

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

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Volume XII, Number 6

September 2021

The First New Farm Here in Years

DAYDREAMZ TO CULTIVATE CANNABIS

Report and photos by Bill Price



Phillip Blume, Sandisfield farmer.

As early as next spring, Phillip Blume hopes to be harvesting cannabis inside his new 6,000 square-foot greenhouse.

And, a bit later, he'll have many more plants growing outside under the warming Sandisfield sun in twenty rows of 200-foot earthen berms.

But first – like every other farmer who started out here at any time during the past 200 years – Blume has had to contend with rocks.

His 24-acre property – called Daydreamz – is hidden among the woods on the steep hillside above Town Hall Annex. Merely scraping the surface of that property, Phillip has dug out, turned over, buried, and moved enough boulders to fill most quarries. But instead of harvesting rocks, Phillip is putting in the hard work now on his newly cleared and graded 50,000 square feet of farmland to make sure that next year the land is ready to produce his goal of 1,000 to 2,000 pounds of cannabis per year.

The plan is to make his home and his farm sustainable. “I want to live here and make a living from my own place, eventually fill the greenhouse with vegetables and make my living from intentionally crafted cannabis. That’s the motto of Daydreamz,” he said. “Intentionally crafted cannabis.”

He added, “I know that might sound odd, but not the way I want to approach it. With raised beds and companion plantings – cannabis grows best if it is grown alongside other plants. I want to create a natural growing system.”

Con't on p.8

Growing Concern Over School Decline

TOWN PONDERES FUTURE PLANS

By Simon Winchester

Concerned by a decade of steadily falling academic results at the Farmington River Elementary school and vexed by what some consider questionable financial practices, an increasing number of Sandisfield parents and residents are starting to consider alternative plans for educating the next generation of Town children.

In response, the Select Board a year ago established a citizens committee to discuss the future of education in Sandisfield. Known as the School Options Exploration Committee, the group is to present its first recommendations to the Board within a matter of days.

The five-person committee, displaying a resentment at the present arrangements with the town of Otis, is understood to be calling for an all-points overhaul of the current system.

Among the most radical ideas is that Sandisfield should consider withdrawing completely from its current cooperative relationship with Otis, establishing its own independent school district and then entering into new tuition arrangements that would allow town children to attend elementary schools in New Marlborough and Great Barrington.

Said one prominent member of the ad hoc committee, who asked to remain anonymous, “Sandisfield has almost no influence over how the school is run, how our money is spent, and how our children are being educated. Partly as a result the standards are falling off a cliff. This is a crisis, and something needs to be done, and fast.”

Con't on p.4

INSIDE

MEET THE CANDIDATES	2-3
THE GOOD SANDISFIELD NEWS.5
OLD BRIDGE GETS A REPRIEVE.6
SELECT BOARD REPORT7
THE HIGHS OF SUMMER.	12

CANDIDATES FOR

CHRIS JOYCE, CANDIDATE FOR SELECT BOARD



Chris Joyce and his family. From left, Lilian, 13, Kylie, 16, Chris and Cassie, and Michael, 10.

My name is Christopher Joyce, and I am running for a seat in the 2021 Special Selectmen Election. I was a lifelong resident of Sheffield up until 2016 when I moved to this great town of Sandisfield. I meet my now wife Cassie Stringham in 2015 who has been a lifelong Sandisfield resident. We rented a house at 132 Sandisfield Rd for our family to all live together. We have 3 kids between our previous marriages, Kylie, Lillian, and Michael. I own C.W. Joyce Services a painting, dry walling and power washing Business with 30 years painting experience, and I do snow plowing in the winter. We now live at 2 Dodd Rd in our forever home which we purchased in December of 2019 just before this crazy pandemic hit the country. You might have seen my name in the Times

back in the August 2019 edition, for the Ambulance fire that was on Sandisfield Road where I assisted in moving the 2-person crew, their patient, and most of there life-saving gear to safety and away from the dangerous fire to our house at 132 Sandisfield Rd. I am not afraid to take on the small or large task at hand to get the job done for the Town of Sandisfield!

The Town of Sandisfield is a great place to live and raise your family. I feel if I am elected to the Board of Selectmen, I would be on the most important Board in town to help promote growth to the tax revenue, help generate income for people of this town to live on if they work at these places, we hope to bring to Sandisfield. There are two major routes through Sandisfield, Rt 8 and Rt 57. I feel would benefit from businesses on them. For example, a gas station, general stores, restaurants all strategically placed on these routes to catch the eye of the passersby to pull in and do business with. These are just a few ideas I have to help the town. I would be open to other ideas for sure to help grow the town together.

