

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

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Plebis

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

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August 2021

An Open Letter to the Sandisfield Community

FROM GEORGE RILEY
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Dear Friends,

As you know, the Town Hall is short-staffed at the moment. As a result, in the interim some processes may take longer than usual. Please be patient as we are doing our best to deal with the situation, while at the same time working to recruit and assemble the most dedicated and effective team possible.

There will be procedural changes ahead to bring the town up to date and in compliance with current state law.

This will include, for example, how we deal with mail, with transfer station permits, posting of notices and other items. As we bring new personnel on board, items such as the hours that the Town Hall is open to the public could be in flux. We will post these changes on the Town website as well as at Town Hall. It is my intention to use the much-neglected website as an important tool for updated Town information. Again, please bear with us as this all gets sorted out.

The Town Hall is currently open Monday through Thursday 9 am to 2 pm.

More importantly – as we are moving forward as a progressive town into the twenty-first century, we must resurrect a concept that has been at the heart of everything that has made this country great: from Social Security and Medicare to the interstate highway system, our well-

being and prosperity have sprung from our mutual recognition of the high significance of the idea of the “common good.”

The strength of our national well-being and moral leadership has corresponded to the value given to this idea in our history.

If we want Sandisfield to be a prosperous and healthy town, this idea of the common good must guide what we think, say, and do. Whether you are a Town

official, a writer for the Sandisfield Times, a poster on Connect Sandisfield or someone talking to your neighbor, please ask yourself: “Is what I’m tempted to write or to say now going to enhance the common good, or will it be damaging to it?”

Let us please be patient and tolerant toward one another, so that we can move ahead together into a happier future.



Photo: Sandisfieldma.gov

From Pizza to Cannabis

VILLA MIA GOES TO POT

By Simon Winchester

The building that housed Villa Mia, Sandisfield's favorite Italian restaurant which opened on Rt. 8 some twenty years ago and during the last several years struggled to survive and closed in 2019, may soon join the growing ranks of state-licensed cannabis retail stores. The proposed store's new owners, Berkshire Mountain Cannabis, staged a thinly-attended community outreach meeting early last month, promising, according to their lawyer Brian Shea, a possible annual windfall of \$300,000 in tax revenues for the town.

Read the Signs. Please.


By Times Reporters

Who ignores the NO BLACK PLASTIC and the NO PLASTIC BAGS signs with Transfer Station operator Keith Larson standing right there behind you, ready to help?


Keith told the Times last month, "I can't understand why so many people continue to dump these things into the bin." He pulls the stuff out by hand, if he sees it.

NO BLACK PLASTIC. Big letters. Black plastic poses massive difficulties to recycling centers because it contaminates other plastics. Conventional plastic-sorting facilities utilize near infrared radiation, or a light beam that bounces off the plastics to read the recycling codes. The machines can't read on black plastic.

"It is a big problem at the sorting center because black plastic must be removed by hand," Keith said. "This wastes time and money and ultimately costs the town more." Keith said.

NO PLASTIC BAGS. "The machines can't deal with plastic bags, either. So watch what you're recycling, please." 

Unlike the furor that greeted SAMA's plans to build a cannabis growing facility in the woods off Town Hill Road – a site abandoned after intense public pressure – there seems little objection to this more limited retail-only project. John Boulais, the single abutter who attended the outreach meeting, said he welcomed the business, believing it would bring economic benefits to the town with no disagreeable consequences for him.

The Select Board will next have to approve permits for the business, as will the state Cannabis Control Commission. No name has been chosen for the store, but if opened it will join what's already there – a Farmer's Market, a proposed General Store, Hillside Gardens B&B, Trudy's Lawn Ornaments, the New Boston Inn, and New Boston Crane Service & Sleds, MJ Tuckers Restaurant, and soon the new Hanging Mountain cliff-climbing site – all operating along New Boston's steadily revitalizing South Main Street. Moreover, it will be less than a mile from the newly-sited SAMA cannabis growing facility – a facility with which the retail store has no known commercial connection. 



Whatcha Got in Your House?

TOWN-WIDE TAG SALE, AUGUST 21

By Maxene Kupperman-Guiñals

Everybody's got a junk drawer filled with gadgets that nobody has used for six years. In your basement, your barn, your garage ... you've got "stuff" that could be earning you money at a tag sale, but who wants to carry all that stuff to a central location?


Maybe you're a farmer or a baker or an artist who has fabulous items to sell, but it is too difficult to advertise and get the word out ...

Perhaps you've been budget-searching for the perfect beach read ... or some more Legos ... or a toaster/necklace/shawl/cherry pie/washing machine/set of bowls/knives, and you don't know where to look.

Well, the Sandisfield Historical Society has you covered!

We are sponsoring a town-wide tag sale on Saturday, August 21 from 8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Rain date is Saturday, August 28. (You can be open the hours you want.)

Here's how: Register with the Sandisfield Historical Society with \$10 (more if you can, less if you can't) to be on the map. We'll give you a pink butterfly on a stake for the front of your house or the end of your driveway to signal that you have stuff to sell. We'll do the advertising on social media and through regular Berkshire County media, and provide both a print map and an on-line map for navigating our town.

For answers to questions, volunteering to help, or to sign up for a sale site, please respond on ConnectSandisfield Facebook or call Joanne Lazarowitz Olson, 917-686-1985 or joanne@aol.com or me at 258-4030 or slx92@aol.com, 

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A Resignation, and a New Beginning

TOWN REBOOTING ITSELF, AFTER A TOUGH TIME

By Simon Winchester

The turmoil which has gripped our town government recently appears to be easing with the governing team continuing to function without missing a beat.

A new Town Clerk, Mary Kronholm, has eased into her post. Janey Beardsley has been hired to assist the Select Board, separating the two jobs which were previously combined. (See our introduction to Mary on page 4. In addition, Janey coincidentally won this year's Times Essay Contest, see page 6.)

Candidates for Town Administrator are also currently being sought while reforms to the management of town finances are being cemented in place. And a date has now been set – Saturday, September 25 – for a Special Election to fill a vacant seat on the Select Board.

This election was occasioned by the sudden resignation on July 12 of Mark Newman. His terse, three-line letter of withdrawal – offered up eighteen months before his term was due to expire – coincided with the final workday of the previous Town Clerk, Dolores Harasyko, who had taken retirement after 24 years on the job. His letter, left on the desk of Select Board chairman George Riley, was read aloud during the public meeting, to audible surprise and dismay from the audience. It also vaguely charged George Riley with open meeting law violations.

It is now widely felt in Town Hall that in the wake of Newman's departure Sandisfield's government has the opportunity to reboot itself, after a period of drift.

All, of course, will depend on the quality of the candidates presenting themselves before voters next month; and in the eventual appointee as the next Town Administrator, a person who will fill the vacancy caused by the departure of the widely respected Joanne Grybosh, who resigned, on confidential terms, in June.

