

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

Tribunus



Plebis

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume XI, Number 5

August 2020

Mothers and Sons

SAPPHIRE AND HAMILTON BURGER

By Brigitte Ruthman

Sapphire was confused

A sleek black New Zealand Jersey heifer, Sapphire had been removed from her mother not long after her own birth on another farm where she was raised. As a new-born calf, she'd gotten just some of the chalky vitamin-rich milk known as colostrum that is essential in the first hour to build an immune system and is the first milk for two days. Bottle-fed, she was weaned when only a few weeks old.

Now, this first-time mother's wires were crossed. What was missing was likely a combination of inadequate oxytocin and patterning that normally triggers maternal instinct in cows. Then, as now, there was no licking of the calf's scent and its



Sapphire and her son.



Hamilton, growing up alone
Photos: Brigitte Ruthman

amniotic fluid to reinforce the bond between a cow and its calf. Sapphire experienced none of the cooing language only heard from a newly freshened cow.

Now, again, after giving birth Sapphire's fawn-colored, long-legged bull calf with a thick black nose lay in the pasture grass. Sapphire stared at him. Towel dried, the calf found his legs and wobbled toward her udder. She kicked him off as he tried again and again to suck on a small teat. He bawled. She replied, and stepped apart from him.

Finally, the calf had to be bottle fed colostrum that had been saved from another cow. Sapphire and her calf were brought into the barn to spend the night together. By morning they remained apart although the tight udder needed relief.

The calf, named Hamilton Burger, began a routine of bottle feeding. He lives now in an open pen where the breezes waft through the open barn door. He's always eager for the bottle's red rubber teat and the handler who brings it to him.

Sapphire accepted the milking-machine claw that fitted around all four teats. She didn't need the cinch-training rope tied in front of the udder to keep her from rejecting the claw,

as she rejected her calf. Within only a couple of days she stood still for it, accepting it, but she wouldn't tolerate hand milking. Hand milking reminded of the calf she regarded as an intruder.

And yet, as her udder filled, for days she would return to the place in the pasture where she gave birth, looking for the calf she had rejected, looking for something lost, knowing somehow her calf belonged but not how. 🐄

INSIDE

"MAYBE I HAVE COVID."	2
CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE FORUM	4
VOTING EARLY WORKS HERE	5
WILL COLD SPRING FINALLY BE PAVED?	6
WHO BRINGS THIS NEWS?	7
POLICE FORCE. YEA? NAY?	8-9
COMMUNITY THEATER? AND RESPONSE	10

Tolland to the Rescue

By Sandisfield Times Reporters

One day in late July, when none of Sandisfield's four police officers were available to work traffic detail for two local road paving projects, the Town arranged for Tolland's police chief Ed Deming to reroute traffic on Town Hill Road. Interviewed by a Times reporter on the scene, Deming said that he and two other Tolland officers were "helping out."

The help came at a steep price. Brad Curry, Highway Superintendent, said that he was
cont'd p. 14

Good News from Yanner Park

A HIKE TO HOOK UP WITH CLAM RIVER TRAIL

By *Thomas Christopher*

After several years of stasis, Sandisfield's Yanner Park Committee is gathering steam, according to committee chair, Adam Brown.

In 2019, local timber framer Kevin Kiwak built and donated a timber-framed kiosk at the Town Hill Road entrance to the park.

This year, with proceeds from a timber harvest on the park property (due to be completed this summer), Woloschuk Enterprises, Inc. of Monson was employed to grade and gravel a driveway to the park and create an adjacent ten-car parking area.

The money from the timber harvest has been exhausted, but this hasn't discouraged the Yanner Park Committee from planning further improvements. Brown is currently in discussions with Greenagers, a youth empowerment non-profit based in South Egremont, to secure their help in writing a proposal for a Recreational Trails Program grant that will be submitted to the state



Yanner Park now has a finished driveway and a parking lot.

Photo: Simon Winchester

of Massachusetts. The goal is to secure funding for hiking and bike trail construction within the park.

If successful, Greenagers crews would build the trails, ultimately linking the Town Hill Road parking lot with a spot on Hammertown Road near an entrance to the Clam River trail loop. This way, hikers would be able to make their way on foot all the way from Yanner Park's Town Hill Road entrance to the Town Hall Annex on Sandisfield Road.

In the future, the Yanner Park Committee hopes to install a pavilion on a former log landing by the park's Town Hill Road entrance. That could provide a site for town sponsored events, much as the pavilion in Tyringham furnishes a gathering point for that community.

"It [the park] is really starting to look like a place people might want to come visit," says chairman Brown. 🍷

"Maybe I Have Covid."

By *Bill Price*

Wake up these days with a little cough, a little raspy throat, and you might turn to your sequestering partner and say, "Maybe I have Covid."

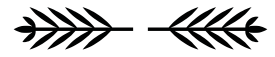
Probably not. But there's no need not to worry.

Covid-19 is still here, and hovering around waiting for the opportunity to land on somebody. Don't let it be you.

Sandisfield has been lucky so far, as has Berkshire County. As of mid-July, a little over 600 cases had been reported in Berkshire County since the beginning of the pandemic in March. Statewide, more than 107,000 cases have been reported, with about 8,200 deaths. There are no reported cases of Covid in Sandisfield at this time, according to Roger Kohler of the Board of Health.

Sandisfield's dodging of the virus probably stems from several reasons. Most residents wear masks when they go on grocery runs or replenish the liquor cabinets, and people at Town Hall and the Library have observed strict regulations about in-person visits. Several individuals in town have made dozens, if not hundreds of masks for others and offered them to friends, neighbors, and strangers at no charge. And part of Sandisfield's luck may stem from the fact that most second-homeowners and their guests and Air-BNB renters seem to be sequestering themselves on arrival according to Town and State guidelines

What also must have helped is the fact that Sandisfielders are pretty good at maintaining social distancing. For some of us, it's why we came to Town in the first place. In that way, the Town is not unlike Wyoming. An NPR reporter asked a Wyoming business leader how the state was doing regarding social distancing. The answer was "We've been socially distancing out here since we became a state." 🍷



THE COVID BLUES

Every day we read the paper,
And we hope for better news.
Every day we turn the faucet,
Try to wash away our blues.

It's another day,
Another day.

Every day we check our Facebook
And hope to see our friends.
Every day we check our email,
Click, click press send.

It's another day,
Another day.

Every day we take a walk,
And hope a brighter day will be.
Every day we do some yoga,
Breathe, breathe, drink tea.

It's another day,
Another day.

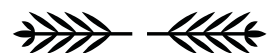
Every day we check the cases.
Are they flat or sky high?
Every day we check the treatments
Is it July?

It's another day,
Another day

Every day we try to find
Some joy, maybe a flower.
Every day we hope for sweetness
A bird, a bee, a sun shower.

It's another day,
Another day.

*Karen Garfield
New Hartford Road*



Select Board Report

Note that Town Hall is open to the public by appointment only; the drop box outside will remain for deposit of documents. Masks, required to enter the building, are available inside the back-door entrance.

Following the Town Election, we reorganized the Select Board, electing Brian O'Rourke as Chair and George Riley as Secretary. We spent time on end-of-year encumbrances and transfers.

Our Town Custodian Bonnie O'Brien has resigned as of July 30, and we have advertised to hire for this position. In the meantime, we may need to find an interim service. Our Building Inspector Eric Munson also resigned as of June 30, and we have a new Inspector, Matthew Kollmer. Both Bonnie and Eric served the Town in their positions for many years, and we are very grateful for their service.

We held a public hearing on a Special Permit application by Roger Ball for a structure on his property on New Hartford Road, seeking permission to add a garage/storage building to the existing saphouse. After some concerns were expressed on the size of the addition and its proximity to the road, we decided to continue the hearing for two weeks to give Mr. Ball time to reconsider his plans.

He returned on July 27 with a greatly scaled-back plan. The garage will be built elsewhere on the property, and he sought permission for a small 8' x 12' addition to the saphouse for storage of buckets and sap equipment. After hearing public input, the Select board voted unanimously to grant the Special Permit.

We discussed a request by Dan Garrity, who has a seasonal camp at Roberts Road, for the

Town to maintain the road for all 4 seasons. We decided to do work on the road in the fall when time permits to make it somewhat passable for now.