The Town as a whole has been doing a good job the last few years of trying to get the town back on its feet and moving to bring revenue back to Sandisfield, it is a slow and tedious task to handle for sure, but it needs to be done. The internet is coming soon so hopefully more people will want to move to this beautiful town and want to buy some land or a house and put down their family roots and do their part in helping our town. I feel we need more firemen to improve the safety of the community and also if we ever have an emergency in our town or surrounding towns. I feel the police department needs more funding to supply us with more on duty officers to help control speeding, be seen on the roads to encourage safer driving and to help keep a safer presence in the community. The highway dept has an uphill battle to contend with the roads in town both asphalt and dirt. With the paving of half of Rt 57 completed it is time to put in the paperwork with the state to do the next half. We need to apply for more grant money to help repair these aging roads and bring new life back in them. The numerus town buildings we have are becoming out of date and in need of great repair. These items all need to be addressed with more grant funding and maybe even new tax money from hopeful incoming businesses and residents. Lastly, we need new qualified staff in our Town Hall to get this town back on its feet and in a profitable direction and stop giving the town a black eye in the local paper! We are a community, and we all have a voice on how this great town should be run! Please get out and vote for me on September 25th from 10am-2pm at the Old Town Hall. Thank you for your support 🇺🇸

Town of Sandisfield Special Election

SAT. SEPTEMBER 25, 2021

AT OLD TOWN HALL

POLLING HOURS:

10 A.M. – 2 P.M.

Position open: Select Board: Term ends May, 2023

Timeline for Special Election

September 4. Last day to register to vote in Special Election, at Town Hall Annex, 2-4 p.m. and 7-8 p.m.

September 25. Voter and Absentee Voter ballots must be returned by close of polls Saturday, September 25 at 2 p.m. 🇺🇸

George: Non Endorsement

People have asked me for my comment on the race for Select Board.

I do not endorse any candidate.

Nonetheless, it should be clear to everyone that in the Town's current financial situation, with financial irregularities still not yet completely sorted out and a difficult Treasurer turnover ahead, in the coming months of transition it will be more important than ever to have people with some financial savvy making decisions. 🇺🇸

George Riley, CFRE

Chairman, Sandisfield Select Board

66 Sandisfield Road

Sandisfield, Mass. 01255

Meet the Candidates September 16, 2021

Meet the candidates. Come ask any questions or express your concerns to Chris Joyce and Steve Seddon who will be on the ballot for the Special Election for Selectboard on September 25, 2021.

Thursday Sept 16, 7:00 p.m., Old Town Hall.
Sponsored by the COA

THE SELECT BOARD

STEVE SEDDON, CANDIDATE FOR SELECT BOARD



Steve Seddon and his wife Laurie with their three sons, Aiden, 14, Hunter, 3, Steven Jr., 22, and their daughter Fiona, 5 months.

My name is Steven Seddon Sr. I purchased my land on Town Hill Road in 2004 and started building my home here in Sandisfield. What initially attracted me to this town was the beautiful scenery and “elbow room.” Building my home while growing my construction business consumed a lot of my time during my first 10 years living here, preventing me from participating in the community as much as I would have liked to.


During the past few years, I have become more involved. From volunteering my time for improvements needed at the local firehouse to attending town meetings more frequently which evolved into my joining the Finance Committee two years ago.

My involvement with the Finance Committee has given me great insight into the inner workings of the town and the challenges we are experiencing. That knowledge in combination with being a local business owner for the past 20 years, I believe, is what makes me qualified to be a Selectman for Sandisfield.

I sat on the School Options Committee this year and we dove pretty deeply into the regional school agreement between Otis and Sandisfield and the Massachusetts school law statutes. We looked at how the school was and is performing for our students.

We are raising our three sons and a daughter here, ages ranging from 22 to just 5 months. My middle son, now age 14, attended Farmington River Elementary from the second grade through the sixth and my youngest son will most likely begin pre-school there in 2022. I am very rooted and invested in this community and how it succeeds.

My business experience is that I own and operate a small construction company. The scope of work ranges anywhere from bathroom/kitchen remodels, building additions, historical restoration and repairs up to building entire homes from the foundation up. As a General Contractor my responsibilities are to plan, schedule, execute and budget the projects we work on. I must organize all my subcontractors, create a budget and timeline for them to adhere to, and coordinate all their schedules to see the project is finished on time and on budget.

In my 20 years of business experience, I have found treating everyone within the team with mutual respect and value goes a long way toward meeting our goals. Although much of what I spoke of qualifies me for Selectman in many ways, I will still need to learn some of the procedures and responsibilities. If elected I plan to learn these as quickly and effectively as possible to be an efficient part of the Select Board of Sandisfield. 



Steven Seddon for Selectman


By Larry Dwyer

I attend most of the Select Board meetings to keep current on events regarding the town. When the Special Election was announced for the open position for Selectman, I became a little concerned about who might be running and I took out nomination papers.

I was always interested in the town's affairs, due to my uncle Frank Dwyer. Frank loved Sandisfield and served as Tax Assessor and as the Town Secretary for many years, after he retired from the NYC Transit Police. It was always my intention to serve the town some way after my own retirement. Currently I'm on the Green Committee, was just appointed webmaster to maintain the town's website, and I was also just appointed to the Finance Committee. It was with some reluctance that I took out nomination papers for Selectman, but, given the current situation, I felt that now was the time.