The town is by no means out of the woods. There is, however, a gathering feeling that matters are starting to improve, and that by the time the leaves are turning this fall – particularly if the Delta variant is kept successfully at bay – we will have recovered from our collective trauma and will emerge stronger, as if tested in battle.



Mark Newman, SAMA Town Meeting, June 22
Photo: Simon Winchester

The Times Returns to the Transfer Station

Report and photo by Bill Price


Times Distribution Manager Ron Bernard helped Keith Larson reinstall the Sandisfield Times distribution box outside the transfer station's operator's office on July 21.

The box was removed early last month at the demand of former Select Board chairman Mark Newman, apparently because he disagreed with an article about an informal Town audit in the July issue. Indicating that the box's removal was a Select Board decision, Newman ordered that the operator not only remove the box but that the station cease to serve as a Times' distribution point, which it had done every month since the inception of the newspaper more than ten years ago.

A few visitors to the transfer station witnessed the removal and others soon learned of it through Town grapevine. There were expressions of dismay and amusement. "You're kidding," said one Town resident.

The decision to ban the Times was not, in fact, a Select Board decision but was Newman's own. The decision would have been opposed by the other two Selectmen had they been consulted. Following a discussion about

the incident and the role of newspapers in a small town at the July 19 Select Board meeting, the two serving Selectmen voted to reinstall the box and allow the station to serve as a distribution site. Selectman Newman had unexpectedly resigned July 12.

While the box was "on hiatus," Mike Loring of Sandisfield, who had originally constructed the box, fashioned handsome copper flashing to help the box better withstand inclement weather. The box is now back on the wall, sporting a new, jauntier appearance thanks to its new shiny new copper fringe. 





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Meet Our New Town Clerk

MARY KRONHOLM MOVES INTO TOWN HALL

Report/photos by Bill Price


Mary Kronholm slipped easily behind the Town Clerk's desk at the Town Hall Annex July 13, replacing Dolores Harasyko who retired after 24 years, a record for the length of time on the job in Sandisfield.

Mary brings fourteen years of experience to the "interim/temporary" position. Along with excellent computer skills, she has personal contacts throughout state and municipal governments, knows Massachusetts General Laws, and has trained Town Clerks. According to a statement on Sandisfield's website, Mary "prioritizes professionalism, ethics, and integrity in her work."

Her first recommendation to Sandisfield's Select Board was for them to identify an Assistant Town Clerk who she can train to take over the Town Clerk's job. "A Town Clerk has at least a couple dozen responsibilities," she said. "It's difficult to take on the job without knowing a whole lot about how it works."

A resident of Blandford, Mary faces a half-hour commute, west along Route 23 to the cut-off toward the Otis Reservoir, then south on Route 8 along the Farmington to the New Boston Inn and a right turn on 57 to the Town Hall Annex. It can be a tough drive in winter, but Mary, a New England native, does not shrink from the idea of a little snow. Besides, with her full range of computer skills, she can always work from home.

Mary currently serves on the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners and is past president of the Massachusetts Library Trustee Association. She is a member of the Massachusetts Town Clerks Association and the Society of Professional Journalists. She writes for The Country Journal, the weekly newspaper serving the Hilltowns.

At Town Hall, when George introduced Brad Curry, DPW Superintendent, to Mary as the new Town Clerk, Brad said, "Mary's straightened me out on a lot of things already, all good. Mary was Blandford's Town Clerk when I got my first road superintendent job. Good to see you, Mary." 



Mary Kronholm being sworn in as Town Clerk by Moderator Dominic Konstam on July 12, witnessed by Select Board Chairman George Riley.



A Letter to the Planning Board

(Editor's note: The following letter was signed by 32 Sandisfield residents. While about half are full time, voting residents, the other half are part-time residents. The next Planning Board meeting will take place on August 3, at 7:00 p.m.)

This month's Sandisfield Times carried a story with the title: "Cannabis to the Right of Us, Cannabis to the Left of Us, Into the Valley of Pot." Does this


potentially describe the future of Sandisfield? Is this what residents of Sandisfield want? To be known as the "easy" place to set up shop to grow, process and sell cannabis, because we have NO regulations? Sandisfield is one of the very few towns in Berkshire County (and all of MA) that has no cannabis ban or zoning bylaw in place.

The request for bylaws goes back to October 2019, when we heard of a first potential grower. Months of drafts went back and forth between the Planning and Select Boards. Ultimately the Select Board put a version of a Cannabis Zoning Bylaw on the 2021 warrant, that the Selectmen themselves did not support. And it did not pass, although a substantial number of voters would have liked it to. This leaves Sandisfield residents uneasy, wondering whether the next SAMA-type project will be proposed next door to them.

We have questions to be answered:

What is the degree of regulation regarding size of cultivators, total canopy in town, and /or number of growers we would like to permit? What are the

reasonable and fair setback limits to protect residents from adverse effects of a neighbor growing cannabis? What areas of town are preferable for cultivation sites in order to have the least negative impact on other property/homeowners?

We are not interested in a repeat of the previous process that failed to produce a bylaw acceptable to the majority of residents. We would like to see a subcommittee of several residents and one or two members of each board who will work together to find an acceptable solution, as the majority of towns in Berkshire County have done. Ideally this can be done quickly and brought to a special town vote, and not wait until the next Town Meeting almost a year away. 

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



MR. HAYDEN

"The poetry of earth
Is never dead."
Wrote Keats in 1884.

"The poetry of earth
Is never ceasing,"
This famous verse,
It bears repeating.

Certain verses
Have been my friend.
Through good and bad,
Time transcends.

Mr. Hayden, our English teacher,
Enriched our lives.
Derivatives forgotten,
Wordsworth survives.

He'd pace in front of the class-
room and say,
"I wrote her name upon the sand.
But came waves and washed her
name away."

So there he is,
writing her name.
Then woosh, come the waves
and wash it way.

That was his thing,
Making poems accessible.
To any and all.
Engaging, effable.

The poems live on,
In each recitation.
The phrases gain meaning,
Internalization.

A toast to poetry,
Its artistry,
A toast to poetry,
Its immortality.

"The poetry of earth is never dead."

Karen Garfield
New Hartford Road



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Sandisfield Times Essay Contest

The Sandisfield Essay Awards

A DEEP DIVE


By *Simon Winchester*

So much that is charming and delightful about Sandisfield seems squirreled away, waiting to be revealed – places, people, talents, creations, things you never dreamed of, all of a sudden there, before your eyes.

I felt that way last year reading the submissions for our first essay contest, and remember feeling pleased that writers in our community, people hitherto not especially known as writers, had produced so much that was excellent.