We discussed continuing ambulance service to the Town of Tolland. The Tolland Select Board would like to have a pay-per-call amount of \$450.00 per call instead of paying the Town \$30,000 annually, which was what was requested by Sandisfield and approved by the Tolland Town Meeting. After discussion and consulting with town counsel, we have sent a Municipal Services Agreement to the Tolland Select Board and are awaiting their response.

Paving time has finally arrived! Route 183, Town Hill Road and Sears Road are all being paved. The Route 57 culvert replacement and paving hit an engineering delay, but we have now received an updated schedule from the engineer. The bid opening for the culverts is on August 12 and for the paving on September 9. The Cold Spring Road paving has also run into a delay, and we are working with Kinder Morgan to get this project back on track.

The Conservation Commission, the Finance Committee and the Planning Board are all in need of Administrative Assistants. Details are on the Town website.

Residents can attend coming Select Board meetings, August 10 and 24 at 7:00 p.m., by remote participation only. Call 855-855-9834 or 518-860-1995 and enter Meeting ID # 1160419849#.

*Mark Newman
Brian O'Rourke, Chair
George Riley*

MAGGIE

Margaret Howard of Tryringham died last month of severe lung disorder. She was a joyous neighbor with a long history of service to the United Nations and the Berkshire community. I was her friend. This poem celebrates her time on earth.

It's been awhile
Since we borrowed whole afternoons,
Laughter-colored afternoons.
The old snake grew
Tumbling across her
Way of doing things.
Three days ago
She was silent
Sitting with her knees
Together. A tiny smile
Blessing the room.

It was our Maggie,
Saying something like
A gracious, lyrical
Goodbye.

*Val Coleman
West New Boston*



TIM DEMING
Field and Brush
Mowing

413.537.6681
1403 New Boston Rd.
Tolland, MA

tdeming1@hotmail.com



Congressional Candidate Forum

On September 1, registered voters in Massachusetts will have a chance to cast their ballot in the Democratic primary election for the 1st Congressional District. With no Republicans in the contest, whoever wins the primary will be elected to office. This issue of the Times provides a special forum for incumbent Rep. Richard Neal and his challenger, Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse, to explain why they deserve the vote of Sandisfield residents.



Richard Neal

I have been proud to represent Southern Berkshire County, but my love for this area began long before you were a part of my Congressional district. From the time that my children were young, I was charmed by the small villages of Mill River and Southfield, and I am consistently stunned by the backdrop of the Southern Berkshire mountains.

The role of government is to improve the lives of the people that I serve. That is a responsibility that I take seriously. When the construction of a pipeline threatened the sanctity of an Old Growth Forest in Sandisfield, and the Trump Administration pushed the FERC permit, I spoke out against it. And when the permit was issued with only two out of five commissioners present, I demanded the permit be revoked. The aftermath of the pipeline has stayed with me. Sandisfield roads were left in tatters, torn up by heavy trucks moving supplies. The community should at least be made whole again. That's why I helped write the Moving Forward infrastructure bill, aimed at fixing roads just like this.

Another persistent issue is the lack of broadband connectivity in South Berkshire. While I worked closely with my colleagues to get the \$45 million to connect emergency services, school, and libraries across the state – more work was required. I worked to get funds from the FCC to companies like Westfield Gas & Electric, and I commend Fiber Connect for their leadership on this issue in South Berkshire. And while the people of Southern Berkshire county have waited too long for this essential twenty-first century utility, I am proud that every community now has a path forward for access to the fastest internet speeds in the state.

I took careful notice when the first instance of Covid-19 community spread in Massachusetts occurred in the Berkshires. I thought of the unique needs of rural healthcare and quickly made sure

both Fairview Hospital and Community Health Programs had the funding needed to reach our most rural communities. And I used my voice as the Chair of the Ways and Means Committee to make sure that these programs received the support they deserve.

We have watched the postal service under attack by the White House, but I know the importance of the post office in rural Hill Town communities. That's why I have passed \$25 billion for the United States Postal Service in the Heroes Act to make up for lost revenue due to Covid-19. This way, the postal service can fulfill the vital role they play in our lives.

I understand the unique challenges that rural communities face and I am steadfast in my commitment to help solve South Berkshire's most pressing issues. At every turn in the past, and as we look ahead, you have my steadfast commitment to being your voice in Congress. Our work isn't done. I humbly ask for your support as I seek re-election on September 1.



Alex Morse

When I visit the Hill Town communities of South Berkshire, I always feel a deep sense of place and loyalty. Whether I am talking to someone whose family has been here for generations, or someone who recently arrived to be closer to nature or to enjoy life in a smaller, more intimate town, they always express immense civic pride and gratitude.

Yet I also hear another common sentiment: the people of the Hill Town communities, and the Berkshires in general, feel left behind and forgotten by our current member of Congress, Rep. Richie Neal.

MA-01 is the most rural district in Massachusetts. It covers about one third of the Commonwealth, making it the largest Congressional district in terms of geographic size.

People in the Berkshires say they hardly hear from, let alone see, Rep. Neal. They are absolutely right: he has not held an in-person town hall in over two years.

We need a representative in Congress who recognizes the complex needs of the entire district. We need a representative who shows up to listen to the diverse communities that comprise our district and recognizes what working people across our district need.

Instead, we have a representative who consistently gives in to the whims and demands of corporations, above the values and needs of his own constituents.

I am running for Congress because I am ready to be a leader who will show up, everywhere. I will hold town halls across this district, and I promise to always be in touch with all of the communities that make up our district.

My priority will be the working families of MA-01. For our current representative, unfortunately, that is not the case.

With your support, I will stand side by side with our communities to show that progressive issues are not only practical, but possible. We can champion the Green New Deal, Medicare for All, and a just recovery to the Covid crisis.


People ask why I would primary the chairman of the House Ways and Means committee, who has so much power in Congress. But the way he chooses to use that power is exactly why I am running against him.

His actions actually serve to work against our interests, particularly those of South Berkshire.

In a region with hospitals closing, I will fight for Medicare for All. Rep. Richie Neal opposes Medicare for All, and uses his power to block bipartisan solutions to predatory practices like surprise medical billing.

In a region with beautiful nature, I will fight for a Green New Deal to protect our environment, while creating new, good jobs. The best we get under Rep. Neal's leadership is a compromise that delivers a new toxic waste dump 1,500 feet from the Housatonic River, after years of watching our communities be devastated by corporations like GE.

With me, you'll never have to worry whose side I'm on. It will always be yours.

The Hill Towns of Southern Berkshire County are treasures of Massachusetts. You deserve a representative who knows that from Day One. 



A Big Bear

Captured on film, this West New Boston bear paid a visit to Richie Hamilton, Jr.'s yard off River Road in late July. At long last it would be correct to say "A bear was in my yard, a real big one." This big bear is estimated at roughly 400 pounds by residents who know from bears.

Voting Early Works Here

FIRST UP: STATE PRIMARY, SEPTEMBER 1

By Bill Price

So far new voting procedures for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts are working well in Sandisfield, according to Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko.

The procedures include the early voting opportunities during the 2018 state-wide election and, in June, early-voting ballots for the Town election.

The 2018 state-wide “early voting in person” provided an extra ten days during which polls were open. The system worked smoothly once hours and staffing issues were sorted out. Early voting proved popular, with 63 voters taking the opportunity, out of 375 votes cast.

In June, the “early voting by mail” system for the local election worked smoothly as well. It did require small regiments of Town employees to stuff envelopes, do the mailing, safely store the ballots, and ultimately count them.

In early May the clerk’s office mailed applications for early-voting ballots to all 606 Sandisfield registered voters. Of those voters, 152 requested ballots. As soon as ballots were printed following the Town Caucus, those voters were sent a packet containing ballot, return envelope, and instructions with deadlines.

One hundred twenty-five ballots were returned, only four of which arrived after the deadline. Of the 165 votes tallied on election day, 44 were cast in person at Town Hall.

“Early voting by mail went really well,” Dolores emphasized. “It’s a lot of work for our office but most of the voters took advantage of the

process and voted from the safety of their home. I had all good feedback.”

To help prevent overcrowding at polling locations during the pandemic, the Commonwealth again is providing expanded early voting for the two pending elections. For the statewide primary election to be held September 1, polls will be open one week, August 22-28. For the presidential election, November 3, polls will be open an extra two weeks, October 17-30.