However, shortly afterwards, I became aware that Steven Seddon, who is currently a member of the Finance Committee, had also put in nomination papers. I inquired about Steven and heard that he was well liked and was a responsible person. I asked him how much he really wanted to be on the Select Board. He said he would really like to be a Selectman.

Since Steven Seddon has experience on the Finance Committee and has always showed interest in the town's affairs, I felt that he was very much qualified for the position as Selectman.

Therefore, I withdrew my nomination papers. It is my hope that voters of Sandisfield vote for Steven Seddon for Selectman at the Special Election on September 25. 

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

Growing Concern Over School Decline

Cont'd from p.1

ACADEMICS

Recently published figures from the Massachusetts Department of Education show the Farmington River school ranking at or close to the bottom among ten similar local schools in the crucial disciplines of English, Math and Science. The all-important Accountability Percentile (AP) – a scale from 1 to 100 devised by the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System, MCAS, which shows how a school is performing overall – has Farmington dead last, with a dismal AP of just 18 percent.



In 2016 the school's AP was measured at 34 percent – meaning that Farmington's decline over the last four years has been precipitous. The state warns that on those rare occasions when a school has an AP rating of ten percent or below, Boston steps in and compels wholesale reforms, temporarily usurping the long-cherished American tradition of local control over local schools. As a result, Farmington Elementary is currently on notice that the recent rate of decline in the AP and other more specific metrics suggest this may well happen. (The school is bottom in Math and next to bottom in English and Science despite having the smallest number of pupils per teacher in the region.)



However, because of COVID the next MCAS figures will probably not be released until next year, giving the school leadership some breathing space.

Meanwhile real-estate searches conducted by parents thinking of moving to Sandisfield will bring up data provided by SchoolDigger, an app which offers its own rating of local educational establishments. SchoolDigger gives our town one star only – a rating likely to turn off more than a few of those with youngsters who might be contemplating moving here.

School Superintendent Tom Nadolny acknowledges the "regrettable" recent decline in academic standards, but vows that he and his staff are doing all they can to reverse the situation.

"During the pandemic we adopted a brand-new common core math curriculum, and have made sweeping changes to our English classes," he said. "We accept that trying to make the same changes year after year and hoping for a different result is the way to insanity – so we have made real, tangible changes to our curriculum, to our teaching methods, to the time each subject is allotted in class each day, up from an hour to ninety minutes in each main discipline.

"I am reasonably confident these reforms will reverse the decline, and that our next MCAS

assessment will show the positive impact of our changes."

FINANCES

Meanwhile the three Sandisfield members of the seven-strong Farmington River Regional School Committee – who are invariably outvoted, 4 to 3, by Otis members in all but the most substantive issues of school policy – are chafing under what they see as the inequities of school governance. Carl Nett of Town Hill Road – recently elected to the School Committee who is also a member of the School Option Committee – has made a flurry of complaints at the alleged miss-steps of the Otis majority.

A recent row over money illustrates the point. The school underspent its 2020 budget by some \$450,000 – leading cash-strapped Sandisfield to believe that our taxpayers would get half of that sum as a refund. Instead, the financial team at the school decided, without consultation, to spend all that money on repairs to the building's car park – prompting a furious response from the Sandisfield School Committee.

As a committee member, Nett complained to the state that what the school was planning was manifestly illegal – and in due course the state agreed and rapped the school administrators over the knuckles.

The publicity-shy member of the ad hoc School Option Committee told The Times, "The old-timers from Otis think they can get away with all manner of unacceptable behavior. But not anymore."

At press time there was no comment from the school about financial matters.

The committee will produce its first draft of recommendations at the beginning of September. No final decisions will be made without Town meetings and Town votes, and parents will have ample opportunity to weigh in on proposals for changes in the school system. The Times will dutifully report on the twists and turns of what looks to become a pending saga of epic proportions. ♣



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The Good Sandisfield News

By Bill Price

A few readers have complained that bad news in The Times gives the Town a black eye. Here is some good news about Sandisfield that should provide a kind of beef steak to help heal the bruises.

TOWN TREASURER RESIGNS/ TOWN KEEPS ITS LIBRARIAN

The Town Treasurer/Tax Collector, Theresa Spohnholz, gave three week's notice of her resignation at the Select Board meeting August 8. Asked for comment, she said simply, "It was time for me to accept and enjoy being semi-retired." The good news is that Terry, who has served as Town Librarian for nearly six years, will keep the library job where she has rebuilt and refreshed the collections and organizing events for children.

OPEN MEETING VIOLATIONS REJECTED

In the second of his two-sentence resignation letter on July 12, Mark Newman, a Selectman for four years, claimed that his resignation was "due to the repeated open meeting law violation [sic] that I feel are taking place by Select Board Chairman, George Riley."

After the Board asked Newman for details, Newman provided a handwritten letter charging that Riley in effect had (1) posted a meeting announcement without sufficient notice and without detailed information about the meeting agenda, (2) the notice was not posted by the Town Clerk, and (3) the posting and agenda changed before the meeting.

