwich and you'll pull off at the boat landing at Colebrook River Lake to enjoy the view and the great taste.

Then come on north to home, knowing a lot more about the town just south of here. 🍷

Rich History Just South of the Border

By Verna Gilson

Winsted and Winchester are located in the northwestern corner of Connecticut, a short distance from the Massachusetts line. Winchester, settled in 1732 and named for the cathedral town in England, officially became a town in 1771. That same year, Winsted – named for a combination of Winchester and Barkhasted – was settled along the Mad and Still Rivers. Winsted became a city within Winchester in 1917 and continues to serve as that town's business district.

The landscape of Winsted and Winchester ranges from rocky slopes to steep mountains and rolling valleys. Rivers, lakes, and streams abound, and Highland Lake, surrounded by a scenic drive, rises nearly 150-feet above the business district.

Winchester's grassy slopes were once ideal for dairy farming and cattle breeding, and it produced tons of cheese. Winsted had tremendous waterpower and was an industrial giant from the mid-19th through early-20th century, manufacturing tools, knives, clocks, pins, hardware, hosiery, silk thread, and more, for domestic and foreign markets. Coach roads, railway connections, and trolley service greatly benefitted this region's economy and promoted tourism. Winsted once had an opera house, indoor skating rink, hotels, amusement parks, horseracing, and businesses that lined Main Street.

After nearly a century of economic growth and prosperity, Winsted was greatly affected by world affairs in the 20th century. Much of its workforce went off to war, rail and trolley service ended, and the demand for goods it produced declined. When a disastrous flood struck downtown Winsted in 1955, resulting in seven fatalities, many businesses and factories were forced to close and countless jobs were lost. The community rallied, but was never the same after the flood.

Winsted and Winchester are proud of their past and the majestic churches, fine architecture, and memorial monuments that define it. Ask locals about points-of-interest, and they are sure to mention the Soldiers' Monument, a 65-foot granite structure that honors those who served in the Civil War; Highland Lake, with its public beaches, state boat launch, and recreational opportunities; and Beardsley Library, which was built in 1899 and has an extensive genealogy and local history collection.

Winsted – once known as the "Laurel City" for the mountain laurel indigenous to this region – revels in community celebrations. In 1933, the first of many Laurel Festivals was held. Other annual events include a Pet Parade, Gator Parade, Penguin Plunge, Firemen's Carnival, and cemetery walk.

Winsted's Green District, Main Street, and Winchester Historical Society have received historic designations, and Winchester Center, on Route 263, retains its Colonial charm. Winsted is home to Northwestern Connecticut Community College, which has outstanding programs and an impressive campus, and the site of many historic structures that have been converted into museums, studios, shops, offices, housing, and, most recently, a brewery.

Everyone in Sandisfield is encouraged to take a day-trip to Winsted, a town rich in history, just across the border. 🍷

Verna Gilson, the genealogy and local history research assistant at Beardsley Library, is the author of "Brains, Money & Pluck: Profiles of Early Winsted Industries" and co-author of a book of historical photographs, "Winsted & Winchester" (Arcadia, 2012).

Whiting Mills

By Kristina Blachere | Photos: Bill Price



Jean-Paul and Eva Blachere of Sandisfield outside the Whiting Mills studio of Tyler Green, world-famous make-up artist and instructor.

Just off Route 44, along the banks of the Still River, stands Whiting Mills, a cluster of red-brick mill buildings that serve as a link and a living tribute to Winsted's industrial past.

The 135,000 square foot complex was built in 1901 for the Winsted Hosiery Company, which soon

became the largest hosiery manufacturer in Connecticut and one of the largest industrial employers in the area. World War II brought a decline in employment, followed by the devastating flood of 1955, and the company's 1965 relocation to North Carolina.

The buildings subsequently fell into disrepair and languished until 2004, when Eva and Jean-Paul Blachere purchased the complex. Their team, led by building manager Sandy Evans, began the painstaking process of clearing out old machinery, replacing windows and roofs, and refurbishing the original wood floors.

Their vision: to transform and breathe new life into a piece of New England history, and attract a new generation of creative, industrious tenants who would be proud to call Whiting Mills – and Winsted – home.

Today the building is full of artists and craftspeople who enjoy the spacious, light-filled studios, as well as retail shops, small manufacturing companies, and other local businesses. The beautifully renovated buildings, which have retained their turn-of-the-century industrial aesthetic, have become a hub of artistic, community, and social events, culminating in popular semi-annual Open Studios.

Whiting Mills was ranked the "Best Artists' Community in New England" in 2016 by Yankee Magazine's Editor's Choice Awards.

In 2006, another link was forged when the American Mural Project (AMP) bought two of the buildings in the Whiting Mills complex to house the largest indoor collaborative artwork in the world: a massive mural tribute to American workers that will open in 2020. With AMP alongside it, Whiting Mills is a proud living monument to times past and the endurance of American creativity, ingenuity, and capacity for re-invention. 🍷



Artist Tina Pucket outside her studio at Whiting Mills, weaving bittersweet vines among dyed reeds in her vision of free-flowing ribbons through trees. "I'm letting the vines dictate where I should weave," she said with a smile.

Start Your Career at Home

AN EXCELLENT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

By Susan Stiller

Providing amazing higher education less than 30 minutes from Sandisfield, Northwestern Connecticut Community College offers affordable in-state tuition rates to all Massachusetts residents.

Located in the heart of Winsted, NCCC has a well-defined history of serving students by offering excellence in teaching and lifelong learning opportunities, high-quality student services, state-of-the-art technology, and premier cultural events for both students and the community. For three years in a row the personal finance website, wallethub.com, has ranked NCCC as one of the nation's top ten community colleges.

With more than 65 degree and certificate programs in arts and humanities, business, health sciences, public service, behavioral sciences, as well as science, technology, and engineering, the choices are numerous for lifelong learning. NCCC also offers Connecticut's only accelerated nursing program, Connecticut's oldest veterinary technology program – now in the new state-of-the-art Joyner Health Science Center – and American Sign Language and interpreter preparation programs.

In-state tuition is only \$166 per credit hour or \$2,238 per full semester including fees, making NCCC a far more affordable option for Massachusetts residents than many local Bay State community colleges. There is something for everyone at NCCC, whether you are looking to earn a degree, start a new career, expand on existing skills, or just take a course for personal interest and growth.

As the only higher education opportunity for the region, NCCC maintains close ties to the local area with numerous opportunities for volunteer work,

Cont'd p.4



The New Place Just Across the River

LITTLE RED BARN BREWERS

Text and photo by Shaw Israel Izikson



The Little Red Barn, open for business.

After two years of hard work, including a successful Kickstarter campaign that raised \$34,006, a microbrewery opened its doors in late June just across the Mad River from downtown Winsted.

For more than 18 years, the former Winsted Edge Tool Works (1860-1950) building stood vacant and falling apart. Until the summer of 2017, that is, when Parker Benjamin Real Estate Services of Unionville submitted a proposal to the town to renovate and purchase the building for \$1,000.

The Little Red Barn Brewers (LRBB) soon chose the building for its move into “town” from their beginnings in Barkhamstead, just to the east.

“When we first came here there was no roof on this building, no windows, no plumbing or electric,” co-owner Matthew Day said. “We knew it was going to take a long time to fix it up to get it open, but it came out exactly the way we wanted it to. It’s fantastic.”

Walking into the location of the brewery, it’s hard to believe that the building was in a distressed and dilapidated state for nearly two decades.

The furniture and some of the equipment in the bar area was made from wood reclaimed from barns and other sources in Norfolk and Sandisfield. Several of the beer tap handles are former chisels made in the building when it was the Winsted Edge Tool Works.