This year broke records. Almost three times as many of you dusted off your keyboards and wrote to tell us about your favorite places in town, and the pride the four of us who acted as judges felt on reading the submissions was palpable. It was difficult to winnow the best from the good, but we decided, unanimously, that **Janey Beardsley's** description of her hidden Buck River swimming hole deserved the laurels. As we read, I think we all felt the same goosebumps as Janey did as she slid into the velvet ice-cold waters to begin a brief midsummer idyll in her secret stretch of stream.

Marnie deManbey found herself similarly entranced by water, and by the creatures that live within and beside it, and her essay, published along with Janey's, is a worthy and pride-making runner-up.

To all who sent in your work, profound thanks and congratulations – and please, ready yourselves again (and tell your friends) for 2022's contest: We will announce the topic in January, when doubtless every one of us, cozy by the fire, will be longing for summer to come around again. 

Winner

KER-PLUNK!

By *Janey Beardsley*

Just a mile down the road and offering a thousand smiles after that, there's a place that seems to radiate magic and fun. You feel your heart beat a little faster in anticipation as you gear up with a swimsuit, water shoes, and towel. Be sure to take in the heat of the summer months before arriving, for you know that first slip into the water will leave your body a little more shocked than maybe you had hoped for.

Park the car, the bike or sandals almost directly across from the Town Hall. Look down and take in the shimmering golden pool below. When the light hits it just right the water illuminates like a million fireflies in the middle of July. The water ripples with shameless wonder as it rushes from the intricate slabs of rock, glistening with mica and algae. You say you'll jump from the cliff this time, but you know you're lying to yourself. Those gut-wrenching leaps of faith are reserved for the braver of the community.

After cascading down the rock wall, now unable to see the road, it truly feels like a hidden oasis. Lay down the towel and head to the ledge behind where the waterfall begins. Dip a toe in to test the waters. As expected—freezing. But that's not going to stop you. It's summer and you live in Sandisfield, you've got more moxie than that. The river pushes against your legs as you trek over to your own diving board carved out by Mother Nature herself. A little climbing is to be had and by the time you reach your destination you're ready to jump in to clean off all the dirt and pebbles now stuck to your hands, feet and knees.

Finally, it's right in front of you. You scope out the perfect spot to jump in. You tighten your muscles to brace yourself for the icy pool below. One... Two... THREE! Ker-plunk! The sound of the running river into the pool is like a lullaby and you stay under for as long as you can. After poking your head out, goosebumps cover your arms and legs, but fade as you become acclimated to the refreshing water against your skin. It wasn't as bad as you thought it'd be as you wade against the current of the flowing river. This place brings the comfort of home to a magical sanctuary for those desperate for adventure and a place to cool down.

This is the Sandisfield swimming hole. Always ready to welcome its residents with open arms. Most residents have been lucky to experience this incredible place and create many exciting memories here. It's a pinnacle of the town and I'm grateful we are fortunate enough to have places like this in our own backyard. Remember to always be respectful of the magical places Sandisfield has to offer because we want this town to remain as beautiful as ever.

Runner-up

A WALK DOWN THE ROAD

By *Marnie deManbey*

Sandisfield is a small town, of that I don't think anyone can deny. It almost feels like its own bubble world at times. Friends and family who've come to visit always hold a certain kind of fancied delight, like such a place as this is truly alien, some snapshot of a different time. Of course, in such a small town, it's easier to pinpoint what places you enjoy the most.

One of my favorite places is about a little over a ten-minute walk from my home. People could probably drive right by it without noticing: it's two halves of some of the wetland swamps that are common in this area, cut apart by road. Large, caged drainpipes connecting their waters, ones which beavers have mercilessly tried to clog up over the years. This little hub can feel like an even smaller bubble world inside the one I already inhabit.

cont'd next page

I have seen the beavers so often around this part, they're almost like old friends. As I walk along, and the waters come into view, I always watch to see if I'll catch sight of them. Their furry heads sticking just above the waters, zipper-cut lines of ripples trailing behind them. Over time they get used to you as well: I once sat about ten feet from one as it went about its work without care. Their lodgings are on either side of the waters, so even on days I don't see them, I am reminded of their presence.

That I can see where the lily pads have been parted from their paths.

Life can congregate here. Migrating geese and ducks can be seen soaring in return from winter, and in coming months one can see them with their children swimming in the water. In passing glance, always just as they're soaring into flight, one can catch sight of a majestic heron taking to the sky. You can watch birds weaving nests in crooks of dead trees, the trees still serving a purpose even when twisted and grey. As the sun gets low, one can hear the thousand-voice chorus of frogs singing in unison. At night, you can catch the flash of fox eyes as they dash across the road.

I've had many run-ins with turtles over the years as well in this place. I've seen mothers in their holes laying eggs by the roadside, broken shells to be found in the future from this new life. Many have a habit of getting themselves in danger: having to run in a mad sprint to grab a turtle out of the road before a car could run it over, only for it to repay me with scratches. Having to stop my car to chase a snapper off the road and back to the waters when it was sitting around like a speed bump.

Most of all, it can be a quiet place. A place where one can breathe in, can maybe shake some thoughts out. To sit on a large rock as it starts to rain, then watch the water in front of you exploding with thousands of ripples. Sometimes it can feel like the sky is crying, and the water is softly cradling those tears. That you can throw a dandelion into the water, its wishing seeds unblown, and watch it drift off and away. Your mind sort of doing the same...drifting off. Off with the song of the birds, the frogs, the pitter-patter of the rain.

You can breathe in one moment, and in the next, you can find yourself gone.



Dolores Honored on Her Last Day at Work

State Representative Smitty Pignatelli visited Sandisfield on July 12 to congratulate Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko on her retirement and to present her with a State Award in honor of her 24 years of service to Sandisfield.

Photo: Lynn Rubenstein

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Flooding in Sandisfield

By Sandisfield Times Reporters


Sandisfield's Department of Public Works spent days clearing and repairing roads after a night of heavy rain on Sunday, July 18.

The downpour came on top of an unusually wet period for the region. More than 13 inches of rain has fallen in the Berkshires since June 30, far above the July average of 4.25 inches.

Rain-related flooding and erosion blocked parts of several roads, with Sears Road being the most affected. According to DPW Superintendent Brad Curry, flooding on Cold Spring Road was due to beaver-clogged culverts. The DPW has since hired a Southampton-based firm, Beaver Solutions, to erect fencing around culverts to prevent future problems. Busy beavers were also the cause of flooding on South Sandisfield road. Curry is confident that an MSPCA grant will help cover at least half the cost of bringing in outside help.

All in all, "Sandisfield held up better than most towns," said Curry. Becket and New Marlborough also lost some of their dirt roads, while the damage to Lenox is said to exceed more than a million dollars.