When a request for additional details about charge (3) were not forthcoming, the Board denied the allegation.

In its reply to charge (1), the Board related in detail the chain of events following the filing of the notice with the Town Clerk, which occurred more than 51 hours before the scheduled meeting, well within the time requirements. Allegation denied.

Regarding charge (3), the Board acknowledged that the Town Clerk or her designee in fact did not post the notice. The Town Clerk was unavailable at the time and had left no alternative in her absence nor the means to contact her. When it became clear that the Clerk had not designated anyone to do the posting, the acknowledgement stated, "Chairman Riley posted the notice on the glass of the bulletin board case as he did not have the keys. The Board met all of its requirements in filing the meeting with the Town Clerk."

Allegation denied.

The good news is that a change has been made at Town Hall regarding the posting of meeting agendas. The Board responded that the new Town Clerk "has designated the members of town committees and boards as designees to post meeting notices and has ensured that members have access to a timestamp and the keys to the bulletin board and can post meeting notices themselves. Had this designation been in place in June, the Town Clerk's absence would not have caused an issue."

TOWN APPOINTS A WEBMASTER

In more good news, Larry Dwyer has been appointed Town Webmaster. Sandisfieldma.gov has been languishing since it was inaugurated during Alice Boyd's tenure as Select Board Chairman. No one seemed to have the interest or skills or dedication to keep it up to date or to understand what an incredible informational tool a website can be. Larry, with the interest, ability, and dedication to get the website running, should be the person for the job.

THE SEARCH FOR A TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

A three-person search committee has been charged with reviewing resumes and recommending candidates for Town Administrator. Committee members Barbara Cormier, Rita Kasky, and Joanne Olson have met several times and are considering several applications.

Sandisfield, however, is in stiff competition with other Berkshire County communities for these positions. Lee is presently assembling its own three-person search committee and Lanesboro has hired a consultant to help identify the right person to serve as their Town Administrator. Other towns are also seeking manager/administrators.

PLENTY OF JOBS LOCALLY


There is even more reason to cheer in that two formerly empty positions at Town Hall have been filled. Janey Beardsley has been hired as the Temporary Assistant to the Select Board and Chairman Riley reports that "the backlog of minutes has almost entirely been completed and tackling of transfer station permits has begun." Temporary Town Clerk Mary Kronholm is in place and already familiar with most of the Town's operations, even while continuing to report local Blandford news as a journalist for the weekly Country Journal.

And the Town still has at least eight open jobs to be filled:

- Town Administrator, full time
- Treasurer/Tax Collector
- Assistant to Temporary Town Clerk, 8-12

hours per week

- Planning Board Administrative Assistant, 6-8 hours per month
- Conservation Commission Administrative Assistant, 8-10 hours per month
- Department of Public Works, full time, 40 hrs. per week
- Forecast and Budget Administrator, provide support for annual financial forecasts and budget processes
- Town Asset Custodian, 19 hours per week, starting in September, possibly finish in October 2021.

Refer to the town website at sandisfield.ma.gov for job descriptions and requirements. 



Letters to the Editor

Misery Loves Company

In case you thought that Sandisfield's accounting woes were unique, here is an article published August 25 about Wellfleet, on Cape Cod, where Antonia and I have spent the summer. Wellfleet is a much bigger and allegedly better organized town.

George "Jack" Grumbach
Sage Road

The article Jack enclosed, by K.C. Myers in The Provincetown Independent, was headlined "Wellfleet's Accounting Nightmare Goes On as New Issues Emerge." The article read in part:

"Untangling the mess of accounts that do not match and the unreconciled records dating back two years in the town's books will take several more months. It may delay setting the tax rate and hiring a new town administrator.

"That is the latest news — all of it bad — from a recent budget update "We have only scratched the surface," said Lisa Souve, a second temporary accountant. "We are like cats playing with balls of yarn."

The article can be accessed at www.provincetownindependent.org/wellfleets-accounting-nightmare-goes-on-as-new-issues-emerge/

Sandisfield Historical Commission

Old Route 8 Bridge Gets a Reprieve

By Ron Bernard



Photo: Sandisfield Times files

We were about to lose the oldest bridge in town. The iconic Old Route 8 iron bridge – a gateway to Sandisfield since 1927 and now serving as the northern entrance to the Colebrook Lake Reservoir – was scheduled to be demolished last year, replaced by a new access road off Rt. 8 leading to the park.


The truss span bridge is classified by the Massachusetts Historical Commission as an important architectural asset, but that designation was not enough to forestall approval of demolition. After exhaustive

engineering and archeological studies and a thorough review process by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, all relevant state and local agencies had signed off.

Due to Covid, the project was rescheduled to this summer and fall. Earlier this year the Town got word that there would be a further postponement, less definite, but that nothing would happen before 2023. New funding would have to be requested, they said.

Then, on July 28, the Corps informed the Town that the project was cancelled. “Following a recent review of the operational and maintenance needs at the Colebrook River Dam and Reservoir, we have decided not to move forward with the project to remove the Old Route 8 bridge. The project has been cancelled and the existing bridge will continue to be maintained and in service for recreational access to the Colebrook Reservoir as it has been.”