According to Dolores, voters should already have received an application for early voting by mail for the September 1 Primary. (See details in the adjoining sidebar from the Town Clerk’s office.)

Remember, if you apply for early voting by mail and later decide not to trust your ballot to the mail or if you’re concerned it won’t reach Town Hall by Election Day, you can still appear in person at your polling place and vote.

This year especially, Dolores said, the election regulations are constantly being revised. Her office has been able to keep up, she said, “But I’m going to need a big bottle of something when it’s all over.”

Dolores said she’d start mailing for both events as soon as she has printed ballots. “In any event, be sure to vote, early, by mail, or at the polls. It’s a privilege not everyone in the world has.”

STATE PRIMARY

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

From Town Clerk, Dolores Harasyko
TownClerk@sandisfieldma.gov
413-258-4711 ext. 2

By now you should have received an early voting by mail application from the Secretary of the State. If you would like to vote from the safety of your home fill out the application and mail it to me and I will mail your ballot to you. If you have not received an application call me and I will send one to you. If you have previously filled out an absentee ballot application for 2020 you do not need to fill out a new one. I will mail the ballot to you.

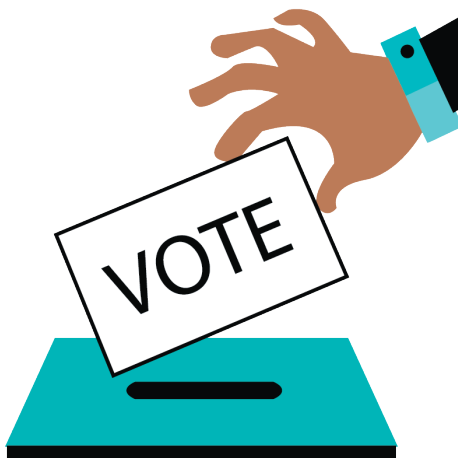
NOTE: A dropbox will not be available to drop off your early/absentee ballots at the Town Hall Annex. Postage will be paid for by the State for returning your ballots by mail to the Town Clerk’s office. If you are running close to the date of the election you can always hand deliver them to me. Do not leave your ballots in the dropbox or the temporary storage bin.

Early voting in person will be held at the Town Hall Annex as follows:

Saturday, August 22 and Sunday August 23 from 10:00 a.m. to noon, August 24 through August 28 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

There will be regular polling hours on September 1, 2020 at the Old Town Hall, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

We will follow social distancing rules. Please wear a mask when you come in to either early vote or to vote on Primary day. As always call me with any questions.



JOHN FIELD

TREE SERVICE, INC.

QUALITY TREE CARE...SAFELY DELIVERED

fieldtreeservice.com 413-329-6519









Will Cold Spring Road Finally Be Paved?

WHO KNOWS?

By Ron Bernard

When the Tennessee Gas/Kinder Morgan pipeline construction crews packed up in late summer 2017, they left behind a dubious legacy: approximately four mutilated miles of public road surface.

It was an unwanted reminder of a nearly four-year ordeal that included energetic opposition from a residents' organization and the involvement of area environmental groups.

Inevitably the federal government issued a certificate to proceed. Four miles of new pipeline (a "loop") then joined two existing continuous pipelines in a 1951 right-of-way that slashes through the Beech Plain section of town.

The company had agreed to restore Cold Spring Road at least to its condition prior to construction. But they did not say "when," leading users to endure a seriously deteriorated street through the winter, spring and summer of 2018.

Finally, in October the Times reported that after months of unexplained delays and nearing the seasonal time limit, Kinder Morgan's contractor, All States Asphalt, had resurfaced approximately four miles of Cold Spring Road.

But the work was done late because the selected method of resurfacing, an economic alternative called "chip sealing," is supposed to be done in warm weather. Consequently, the surface was not properly "sealed."

Sandisfield residents were subsequently surprised to also discover that the town's portion had been chip sealed while two smaller sections at the western end of Cold Spring Road and a part of northern Town Hill Road, both within Otis, had been paved with asphalt, a much more desirable method for many reasons. There has never been an official explanation why Sandisfield was treated differently than Otis. In 2019, a supervisor from Tennessee Gas' sub-contractor who was aware of the situation mentioned to this writer that "Sandisfield (had) elected chip sealing."

To no one's surprise as soon as winter 2018-19 plowing commenced the road's surface began to deteriorate which has continued, in fact has accelerated.


In early 2019, the Select Board was alerted to the problem. It soon raised the issue with the Company and in protracted discussions and to its credit, insisted on remediation with asphalt. The "Select Board Report" in the December, 2019 Times stated, "...[after] many months of negotiations...with the help of Representative Pignatelli, we are close to an agreement to finally pave that road." Resurfacing was later said to be planned for summer, 2020.

So, where do things stand now?

With summertime waning, last month the Times repeatedly requested from the Town a schedule of the work so that residents and local travelers could be informed. Each time Town Manager Joanne Grybosh responded that no information or schedule was being provided by the company.

The Times has also directly contacted Tennessee Gas, twice, but as of publication has also not received a response.

Once again, because of mother nature, time is running out for this kind of work.

The Times will closely monitor the situation and inform readers of any further developments in the story of Cold Spring Road. 

Stuck at home with computer woes?

Let me help! I have more than 25 years experience solving IT problems for small businesses, non-profits and individuals. I will assist you by phone or remote session (no in-person contact).

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed.

Contact me (Jean Atwater-Williams) at 413.258.8000 or Help@BizTechAssociates.com

www.BizTechAssociates.com



M. J. 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



Who Brings You This News?

TOM CHRISTOPHER: GARDENER FIRST, THEN A REPORTER

By Bill Price

In honor of its 10th decade of presenting local news and opinions, The Sandisfield Times is presenting a profiles of a few of the individuals who produce the paper. Earlier profiles featured Laura Rogers-Castro, who has edited Now Hear This! for eight years, and Jean Atwater-Williams, The Times' volunteer webmaster. Thanks to Jean, every issue of The Times since its beginning in April 2010 is accessible at www.SandisfieldTimes.org.



In the nearly three dozen articles he's written for The Sandisfield Times since 2015, Tom Christopher has covered a wide range of Town topics, including town meetings, the progress of Broadband, profiles of three long-time loggers, and now, on page 2 of this issue, the latest improvements to Yanner Park.

But gardening is where Tom's heart truly lives.

A CAREER DOING WHAT YOU LOVE

Gardening came naturally to Tom. His mother was an enthusiastic gardener and his father's hobby was planting trees. During his last year as an undergraduate he was accepted to an apprenticeship program at the New York Botanical Garden. "I loved working there and being in the Bronx with its mixed ethnic groups," he said. "Best of all, I was given a key to the Botanical Garden library, one of the best horticultural and botanical collections in the world. I spent countless evenings prowling the library stacks."

After graduating from the New York Botanical Garden's School of Professional Horticulture, Tom built a successful career as a professional gardener.

He has designed gardens and coached gardeners from New England to Texas. He's written five books and many articles and columns about gardening in all its glories. And he worked for several years at Martha Stewart Living magazine. His first book, "In Search of

Lost Roses," published in 1989, was an account of people and adventures he encountered while criss-crossing the country collecting antique roses. Thirty years later, the book is a classic and still in print.

More recently, Tom began writing a column for the Berkshire Botanical Garden, which is now published in The Times as well as 24 other newspapers with a combined readership of about 250,000. This month's column appears on page 12.

Tom is no stranger to modern communication. His weekly radio podcast, "Growing Greener" is carried on half a dozen public radio stations and is available for download at his website, www.thomaschristophergardens.com.

Through all these endeavors, Tom's singular aim is to encourage gardeners to make their landscapes "healthier, more beautiful, more sustainable – and more fun."

"Ideally," he says, "a garden shouldn't be imposed on the landscape, but rather interpreted from the ecology of what is already there. If you work with nature rather than in opposition to it, gardening is not only easier and more rewarding but becomes an asset to the environment."

To practice what he preaches, Tom is researching and encouraging sustainable lawns, particularly fine fescue lawns that require limited fertilization and mowing only a couple times a year.