WORKING ON WEST STREET

In related news, West Street has recently undergone routine maintenance. While some residents might have been wondering why work was being done on a relatively new road, Curry told the Times in an interview that the top layer of fine stone on a chip-sealed surface typically wears off after a year or two. This time around, instead of going with standard chip seal, the chosen mix contained 20 percent rubber which means no residual stones migrating onto lawns, sneakers, and paws. Although the mix is more expensive, it should last at least another seven years. 



Flooding caused problems for users of Cold Spring Road.
Photo credit: Jack Dennerlein

STEAK ROAST

The Sandisfield Fire Department
Annual Steak Roast

Saturday, August 14, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Firehouse #2 on Sandisfield Road, Rt. 57.

Steak, baked potato, salad, and dessert.

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Why Don't Young People Volunteer Anymore?

IT'S ALL IN THE ECONOMICS

By Larry Dwyer, West Street

If you're a Millennial or Gen Z thinking I'm just a boomer talking about the good old days, hear me out before you turn the page. This article is really about you, so please bear with me. I have been going to town meetings and a lot of folks there have been talking about the lack of volunteers for our town. Here is my perspective on why that is.

When I was growing up in the 1950s and 60s, my father worked for the telephone company and my mother was a stay-at-home mom who took care of me and my three brothers. My father, who worked 40 hours per week and rarely worked overtime, and he could look forward to a weekend of a full two days off from the job. My father's basic salary was enough to support a family. They bought a modest house through the GI Bill and never had to worry about which bill had to be paid at the end of the month. By the standards of today, it was a spartan life. We had one car, one phone, and a black and white TV. The reception was spotty, but it was free.

That's the way it was for many white blue-collar middle-class families. One salary was enough to pay the bills and most jobs included medical and retirement benefits. Generally speaking, if your kids went to college, it was affordable.

Since one salary was adequate to support the household and generous retirement benefits provided security in old age, many people had spare time to volunteer. With their free time, some men might join the Elks Club or maybe the VFW. Wikipedia lists hundreds of women's organizations that served community needs.

In the case of Sandisfield at the time, one might volunteer for the Fire Department, Ambulance, or volunteer on one of the town's committees. As an example, my uncle Frank Dwyer was a policeman with

the NYC Transit Authority, and retired after 20 years at half-pay. In retirement, he became a full-time resident of Sandisfield and volunteered as an assessor. Later on, he worked for many years as the town secretary, which paid modestly but supplemented his retirement income.

Now let's move forward to today which is in stark contrast to yesterday. The 40-hour, one-income family is long past. In many families, couples are working one or more jobs including weekends. Today, many jobs don't supply benefits. If you need medical insurance, you must pay for it yourself. Defined pension plans, which were common for the WWII generation and many baby boomers, has disappeared for most. Today, retirement plans have to be self-funded, but with salaries being as low as they are, few millennials can afford to do so. On top of low salaries, add in the burden of college debt.

To get a perspective of millennials, I asked my daughter, Camille, and future son-in-law, Jordan, what they thought.

They told me, "Millennials are volunteering, but it has moved online. People go to marches and organize online and give money. It's different now. Many of our friends have a job plus a side hustle. A side hustle is what we call a second job or a craft where we sell products on social media. Pile on a pandemic and climate change and the world is a very different place from last

century. Millennials need more time, stability, and money to volunteer in order to give back to their communities. We need union jobs, pensions, medical coverage, a minimum wage increase, student loan forgiveness, and child tax credits and a sturdy social safety net for all. There also needs to be reliable internet to attract local businesses and to help increase the tax base to pay for services. Without this, there is no incentive for young people to stay and they will just leave. This is not only just a problem in Sandisfield, but in all rural America. These are complex problems with multifaceted solutions."

Given the contrast from the time that baby boomers lived to that of today, it should not be surprising that young people fail to volunteer for the Fire Department, Ambulance or town committees. Unless there is a radical economic change, beneficial to the younger generation, Sandisfield might have to consider paying for services that we once took for granted. 🗳️

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

Planning Board Opportunity

There is an opening on the Sandisfield Planning Board to complete the term of the late Willard Platt who died in June. Willard's obituary was in last month's Times. A Planning Board member for many years, his perspective and counsel will be missed.

The Select Board can appoint a temporary member, and the next Town election will be September 25, when a permanent member could be elected.

This is a great opportunity to make a difference in the community and get involved in the future of Sandisfield. The Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at Old Town Hall. Contact Roger Kohler at rkohler.sandisfield@gmail.com or Bill Taylor at edibleland@earthlink.net, 707-272-1688. 🗳️



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Think You Can Outsmart an Otter? Think Again.

By Ron Bernard



For nearly 22 years we have enjoyed our heavily-wooded property that abuts the enormous Otis State Forest wilderness. Until now I was certain that we had seen every mammalian species that exists in the Berkshires. (Mountain lions excepted, if they are in fact here; I'm skeptical). Otherwise, from moose to mice, you name it, they all wander through or are resident in these acres. It's a chief reason we live here.

So when on an April morning I happened to spot movement on the rocks at our spring-fed pond about 300 feet away, there was something different.

"Jean, come here! Hurry! Get the binoculars. What the hell is that?" She replied, incredulously, "I don't know. Wait it's ... an otter!" He (we assumed a male) was stretched out belly-up on the fountain ledge, sunning himself. "Oh, he's so cute, look at that adorable face," Jean said. We took telephotos. Aww.

An otter. Now what?

From that moment and for the next three weeks, our heretofore boring Covid-routine lives changed in favor of a new and more interesting existence totally dictated by this animal. We would learn a lot about this wily creature along with an old-fashioned lesson in humility.

Let me cut to the chase. He owned us. There. I said it.

Coincidentally, we had recently watched a delightful PBS nature program about the Mustelidae family which besides otters includes weasels, ferrets, badgers, mink, and wolverines?! But the otters stole that show, essentially a one-hour infomercial and public relations coup for the species. River otters are the Bambies of the wetlands. I bet I'm not alone in thinking that.

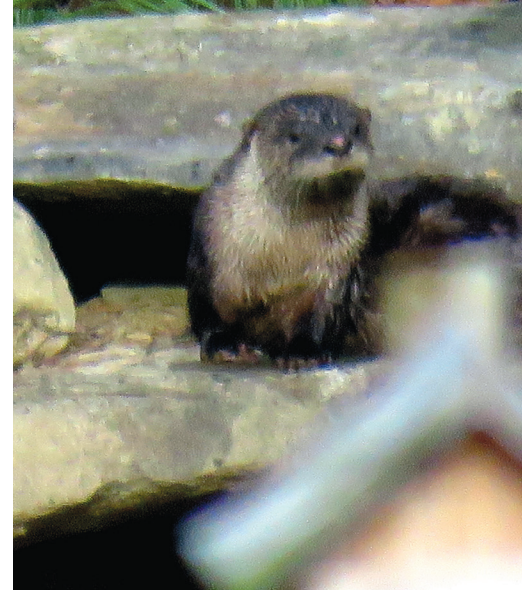
Due to their high metabolism otters have to eat the equivalent of fifteen percent of their body weight every day. O boy. We had to know more and what to do and right away before he cleaned out the pond of fish and frogs, an otter's *raison d'être*.