Matthew Coleman, Operations Project Manager explained to the Sandisfield Historical Commission that “Road design and construction cost estimates have greatly exceeded original estimates. The project is no longer cost-justified and because the bridge is still serviceable and traffic is light we decided to continue as before.”

So the bridge, which is approaching its centennial, is saved, much to the relief of the many who enjoy it and its original location just south of Town. Just maybe the delays caused by Covid, and a subsequent reassessment of the financials together changed the fate of our bridge. 



This statue of a young student reading beside a large flowering hydrangea greets students every day as they arrive at the Farmington River Elementary School in Otis.

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Select Board Report

By George Riley, Chair

It's been a very busy month at Town Hall - things are moving rapidly, and by the time you read this, still more will undoubtedly have happened.


Town Clerk Mary Kronholm hardly had time to set up her passwords and access the backlog of voice mails when she had a special election thrown at her. She has juggled nomination papers, a caucus and voting requirements, while dealing with all the other Clerk responsibilities.

Janey Beardsley has managed to master transfer station stickers, minutes, agendas, and postings of the many meetings and extra work sessions this month, and the dozens of projects, invoices, emails, visits and phone calls that pour into Town Hall daily.

The Town Administrator Search Committee is diligently screening applications, job postings for positions old and new are appearing on the Town website and elsewhere, resumes are being scrutinized and interviews scheduled. We have received valuable information and advice from other towns and from the Division of Local Services, the state agency helping us find excellent financial consulting assistance for the Treasurer transition.

Transitions are never easy, and these have been especially difficult as we do not have access to the information we need to resume the work smoothly. In this challenging situation, I must give a heartfelt shout of thanks to Roger Brown, our Finance Committee Chair. He has spent countless hours diligently, professionally and heroically sorting through Sandisfield's financial predicament and coming up with solutions, or at least workarounds, that will enable the Town to meet its current obligations and to eventually emerge on a much surer footing. We all owe him a great debt of gratitude.

Another unsung hero is our Principal Assessor Jacki Bitso, who has been working steadily in Town Hall for the past 14 years, ensuring that the tax revenue this town depends on is fairly and efficiently handled. It's a quiet job, but one which would have disastrous consequences if not done properly.

In short, there is light at the end of this tunnel. Our Town records are finally being dealt with, many new and more efficient systems are being set up, the Select Board will soon have a full complement of members and a professional team is being assembled to move Sandisfield forward. I want to extend thanks also to the many committee members and other volunteers who have stepped up and continue to work behind the scenes to ensure that we keep pace with both the development and the preservation of our beloved town. 



A New Invasive Species

Ron Bernard, a Beech Plain resident, recently found a new class of litter on his daily dog-walk on Cold Spring Road. "Normally I find bottles and beer cans thoughtlessly tossed out by passing drivers or passengers. This time it was something new."

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The First New Farm Here in Years

Cont'd from p.1

Daydreamz is already working toward that natural system. On the way up the hill, visitors pass fifteen beehives. The bees are busy and, Phillip says, "They take no sustenance from corn pollen. They drink from birch trees and other trees and flowers up here. I'd like eventually to produce THC-infused honey. But that's a project for next year."

DOTTING THE I'S, CROSSING THE T'S

Daydreamz has received the Town's special permits and has received all three of the state's provisional licenses.

One of Phillip's two partners, Paul Jones, who handles administrative and executive chores for Daydreamz, has been quietly working for several months to ensure that the all the state and municipal legal documents and permission slips are in proper order and filed in the right government notches. Paul's work, in a way, is not unlike maneuvering very large rocks and rolling them out of the way.

A third partner, Charles Maxfield, is preparing to help run the outdoor portion of the farm once it is up and thriving.

The three have been friends for a number years and have worked as partners in building other large-scale commercial properties throughout the Berkshires. But they don't plan to expand their cannabis business beyond what they've already sketched out. As Phillip says, "We're just getting off the ground and if we go bigger, the work will expand. For this rather small space, we need only a couple handfuls of people and we want to keep it that way."

A LOCAL BERKSHIRE KID

Phillip was born and raised down the road in Sheffield. He graduated from Mt. Everett High School and was a student at St. Lawrence University in upstate New York for a year. His grandfather, Jack Blume, was Sandisfield's wiring inspector for several years into the 2000s. Phillip's father is also an electrician, which makes Phillip a third-generation licensed journeyman electrician. His father will be helping with Daydreamz electrical projects.

Being his own licensed electrician was more than helpful when Phillip strung his own not-insignificant electrical connections from Rt. 57 up the hill to his property.

The 31-year-old Berkshire native has been on an interesting path.

In 2016, he became a licensed yoga instructor and has conducted yoga wellness programs in the Berkshires and outside the U.S. He was taking part in a wellness program in Costa Rica in March 2020 when Covid brought him and everyone else home.