COMING TO SANDISFIELD

Tom and his wife, Suzanne O'Connell, often visited Suzanne's mother at her home in Monterey where Suzanne had grown up. When they decided to build their own home in the Berkshires, they saw an advertisement at the Monterey General Store for a large plot of land on Sears Road in Sandisfield. There, in 2004-05, they worked with local contractors to build a timber-frame house. (Readers can experience the joy and agony of their home's construction by visiting www.SandisfieldTimes.org and going to the issue of September 2015.)

In a comment that will come as no surprise to most local gardeners, Tom says that Sandisfield is not an easy place to grow things. "The soil on our rocky hilltop is practically non-existent. Suzanne and I call the process of gardening here 'mining for soil.' When we want to plant something we have to find a vein of dirt and follow it down between the boulders."

Suzanne's career as a professor of Earth & Environmental Sciences at Wesleyan University requires travel over much of the world. Last



Tom Christopher with a napa cabbage saved from the porcupines and other critters that invade his home garden. He turned the cabbage into kimchi.

Photo: Suzanne O'Connell

year she was a member of an oceanographic expedition that departed from southern Chile. Before setting off, she and Tom spent three weeks in Patagonia which, Tom said, "makes Sandisfield look metropolitan." Together they rafted on local rivers, camped out, and visited local homesteads and ranches. After Suzanne went to join her ship, Tom spent a week trout fishing on the wild and pure Patagonian rivers.

Two of Tom's local enthusiasms include raising heirloom chickens and pressing and fermenting traditional New England hard cider. Twice he has hosted tastings of amateur and professionally crafted ciders at the Sandisfield Arts Center.

And somehow, Tom finds time to write for our paper. Writing for The Times is a little like gardening, Tom said. "I do it because I like the people who work for The Times and because reporting stories about the Town is a way for me to learn more about my home community. Sandisfield is full of interesting people and reporting their stories is one way of getting them to talk about what they do and why," 🍷

“Do We Really Need a Police Force?”

READERS RESPOND TO A TOUGH QUESTION

Crime Could Become an Issue

To the Editor:

With all due respect, you are a fool for even starting this debate. Without our police department, our town could be a lawless place where we are just far enough away from civilization and knowing all the affluent residents who reside here, any criminal could have free reign for at least a half an hour before a call to the State Police would provide assistance for a burglary or any other issue.

Crime could become an issue. Look at the direction our country is headed due to the lack of respect that is given to our police in many locations due to a few bad eggs that give all the police a bad name.

Crime is rampant and out of control and the police have no respect.

I in fact have the utmost respect for both of our officers, who are available much sooner here than any other force in the area.

Did you ever think that this town is peaceful due to the presence that these guys have and the support that our citizens get from them? Our town is full of many people who would drop anything to help these officers in a time of need with or without force. That is the kind of support they need, not second guessing their salaries or the usefulness of the service they provide even to the people like you who do not support them.

How would you like it if you were in need and the police did not come? That is what may happen if you get your way.

Sincerely,

Neal J. Mann
Sandisfield Center



Help Nearby

To the Editor:

To answer the question raised by Simon Winchester's article, "Do we really need a police force?" Yes, we do.

Sandisfield is one large land mass in the middle of nowhere. This is one of the many reasons most of us live here. If you need the police, it's nice to know they are only a call away—and by the looks of the call report, people are calling.

If you were to disband the force, State Police Troop B-1 will charge the town to patrol our roads. Remember that their coverage area is from Pittsfield, to Tolland, and to Mt. Washington so you may be waiting a bit for help.

Also, could you please give us an example of the "automatic," or "rapid-fire pistols" our officers carry? They sound amazing and I'd like to get a few!

As for the lack of tax revenue, our rate is on the higher end because our numbers are on the low end with nothing here to draw in anyone. I personally would open up some of our land around the lakes and ponds and do it in a way which keeps with our values. This would bring in hundreds of new homes and their money helping our tax base and the need for keeping our police officers.

Kris Raifstanger
Jamie Lane



Just Makes Us Plain Safer

To the Editor:

I find myself disagreeing with our distinguished founding editor on the subject of the police. A couple of cops in Sandisfield seems a couple too many for Simon Winchester.

He seems to have forgotten that a "police presence" is, in itself, a civilizing environment that sets standards and just plain makes us safer given the presence of social crises like the virus and a slew of daily "incidents" that required some sort of official response.

Don't get me wrong. I spent most of my life in the late 1960s fighting for a Civilian Review Board in New York City to end open police brutality. (We won.) There are bad cops, no question about it—and the recent killing [ed.: of George Floyd] in Minnesota is horrible. But do we wipe the slate clean, disarm the police, take away their cars, plug their guns and send them back to momma?

Hardly.

Val Coleman
West New Boston



In Connecticut, A Different Culture of Policing

To the Editor:

I very much enjoyed Simon Winchester's recent essay raising questions about the wisdom of the town of Sandisfield continuing to fund and maintain a stand-alone police department.

For some reason, the prevailing culture in Massachusetts is that virtually every town, no matter how small, should have its own police department, complete with a station, cruisers, radar guns and modern weaponry.

I live in Salisbury, Connecticut, and as Simon noted, it is common to let troopers handle things. Salisbury has a year-round population of 4,000 but the population effectively doubles on the weekends because more than half our homes are occupied by part-timers.

Where I live, it would be almost unthinkable for a town the size even of Egremont or Stockbridge to have its own police department. If you lived in a Connecticut municipality the size of Sandisfield (the Nutmeg State has a couple of them that are that small) and walked into town meeting proposing to start (and fund) the town's own police department, you would be laughed out of the room.

Instead, Connecticut has a resident trooper program. The title is a little misleading. In most cases the trooper does not actually live in the town, but is typically given an office in town hall, sets up speed traps and investigates routine theft, domestic discord, chicken thievery and the like. In some cases, towns hire constables who are supervised by the resident trooper.

If the trooper needs assistance or is off-duty, then other troopers from the nearest barracks provide support. Some towns such as Falls Village, which is roughly the size of Egremont but larger than Sandisfield, do not even bother with a resident trooper because they cannot afford it.

In the absence of the county sheriff's departments so many other states have, the Connecticut State Police and the state legislature saw a law-enforcement void and established the resident state trooper program in 1947. In the early days, the state paid all of the costs for the trooper, but that monetary support has been whittled down over the decades to little or nothing. Even so, for small towns it is typically cheaper than funding a municipal police department.

When evaluating the costs associated with a municipal police department in Massachusetts, it should be noted that the line item for the police departments in most town budgets does not reflect the actual costs of funding

the department. Health insurance, town pension contributions and other post-employment benefits for retirees are paid out of their own lines elsewhere in the town budget. That could easily add 30 percent to the costs of funding a police department.

Connecticut's resident trooper program isn't perfect, but it works well and in most cases is much more cost-efficient than a stand-alone department. Of the state's 169 municipalities, 54 of them have resident troopers. If the program put the safety of town residents at risk or was too expensive, then town leaders would surely have adopted a different model by now.

Terry Cowgill
Salisbury, Conn.

The writer is managing editor of *The Berkshire Edge* in Great Barrington.



Police/Fire/EMS Logs

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



June 2020 Incidents

- June 1 Medical call, South Beech Plain Road
- June 2 Gas odor, South Beech Plain Road
- June 2 911 hang-up, South Beech Plain Road
- June 2 Assist CSP, Sandybrook Turnpike
- June 3 Assist LCD, South Main Street
- June 4 Fire alarm, Norfolk
- June 5 Fire alarm, Sandybrook Turnpike
- June 6 Medical call, South Beech Plain Road
- June 7 Citizen assist, Slater Lane
- June 8 Medical call, Tolland
- June 8 Medical call, South Beech Plain Road
- June 8 Medical call, South Beech Plain Road
- June 9 911 hang-up, Otis Woodlands
- June 10 Medical call, Sandisfield Road
- June 11 CO alarm, Town Hill Road
- June 12 Assist citizen, Town Hill Road
- June 12 Burglar alarm, Sandybrook Turnpike
- June 12 CO alarm, New Hartford Road
- June 13 Domestic disturbance, Sandybrook Turnpike
- June 13 Medical call, Sandybrook Turnpike
- June 13 Erratic motor vehicle operation, South Main Street
- June 14 CO alarm, New Hartford Road
- June 14 911 hang-up, South Beech Plain Roads
- June 15 CO alarm, New Hartford Road
- June 15 Wires down, West Street
- June 19 Burglar alarm, South Main Street
- June 20 Assist citizen, Sandisfield Road
- June 20 Assist OPD
- June 20 Medical Call, Dodd Road
- June 22 Burglar alarm, Sandisfield Road
- June 24 Medical call, Tannery Road
- June 25 Animal call, Otis Woodlands
- June 25 CO alarm, Otis Woodlands
- June 28 911 hang-up, Hammertown Road
- June 28 Suspicious person, Sears Road
- June 29 Unwanted person, Sandisfield Road
- June 30 911 hang-up, Otis Woodlands
- June 30 Assist citizen, Sandisfield Road
- June 30 911 hang-up, Sandisfield Road