Fire up the Internet, find some experts to contact.

Sure enough, there are wildlife consultants in Massachusetts with otter credentials. Jean called three, left messages. "Hello, we are from Sandisfield and an otter is in our pond eating

the fish. Can you help? Please call back as soon as possible. THANK YOU! 413" Strangely, none of them returned the call.

We had to do *something*. We decided to catch it in a big Have-A-Heart trap and hand this thing over to a wildlife center. Killing or harming such an animal, even if that is legal – it's probably not – is totally out of the question.



So, the next day we set up a nice new unit down there, baited with tasty expensive shrimp, a half-dozen at the rear of the cage and a couple more placed near the hair-trigger pedal that springs the trap door seemingly if you just look at it.

Very early the next morning Jean, who could not stand it, went to the scene to certify her conquest. "Ron, you have to see this! The shrimp are gone and the cage is empty," she exclaimed. The trap was still set, undisturbed. Unbelievable.

Undaunted, she stepped up her game with a fresh trout dangling half of it in the cage for another go that night. Upon inspection the next morning, lo! the entire contraption was missing. "There it is! In the pond!"

Our young otter, maybe three feet long with tail, probably 20 pounds – all muscle – and really smart, dragged the cage into his domain where, presumably, he could deal with it under his terms. But this time all the commotion triggered it shut so our nemesis did not get his fish after all. But we did not get the otter, either.

By then it was apparent that ours was no ordinary opponent. We would see him early in the mornings lounging nonchalantly or swimming around. He

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might leave for the day but return at dusk. Other times he would disappear for a day or for several – always variable periods – no doubt to scramble our brains, keep us off guard.

We tried to shoo him away. No dice. He simply vanished into the turbid water to wait us out. Once he sneaked out of the pond between us and hid under the cabin. Another time he scampered up the yard all the way to the house and went under the deck as we watched!

Clearly overmatched and not one for lost causes, I recalled that one of the web sites we consulted said, “Otters are very smart. They are hard to trap.” No kidding.

Jean, as usual, refused to lose. The battle lines had been drawn. Over the next three nights, more half-trouts and cage rearrangement. It worked! Three different raccoons spent respective nights in jail but had good meals. The otter, meanwhile, would have nothing more to do with the Have-a-Heart. “They prefer live, wiggly things,” someone told us.

The most remarkable incident however happened as Jean was standing on the deck with camera, clicking away as he emerged from the pond. She watched as he climbed over a little wall and made a bee line towards the house. Was this an attack? They can do that when threatened. “That crossed my mind, but otters are near sighted,” said Jean. Amazingly, he paid no attention to her and slipped under the deck stairs just beneath her feet. Do otters chuckle derisively?

That’s the last we saw of him. In the wild,

river otters live up to nine years and can have 30 sq. mile territories. This one has our address and he will probably return. But no more traps. We’ll try to co-exist and from a distance.

I have since run across a six-minute You Tube video entitled, “The Dark Side of Otters.” This is must-see for anyone beguiled by that PBS documentary about these little darlings. 🐾



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Meanwhile, At Yanner Park

By Adam Brown, Yanner Park Committee

Work continues, slowly but steadily, on improvements at Yanner Park.

The most recent project was to remove various types of debris (metal, glass, stone) that remained after the cabin was demolished by the Town in 2017. Chris Chaffee of Chaffee Excavation out of Otis did a great job on this, in addition to handling some grading and seeding of the former log landing area, and pushing some residual logging debris away from the edges of the picnic area and driveway. Although this may not seem like particularly important work, it was necessary before embarking on a couple of projects that will directly attract visitors to the site.

The next big project will be to construct a series of hiking trails that span the park property from Town Hill Road over to Hammertown Road, connecting in with the trails on BNRC's Clam River Reserve. (see Sandisfield Times story, June 2021)

To that end, we were notified recently that the town has received a \$50,000 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation through the Recreational Trails Grant Program. This is very exciting news and a big thanks goes out to all of the community members who wrote letters of support. Although we did not receive the entire amount requested in the grant, it will still allow us to get a great start on creating a very usable system of trails that can be enjoyed by anyone in addition to hopefully providing leverage to secure more funding.

The Yanner Park Committee will meet with the Greenagers in August and September to determine how best to use this funding to begin reaching our goal of building trails that will connect from Town Hill Road to the Town Hall



Views of restored landscape at Yanner Park

Photo: Yanner Park Committee



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Annex. We're working out the details – the project is likely to take a couple of years to complete so patience is necessary.

Another project, a bit further off, will be to explore the options for getting an open-air pavilion constructed on the site to provide a gathering place that can be used by town residents and visitors for a variety of events (think town-wide potluck). We hope to begin the initial planning phase this fiscal year with money approved at the recent annual town meeting.

The last thing to mention here is the need to get the grass mowed regularly. This might sound like a minor thing but has proven to be somewhat of a hurdle thus far. The open areas and the picnic area must be mowed regularly to keep down tall grass and weeds (and limit ticks) and make the space inviting to the public. Our committee has an ample budget that can cover this and we understand that thanks to the help of the former town manager, Joanne Grybosh, a couple of mowings will be included by the town's contractor and paid out of the Yanner Park budget line. Now, we just need to make sure it happens. It seems only fair that this spectacular piece of town-owned land should receive the same level of yard care that our other town properties receive. 

Sandisfield at the Cannes Film Festival

DIEGO ONGARO FILMS A SECOND FEATURE LOCALLY

By Bill Price

A second film featuring Sandisfield has enjoyed its premiere at the Cannes Film Festival.

The new film, "Down With the King," like Diego's first feature, "Bob and the Trees," was filmed largely in and around Sandisfield and features local farmer Bob Tarasuk in a starring role.

Following its initial showing at Cannes, the film is being considered by leading festivals in Chicago, New York, Sundance, and Southwest.


"It was nice to see the positive reviews," Diego told The Times. "The film resonates with a lot of people. Especially the idea that after Covid people are looking for places away from the cities."

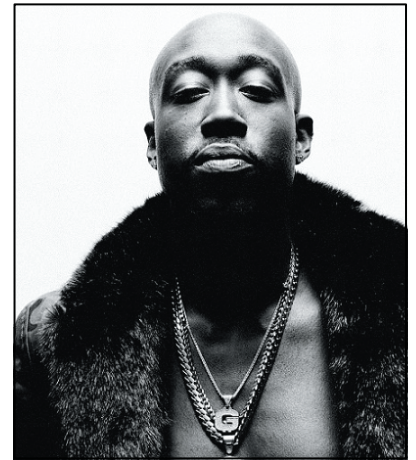
"Down With the King" features world-famous rapper Freddie Gibbs as Money Merc, also a world-famous rapper, but one who is sent to the bucolic Berkshires to finish an album without distractions. When he meets farmer Tarasuk in his barn butchering a pig, the movie may have hit the zeitgeist of the times. Black city man connecting with an economically stressed white farmer. The movie takes off from there.