Behind the service area, the Little Red Barn brews 210-gallon batches at a time.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

“We sell a whole variety of beers,” co-owner Nils Johnson said. “IPAs are popular, so we are going to sell at least two kinds. But during our opening weekend, the Pilsner and Red were the top sellers. There is something for everyone here. We always have a guest cider and right now we are partnering with Hopkins Vineyard in New Preston and offering the reds and whites here.”

“It takes eight hours to brew our beers,” co-owner Nathan Day said, “and from the time you brew it to the time you serve the beer, it takes two to three weeks. We chose the kinds of beers that we serve because we started off making what we like to drink.”

The three co-owners, brothers Matthew and Nathan Day and Nils Johnson, said that they put a lot of hard work in getting Little Red Barn Brewers open. Having produced their first batch of beer in Barkhamstead in an actually former “little red horse barn” loaned to them by Johnson’s parents, they moved into the falling-down former industrial building two years ago.

The three said the hard work was worth it. “We wanted to make sure that this was in Winsted because the town was very much behind it,” Nathan Day said. “The town wanted us here. It was an easy choice.”

“The feedback has been overwhelming,” Johnson said. “We’ve had families, old people, young people, bikers, and accountants. Everyone is coming together here as a community center. That’s what we hoped would happen.”

Fantastic food truck service is backed up by delivery from the Winsted Diner, just across the river, which has created a menu specifically for the LRB. Music events are held on many nights. Open at noon until 10:00 p.m. (3:00-9:00 on Wednesday, closed Monday and Tuesday). Outdoor service or inside, the place can get crowded.

For information on Little Red Barn Brewers, visit www.lrbrewers.com.

An earlier version of this article was published online at www.WinstedPhoenix.org

Start Your Career at Home An Excellent Community College Cont'd from p. 3

internships, and mentorships. Local partners include: The American Mural Project in Winsted and The Warner Theater, Five Points Gallery, and Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, just a little further south in Torrington. The Workforce Development and Continuing Education Office offers credit-free programs and courses throughout the year for both business and pleasure.

“Winsted is a unique town with many opportunities for arts, culture, and inspired learning,” says NCCC President Dr. Michael Rooke. “At NCCC, we are proud to support educational goals and needs throughout the region and continuously partner with the local and regional community members to promote and encourage lifelong learning.”

Cultural events held on campus include talks by well-known authors like Tom Ryan and Simon Winchester and the annual Mad River Literary Festival held each spring. Mad River has been an integral part of the national poetry celebration every April for more than two decades.

For more information about Northwestern Connecticut Community College, visit: www.nwcc.edu. Connect with us on Facebook: [fb.com/NWCCC](https://www.facebook.com/NWCCC); Twitter: [@NCCC_CT](https://twitter.com/NCCC_CT); and Instagram: [#nccc_ct](https://www.instagram.com/nccc_ct).

Susan Stiller is public relations associate to the President of NCCC.

Carbon's Food Stand


Text and photo by Bill Price

Stop in the roadside pull-out on Rt. 8 just north of Winsted between about July 10 and the weekend after Labor Day and bring home the best corn in Connecticut (and maybe Massachusetts).

Dorothy and Jim Carbon have been selling fresh produce on that spot for 25 years. Before that, Jim ran a produce warehouse in Waterbury.

When they're not here on the job the pull-out looks forlorn. After Labor Day, they drive back to North Carolina, "resting up," Dorothy says, "for next summer."

They sell not only the best corn but maybe the best peaches, the best tomatoes, and much of the best of other vegetables and fruits. They will also sell you a saddle and bridle, whether you have a horse or not. During the winter, Jim works with leather.

He claims that he knows every corn joke in the world. Do yourself a favor, and don't ask for a sample. If you do, you'll get an earful of more corn than you can shuck. 



At the Beardsley Library in Winsted, a \$10 annual fee extends check-out privileges to Sandisfielders.

Photo: Bill Price



KWIK^{Color}PRINT
INCORPORATED
EXPERIENCE • SPEED • QUALITY

- Full Color Digital Printing
- Full Color Envelope Printing
- Large Format Printing
- High Speed Copying
- Laminating
- Inline Bookletmaking
- Perfect Binding
- Folding
- Perforating
- Mailing Services
- Graphic Design Services

35 Bridge Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230
Ph: 413.528.2885 Fx: 413.528.9220
typesetting@kwikprintinc.com
www.kwikprintinc.com

NEW BOSTON CRANE SERVICE & SLEDS

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

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



FERRIS • Husqvarna • **Timberwolf** • **TRITON** • **STIHL** • **SNAPPER PRO**

OPEN: Tues - Fri 9am - 6pm / Sat & Mon 9am - 3pm
Sun 9am - 1pm / closed Mon (Nov 1-April 1)

Route 8 / P.O. Box 691
Sandisfield, MA 01255
www.newbostoncrane.com

413-258-4653
fax 413-258-2884
nbcss@verizon.net



Frank DeMars in front of his framing and photography studio on Main Street, Winsted, early 1900s. Photo: *Sandisfield Then and Now*.

Vintage Sandisfield Images

THANKS TO FRANK DEMARS OF WINSTED

By Ron Bernard


Who hasn't marveled at those wonderful turn-of-the-century images of Sandisfield residents, beautiful homes and public buildings, and quiet country lane and pastoral views? Some were postcards sent from this quaint Berkshire town by summer tourists to envious friends and relations. Many of those have found their way back here complete with messages from 'Aunt Tilly' who is "having a wonderful time." Others are in family scrapbooks or are framed and adorning walls. There are some 100 high quality images of Sandisfield mostly dating from the 1900s. We used as many as possible to tell Sandisfield's story in 2012 in *Sandisfield Then and Now*.

The photographer behind this collection was Frank H. DeMars.

DeMars set out to photograph enchanting or simply every-day scenes in the hill towns of northwestern Connecticut and South County. If he couldn't get to a place with his horse and buggy, he found locals with a good eye and photographic skill and he may have bought up local collections. According

to Sandisfield native Katherine Ives, her great grandfather, Gilbert Ives, was probably behind the camera for many of the DeMars Sandisfield images.

While DeMars did not grow rich from his photos and post cards, the collection is now a priceless legacy to the heritage of many towns in this area. He must have realized how important his quest would be to posterity. His heirs have donated the Massachusetts Berkshire portion of the collection to the Great Barrington Historical Society for safe-keeping and educational purposes. We are grateful to Winsted's visionary photographer, Mr. Frank DeMars, for his gift.

The first public exhibit of the DeMars photographs in 2011 was at the Whiting Mills gallery in Winsted, owned and operated by Eva and Jean-Paul Blachere of Sandisfield. 

Why Winsted?

By Shaw Israel Izikson

This is a question many people have asked me over the past 18 years, since I first moved to town.

Over the years, Winsted has had a reputation of sorts of being the home to a dysfunctional community filled with argumentative people and a broken municipal government. All of that ended a few years back when, after a lengthy investigation, the town's former finance director was sentenced to jail for several years due to his numerous illegal activities. With the town's municipal government cleaned up, much of the fussing and fighting among residents have disappeared

Back then, the dark clouds surrounding the town prevented people from looking at what Winsted has to offer.

Years ago a friend of mine lived in Winsted for a few years and didn't even know that Highland Lake existed. "A lake? In Winsted? Where?" she asked me about a year after she moved out.

While it may be too late for her to visit because she moved several hours away, it's not too late for you, readers of The Sandisfield Times, to visit Highland Lake, which is located a few miles off Main Street. The scenic 445-acre lake includes two beaches and a boat launch.