June 2020 Incidents

- June 4 Fire alarm activation, no fire, burnt food
- June 5 Fire alarm activation, no fire, malfunction
- June 11 Fire alarm activation, malfunction
- June 14 CO alarm, malfunction
- June 15 CO alarm, malfunction
- June 15 Wires down, investigate and notify Eversource
- June 18 Motor vehicle accident, assist EMS, control traffic
- June 25 Carbon Monoxide alarm, Engine I and Otis Fire Department responded, no CO



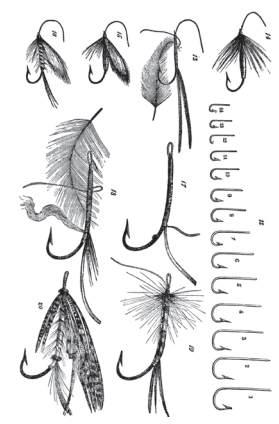
June 2020 Incidents

- June 1 Medical call, treated, no transport
- June 6 Medical call, treated, no transport
- June 8 Medical call, Tolland, Westfield ALS responded
- June 8 Medical call, transported to Fairview Hospital, Great Barrington
- June 8 Medical call, transported to Fairview Hospital
- June 10 Medical call, mutual aid, Otis Ambulance responded
- June 13 Medical calls, transported to Fairview Hospital
- June 17 Medical call, transport to Berkshire Medical Center, Pittsfield
- June 18 Motor vehicle accident, South Main Street, no transport
- June 20 Medical call, no transport
- June 23 Medical call, mutual aid, Otis Ambulance responded
- June 24 Medical call, Southern Berkshire Voluntary Ambulance responded

SIMON WINCHESTER RESPONDS:

I am delighted that my piece has stimulated some debate on what is an important local issue – which is exactly what newspapers are for.

It slightly surprised me, though, that my only support came from someone living safely out of the firing line, in Connecticut. Many in our town approached me privately to express enthusiastic support for my view, but none so far has had the temerity to say so in print. It is an issue, however, that will not go away, be sure.





Missing the “Community” in Community Theater

To the Editor:

For a while now, I have been concerned about the shift that has taken place at the Sandisfield Arts Center.

Where once there was a range of family-friendly, community-driven performances and events, there are now mostly “high-end” affairs, which seem to appeal directly to out-of-towners and retirees rather than the growing families who continue to live here. Not long ago, the Arts Center was a place with regular events and activities for kids and adults alike, with a wide range of people from the community partaking. I especially enjoyed the annual or semi-annual theatrical productions organized and performed by a wide variety of members of the community, with my favorite being the annual Christmas Extravaganza.

Additionally, those performances were usually free of charge, with only a donation box out front.

Now, I see things such as “wine tastings” and “classical jazz piano recitals” being advertised in the schedule, and there is not a single event planned that I can see appealing to children or even younger people in general. In fact, the performance of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory was probably the only one in recent memory that seemed to have any kind of family or youth appeal.

What’s more, where once there was a variety of people and groups putting on the theatrical performances, productions now seem to have been taken over almost exclusively by the Sandisfield Players. Even the coming Christmas production, *The Messiah on Mott Street*, is being presented by the Players, when the play itself was originally proposed as part of a series of community-acted performances, reminiscent of past Christmas productions. I don’t devalue the performances the Players have put on, but I increasingly feel that rather than encourage community involvement in these productions, they seem to create an air of exclusivity to them, further emphasized by an often steep admission price.

I miss it. I miss the fun, and the sense of being part of the community. I miss going with my family to see performances that appealed to a wider range of people, or even getting the chance to make one of our own. I wrote this letter to see if there was anyone else who felt the same way, and maybe wanted to try and get back some of what we used to have. Maybe I’m just behind the times. Maybe the town has changed too much and these kinds of productions no longer make sense. But I think it’s something worth talking about. And if we’re really ambitious, maybe it’s something worth trying, too.

Will deManbey
South Sandisfield

OUT ON A LIMB: OP-ED

Subjects should be enthralling 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

SArC Responds: Covid-19 Cancelled a Family-Focused Summer Season

To the Editor:

As the president of the Sandisfield Arts Center, I want to acknowledge Mr. deManbey’s concerns, which clearly come out of his appreciation for the Center’s importance in our community. I have great respect for the rich history of SArC and what it has meant to people like Mr. deManbey over the last 25 years.

When it comes to family-centered community programs, however, I am proud of what we have done over the last few years. I am grateful and awed by the contributions of many volunteers who work hard to make these programs happen. We have a strong commitment to such programming, and if you’d seen last year’s line-up, or the events sadly canceled due to Covid-19, you’d know this. For example, 2020 spring and summer was to include free community programs including a family game-filled Earth Day celebration; monthly family films; a Lego competition; photography workshops; a crossword puzzle workshop. We hold art gallery open house receptions throughout the year, and in the Fall, grownup films and an Open Mic for local talent.

With the summer season canceled, we’ve offered two free Zoom photography workshops (replays streaming on our website), and – in August – a crossword session on Zoom.

As for classical music, let’s not assume only second-homers enjoy a Chopin prelude or the Blackstone Valley Quartet. Many residents have also taken advantage of our comp tickets.

I could go on about how the Arts Center and our volunteers strive to put on varied programs to appeal to the range of interests, talents, and backgrounds here. Although Sandisfield is not racially diverse, it is wonderfully diverse in other ways, and if you look at the program offerings over the last few years, you’ll see that reflected.

To address exactly the kind of community involvement Mr. deManbey writes about, last fall we had a fun Open House/Barbecue for the community that many families attended, learning about volunteer opportunities and sharing their ideas. We do many other kinds of outreach, our Board members live here, and you can always call the phone number on the website to share concerns or get involved.

So, Mr. deManbey, please don’t stay out on a limb. When we begin to plan again, please join us. Shoot an email to community@sandisfieldartscenter.org. Be part of not just the past but the future of this gem in our wonderful community, the Sandisfield Arts Center.

Hilde Weisert for the Sandisfield Arts Center

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

Reservations Strongly Recommended
Seven Guest Rooms, All Private Baths (Breakfast for Guests Only)
Restaurant open for take-out only until further notice.
Saturday thru Monday, noon till 6pm

*Pets
Welcome!*

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

*Friendly
Spirits
(as seen on
syfy Channel)*

Sandisfield Scholarship Update

AND FREE ICE CREAM (SEE BELOW)

The Scholarship Committee sends a big round of applause to all our 2020 High School Graduates. It has been a long road (especially this last curve). You did it, be proud, and show the world what our great students from Sandisfield can do with their fresh-learned knowledge and in this new chapter of their lives.

This year's scholarship recipients were **Alex Green, Caden O'Rourke, and Rosemary Snyder.**

A great big Thank You to everyone who donated to our committee throughout the year. Without your generous support, we would not be able to help our scholars.

In continuing our support, we will distribute a small "Back to School" gift for K-12th and pre-school ages.

As you all know, the annual Fire Department Steak Roast has been cancelled due to the on-going pandemic. Therefore, we will not be able to have our Ice Cream Fundraiser, either.