Bob said that he hopes the film contributes to people understanding people different from themselves. "This time," he said, "Diego had a theme that speaks directly to our time right now."

Describing the star of the film, Diego said the movie may be the beginning of a new career for Gibbs. "He has great acting ability and is really good in this, the first film he's ever made. Maybe because he's a rapper, but he has the ability to remember and reproduce improvisational dialogue automatically. I don't think I ever saw him write anything down."

One of the reviews, translated from French, wrote that Diego produced "a sublime existential drama and at the same time, through the humor of the situations and the simplicity of the story, a popular film of great humility. Great cinema pleasure."

The film is not yet scheduled for a local showing, since regional screenings can affect festival selection. An excellent early report on the film, written by Sandisfield's own Hannah Van Sickel, was published in The Berkshire Edge in May, see www.theberkshiredge.com/down-with-the-king. 



In his first film, rapper Freddie Gibbs plays Money Merc who meets distractions in the Berkshire woods.

Photo: Nick Walker

Route 57 on the New Marlborough Village Green



NEW MARLBOROUGH
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August 14 Environmentalist Bill McKibben with Author Sue Halpern
3:00 pm A discussion about technology and climate change

August 28 Pianist Simone Dinnerstein
4:30 pm A program of Couperin, Schumann, Glass, and Satie

Sept 11 Shakespeare and Co. with Joan Ackermann
4:30 pm Star performers of Shakespeare and Co. in a staged reading of Joan Ackermann's touching period comedy, "Ice Glen"

Sept 18 Pianist Jeewon Park, Cellist Edward Arron, with Narrator Ben Luxon
4:30 pm A program of Beethoven, Barber, Beach, and Schubert

Sept 25 Magician Carl Seiger
4:30 pm An interactive performance combining illusion, jazz, and storytelling

Oct 2 Author Simon Winchester
4:30 pm On his latest book, "Land: How the Hunger for Ownership Shaped the Modern World," with guest panel

July 24 thru Aug 15 **Sticks and Stones**
Opening Reception July 23, 5-7 p.m.
Representing what the words "sticks and stones" allude to, or how they're used referentially in speech. Works in many media

August 7 1-4 pm **Young Artists Celebrate New Marlborough**
New Marlborough artists ages 5 through 14 present their celebration of New Marlborough in a one-day outdoor show

Aug 21 thru Sept 12 **Go Figure**
Opening Reception August 20, 5-7 p.m.
Figurative Art, from real sources, or works from a process such as figuring things out, or a numerical process, animate or inanimate objects, numerals, or the human figure

Sept 18 thru Oct 10 **Wonder in the Wander - Emerging Berkshire Artists Under 40**
Opening Reception September 17, 5-7 p.m.
Artists bear witness to the wander, internally or externally, and how it has nurtured their sense of wonder

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The Librarian's Corner

By Terry Spohnholz

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Thursday, 5:00–7:00 p.m.

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Missing Summer

by Destinee

The grass so green,

the sun so bright.

Life seems a dream,

no worries in sight.

Tans and tank tops,
laughter and bliss.

Each moment passes
without even a miss.

Friends and cookouts,
memories and laughs.

Good times to remember,
but how long will it last?

The grass soon fades,
leaves begin to fall.

School replaces sleepovers.
Oh, I'll miss it all.


I mark the passing of summer with holidays. Memorial Day announces summer's arrival, the Fourth of July its middle, and Labor Day signals the coming end of lazy afternoons sheltered from the intense sun with lemonade in hand and a book or two.

New Library Event!

Storytelling at the Library with Maxene. Join us Tuesday mornings from 11-11:45 a.m. for funny stories and arts and crafts for the wee ones. The stories and crafting are geared to ages 2-5 but all ages are welcome.

And on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-4:15 p.m. More storytelling, geared for 6- 8 year olds, again all are welcome.

Besides all the books in both the adult section (upstairs) and children's section (downstairs) we offer notary service, public computer and printer, wi-fi, and you can also get access to e-books from the Massachusetts libraries with your Sandisfield Library card.

If you have a particular author or book in mind, and the Sandisfield Library does not have it, we can borrow it from other libraries. It may take a week or two while the book winds its way from one end of Massachusetts to our end. 

New Book Arrivals

The Women's March by Jennifer Chiaverini

It's Better This Way by Debbie Macomber

The Therapist by B.A. Paris

The Bone Code by Kathy Reichs

False Witness by Karin Slaughter

Nine Lives by Daniel Stelle

Low Mess Crafts for Kids by Debbie Chapman

Mother Stewart's Favorite Crafts for Kids

Crochet Step by Step by Sally Harding

In the Children's Section

Come On Rain by Karen Hesse

Giraffes Can't Dance by Giles Andrede

Llama Llama Meets the Babysitter by Anna

Dewdney

First Day Critter Jitters by Jory John

Juan Hormiga by Gustavo Roldan

Dog Man Grime and Punishment by Dav Pilkey

Cat Kid Comic Club by Dav Pilkey

One Survived


I recently read the story in the Sandisfield Times "And Then There Were None" about the Great Horned Owl chicks.

I'm happy to report that one survived. A bird enthusiast and nature photographer friend got a picture of this owlet in the trees behind where their nest had been.



Photo: Mark Thorne

Owls are considered "sensitive species" and therefore should never be posted on social media or even on E-Bird. Revealing site-level records exposes the birds to risk from professional bird trappers, hunters, and/or pressure by birdwatchers and photographers and could cause significant harm to the conservation of these species. If parents of chicks sense someone is anywhere nearby (and that could be even what we consider quite a distance), they will not return to the nest to feed their young.

E-Bird recommends that we enjoy our good fortune privately and keep the specific location secret from others to help protect the species. 

Val Coleman, New York and Sandisfield



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Sculpture Show a Success

Photo: Richard Migot

The start of July saw the opening reception of an outdoor sculpture show in Sandisfield Center, benefiting the Sandisfield Arts Center. Although originally scheduled for July 3rd, bad weather forced the event to move to July 4th. Like a miracle, within minutes of starting, the sky turned blue and over 100 attendees were treated to a breezy, bug-free 75-degree afternoon. People were visibly happy to be together after a long pandemic, and enjoyed the food, music, party atmosphere, and of course over 20 sculptures of all shapes and sizes. According to an attendee, Rita Kasky, "The way the event was laid out, the artwork on display and the setting for socializing couldn't have been better. And from the expressions on people's faces it really hit the spot." The sculpture show netted over \$2,000 for the Sandisfield Arts Center.