Along with Highland Lake, there are other treasures in Winsted, including the Whiting Mills artist studios building, cultural events at Northwestern Connecticut Community College, the American Museum of Tort Law and at the Beardsley and Memorial Library, the Steam

MJ TUCKERS PIZZA & PUB

ROUTE 8 / 61 S. MAIN ST., NEW BOSTON, MASS

"THE WAY THINGS USED TO BE"

a FAMILY FRIENDLY RESTAURANT WITH A RUSTIC ATMOSPHERE

ASK ABOUT OUR FAMOUS HORSESHOE TOURNAMENTS

HOSTING PARTIES AND EVENTS | SEE US ON FACEBOOK

FOR INFORMATION AND TAKE-OUT CALL 413 258-4040

OPEN WED & THURS 3-9; FRI - SUN, NOON TO CLOSE

Vent Coffee House monthly musicians showcase at the First Congregational Church of Winsted, and various fairs and festivals.

We also have a newspaper, both online and in print, to cover everything from top to bottom about the area: The Winsted Phoenix. Previously, I was editor for The Winsted Journal for three years. Sadly, the newspaper was shut down by its owners two years ago. Now, a bunch of residents has teamed up with me to start a new news outlet that is located online at www.winstedphoenix.org.

The importance of independent media continues to grow as newspapers across the country continue to be shut down by corporate owners. Increasingly, we are living in news deserts where information and news are hard to come by. Even with Facebook and social media, we are living in a society where communities are disconnected from news and information.

This is why people need to support The Sandisfield Times. The Times keeps people in the community connected by reporting on what is going on, whether it is culture or municipal government. In this day and age, we need to stay connected to our communities, our municipal government, and each other. Newspapers are the best way to keep these connections going and that is why The Sandisfield Times – and the Winsted Phoenix – have to keep going.

As for Winsted, consider this an open invitation to visit at any time!

If you have any questions about the town or need directions, feel free to contact Shaw Israel Izickson, an admin with the Phoenix, at winstedphoenix@gmail.com. 



The Town Green, Winsted. Photo: Bill Price



The Berkshires' Premier Boutique Real Estate Firm

with a unique gift of matching just the right property with just the right buyer.

(in part it's because we work really hard and we listen)

#1 Selling Realtor in the Berkshires 2017 - Chapin Fish (just as he was in 2013, 2014, and 2015)

BROCKMAN
real estate
berkshiresforsale.com

Considering Selling? Contact us for an honest and professional market analysis.

Visit us at our store & office
**276 Main Street
Great Barrington**

farm & home
American-made & Quality Goods, Gifts & Furniture for the Home and Garden

farmandhome.us
berkshiresforsale.com
413-528-9100

The DPW at Work

IT'S MORE THAN JUST ROADS

By Seth Kershner




On June 14, Department of Public Works Superintendent Brad Curry kicked off summer with a win for his team at the Berkshire County Highway Superintendents Association charity golf tournament. Held at the Skyline Country Club in Lanesboro, proceeds from the tournament go towards the One Call Away Foundation, which provides critical support to veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Back home and on our roads, Curry and his crew have been busy this summer patching Route 57 and Route 183; grading and ditch cleaning on Dodd Road; and repairing culverts on Silverbrook Road. To better manage all the work this season, the Town hired an outside company for two weeks to help with grading of secondary roads in the South Sandisfield area. The winning bid, from White Wolf Trucking and Excavation, charged an all-inclusive rate of \$90 per hour. Curry considered this an excellent deal, as other bids exceeded \$100 and charged extra for mileage. The result was a lot of extra help at a cost to the Town of about \$8,000.

At the end of August, the crew will begin a new round of pothole patching, with West Street being a priority.


Besides having to oversee repairs to more than 90 miles of roads in Town, the DPW is also charged with maintaining municipal buildings and the transfer station – a lot of work for a staff of four, including the Superintendent. As Curry told the Times in a phone interview, he is constantly “looking at ways to work within a limited budget.” Which is one reason Sandisfield

DPW has teamed up with their counterparts in New Marlborough to apply for MassGrant funding to overhaul Route 57. Full-depth reclamation with asphalt injection, plus culvert replacement equals a costly project that neither community could afford to pay for through municipal budgeting. They have to wait until October to hear if they will be awarded the funding.

In the meantime, Curry says he plans to better educate residents on DPW work by posting regular updates on the Town website. He will also make his crew and equipment available to two kid-friendly fall events sponsored by the Recreation Committee: Touch a Truck on September 15, and the Halloween-themed Trunk or Treat. 



Down at the SilverBrook

It's happening. Seth Fritch and Melissa Gabso have installed a new roof on the garage (not the section they had hoped to start with, but the closest to falling apart, so it cried out to be fixed first). Now they're using the garage as a tool shed and lumber yard, having moved on to the apartment upstairs, buying new kitchen fixtures and rehabbing the place. They hope to be able to rent out the two-bedroom apartment in a couple of months. They've also started on the bar downstairs, but not as aggressively. They hope to move into the smaller apartment upstairs, perhaps this fall. So, it is happening, down at the SilverBrook. 



Seth Fritch and Melissa Gabso confer with their chief architect, Gobi, in front of the new roof over the SilverBrook's garage.

Photo: Bill Price

RALPH E. MORRISON

413-258-3381



A & M AUTO SERVICE

COMPLETE AUTO & TRUCK CARE
IMPORT AND DOMESTIC

24 HOUR HEAVY DUTY & LIGHT TOWING & RECOVERY
FLAT BED SERVICE

ROUTE 57/EAST

SANDISFIELD, MA 413-258-3381

BEER ★ WINE ★ LIQUOR

Domaney's



Fine Wine ★ Unique Beer ★ Discount Liquors
Temperature Controlled Wine Room ★ Cigar Humidor

66 Main St. Great Barrington, MA 01230

p. (413) 528-0024 ★ f. (413) 528-6093

www.domaney.com

What's a Sign Worth?

IN SANDISFIELD, IT SEEMS, A LOT.

By Bill Price



The sign approaching from the east.

Who is it that doesn't love a sign and wants it down,

Or wants it moved a tad back,

A bit here, a bit there,

Until we get it just so, there, that's it, got it.

No, oops, sorry, not yet, just a little over that way.



The sign approaching from the west.

Photos: Bill Price

The Sandisfield Arts Center installed a proud new sign in June 2018. A committee worked hard on the wording and the look of the sign and the elegant frame. When installed, the sign was attached to the Rt. 57 guardrail for stability.

The sign replaced the original Arts Center sign put up about fifteen years ago with movable letters that announced Center programs, almost exactly where the old sign stood, at the intersection of Hammertown Road and Rt. 57 (Sandisfield Road). The original sign had also been attached to the guardrail.

Then came, Oops!

The building inspector reported that, including the wooden frame, the new sign was 6'4" x 9'4", which amounts to 30.16 square feet. The old sign was 4' x 7'. Town bylaws restrict commercial or other non-residential use signs from exceeding 20 square feet. The sign was too big.

Larger signs can be installed by going through the Town's special permit process and approval by the Select Board. The Center believed it had been granted a special permit.

But, Oops! again.

At the Select Board meeting this February 11, minutes record that "Former Selectman John Skrip may have misled the Board regarding the special permit." The Board found that the process was not followed,

there was no public meeting, and that "John Skrip is the Treasurer for Arts Center and signed the permit as a Selectman." The Board found the current situation "unacceptable and will have the Center go through the special permit process."

Thus ensued a series of friendly visits between Susie Crofut, representing the Arts Center, and Dolores Harasyko, Town Clerk, and attempts at compromise.

Ultimately, the Center applied for its special permit and followed the proscribed process of notifying abutters, advertising, and asking for a public meeting.

The public meeting held July 15 didn't exactly go well. Selectman Brian O'Rourke spelled out the issues: "the signpost is attached to the Rt. 57 guardrail; it is larger than legally permitted; it does not meet setback requirements; and a resident has complained about the sight line." Direct abutter Keith Larson said the sign, right next to his driveway, blocks the sight of oncoming traffic from the left.