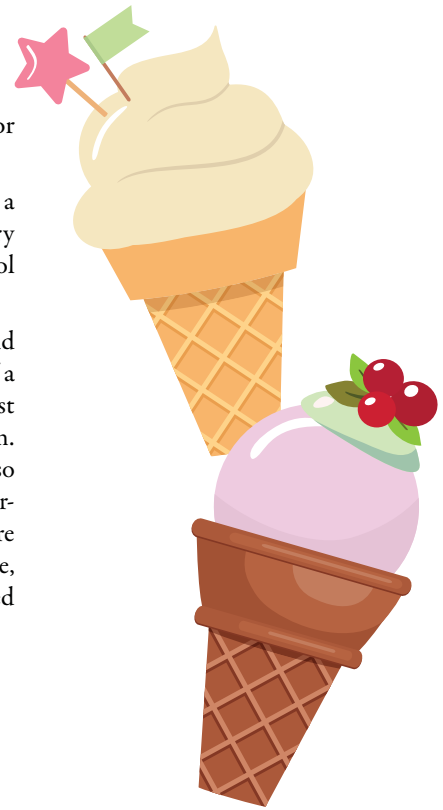
But there is a bright light (think vanilla or chocolate).

The Committee is giving Sandisfield children a free ice cream coupon to use at Katie's Country Store in Otis. That goes for 2020 High School graduates, as well.

The coupons, available to children of Sandisfield taxpayer's only, will be distributed by way of a Drive-Through at Yanner Park, Saturday, August 22, and Sunday, August 23, 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. both days. We will need a headcount to do this, so if your children are interested and for more information please contact a committee member before Sunday, August 9. We will need your child's name, age and address. This is not a FRRSD sponsored event.

Contact:

- Anina Carr 413-258-3314
- Elaine O'Brien 413-269-4465
- Laura Rogers-Castro 413-258-4688
- Lynn Rubenstein 413-269-7357



OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Joshua Cormier, the chef at the new and reopened MJ Tuckers south of New Boston, is posting fresh items from his menu on ConnectSandisfield and inviting residents to enjoy the outside tables. Tuckers is open from 4 to 8. A free plug: It's a new Tuckers. Call for reservations: 258-4040.

John Kuzmecz of Roosterville Road lost his driver's license while hiking the Clam River Trail. Another hiker, who remained anonymous, found it, drove to John's place and stuck the license in a

notch in the front door. For sure that's a friend AND a neighbor.

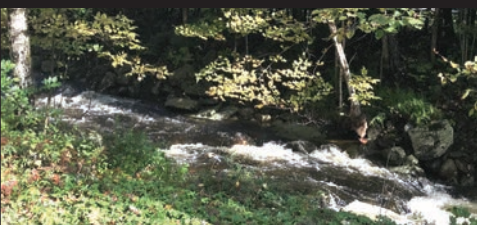
In May, **Ed Munson** of Tolland packed it in as Sandisfield's building inspector after 20-30 years on the job (no one remembers). The Town is moving to an all-electronic version of building permits and plans. Ed said, "I'm too old to learn something that new." He remains Tolland's building inspector, where they still use pencil and paper.



Riverfront House in Sandisfield FOR SALE • \$240K

Charming furnished home in the picturesque Berkshire mountains, nestled in a very private setting has everything you need for a quick get away or year-round living. Fishing in the beautiful stocked Buck River right outside your door (no flood zone). Historic ca.1850 house on 6 acres boasts handsome original wide plank floors thru out most of the house, updated kitchen, 4 BRs, 1.5 baths, wood burning stove & more. Taxes only \$2284.

Don't wait to enjoy nature at its best with the sound of the flowing river. Simply magical!



Contact Barbara at (516) 527-9627

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

Be a Better Gardener

SNIP, DON'T RIP, AND OTHER MATTERS

By Thomas Christopher

This time of year typically marks the beginning of summer's hottest weather, a season when the growth of all our desirable plants—our carefully nurtured flowers and shrubs—stalls, and only the weeds seem to flourish unabated. This is more than annoying and unsightly—weeds are masters at competing for resources. In particular, their roots are extremely effective at tapping the moisture in the soil, depriving their more desirable neighbors of what is often a scarce summertime commodity. This is especially harmful because plants typically need extra moisture in hot weather, so that they can evaporate it off the surface of their leaves and cool themselves. The solution is obvious, right? Rip those weeds out, roots and all!

Actually, according to Larry Weaner, that is most often a mistake.

I got to know Larry— founder of Larry Weaner Landscape Associates, one of the nation's leading ecological landscape design firms—when he and I co-authored a book about his style of gardening some years ago. Larry has a background in traditional gardening; besides on-the-job training with various landscaping companies, he studied ornamental horticulture at what is now Pennsylvania College of Technology. However, he has added to and emended what he learned in that way with years of study of landscape

ecology and experimenting with ecological principles in action. In light of that study and his 40-plus years of experience in the field, he now holds, as he told me the other day, that pulling weeds—especially roots and all—is counterproductive.

The reason is that weeds are commonly symptoms of landscape disturbance. When a gap is opened somehow by the death or removal of a plant, very often it is a weed seed in the soil that sprouts first so that it can take advantage of, and fill, the hole. Disturbance of the soil is particularly effective in prompting weed growth. If you still use a rototiller in your vegetable garden, you know how that disturbance of the soil raises a flock of new weed seedlings. On a smaller scale, ripping a weed out of the ground also disturbs that soil and is likely to provoke more weed growth.

That's why, except in the case of the most pernicious and aggressive weeds, if an area contains significant amounts of desirable plants, Weaner recommends reaching down and snipping weeds off at the base rather than pulling them. Decapitating the weed prevents it from setting seed, which in most cases stops its reproduction. It also weakens the weed and gives an advantage to the growth of nearby desirable plants, so that eventually, perhaps with a subsequent repetition of the snip, the weed is squeezed out. Snipping is quicker and easier than uprooting as well, which turns weeding into a less burdensome task.

Consistency in keeping weeds from setting seed can eventually pay big dividends. There are, in any given area of soil, large numbers of seeds lying dormant in the top few inches of the soil. This is what ecologists refer to as the "seed bank," and as I mentioned above, the bulk of it is commonly weed seeds. If, however, you consistently frustrate the growth of weeds while letting more desirable plants go to seed, you can alter this balance. If you do, when a disturbance does infrequently occur—when a squirrel digs a hole, say—what is more likely to shoot up is some desirable plant. Such a situation makes for a garden that requires far less maintenance. This treatment is especially effective if you have been planting native species, plants that are naturally adapted to the area. If you succeed in filling the landscape and seed bank with them, you have created a landscape that can remain largely self-sufficient for a long time.

If you are interested in listening to the rest of my conversation with Larry Weaner, visit my website: www.thomaschristophergardens.com.

Thomas Christopher is a reporter for and serves on the board of the Sandisfield Times. His 'Be a Better Gardener' column is a community service of Berkshire Botanical Garden, located in Stockbridge.

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

Managing problems from the hand to the shoulder.

Let us care for your hand and upper extremity conditions with the most advanced techniques.



Michael Nancollas, MD
Offering specialized hand to shoulder care.
Double board certified in Orthopaedic Surgery,
and Hand/Wrist/Elbow Surgery.



29 Lewis Ave., Great Barrington, Mass.
berkshirehealthsystems.org



Berkshire Hand to Shoulder Center
berkshirehand.com 413-344-1770
55 Pittsfield Rd., Suite 12B, Lenox

Parents as Teachers

HELPING YOUR KIDS WITH HOMEWORK, PART 2

By Maxene Kupperman-Guiñals

If you have schoolkids at home, you need to encourage them to do the reading, do the homework, and to get the work turned in on time. Most beginning students were not born with good study skills but need to learn and refine them. Much of that learning comes from parents and becomes ingrained in part by parents' attitudes toward school. Lessons learned will last a lifetime and contribute to your child's well-being long after today's tribulations are in the distant past.

Consider these monthly tips as a kind of support network for you as you help your kids do well. Nothing is too hard; do whatever works for you.

PROVIDING WHAT THEY NEED:

1. In every work/study environment there should be the appropriate tools of the trade: a dictionary (not only the one online), a thesaurus, a bilingual dictionary if they are studying another language, a pencil sharpener. If you have room, a globe and a world map would be ideal. At least a desk atlas.
2. In this new information age, your child/student should know how to access all of it. Everything that's out there. If you have computers or tablets for their use, those used for homework/study should be in a family place so that your students are not tempted to go stray to more colorful or exciting sites than the ones they need for their homework. If the computers are in a family place, their work is more easily monitored.
3. Your home is their work place. Just as you might travel for work but still maintain an office, they go to school to "get" the assignments to learn and complete at home. Your home should reflect this: in every room there should be study tools they need to apply what they know. In the kitchen, for example, are measuring spoons and cups, writing pads and pens near the phone for taking messages, cookbooks that cross-reference chemistry and math, and that art gallery that nearly every family seems to create on the front and sides of the refrigerator.
4. Different kids – like different people – thrive under different circumstances. A child



studying in your home might do very well with a snack at the table (nothing too heavy or sugary), while another might do best with some (instrumental) music playing softly. (Sung music can interfere with processing words they are studying.) Observe your young students to see what they need and try your best to provide it. ♡

Editor's note: A teacher for 35 years and the parent of a teacher for the last 15, Maxene Kupperman-Guinalds of Town Hill Road offers monthly tips and support to parents who want to help their kids learn study habits that will be useful to them their entire lives. The Times will publish three or four of her tips per issue.