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CRITTER CORNER

If you would like to send a picture for consideration for Critter Corner, you can email it to editor@sandisfieldtimes.org.

BARRED OWLS AT RISK

FROM SHARON, CONN. AUDUBON CENTER



This Barred Owl was admitted with head trauma, eye damage and shoulder injury after being hit by a car. We have been getting many owls hit by cars in recent weeks due to the heavy rains bringing delectable prey species like frogs, toads, salamanders and even worms to the road surface. It can be very difficult to avoid hitting an owl when it swoops down quickly in a bell-shaped curve movement across the road. Often, all people see is a flash of white, if they even see the owl at all. The only hope for avoiding them is to drive slowly. It is critical that we remember to drive extra cautiously during such weather, in hopes to prevent vehicle strikes with owls as much as possible, as well as the prey they are seeking!



Too Cute!

A pair of juvenile raccoons were spotted playing on South Beach Plain Road near the Hrkovich farm. No sight of the mother which was cause for concern. Nina Hrykyvich later reported that the family is well known and has taken up residence on the property.

Photo Jean-Atwater-Williams.



Saving a Wood Thrush

This little Wood Thrush flew into the window on our house. We went out to check out the noise and there he was on the ground looking pretty dead. We scooped it up and soon he moved, then eyes opened and he was panting. We gave him drops of water, he drank and within about 15 minutes he perked right up and flew off! They have such a pretty song. It was really neat to help out this little creature.

*Shannon Chapman
Lower West Street, on Connect Sandisfield*

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Talent & Energy

COUPLE MAKES A MARK IN TOWN

By Ron Bernard

Two Connecticut natives who met in California, married, and who have refocused their futures in Sandisfield have wasted no time in getting involved in local affairs and contributing to community life.

Could Bill Tayler and Jaye Moscariello be the most interesting couple in the world? You be the judge.

Bill, an astrophysicist by training (Princeton), has a wide repertoire of interests and skills. He is an accomplished pianist and composer of jazz and classical music. He is also a passionate proponent of new and more efficient ways of producing biologically grown food. Well informed and curious, Bill is engaging and eager to learn more about almost any topic.

Jaye is a first-rate painter and designer, vivacious and brimming with ideas. Her accomplishments range from artistic awards to films to books for children. She brings a positive attitude and interest in others to all of her public encounters. Upon first meeting Jaye any new friend is likely to go away thinking, "Whew! What just happened?"

She credits her training at Paier College of Art in Hamden, Conn., with sharpening her innate artistic ability. That skill led to opportunities as a creative director in New York and art exhibits and commissions in Europe and elsewhere. Jaye has worked with all kinds of media but recently favors water-based paint.

FIRST TO CALIFORNIA

After years in urban ecological planning in Boston, Bill moved to California to play and record his music – and to farm, which he describes today as his "foremost interest at this point in life."

Soon after meeting Jaye, who for eight years operated a gallery in Santa Monica, the two moved upstate while continuing to search for the perfect place to plant roots together. Their dreams were realized in 2012 in Redwood Valley and a 195-acre property they named Floodgate Farm On Heart Mountain.

Even in California, a place teeming with talent and creativity, they stood out. They became darlings of local media, co-hosting episodes of the local public radio station's popular "Farm and Garden Show." Bill and Jaye used music and food with other creations to add zest to community

life. Their signature offering is "Salad University," a how-to clinic that incorporates wild and cultivated plants into healthy diets, the latest thing for leading-edge foodies. Think delicious dandelions.

Floodgate Farm thrived and their reputations grew. The manager of the area's major farmer's market said, "Floodgate Farm is known for overflowing bounty and a salad mix that boasts over 50 types of greens. The farm is a botanical tangle, with edible surprises wherever you turn."

Bill produced original music recordings and Jaye painted her specialty, landscapes. She also held classes in creativity while completing degree requirements for her Masters of Fine Art from TransArt Institute in Berlin, Germany. Bill established a biological training center for summer interns.

FIRE, AND THEN TO SANDISFIELD ...

In October 2017, their idyllic but hectic lives were upended as fire swept through Floodgate Farm. Jaye said, "The wildfires were traumatic. We experienced three on our land that year. Living in dread of a reoccurrence, I was inspired to produce a short film, *From the Ashes - Fire, Survival, and Renewal*, about how our community responded to the Redwood Complex Fire."

They lost almost their entire orchard and about one-third of the garden to flames. Insurance covered only a small fraction of the loss. "The community pitched in with a Go Fund Me effort but it was not enough. I sold lots of my artwork which mostly went to help needier victims of the fire. We were luckier than our neighbors. Six out of twelve on our road lost everything," she said.

When asked "What brought you to Sandisfield?" Jaye responded, "In November 2019 we rushed back home to deal with the sudden death of my sister. My other sister was ill. It made us reflect on our situation. The rural character of the Berkshires suited our life style. Proximity to family in Connecticut was a factor."

She said, "We attended an event at the Sandisfield Arts Center. The atmosphere was great and the people were so friendly that we made up our minds on the spot. Sandisfield would be our new home."

So here they are at 7 New Hartford Road in Sandisfield Center, the energy-efficient house previously owned by Kathryn Clark.




Jaye and Bill at their produce stand at the Sandisfield Farmers' Market.

Photo: Bill Price

SLOWED BY THE PANDEMIC

Possibly a beaver in a previous life, Bill is furiously building a garden of raised beds. In the works are an avant-garde geodesic dome greenhouse and more experimentation with advanced biological growing methods. Produce is already on sale at their farm stand. Jaye has announced the opening of Jaye's Place Gallery which offers contemporary art and portraits of "people, pets and home."

Both have inaugurated new activities in town. Bill initiated an online performance forum called "The Musical Zoo(m) of Sandisfield." Meeting monthly and open to all, it features music, poetry and story-telling. Working with others, Jaye organized a farmer's market every Friday afternoon at the American Legion pavilion in New Boston.

This May, Bill was elected to the Planning Board, no better place to learn about how the town works, its needs and the possibilities. 





Letters to the Editor

THANKS, EVERSOURCE

The Saturday of Memorial Day weekend was a miserable day with rain, cold and high winds. A big limb on one of our 200 year old, or more, maple trees broke and hit the power line on New Hartford Road. The power went out for many of the people on our road. We were very impressed with the prompt response we got from Eversource. They arrived quickly, assessed the situation and within a couple of hours were back with a whole new pole which they installed. A few hours later, all the lights were back on New Hartford Road with many grateful residents, including us.

*Eva & Jean-Paul Blachere
New Hartford Road*

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING?