Others waded in, all extolling the virtues of the Arts Center and admiring the work it does and its value to the community. After nearly an hour of discussion, during which a few tempers were exercised, especially during a review of the original special permit and its signing, O'Rourke "reiterated that the placement is an issue. The Town and state have a right-of-way and the sign is on a Town-owned guardrail, not on Arts Center property." Jean Atwater-Williams suggested a compromise "of moving the sign minimally away from the guardrail by perhaps 10 feet off the road and free standing."

Selectman O'Rourke, reported the minutes, said that in his personal opinion "the issue is not so much with the size, but with the location. He confirms that when the abutter pulls out of his driveway the sight line is obstructed."

O'Rourke suggested a site visit the following evening. The other two Selectmen agreed to the visit and to reconvene the public hearing July 29.

The resolution on the 29th was that the second application for a special permit was allowed, but ... with the proviso that the sign be moved away from the guardrail, 10 feet back from the curb cut and 4 feet east.

Resolution at last, not to the satisfaction of everyone but, at least, resolution.

Okay, one sign dispute settled, and immediately another shows up, this one right in the front yard of Town Hall Annex.

At the August 12 Select Board meeting, it was announced that the Berkshire Natural Resources Council has asked permission to install a sign at Town Hall Annex so hikers can find the entrance to the Clam River Trail. Several would-be hikers complained last year that they searched for the trailhead, which begins just off the Annex parking lot, but couldn't find it or the Town Hall.

Nearly everyone living in Sandisfield knows the Town Hall Annex is located in the former school building at 66 Sandisfield Road (Rt. 57). Few out-of-towners know that. Since the only sign identifying the Annex

is on the roof over the door making it difficult to spot when passing by on the road, the BNRC offered to do the Town a favor and share the cost of the sign and have it read:

**Sandisfield Town Hall
Municipal Offices
Council on Aging
Clam River Trailhead**

After discussion at the Board meeting, which included at times the phrase "common sense," along with its opposing "according to the bylaws," the decision was made that for the BNRC to place any sign on Town property the state entity would have to apply for a special permit.

"Like the Arts Center," agreed the Selectmen.

Which means an application for a permit has to be filled out at Town Hall and the \$50 fee paid, abutters notified by registered mail (maybe as much as \$200-\$300), the permit application advertised for two weeks in a local newspaper (cost about \$300), a public meeting announced, and a unanimous vote of the Selectmen gained before the sign can be approved.

Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko estimated the cost of a special permit at about \$800.

The BNRC, a nonprofit state organization, funded like much of Sandisfield's road work by the state legislature, has spent thousands of dollars building the Clam River Trail which brings people unfamiliar with Sandisfield to our town.

Planning Board Chairman Roger Kohler, present at the meeting, said the Planning Board may look into and reconsider the Town's bylaws regarding signs. ♡

NO DISPUTE ABOUT THIS

Bogart Muller, Arts Center Board Member, says that "the Sandisfield Arts Center has been providing cultural activities for locals and out-of-town folks for over twenty years. There is a fabulous art gallery sponsoring local and nation-wide artists and a stage for theater events with enough seating for over a hundred people. The Center hosts galas and fundraisers, parties and entertainment, local families can see a free movie once a month with free popcorn and drinks. With the efforts of dedicated volunteers and a structured leadership staff, this place has really put Sandisfield on the map."

30th Annual Steak Roast, 2019

Text and photos by Bill Price



Diners this year enjoy their full-course steak dinners

The 30th anniversary of the Sandisfield Fireman's Steak Roast, held Saturday, August 10, included honoring ceremonies for half a dozen EMS personnel.

EMT Zoe Nelson was honored for 30 years of service. Starting the same year as the first Steak Roast, she said she "just wanted to be of help to people." She recalled that when she began there were about 20 people in her Sandisfield class. She remembered how John Brock and Nancy Creis initially helped her learn the ropes, and how "Margaret O'Clair helped me with paperwork. Some words in the training manual were a yard long, and I didn't have a clue what they meant."

Zoe overcame all that and has been a stalwart member of the Sandisfield EMS team ever since. Now she is recertified every two years and barely bats an eye at the (at least) 3-inch thick training manual required by the state.

Also honored were Mike Morrison and Alec Morrison who responded to a motor vehicle accident, removed the young female victim from the car, and performed CPR until assistance arrived to transport her to an emergency facility. Unfortunately, the young victim died at the hospital.

Also honored were Mary Bredenfoerder, Ralph Morrison, Rico Sanchez, and Heather Wells who responded to a medical call and helped save the life of an apparent heart attack victim. Stabilizing the patient, they were met in Sandisfield by Medic 6 of Winsted and the patient then transferred to Life Star Helicopter, at the Torrington hospital parking lot, and taken to Hartford Hospital. He is presently recovering.



*The Hillside
Garden Inn*
An Intimate B&B

The perfect place for your out-of-town guests!

Offering gracious, warm hospitality and charming, immaculate accommodations in the historic c. 1784 Elijah Twining house.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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



Zoe Nelson, honored for 30 years' service as a Sandisfield EMT.



HOMEIMPROVEMENTS

STEVEN SEDDON, SR.

Building and Modifying Homes
in the Berkshires

Since 2001

413 563 1483

sshomeimprovements@live.com

www.sshomeimprovementsma.com

For the anniversary of three decades of Steak Roasts, Fire Chief Ralph Morrison said "thank you" to the nearly three-dozen businesses and individuals who donated raffle prizes and to everyone who bought chances, thus helping make this event a great fundraiser for the town's Fire and EMS departments.

He gave another big "thank you" to his crew of volunteer firemen and EMS people who prepared Firehouse #2 for the event, served the steaks and dinners, and cleaned up after the Harm's Way band had packed their instruments and the last steak roast guest had gone home. ♡



Fire/EMS personnel of Sandisfield are acknowledged for their service.



The new 35-foot flagpole at Firehouse #2, donated by a family that prefers to be anonymous. The pole was installed gratis by C.W. Nelson.



The Historic
1737 New Boston Inn
 Restaurant, Tavern and B&B

Reservations Strongly Recommended
 Restaurant open Thursday-Sunday noon till 8pm
 Sat. and Sun noon till 9pm

Piano Music Live Friday nights 6-8:45
 Seven Guest Rooms, All Private Baths (Breakfast for Guests Only)

*Friendly
 Spirits
 (as seen on
 syfy Channel)*

*Pets
 Welcome!*

101 North Main St., Sandisfield, MA (Corner of Rtes. 8 & 57)
 413-258-4477 • List of events at www.NewBostonInn.com

Charter OK'd by Select Board

By Bill Price


A cable franchise agreement between the Town of Sandisfield and Charter Communications/Spectrum was signed at the Selectman's Meeting, August 26. Attending the meeting were Peter Larkin, chairman of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), a representative from Charter Communications, and members of the Sandisfield Broadband Committee.

The agreement allows Charter to bring a cable TV system to the Town and provides it with the authority to work with MBI and the state of Massachusetts to bring a fiber internet system to homes and businesses in Sandisfield.

For business reasons Charter has refused to specify "fiber only" in its contract, which was a sticking point with members of the Select Board. The MBI chairman, the Charter representative, and Jeff Bye, chair of the Broadband Committee, however, assured town officials and The Sandisfield Times that the town will receive a complete fiber network (known as FTTH – Fiber to the Home).

With those assurances, the board voted unanimously to approve the contract.

In fact, Charter no longer builds new systems with coaxial cable. Fiber allows for expansion as Broadband technology improves, while coaxial does not. Also, fiber currently costs less to produce than coaxial, has a lower maintenance cost, and is more durable.