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



Build your immune system and add a farm fresh ingredient to your kitchen.

860-671-0327
www.joshuasfarm.com

JOSHUA'S FARM

Sandisfield, Massachusetts

Brigitte Ruthman

unpasteurized, flavorful milk from jersey/shorthorn grass fed cows

A2 milk available



The Sandisfield portion of Route 183 had long been so pockmarked with potholes and craters that cars had to travel at half the posted speed limit and driving from Winsted to South Sandisfield was a jaw-rattling experience. But in late July, residents rejoiced when work crews got busy resurfacing one of the region's worst roads.


Photo: Brad Curry

Tolland to the Rescue

con't from p. 1

compelled to pay \$48 hourly for the imported officers. "None of our personnel was apparently available," he said. Had he been able to use them it would have cost the town \$19 hourly rather than the state-mandated higher rate.

According to Select Board chair Brian O'Rourke, the situation was occasioned by a combination of one officer's absence on disability, and the other three having full-time employment elsewhere during daytime hours.

Sandisfield pays more than \$130,000 annually for its force, which includes Chief Mike Morrison, deputy Mike Johnson and two patrol officers. 

The Cardillos of Sandisfield, 1930s

Sandisfield Boy Shows Ingenuity

*North Adams Transcript.
July 19, 1933.*

Nicholas Cordillo of Sandisfield is the hero in the eyes of some of the children in that town. The Southern Berkshire health district had a children's clinic scheduled. Seven children, including Nicholas, were threatened with disappointment at not being able to attend, having no means of transportation. Nicholas started to work. From board ends he built a cart with old automobile wheels, but what about locomotion? Happily there was a two year old bull in the barn. After making a collar from pieces of leather, Nicholas hitched the bull to the cart. Away the children went at the speed of a tortoise, but they reached the clinic in time for their examinations.

**See how much you could save
by going solar. Call or text
today for a free consultation.**

CHARLEY GIAIMO
(212) 495-9945
charley.giaimo@vivintsolar.com

Copyright © 2020 Vivint Solar Developer, LLC. All rights reserved. Vivint Solar Developer, LLC (EIN: 80-0756438) is a licensed contractor in each state in which we operate. [Massachusetts License: 170848; 15688 A; SS-002342]

vivint.Solar



BOOK REVIEW

Humanual: an epic journey to your expanded self

Local Author Pens New Book

By Simon Winchester



One of the enduring delights about living in Sandisfield is the possibility of discovery - not just of hidden swimming holes and the nests of rare birds and creatures - but of discovering people, people who


live quietly here on our back roads and yet who turn out, once found, to have magical qualities.

Betsy Polatin is one such. For forty-five years she has been famously teaching actors, singers and dancers of renown how to stand up straight and move properly and comport themselves with elegance and without injury. Working mainly from her home in Brookline, where she teaches at the Boston University's College of Fine Arts - but visiting her South Sandisfield cottage as regularly as Covid currently allows - she has accumulated a wealth of endorsements, from the singer Lulu to the actor-director André Gregory.

And now she has a book, *Humanual: an epic journey to your expanded self*, telling us how she does it.

Ms. Polatin's stock-in-trade is teaching the revered and time-tested stand-up-straight exercise routine known as The Alexander Technique - which can quite

literally expand followers upward by an inch or more, if you do it right.

Humanual (as the author explains the neologism) reminds us that we can expand in many other ways, too, by adding proper breathing and positive thinking to the simpler business of standing tall. And by doing so and with luck becoming significantly more human as a result, as readers of this fascinating and plainly written book might well conclude, is not a bad thing. 



Now accepting new students!

Group or private riding lessons available at your home or on our Sandisfield farm

Boarding and Leasing Horses Available

Specializing in Eventing, Dressage, and Hunter-Jumper lessons

Lessons available for all ages

Rose Nelson, Instructor and Owner

Massachusetts certified,
Pony club eventing participant and USEA eventer

Email: sunnyrosefarm@yahoo.com

Phone: (413) 446-4944

Is your mind in the gutter?

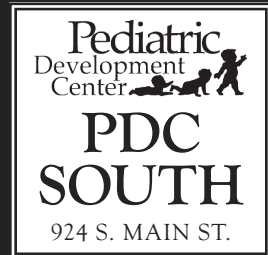
Clean those filthy ways before it becomes a problem



FRANK CONSOLATI INSURANCE

Homeowners Insurance Since 1942
71 MAIN STREET, LEE MA 413-243-0105

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

Comings and Goings



MARTY CLARK

Thomas M. (Marty) Clark, 92, died at the home of his daughter Tracey Hadsell in Sandisfield, July 25. Marty lived in Sandisfield for much of his long life and leaves many relatives and friends, all of whom loved this joyful man who had a smile for everyone. An obituary will appear in the September issue of The Times.



JOANNA COLE

1944-2020

Joanna Cole, who lived for a number of years with her husband Philip at 228 North Beech Plain Road died July 12 in Iowa.

Joanna was the author of the immensely successful "Magic School Bus" series of children's books that have sold about 93 million copies and been published in 13 countries.

The series took children back to the time of dinosaurs, inside a hurricane, to the waterworks, and, in her last book, which will be published next year, on an exploration of human evolution. The series, it was said, made science easy to understand and fun for children around the world.

Her obituary in The New York Times quoted a 1988 reviewer as saying of her School Bus series: "Just as 'Sesame Street' revolutionized the teaching of letters and numbers by making it so entertaining that children had no idea they were actually learning something, so the Magic School Bus books make science so much fun that the information is almost incidental."

Joanna is survived by her husband, Philip.

Michael Rosenberg, formerly of the same address on North Beech Plain and now in Port Washington, New York, alerted us to Joanna's death. He added in a note that he and Susan would like to extend best wishes "to all our friends in Sandisfield."



NEW BOSTON CRANE SERVICE & SLEDS

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

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



• 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

Comings and Goings

The deaths in July of two local loggers, Marty Clark and Gary Pease, reminds us that both men were profiled in Tom Christopher's article on Sandisfield logging in our October 2016 issue. The article is available online at SandisfieldTimes.org, go to Library for our archives.



GARY PEASE
1961-2020

Gary James Pease died July 15, at home, with his family by his side.

A descendant of one of Sandisfield's founding families and a logger all his life, Gary began following his logging father into the woods when he was seven years old. He often said, "The woods have been good to me."

Born in Torrington, Connecticut on December 4, 1961, Gary was the son of Converse and Irma (Annecharico) Pease. He graduated from Monument Mountain Regional High School in 1979. Soon after graduation he established his logging company as G.J. Pease Land Clearing & Logging and operated it – and was its primary employee – for the rest of his life.

In a profile of local loggers in 2016, The Sandisfield Times reported that Gary "came into logging when the wood was pulled by crawler tractors, then skidders." By the mid 20-teens he had invested in a feller-buncher, which did much of the tree-cutting by machinery. "And it's safer," he told The Times, "a critical consideration when you have your sons working for you." Two of his sons, Chad and Cameron, had taken to the woods like Gary and worked for him.

Loved by many, Gary will be greatly missed. Despite the countless hours of hard work, he always found time to be with family and friends. He lived and loved life and took each step with full pride and determination. He did everything on his own terms,

including when he operated a bulldozer grading his land to perfection only three days before he died.

Gary's family said that after his long battle with cancer, he is now "cutting wood in heaven alongside the Timber Gods."