What in the world do the editors of the Times have against our recently retired town clerk, Dolores Harasyko? First, they publish a fictional comment by her regarding the November 2020 election and in the July issue suggest she has mismanaged money from the dump permit and dog license accounts. Nothing could be further from the truth. Every sticker and dog tag is numbered and recorded as are the deposits to the bank. But this is beside the point, the accounting firm was not hired to examine the town clerk's books, so why did the Times select these two accounts for particular mention? The accusatory tone and damaging innuendo of the article besmirches the character and reputation of our long-serving town clerk (early retirement, really?), and is, in my opinion, a serious error of editorial judgement.

*Margaret O'Clair
River Road*



Sandisfield is Bugging Out

The Recreation Committee is absolutely thrilled to have Laura Rogers-Castro, our town's favorite Entomologist, (a person who studies or is an expert in the branch of zoology with insects) agree to come/show and discuss everything you always wanted to know about bugs, spiders, and other crawling things.

BYOB (bring your own bug, dead or alive) or gather some new ones when you get there. Afterwards, we will help you craft your own bugs, (Mom won't try to get rid of these). This is for all ages. Please join us Sunday, August 22 from 9:30 to 11:30 at The American Legion Pavilion in New Boston on Rt. 8. 🐛

FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

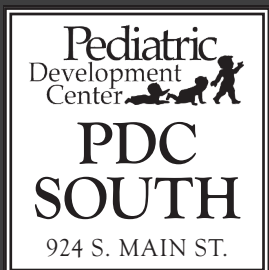
Our friends and soon-to-be neighbors at Hanging Mountain have had a strange year thanks to Covid 2020 and a weird month thanks to July rains 2021. Neither encouraged cliff



climbing, which is Hanging Mountain's raison d'être. But the climbing site on Rt. 8 just south of the Farmington River bridge below New Boston will officially open in August. "We decided against a big 'ribbon-cutting,' said **Jeff Squire**, former president of the Western Massachusetts Climbers Coalition, "but more of an acknowledgement that we're ready for climbers, and we hope to see some of you on the cliffs. Remember: safety first."

Other new neighbors include the venerable **Mill River Store** south of New Marlborough which reopened at the end of June. Delayed by contractor issues (like everybody else), Pete Chapin of Mill River Farm began stocking the shelves and hoped to be fully stocked by the end of July. "We want to make the store like it was," he said. Negotiations are continuing for the return of the post office to the building as well. The store will be the local distribution point for bacon, sausage, vegetables, and other goods from Mill River Farm. 🐷

Concerned about your infant or toddler's development?



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Sometimes breezy, sunny, cold, warm or rainy.
It could be all of this type of weather in one day.
Just like a moment in your life.

*Mary Ann Gacek
Cold Spring Road*

NOW HEAR THIS!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro.

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

AUGUST EVENTS

Sandisfield Select Board Meetings are currently by telephone conference and in-person. Please visit sandisfieldma.gov or call 258-4711 for information.

Playgroup on Tuesdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Otis Town Hall. Sponsored by South Berkshire Kids. Weather permitting. No pre-registration is necessary. Led by Nina Carr. Free!

Storytelling and Arts & Crafts at the Sandisfield Library with Maxine on Tuesday mornings from 11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. for ages 2-5 and Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:15 p.m. for ages 6-8. All ages are welcome but the subject will be geared for the select age group.

Chair Yoga on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall on Silverbrook Road, sponsored by the Council on Aging. For more information, contact Nina Carr (258-3314). Free.

Bingo and/or Cards on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. For location and more information, contact Nina Carr (258-3314).

Farmer's Market on Fridays from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion on South Main Street (Route 8) in Sandisfield. Vendors needed, please call Joanne (917-686-1985).

New Boston Church Service on Sunday, August 1 at 10:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church, Route 57. All are welcome!

Steak Roast on Saturday, August 14 from 5:00 to 7:00. **Drive-up only.** Enjoy steak, baked potato, salad, and dessert at home. Tickets are available from any Fire/EMS volunteer or call A&M Auto (258-3381). No tickets will be available at the drive-up.

Town-wide Tag Sale on Saturday, August 21 (raindate August 28) sponsored by the Sandisfield Historical Society. (see story opposite)

Bug Out! on Sunday, August 22 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. with Sandisfield resident and insect enthusiast Laura Rogers-Castro at the American Legion on Route 8. Please BYOB (Bring Your Own Bug) for a pre-program share! Laura will provide an introduction to both spiders and insects, followed by a bug search. All ages are welcome. There will also be craft fun with Lynn Rubenstein! Free.

EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

Free Tanglewood Events Chamber Music Concerts on Sunday, August 1 at 10:00 a.m.,

Monday, August 2 at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, August 8 at 10:00 a.m., Monday, August 9 at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, August 15 at 10:00 a.m., and Monday, August 16 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, visit bso.org. Free.

Jacob's Pillow on the Road on Sunday, August 1 at 5:00 p.m. (Ladies of Hip-Hop Dance Collective) and Sunday, August 8 at 1:00 p.m. (Kulu Mele African Dance & Drum Ensemble) at the Town Hall Park in Great Barrington. Free.

Sundays in the Park Live Music in Lee on Sundays, August 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Town Park in front of the First Congregational Church. Purchase food from a local restaurant or bring your own picnic. Free.

Monterey Library Children's Programs Musician Tom Sieling on Saturday, August 7 at 10:30 a.m. and Storyteller MaryJo Maichack on Saturday, August 14 at 10:30 a.m.

Kids Fishing Derby on Saturday, August 14 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery on 240 Hatchery Road in New Marlborough. For children 13 and under. Masks and social distancing required. Sponsored by the Friends of the Berkshire Hatchery in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

SAVE THE DATE

Town Election for Select Board. September 25.

Sandisfield Historical Society



A BUSY COUPLE MONTHS COMING

By Ann Wald, President


We are still welcoming new members, and the next few months are going to be very busy.

In August, we're looking forward to our town-wide tag sale scheduled for August 21 (rain date 8/28). If you are interested in joining us, either to sell stuff or help out, please call me at 258-4415 so that you can be added to the list.

September we are planning on holding a book sale. Buy our bag for \$5.00 and fill it up. We have 50 boxes to choose from.

Presently local historian Loraine German is busy appraising the various items at the meeting house in order to update our insurance coverage.

Please do not forget the Farmers Market on Friday's from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the American Legion grounds on Rt. 8, weather permitting. Again, we'll have an array of vegetables as well as flowers and other items made by your neighbors.

Next meeting of the Historical Society will be August 14 at 11:00 a.m. at the meeting house on Rt. #183. Stay for lunch. We look forward to seeing you there. This time is your history, so please take the time to join us. 

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★★★★★
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*The Times is grateful to readers who
contributed in July*

Grasshopper Springs

Katherine Duclos



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

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