What comes next, said Larkin, is "the most difficult part of the process, the 'make ready' work for Eversource and Verizon to ensure that Sandisfield's 1,762 utility poles are sufficiently strong and ready to receive additional wiring." The estimate for the network to be up and running is about two years. 

Painting the V-Plow

By Times Reporters

At the end of August, the weeds that partially hid the huge rusting V-Plow near the town garage were whacked. The plow is more visible, and soon the Sandisfield Arts Center V-Plow Painting Project will get underway. More information will be available next month, said Bogart Muller, the Arts Center board member who dreamed up the idea.


Of course, this being Sandisfield, the plow comes with a past.

Walter Linkovich, for decades Sandisfield's favorite electrician, invited a Times reporter to visit him at the New Boston Rehabilitation Center where he's recovering from a fall that occurred last October.

Walter said that it was his brother Stanley who put the plow near where it sits today.

During winter in the 1930s, with about 100 miles of dirt road to plow along with all the driveways, two residents, Del Bowler and William Sawtell, ran the Town's only equipment, a Cletrac tractor with an attached V-plow, 24 hours a day.

About 1936, Walter said, the Town gave plows to whoever had a dump truck, including Rudy Annacharico, Morris Levine, two of the Kimberly brothers, Jappy Campetti, and Bill Klinger. Walter's younger brother, Stanley, got the big V-plow because he had a larger truck that could handle the plow's size and weight.

During the '40s the Town bought its own trucks and asked that the plows be returned. "Bob Freeman, a Selectman then," said Walter, "made my brother bring in the plow. It might have been used a couple times since, otherwise it's still sitting just about exactly where Stanley set it down." 

We're Running Again, 5K

SEPTEMBER 29,
SAME PLACE, SAME TIME

By Billie Anderson-Pachulski
and Terry Spohnholz


It was so much fun last year, runners of all ages, shapes, and abilities, and walkers, are invited again to join our fun-filled 5K jog on Cold Spring Road at Spectacle Pond. Race start time is 10:30 a.m.

Sign up online by September 1 at berkshirerunningcenter.com and get your free "Where in the 5K is Sandisfield?" commemorative T-shirt. Medals for the top finishers. Refreshments available for purchase after the race.

Sponsored by the Recreation Committee, we've invited runners and joggers from Town as well as from outside Sandisfield.

The race is five kilometers, 3.1 miles. Participants can pick up their "race bib" on Sunday, race day, from 8 to 10:00 a.m. at the registration tent next to the boat ramp at the pond.

Race proceeds benefit the Sandisfield Library and Community Center. So dig out those running shoes. Tell your friends, your relatives, and spread the news about Sandisfield's 5K fun run!

For more information, visit the Sandisfield Community Center Facebook page. 

Snow Farm's Look-Ahead-to-Spring Sale



Until November 1, new customers receive a 15% discount on selected perennials and organic compost. Our Fall/Winter services include:

- > planting bulbs and perennials
- > fall garden cleanup
- > winter pruning of trees and shrubs
- > getting your soil in top shape and ready for spring planting
- > designing your spring garden

Don't wait. Call today to schedule a visit by our professional team.

(413) 717-0579 Learn more at Snow-Farm.com

Kayaks Misplaced, Rules Rule

By Simon Winchester

Of the 116 reservoirs in Berkshire county, one of the more modest – known officially as the North Silver Lake Reservoir – lies at the eastern end of Silverbrook Road. It is a pretty body of water; with ducks and beavers, plenty of medium-sized fish, and – happily - rather few visitors. An ideal place, it seemed to me, to teach my granddaughters – over from London for ten days – the magic of kayaking.

Accordingly I crammed our two rather venerable craft into the back of the car, made the hair-raising descent down the track beside the dam and, sliding through the mud and reeds and taking care not to disturb too many frogs, launched the kayaks onto the placid surface.

Fifteen minutes later the girls, safely life-jacketed as their mother – back in England – would have wished, were paddling perfectly happily through the evening calm, marvelling at the silence, the views, the understated charm of this corner of the Berkshire hills. They loved it: there's not much kayaking to be had in west London, and this was, for both of them, a triumph of discovery.

They pleaded that they wanted more before their vacation was done. And so my wife and I hauled the boats up into a thicket of forest, turned them keel-side up, secured them to the bole of a small tree with a length of chain, and left them for another's day's aquatic fun.

That was on a Tuesday. I came back on Friday, to find this notice stapled – stapled! – to the tree.



And so of course I obeyed, right away. The offending craft were hauled out, and now are safely home, back in the barn. The children are similarly safe, back in London. But as they say back there, they are rather cheesed off.

And I am left with a simple question, for the estimable staff of our state's Department of

Conservation and Recreation – a body whose mission statement notes that it exists in part to ensure “the health and happiness of people across Massachusetts...”

Put simply: was the “DCR staff” who took the time and trouble to print – in color, no less – this notice, to insert it in a waterproof envelope and then to reach up and staple it to the tree, a miserable zealot determined on the rigid adherence to some pointless rules? Or was he, given that the wording of his Friday-written notice did not actually require us to remove the kayaks until Sunday, essentially say: this is against the rules, but I tell you what, let's turn a blind eye until the weekend is over, and you-all have a nice time until then?

I'd like to think he belonged to the second category, and that he was a decent chap after all. My cheesed-off granddaughters were less charitably disposed, however. When I reminded them that the DCR was a body set up to root for the health and happiness of people like them, they chortled in distinctly skeptical fashion. Oh sure, they say.

Out of the mouths of babes ...



The Librarian's Corner

By Terry Spohnholz

The Library will be closed Labor Day weekend.

New Books

This is How You Lose the Time War by Amal El-Mohtar and Max Gladstone. Treachery, love, lyricism, space opera with time-traveling romantic super-agents.

Inland by Tea Obreht. The lawless lands of the Arizona Territory, 1893. American West. Grounded in true but little-known history of the *The Last Widow* by Karen Slaughter. Devious twists, disturbing secrets, and shocking surprises.

Gods of Jade and Shadow by Silvia Moreno-Garcia. A dark fairy tale inspired by Mexican folklore.

Events

Monday Morning Playgroup returns to the Library on September 9. From 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Free. Children accepted aged birth to 5. Crafts, singing, reading, free play. Led by Nina Carr.

Saturday, September 14 from 1-2:30 p.m. is Arts and Crafts with Kids (every second Saturday of the month).

Passes for the Berkshire Museum, the Clark, MAMO, and more. Stop by the library and inquire.

Sandisfield, MA
(413) 446-4944

Licensed Equestrian
Group or Private
Lessons

Attention Equestrians

Spring and Summer 2019

Horse Barn with 65'x120' Indoor Area and adjacent stalls.
Outside Arena 100'x200'

- Training
- Showing

- Dressage
- Jumpers

Boarding Space Available
Summer Day Camp
Cross Country Trails

MORE FUN THINGS FROM THE REC COMMITTEE

September 15 – **Touch a Truck Sunday.** Residents, especially all the kids, will have a chance to reach out and touch and maybe climb on those big, bad trucks and vehicles owned and operated by the Town’s DPW and Fire Department. Special treats for the youngsters, a visit from Smokey the Bear and, unless it is needed

elsewhere, the LIFE STAR critical care helicopter will land and be on view. At the VFW Pavilion in Hamilton Grove from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Other Upcoming Events:

October 5 – **Foxwoods Casino Bus Trip.** Must be 21 years or older. Reserve a spot.

October 31 – **Trunk or Treat/Monster Bash** event at the VFW Pavilion.

For more information, visit the Sandisfield Community Center Facebook page. 📱

Select Board Report


Weekly Select Board meetings will resume after Labor Day.