HOW HE GOT TO SANDISFIELD



A silent witness to the fire that destroyed Blume's Sheffield home stands on his Sandisfield porch.

Shortly before his return to Sheffield his home was destroyed by fire.

A few months later, in June 2020, Phillip, who knew Sandisfield because of his grandfather and his own travels through the Berkshires, bought the isolated property here. Hidden uphill from Rt. 57, the site is about 1,200 feet from the road with a vertical incline of about 230 feet. Since the first road was barely passable even with a four-wheeled vehicle, Phillip has carved a second road up the hill. A primitive house existed on the property, apparently used only on occasional weekends. There was no electricity.

Phillip likes the isolation. "There's a steady breeze up here," he said, "which will help stimulate plant growth and remediation. There is no stagnant air, and no moisture like there is along the river bottoms. The air, too, I think, is helped by the confluence downstream of the Buck and Clam Rivers near the Silverbrook."

He said, "Pretty much all I hear up here is birds." 🐦

The Select Board's Reaction

Having weathered other cannabis conflicts, George Riley, now Select Board Chairman, said that what impressed the Board about Phillip's Special Permit application was its "complete transparency and thoroughness about what he was intending and how he was going to do it. It was a model application. His openness made it easy for us to see and trust his project."

Recreation Committee News

Build Your Own Terrarium

AND A BIG THANK YOU TO COA

By Lynn Rubenstein

Join us to build your own mini-terrarium at the American Legion Pavilion (Rt. 8) on Saturday, September 25, from 11 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Laura Ziegler-Messina will guide us through the ins and outs of terrarium building and maintenance. We'll supply the material, you bring the imagination.

Class size is limited to 25, so sign up early. It's free, but preregistration is required by Wednesday, September 15. Contact us at SandisfieldRecComm@outlook.com or 413-269-7357.



Also, we are always looking for helping hands and fresh ideas, (teenagers, volunteering with the RecCommittee might be the perfect opportunity to fill your "community service" resume.)

Also, a Big Thank You from all of us at the Recreation Committee to the Council on Aging members for their hearty agreement to co-sponsor the Community BBQ at York Lake at the end of July. You are a great team to work with. Our special thanks to all of you who helped make that event a huge success. 🐦

CRITTER CORNER

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



A potato chick

Lauren Paul wrote: "Once upon a time I planted seed potatoes from Fedco Seed Co. At the end of the season, wanting to get my portion of potatoes that I've been sharing with the voles, I dug them up and found this darling duck or chick if you prefer. I'm not privy to the humor the garden manifests."



A first sighting

A cooper's hawk spotted last month on Cold Spring Road excited nature photographer Cindy Ragusa. She says, "WOW! My first sighting of one of these and it made my day. This is a busy road for birds."



Left a good impression

Silhouette of a frog that met its demise last month during line-painting on Route 57.

Photo: Liana Toscanini

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Grant Opportunities

FROM THE SANDISFIELD CULTURAL COUNCIL

By Jennifer Hibbins

It is time to begin thinking about the next cycle of grant applications through the Sandisfield Cultural Council, a local agency funded by Mass Cultural Council.

The key dates are Wednesday, September 1, when applications will be available online, and Friday, October 15, 11:59 PM, the deadline for all applications.

Grant applications can be submitted online only at www.mass-culture.org/sandisfield.


We prefer local applications and encourage Sandisfield residents to apply.

Recent grantees include programs at the Farmington River Regional School, Sandisfield Free

Library, Sandisfield Arts Center, WAM Theatre, Mass Audubon, Sculpture Now, and Berkshire South, to name a few. Please see individual websites to view the programs that are offered and partially subsidized by our Council.

Applicants may apply for projects, operating support, ticket subsidy programs, field trips, artist residencies, fellowships, or other activities, based on local priorities and needs. Local councils may also choose to fund cultural field trips for children, grades pre-K through 12, by subsidizing the cost for children to attend programs in the arts, humanities, and sciences, including performances, educational tours and exhibits.

Our Council is always looking for additional members; please contact us at culturalcouncil@sandisfieldma.gov if you are interested in learning more. The time commitment for committee service is modest, and we are in need of computer-savvy individuals who can bring their love of Sandisfield and the Arts to this Council.

Council members include Connie Canty, Rosanne Carinci-Hoekstra, Ellen Croibier, Jennifer Hibbins, Barbara Kershner, Jennifer Lenzi, and John Skrip. 



Horse/Road Etiquette

By Rose Nelson,
Sunny Rose Farm, Dodd Road


Rules of the road exist when you're driving and discover you're sharing the road with horses.

I've been taking students on our beautiful back roads where it is quiet and safe for novice riders. Occasionally we have to cross or ride along a main road.

I'm surprised to see how many people are unsafely driving around horses. I'm very thankful that my horses are used to cars. But despite the fact that they are good around cars, drivers still need to slow down and yield in case that one time one horse does get spooked.

We try and stay off the pavement as much as we can and keep in single file. I ask drivers to please slow down to a reasonable speed. You do not need to fly past the horses!