He is survived by three sons, Chad Converse Pease and wife Sarah of Sandisfield; Converse James "Connor" Pease and fiancée Crosby Semeraro of Groton, Massachusetts; and Cameron Gary Pease and life partner Colleen Granahan of Otis. One brother, Charles Converse Pease and wife Laureen of Sandisfield; one sister, Cynthia Nienart and husband Matt of Hillsborough N.J.; two nieces, Heather Finn and Julianna Nienart; two nephews, Charles A. Pease and Benjamin Nienart; and three grandchildren, Logan, Jordan, and Emmett.³

A graveside service was held July 25 at Sandisfield Center Cemetery. All of Sandisfield was invited. Condolences may be made through www.birchesroyfuneralservices.com. Memorial Trees may be planted in Gary's memory through the Birches-Roy Funeral Home Sympathy Store.

As The Times reported in 2016, Gary was clearly in love with what he did for a living. Laid up during part of 2015 following an operation, Gary said he passed the time reading books and watching YouTube videos about the history of logging. "Once you get sawdust in your veins," he explained, "they say you're done."



DANIEL MANACHER
1994-2020

Daniel Jacob Manacher of Cambridge, Sandisfield, and Pasadena, California, died July 4 in Pasadena.

Born on September 24, 1994, Daniel was the beloved son of Dr. Carol Birnbaum and Mr. Adam Manacher, the brother of Jonathan Manacher, and a grandson, nephew, cousin, and friend. He graduated from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School in 2013, and attended Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston and Art Center College of Design in Pasadena.

As a child and teen, Daniel spent countless weekends, summers and holidays at his family's second home in Sandisfield. Sunrise was his most cherished time of day in the Berkshires, and he relished in the warm light, colorful skies and quiet. He loved running in the fields, swimming in the local lakes and ponds, and chasing fireflies. He would regularly drop in on neighbors and their animals, and spent a summer working at When Pig's Fly Farm. Daniel also enjoyed visiting and occasionally volunteering at the Sandisfield Arts Center.

An artist and designer with a passion for American muscle cars, Daniel spread his signature designs onto every surface he could, including his treasured 2015 Chevy Camaro. Through his business project, Shwoopy Loops, he moved from personal design projects to larger-scale events that invited participation of his community. He had warm brown eyes, a winning smile, and a tender way of relating to people of all ages.

Daniel made his own path. He followed his passions from Cambridge and the Berkshires to Pasadena and Los Angeles, always staying true to his own way of doing things. The family will hold a private memorial for him at their home. His parents ask that any gifts in Daniel's memory be made to the Sandisfield Arts Center – just as he, a passionate young artist, would have wished.



Letters to the Editors

Me Too

Re: the report that Sandisfield birder Margaret O'Clair believes that she saw a rare red-headed woodpecker in May and the doubt expressed by others that more likely she had seen a red-bellied version. I doubt the doubters. I also thought I saw a red-headed woodpecker at our feeder at about the same time as Margaret's sighting. I am but an amateur birder, but, like Margaret, I know the difference between a red-bellied and a red-headed woodpecker.

*George Wheeler
West New Boston*



My Lost Diamond

When I was looking online for information about the history of the Rowley property on Cold Spring Road and saw in The Sandisfield Times that the barns were or are being stabilized.

In June 1967, shortly before my Lee High School graduation, my mother gave me a diamond ring her father had given her when she graduated from high school. It was too small for my ring finger so I wore it loosely on my little finger. After school I took the bus with my best friend Evelyn Rowley to spend the weekend at her house. That was not the red house, the other, up the rise from the pond.

I lived in Lee so spending time on the farm was special. Evelyn and I went to the barn to get the work horses for a ride in God's country. There's a good possibility that I lost the ring in the barn either getting the horses, putting them away, or jumping around in the hayloft. We searched, but never found it.

I thought with the property now being State owned and people in the barn someone might find it. I'll contact the companies I saw in your article. I'm wondering if you have any other ideas about this.

My mother had recently become paraplegic and it was terribly difficult to call her and tell her I'd lost the ring the same day she gave it to me. I've never forgotten the ring. Wondered at times if a horse or cow ate it with hay and pooped it out or perhaps it's sitting in a crack of floorboard.

Sincerely,

*Florence (Flossie) Peltier (nee Parker)
413-781-8963*



The Berkshires' Premier Boutique Real Estate Firm

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

in good part it's because we work really hard we care and we listen

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

Chapin Fish, Broker The #1 Selling Realtor in the Berkshires cumulatively over the last 12 years with over \$166 million in sales

BROCKMAN
real estate
brockmanrealestate.com
413-528-4859

Our store
farm & home
and office
will open as soon as renovations and restoration are complete at
MONTEREY GENERAL
448 Main Road in Monterey
montereygeneral.com
brockmanrealestate.com
413-528-9100

NOW HEAR THIS!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro. Please send notices for Now Hear This! to editor@sandisfieldtimes.org.

AUGUST EVENTS

Please note: Be sure to check to see if events are scheduled as listed. Some may be changed or cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic

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. Indoor events at the COA are cancelled until further notice but picnics and other outdoor events are being considered. The annual York Lake Picnic was scheduled for July 25.

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

Sandisfield Select Board Meetings during a Summer Schedule on select Tuesdays, in August at 7:00 p.m. by telephone conference. Please visit sandisfieldma.gov or call 258-4711 for call-in information.

New Boston Church Service on Sunday, August 9 at 10:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church, Route 57. *Please wear a mask and physically distance.*

Puzzle Fun with Michelle Arnot on Saturday, August 15 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. sponsored ONLINE by the Sandisfield Arts Center. This free event will provide tips and tricks for solving difficult crossword puzzles. Have coffee at home while doing the pre-provided puzzle received after registration. Michelle, a Sandisfield resident, is author of *Crossword Puzzles for Dummies* and *Four Letter Words: Secrets of a Crossword Insider*. Visit sandisfieldartscenter.org to pre-register as space is limited in the online format.

Back to School Giveaway Pick-up on Saturday, August 22, and Sunday, August 23 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. at Yanner Park. Sponsored by the Sandisfield Scholarship Fund Committee. Pre-registration (258-3314, 258-4688, 269-4465, or 269-7357) by August 9 is required. For Sandisfield children only.



EVENTS/OUTDOOR FUN IN OTHER TOWNS

Jewelry Making with Jilly: Make a "Chan Luu" Style Bracelet on August 6 at 10:00 a.m. at the Monterey Community Center. This workshop is suitable for ages 12 and up. \$20 fee for supplies. Pre-registration 413-528-3600 required.

Time Travelling with Trees on Saturday, August 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Bidwell House Museum in Monterey. Have you ever wondered the stories trees could tell if they had words? How do trees grow and change over their lifetime? A Massachusetts Audubon Educator will lead a guided hike. Bring water and a snack and expect to hike over uneven ground. Social distancing guidelines must be followed. Please visit bidwellhousemuseum.org to register. \$10-\$15.

ONLINE EVENTS

Otis Recreation Center offers online fitness classes, including Cardio Blast with Heather Rufo Bilotta on Mondays at 9:00 a.m., Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., Pilates with Cynthia Khoury Badrak on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m., and Mat Yoga with Connie Wilson on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. Townofotisma.com for more information.

Virtual Fitness Classes sponsored by The Berkshire South Community Center. The schedule includes gentle yoga, strength & balance, cardio kickboxing, and more. Visit berkshiresouth.org for the class schedule. Look under the virtual programming tab.



HOMEIMPROVEMENTS

STEVEN SEDDON, SR.

Building and Modifying Homes
in the Berkshires
Since 2001

413 563 1483

sshhomeimprovements@live.com

www.sshomeimprovementsma.com

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

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

P.O. Box 584
Sandisfield, MA 01255
www.sandisfieldtimes.org

*The Times is grateful to readers who
have donated in July.*

*Carolyn Cunningham
Emily Melchior
Faye Alison Moscariello*



*Due to Covid-19, The Times may not
be available at all of the distribution
points listed below. Availability subject
to change as long as pandemic continues.*

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), When Pigs Fly Farm, 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, Fratelli's, 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, 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.

Editorial Staff

*Editor: Seth Kershner
email: editor@sandisfieldtimes.org
Advertising/Subscriptions: Ron Bernard
Graphic Design: Tina Sotis
Website: Jean Atwater-Williams
Now Hear This!: Laura Rogers-Castro
Founding Editor: Simon Winchester*

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)

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.*