Major work this summer concerned the license agreement between Charter Communications (Spectrum) and the Town to provide broadband service to Sandisfield. In this case the “devil is in the details,” and Charter’s refusal to specify “Fiber to the Home” (FTTH) as the structure of its proposed network is of concern, as this will determine the capacity of the network for future upgrades. The only hope now for a “future-capable” network, it seems, is for the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) to protect the Town’s interests by specifying fiber in their agreement with Charter.

Although the Select Board met only every other week during July and August, many special meetings filled the days in between. A Special Town Meeting was held, which passed the district school budget, with a commitment by the School Committee to work with the Board this year on next year’s budget. A public hearing was held, in two parts, with a site visit in between, to issue a special permit for a sign at the Sandisfield Arts Center. We interviewed and hired a Public Safety Officer. Work Sessions were held with the Broadband Committee and with the Tax Collector. We met with New Marlborough officials on a joint application to MassWorks for a grant to rebuild five miles of severely deteriorated Route 57, and held a special Board meeting to finalize this application. We hope to hear good news about the grant during October.

Along with regular business, we solicited bids for a cardboard compactor for the Transfer Station; discussed Fire Department vehicles, including its newly acquired tanker; met with the Planning Board; reviewed Town employee health insurance; and instituted regular trash pickups at Town buildings. 📱

Mark Newman
Brian O'Rourke
George Riley



**1873 East Otis Road
East Otis, MA 01029**

413.269.4309

Bruce's HARDWARE



**FARMINGTON
RIVER DINER**

119 South Main Road
Otis, Massachusetts 01253

413-269-6874
Lynn

**Carl
Codling
Construction**

Tiling Baths Doors Kitchens Flooring
Trimwork Windows Custom Cabinetry

Insured
MA CSL #103868
MA HIC #165386

(c) 413.854.8136 (h) 413.258.2861 carlecod1@verizon.net

30+ YEARS EXPERIENCE
REMODELING DONE RIGHT

ANNUAL TURKEY ROLL

A FAMILY EVENT. ALL WELCOME.
ROLL DICE FOR PRIZES OF LOBSTERS,
TURKEYS, ROASTS, HAMS, AND MUCH MORE.
RAFFLES.

BYOB (IF YOU CHOOSE).

SEPTEMBER 20, FRIDAY, 7:00 P.M.

AMERICAN LEGION PAVILION,
81 SOUTH MAIN ST., ROUTE 8





Letters to the Editors

MISSING THE ARTS CENTER

I have faithfully read The Sandisfield Times for ten years.

One of my favorite facets about your town is the Sandisfield Arts Center. Thus I was surprised that the Arts Center received not even a mention last month in the *Moreover...* column, by Simon Winchester, where he describes how the town has changed and grown since your paper started a decade ago.

Living in the busy bay area, where there's always a lot to do but sometimes little time to do it, I've relished the offerings at the Arts Center, the years of hard work people dedicated to restoring it, and the role it's played in gathering people in one beautiful location.

Often when my sisters and families were visiting, we attended the jazz music, Indian dancing, book talks, and best of all the plays by the Sandisfield Players, which my dad and mom, Sandy and Flora Parisky, performed in and which traveled to Cornwall, England, to perform *Our Town* at the famous Minack Theatre in 2016. I have longed to attend a history talk by Val Coleman and Bill Cohn, but never seem to be in town when they appear. I love the role the Sandisfield Arts Center plays in gathering people.

Originally I read your paper while visiting my mom and dad at their Sandisfield home. When my husband and two boys arrived, I'd find the recent issues on the coffee or kitchen table. Sitting in their green Queen Ann chair in the corner of the living room, I'd lapse into bliss while reading about your town.

Later, during conversation, when they or their friends and neighbors spoke about this or that happening in town, I knew the topics. I could participate in the conversations and felt connected to the town. About four years ago, my dad made it easy for me to read the paper when he bought me an annual subscription. Now I read it in my home in California. Even though I'm way out here, it's good to keep up with the times.

It is fun and sometimes hard to read. I love reading about the Sandisfield Arts Center, the poetry, farm life, political comings and goings. I felt helpless reading about the gas pipeline, and sad about the truck demolishing Pete's store. I continue to know the residents from afar and once even saw that Val Coleman's cartoon caption had been chosen as a finalist in *The New Yorker* magazine!

It was hard when my dad died, and I had to acknowledge that acutely when my subscription of 2018 ended. But renewing *The Times* helped me stay connected to your beloved small town and the communities that gather there.

I will look forward to reading *The Sandisfield Times* in the coming years and look forward to reading a future mention in the *Moreover...* column about the community and gathering that's developed out of the Sandisfield Arts Center.

Sincerely,
Jenn Castro
San Jose, California

OUR THANKS TO THE TREE GUYS

The Sandisfield American Legion Post 456 thanks John Field for cutting down the tree at the Pavilion and Bud Hyrkovich and Steve Carroll for cutting it up and hauling it away.

Maria Domato
Commander

Council on Aging

By Nina Carr

Well, you know what they say about the best made plans ... We had the lake, the food, the grill, and even the newly functioning bathrooms. Unfortunately the weather did not cooperate. Our annual picnic ended with a mad scramble to pack up our supplies and run for cover. The wind, thunder, and an absolute downpour chased us back to the COA.

Thanks to everyone for your prep work, especially Ann Wald and Bill Carr. Next month we will continue our normal schedule and also our well attended Chair Yoga classes. Linda Riiska reminded me there are still some Farmers Market coupons, and we can still provide volunteer drivers for doctor's appointments and errands. Also we are trying to schedule a day trip to the Butterfly Museum and Yankee Candle next month, so please let us know if you are interested. Call Linda at 258-4826 or me at 258-3314. ♡

C. W. NELSON
19 Dodd Road, Sandisfield, MA 01255
(413) 258-3375
chuckwnelson@earthlink.net
Looking Glass Gardens

STONEMWORK
Patios • Walls • Walkways
Landscaping • Waterscaping
HORTICULTURE
Trees • Shrubs • Perennials
SITE DEVELOPMENT
Excavating • Grading • Drainage
Visit our website at
www.cwnelson.com

A Full Service Nursery & Design Center



"Ideas Are
The Heart of Design"

Fully licensed and insured with over 50 years of experience. Our team has the skill, the knowledge and the creative expression to take your project from bare lot to a landscape you will love.




All photos shown are the actual work of C.W.Nelson

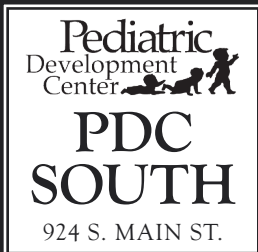
Position your foundation on higher ground

before you put your
house on stilts



FRANK CONSOLATI INSURANCE
Renter, Condo and Home Insurance Since 1942
ConsolatiInsurance.com

Concerned about your infant or toddler's development?



Give us a call and we can set up an
appointment to talk with you about
any concerns you may have.

Trained Therapists
offer evaluation & home visits
to eligible children.

Dept. of Public Health Certified
Early Intervention Program.

924 Main Street
Great Barrington
413-717-4083

pediatricdevelopmentcenter.org

Police/Fire/EMS Logs

NOTE: North Main Street is Rt. 8 north of New Boston Bridge; South Main Street is south of the bridge.