1. Do not honk! We see you.
2. Pay attention to our hand signals as we can see around corners that drivers can't.
3. Keep a car length between you and the horses.
4. If you see a horse giving a rider trouble, do not pass in case an accident happens. Usually we can get the horse under control in a timely fashion.

Thank you, everyone! Love from the horses and riders at Sunny Rose Farm. 






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TOWN	POPULATION	AREA IN SQ. MILES	TAX RATE
Alford	491	11.6	\$5.55
Becket	1,748	46.3	\$11.62
Egremont	1,207	19	\$9.35
Great Barrington	6,854	45.7	\$15.99 + fire
Lee	5,777	27	\$14.68
Lenox	4,965	21.5	\$11.65
Monterey	941	27.3	\$7.27
Mount Washington	162	22.4	\$6.55
New Marlborough	1,473	47.9	\$9.94
Otis	1,564	38	\$8.47
Sandisfield 905	52	\$13.35	
Sheffield	3,172	48.5	\$13.88
Stockbridge	1,923	23.7	\$9.78
Tyringham	323	18.9	\$6.90
West Stockbridge	1,270	18.6	\$13.91

Source: MA Dept. of Revenue



Going, Going, Gone

A little more rain should do the trick. Across Rt. 8 from New Boston Crane Service & Sleds. Welcome to Sandisfield.

Photo: Bill Price

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SUNRUN



The Highs of Summer

By Bill Price

Sandisfield residents had several good events this summer, including the recent Town-Wide Tag Sale that included 38 households. Out-of-state license plates were seen among the locals driving our roads seeking the tables of good things being moved from one home to another.


The Fire Department's Steak Roast was drive-by only, no dancing, no drinking, all with the goal of safety first. Chief Ralph Morrison got accolades for making the tough decision early, using compostable packages for the dinners, and how smoothly the whole thing worked. He had a lot of good help, for which he says "Thank you," and the Department made some useful cash.

A summer high point was the combined COA/Recreation Committee All-Town Picnic at York Lake July 28. At least 75 people got reacquainted after the Covid quarantine, visited neighbors and friends, and enjoyed food and cold drinks supplied by COA and the RecCommittee. Barbara Cormier and Steve Rubenstein started the grills just before 4 and had hamburgers and hot dogs cooking within minutes. Linda Riiska,

Lynn Rubenstein, Nina Carr, and a dozen others organized the whole shebang and pulled the cluster of tables to the front of the park. People brought their own lawn chairs and picnic blankets and hung out all afternoon. It was a fine summer day.

The Arts Center concert held on the field behind Peter and Midori Baiamonte's place at the intersection of Rt. 57 and New Hartford Road was another singular event. Flora Parisky's initial donation – in memory of her friend Sean Carr – started the idea. Roger Friedman's musical group played off a homemade stage flanked by Peter's vintage pickup trucks. Tickets were provided for many of Sean's family and an audience of 40 or 50 residents brought their own picnic baskets. Wine and beer were available at the arts center's stand manned by friendly bartender Steve Kopic. Tanglewood at Sandisfield.

Matt McCuin donated landscaping services to prep the parking and mow the field for the show. Domaney's in Great Barrington generously donated some of the wine and Liv D'Andrea and Peter Baiamonte also made donations to the event.

Peter said after the show that he'd often thought the Arts Center could expand beyond the actual building. "This was an opportunity to try it out. Everyone had a good time, but realistically without the donations it would have been a loss. Even with the donations we weren't really able to pay the band enough. I think in the future we'd have to find a title sponsor somehow, or scale the program down to smaller local groups. But let's do more." 



The COA/RecCommittee Picnic

Photo: Bill Price



The Roger Friedman Band/Art's Center Concert

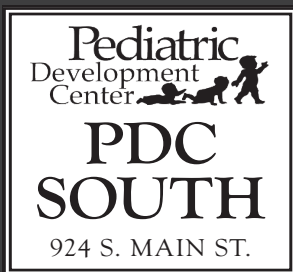
Photo: Peter Baiamonte



The Drive-In Steak Roast

Photo: Ron Bernard

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The Librarian's Corner

By Terry Spohnholz

Library hours:

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

Wednesday, 2:00–5:00 p.m.

Thursday, 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Phone: 258-4966

Email: sandisfieldlibrary@gmail.com

The summer and fall hours for the library: closed over the Labor Day weekend, both September 4 and 6.



"Reading gives us some place to go,
When we have to stay where we are."

—Mason Cooley



LIBRARY EVENTS

Storytelling at the library with Maxene on Tuesday mornings from 11:00-11:45 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. This storytelling session is geared for ages 6-8, but again all are welcome.

NEW BOOKS

We continue to add new and, hopefully, enlightening books to both the adult section (upstairs) and children's section (downstairs). We also offer notary service, public computer and printer

availability, free wifi and access to ebooks 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

- *Frankly, We Did Win this Election* by Michael Bender
- *Empire of Pain* by Patrick Keefe
- *Under a White Sky* by Elizabeth Kolbert
- *Trace Elements* by Donna Leon
- *Things We Lost in the Water* by Eric Nguyen
- *We Begin at the End* by Chris Whitaker

IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION:

- *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis
- *The Girl and the Bicycle* by Mark Pett
- *The Boy and the Airplane* by Mark Pett
- *I'm Not Millie!* by Mark Pett
- *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen

EXCITING EVENT Saturday, September 18 at 1:00 p.m.