POLICE

July 2019 Incidents

- July 2 Citizen assist, Slater Lane
- July 2 Assist other department, Sandybrook Turnpike
- July 3 Keep the peace, Clark Road
- July 4 Well-being check, Sandisfield Road
- July 4 Fireworks complaint, New Hartford Road
- July 5 Medical, Tolland
- July 5 Citizen assist, Sandisfield Road
- July 5 Lifting assistance, Slater Lane
- July 6 Fire alarm, Sandisfield Road
- July 8 911 hang-up, Sears Road
- July 10 Missing person, South Main Street
- July 12 911 hang-up, Clark Road
- July 12 Medical, Sandisfield Road
- July 17 Medical, Sandisfield Road
- July 18 Theft complaint, Sandisfield Road
- July 19 Burglar alarm, Sandybrook Turnpike
- July 19 Theft complaint, West Hubbard Road
- July 21 Grass fire, Hammertown Road
- July 21 Suspicious motor vehicle, Chestnut Hill Road
- July 22 Motor vehicle accident, Sandisfield Road
- July 25 Investigation, Sandisfield Road
- July 26 Medical, Sandisfield Road
- July 27 Assist other department, Main Street
- July 27 Medical, Tolland
- July 28 Erratic operation of motor vehicle, South Main Street
- July 28 Disabled motor vehicle, North Main Street
- July 30 Well-being check, Town Hill Road
- July 30 Erratic operation of motor vehicle, North Main Street
- July 31 Well-being check, Sandisfield Road



FIRE

July 2019 Incidents

- July 6 Fire alarm activation, investigate, no fire
- July 13 Fire alarm activation, investigate, no fire
- July 21 Brush fire



EMS

July 2019 Incidents

- July 1 Mutual aid to Tolland, no transport
- July 2 Mutual aid to Tolland, transport to Noble Hospital, Westfield
- July 2 Medical, New Marlborough responded as Sandisfield EMS still out on prior call
- July 5 Medical, Tolland, Granville responded as Sandisfield had no crew available
- July 6 Medical, no transport
- July 9 Mutual aid to Otis for motor vehicle accident
- July 12 Medical, transport to Fairview Hospital, Great Barrington
- July 12 Second medical call, transport to Fairview Hospital
- July 13 Medical, transport to Fairview Hospital
- July 15 Medical, transport to Berkshire Medical Center, Pittsfield
- July 15 Medical, Otis responded as Sandisfield EMS still out on prior call
- July 17 Medical, New Marlborough responded as Sandisfield EMS only had one EMT available who assisted New Marlborough
- July 17 Medical, Otis responded- Sandisfield had no crew available
- July 24 Medical, Tolland, Public Safety Officer responded, Westfield crew transported
- July 26 Medical, transported to Fairview Hospital
- July 27 Medical, Tolland, transport to Noble Hospital
- July 28 Medical, Tolland, transport to Fairview Hospital

OTIS REC CENTER

www.noticeotis.com

Drop-In Classes | Programs | Special Events | Gym

Neighbors Welcome

For information please visit www.noticeotis.com or contact the Rec Center Office.

Office: Tuesday—Friday, 8:00AM-4:00PM
70 North Main Road • PO Box 237 • Otis, MA 01253
413/269-4541 • otisrec@verizon.net

Recreation Commission: Kathy Carroll, Bill Dyer, Dana Pustinger, Jen Catalane
Program Supervisor, Patricia Richard

September “School Day” at the Arts Center

By Hilde Weisert

Chuck Berry might approve of the varied September back to school line-up at the Arts Center –a bit of history, no practical math (some poetry instead), and on September 21, as soon as 8 o’clock rolls around, the Wanda Houston Band will rock the house.

We open September 7, 2-4 p.m. for a reception for Claudia D’Alessandro’s gorgeous photographs of the natural world. In D’Alessandro’s words, “...in the sky and water and on the earth, great drama, intricate patterns, faces, shapes, and colors are all around, and sometimes, the most beautiful of these lasts only an instant.” Her photos capture those instants.

Saturday, September 21 at 10:30 a.m., part-time Sandisfield resident and historian Dr. Robert Maryks will tell a story of the impact of the racial laws on the Jews (and those who were considered Jews) under the Mussolini regime. “Fascism and Racial Laws in Mussolini’s Italy” is based on 139 letters that were exchanged between the victims of those laws (and their relatives and friends) and the Jesuit priest Pietro Tacchi Venturi (1861–1956)

who interceded within the Fascist government in order to circumvent provisions of the 1938 anti-Jewish legislation.

One of the families who wrote letters was the Finzi-Continis, so we set the stage the evening before with a free grown-up film, the Academy-Award winning “The Garden of the Finzi-Continis.”

We are thrilled to finally have local favorite and internationally-known Wanda Houston and her band Saturday September 21, 8:00 p.m., ‘40s, ‘50s, and ‘60s R&B and jazz.

September wraps up with a unique poetry program with poems of masters such as Frost, Auden, Wilbur, Plath, Owen, and Yeats performed by Ben Luxon and other Sandisfield Players, in dialogue with poems they have inspired by award-winning poets Hilde Weisert, Rebecca Hart Olander, Jayne Benjulian, Irene Willis, and others. James Kraft, author and general editor of the works of Witter Bynner, will read a few of Bynner’s most enduring poems. 🍷

Sandisfield Historical Society



By Ann Wald, President

We’re still working on the Meeting House roof repair and have asked the building inspector what has to be done to get the bathroom project started.

We’re in the planning stages of a “Family Tree” contest, to help the children of our area learn about their family histories. The contest will be open to children in grades K-6 who either attend the Farmington River Regional School or whose family is current Sandisfield tax-payers (no need to be a resident). There will be

different age groups for the contest and the winners of each will receive a prize to be announced and have their family trees put on display at a location to be announced. Further information will be available in a later issue. We want to also involve the parents in helping their children identify their history and actually filling out a tree with parents, grandparents and aunts and uncles and so on – as far back as you can go.

At our meeting September 14, we will go over the final plans for our Apple Festival (October 12) with a few vendors, tag sale, hot dogs, hamburgers, and the wonderful apple pies made by the ladies of the COA. Our wine and cheese event (November 9) will also honor our veterans and, of course, coming soon, is our Christmas Fair (December 7). 🍷



Sandisfield Arts Center

5 Hammertown Rd, Sandisfield, MA

413 258 4100

SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

SEPTEMBER

IN THE GALLERY

Sept 7 – Sept 28

CLAUDIA D’ALESSANDRO

Photographs

Reception: Sat, Sept 7, 2 - 4 PM

Fri, Sept 20 6 PM Free

FILM: “THE GARDEN OF THE FINZI-CONTINIS”

Sat, Sept 21 10:30 AM \$10

FASCISM AND RACIAL LAWS IN MUSSOLINI’S ITALY

Part-time Sandisfield resident Dr.

Robert Maryks, whose research includes Finzi-Contini family letters

Sat, Sept 21 8 PM \$20

WANDA HOUSTON BAND
‘40s, ‘50s, & ‘60s R&B and Jazz

Sat, Sept 28 4 PM \$10

TODAY’S POETS IN CONVERSATION

WITH THE MASTERS

with Ben Luxon, Sandisfield Players, and award-winning poets

Chipper Paul
owner

CHIP PAUL STONE WORKS

413-269-4455

Otis, Massachusetts Licensed and Insured
chippaulstoneworks@yahoo.com

Barbara Elton Quilts

By Michelle Arnot

Artist Barbara Steen-Elton of Sandisfield and Boston is always in the process of making a quilt using material from men's shirts.

In earlier years, attracted to plaids and stripes – and entranced with negative and positive space – Barbara produced huge pastel drawings of men's shirts. After developing carpal tunnel syndrome, however, she abandoned drawing for a new medium: quilts.

Each unique and beautiful quilt takes 12 months to complete as she designs and composes it using a Japanese sewing technique called *sashiko*.

After seven years of creating mainly queen-size quilts (and actually using them), Barbara sensed creative energy flowing from the partially made quilts as she assembled them on a wall in her Sandisfield studio. Energized by the space between the pieces of fabric, she worked this new process by leaving spaces blank and seeing where that led her. In 2015 she framed these smaller pieces, which were on display in the Sandisfield Art Center in an art exhibit.

"I'm slightly appalled that I framed my art work again rather than making useful pieces," she said, "but that's where the process has taken me."



Monday Playgroup Returns

The Monday morning playgroup sponsored by "Southern Berkshire Kids" returns to the Sandisfield Library on September 9. Free for children from birth to five years old, the program includes crafts, singing, reading, and free play. From 9:30 until 11:00 a.m., led by Nina Carr. All are welcome.

WORDS

Fourteen years ago
Bill Cohn and Socrates
Told me to spin some words
With them on weekend afternoons
At the Arts Center.

It's been a gas!
World War II, Poetry,
Democracy, Dissent,
Free Speech, Socialism,
The Elections.
Even Norman Rockwell
Got a taste.

One of us talked about Rebels
While the other sweet-talked
Abraham Lincoln.

We talked Pacifism and Why We Fight.
One talked about War and Music
And the other about War and Poetry.

And we both talked
From time to time
About Our Town,
This little beautiful place
Where words still matter.

Val Coleman
West New Boston

Riiska Brook Orchard
101 New Hartford Rd, Sandisfield MA



Saturdays
& Sundays
9-5

Pick Your Own Apples!

413-258-4761



KNOX TRAIL INN
1898 EAST OTIS RD (RT 23) EAST OTIS, MA
413-269-4400
KNOXTRAILINN.COM

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK PAGE
FOR HOURS OF OPERATION AND ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE

**SWEETY AND HUNS
CRAFTS**



-  @SWEETYANDHUNSCRAFTS
-  @SWEETYANDHUNSCRAFTS
-  @SWEETYANDHUNS
-  @SWEETYANDHUNSCRAFTS
-  @SWEETYANDHUNSCRAFTS
-  SWEETYANDHUNSCRAFTS@GMAIL.COM

P.O. BOX 174 SANDISFIELD, MA 01255

NOW HEAR THIS!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro

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

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Playgroup on Mondays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Sandisfield Library Community Room (basement). No pre-registration is necessary. The playgroup features a story time. 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, Sandisfield Town Hall Annex on Route 57.

Chair Yoga on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. at the Council on Aging, basement level, Sandisfield Town Hall Annex on Route 57. Free.

YOGA with Ann Gadwah will be offered most Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall on Silverbrook Road. Bring yoga mat or towel. Visit [ConnectSandisfield](#) on Facebook or contact the Recreation Committee or Library for dates. \$5.

Opening Reception: Claudia D'Alessandro on Saturday, September 7, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammertown Road. "The Nature of Things" features Nature's palette of sweeping landscapes, skies, and waterways in photographs on paper, canvas, and aluminum. Private showings available by appointment with the artist. The gallery exhibition will be on display through September 28.

Chicken Barbecue on Saturday, September 7, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Fire Station #2 on Route 57. Sponsored by the New Boston Church. Half a chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, corn on the cob, rolls, and assorted desserts.

New Boston Church Service on Sunday, September 8, at 10:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church, Route 57. All are welcome!

Touch a Truck Sunday, September 15 from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m. at the American Legion Pavilion, Route 8. In coordination with Sandisfield's Police, Fire and DPW departments, the Recreation Committee is again offering residents a chance to reach out and touch those big, bad trucks and vehicles. Special treats for the youngsters, a visit from Smokey the Bear, and, unless it is needed in an emergency, the LIFE STAR critical care helicopter will land and be on view.

Film: The Garden of the Finzi-Continis on Friday, September 20 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammertown Road. The showing will set the context for Dr. Robert Maryks' discussion on Saturday.

Turkey Roll on Friday, September 20, at 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Pavilion on 81 South Main Street (Route 8). A family affair, all are welcome. Roll the dice for prizes. Lobsters, turkeys, roasts, hams, and more. Raffles. BYOB.

Fascism and Racial Laws in Mussolini's Italy Lecture by Dr. Robert A. Maryk on Saturday, September 21, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammertown Road. For more information visit www.sandisfieldartscenter.org. \$10.

Wanda Houston Band: 40s, 50s, 60s Rhythm & Blues and Jazz on Saturday, September 21, at 8:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammertown Road. Wanda Houston has traveled the world using her vocal gifts in an amazing variety of settings and styles. Featuring Rob Kelly on piano and vocals, Jay Bradley on drums, and Jeff Stevens on trumpet. For tickets and more information visit www.sandisfieldartscenter.org. \$20.

Today's Poets in Conversation with the Masters on Saturday, September 28, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammertown Road. This unique poetry program will feature poems of masters performed by Ben Luxon and other Sandisfield Players, in dialog with poems by award-winning poets Hilde Weisert, Rebecca Hart Olander, Jayne Benjulian, Irene Willis, and others. For more information visit www.sandisfieldartscenter.org. \$10.

September 29, **Sandisfield's 2nd Annual 5K Run**. Cold Spring Road at Lower Spectacle Pond. Start time is 10:30 a.m. Sign up online by September 1 at berkshirerunningcenter.com and get your free "Where in the 5K is Sandisfield?" T-shirt.

Refreshments by the Sandisfield Fire Department immediately following the race. (See story on p. 12.)

OTHER EVENTS IN NEARBY TOWNS

Colebrook Fair on Saturday, August 31, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in historic Colebrook Center. Food, vendors, and fun!

Naumkaeg at Night on Thursdays, September 5 and 12 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Stockbridge. Members \$5 and non-members, \$10. Fun for the whole family.

Woodland Hike from Gould Farm to the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery on Saturday, September 7 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Lisa Lewis and Bob Rausch will discuss Gould Farm's history, mission, and connection to the land as the walk travels the forested trails behind the Harvest Farm Bakery. Then, Tom Mendelsohn will take participants on a tour of the Fish Hatchery. Van service back to Gould Farm will be provided. Meet at the Harvest Barn.

Family Picnic & Children's Art Afternoon on Sundays, September 8 and 15 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Naumkaeg in Stockbridge. Members are free; non-member adults \$20, children free.

Fishing Derby on Saturday, September 14 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at the Berkshire Hatchery on 240 Hatchery Road in Monterey. The Derby is for children thirteen and under, rain or shine. Prizes are awarded and limited equipment and assistance is available. For information, call 528-9761.

Hike at the Goodnow Preserve on Saturday, September 28 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. in New Marlborough/Mill River. To register and for directions, email nmlandtrust@gmail.com or 413-854-8509. Meet at the Preserve entrance.

Berkshire Pottery Tour

September 28 & 29, 10am - 5pm



A self-guided driving tour of 6 Berkshire County pottery studios

www.berkshirepotterytour.com

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

P.O. Box 584

Sandisfield, MA 01255

www.sandisfieldtimes.org

The Times is grateful to readers who contribute to keep our newspaper going.



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. Donations to The Sandisfield Times are deductible under section 170 of the Federal Income Tax Code. Donations do not include subscriptions. Subscriptions do not qualify as donations.

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, 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, Otis Rec Center, Farmington River Diner, Otis Poultry Farm, Otis Woodlands (May-September), Knox Trail Inn, and the Laundromat. Locations in Monterey include the Library 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.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

To have the *The Times* mailed to your home, please complete the information below and send a check for \$25 (annual subscription fee for 11 issues) made out to *The Sandisfield Times* to:

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES
PO BOX 584, SANDISFIELD, MA 01255

Name _____

Address to where *The Times* should be delivered:

City, State, Zip _____

Email address: _____

Phone (only used if paper is returned by USPS) _____

Editorial Staff

Editors: Bill Price and Seth Kershner

email: editor@sandisfieldtimes.org or cell 413.429.7179

Advertising/Subscriptions: Ron Bernard

Graphic Design: Tina Sotis

Website: Jean Atwater-Williams

Now Hear This!: Laura Rogers-Castro

Founding Editor: Simon Winchester

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.