Davis Bates "Songs And Stories For All Ages"

A lively inter-generation program for families and seniors presented at the Sandisfield Free Public Library. 📖

Editor's note: Julia Salzano, age 10, submitted her ode to the Town Library to this year's Times' essay contest "What I Love About Sandisfield."

I LOVE THE SANDISFIELD LIBRARY

By Julia Salzano, Sandisfield Road, Montville

My favorite place in Sandisfield is the Sandisfield Library. These are some of the reasons why. The Sandisfield Library has a playground. The reason that I like the playground is because there are many things you can do, like swing, slide, rock back and forth, and climb. I also like that it has a basketball court where I can ride my bike and play basketball.

The Sandisfield Library has lots of books and movies. This is important because if I have books and movies, I won't get bored. Books are also a good way to learn.

The third reason that I like the Sandisfield Library is that it is only five minutes away from my house. This is great because sometimes they have crafts at the library, events with ice cream and reading contests. I like to hang up the crafts that I make in my room.

When I had to do online learning, the Sandisfield Library parking lot was a good place to do it because it has high-speed Internet. I can also just go there with my computer to connect and play video games. There are even picnic tables where I can have lunch. Those are only a few of the reasons why the Sandisfield Library is my favorite place in Sandisfield! 📖



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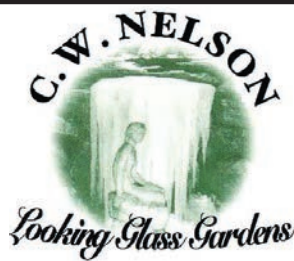
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Cannabis Bylaws Survey

By Bill Taylor, Planning Board Secretary

A survey soliciting Sandisfield residents and landowners' opinions on Cannabis Bylaws is now up on the town website. Paper copies for those of you without Internet access are available at the Transfer Station and the Town Hall Annex on Rt. 57.

As of this writing the survey can be found by navigating to the Planning Board page and clicking on the upper left "Cannabis Bylaws Survey". When done, click "submit", and it will go to a spreadsheet for Planning Board review.

The goal of the survey is to guide the Planning Board to create bylaws regulating cannabis businesses in Sandisfield. A version of such bylaws failed to pass at the May Town Meeting and this survey is an effort to create bylaws that 2/3 of the voters will support.

Whether you are a resident or not, your opinion is valuable. Please only fill out once and do indicate whether you are registered to vote in Sandisfield (or expect to be in May 2022) or not.

Voters' opinions will be what matters in passing a bylaw even though it has some effect on all property owners as well as renters, so all ideas are grist for the planning mill. We also hope that more residents will vote at next year's Town Meeting since the bylaw failed 68 to 58 and there are many more voters than 126.

The survey is also a place to mention other things you would like the Planning Board to work on. Due October 1st, but please get them in as soon as you can.

Thank you for your interest in the future of Sandisfield.

Mohican Tribal Historian to Speak Here

SEPTEMBER 25 AT THE ARTS CENTER

By Ron Bernard

Bonney Hartley, Tribal Historic Preservation Manager for the Stockbridge-Munsee Community, will speak at the Sandisfield Arts Center later this month. Her topic will be ongoing efforts to protect Mohican and Munsee (Lenape) cultural sites and to repatriate cultural items.

The mission of Ms. Hartley's organization is to preserve, manage, and interpret indigenous cultural heritage. She works from an extension office at Williams College.

Sandisfield is directly connected to people who lived here long before English colonists arrived in 1750. For centuries Mohican villagers from an area centered around the New York/Massachusetts border came via their ancient trail ("Knox trail" today) that led directly to hunting grounds in the vicinity of Otis State Forest and Spectacle Pond. Arrangements of stone monuments considered sacred by native cultures have been identified, legacies from a vibrant indigenous society.

Their descendants are federally recognized today as the Stockbridge-Munsee Community.

The event is sponsored by the Sandisfield Arts Center on Saturday, September 25 at 10:30 a.m. Proof of vaccination, masks, and social distancing required. Donation suggested. Ms. Hartley is in great demand as a representative for her community. This is a one-time event, not to be missed.

For more information, visit SandisfieldArtsCenter.org or contact Ron Bernard at 413 269-0012.



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SAT., SEPT 18, 8 PM \$10
"OUR TOWN" AT THE MINACK, 2016

A FILM BY JERRY HERMAN DOCUMENTING THE SANDISFIELD PLAYERS PERFORMANCES OF "OUR TOWN" AT THE MINACK THEATRE, CORNWALL, UK. **ON SITE EVENT AT THE ARTS CENTER**

SAT., SEPT 25, 10:30 AM \$10
WORDS OF OUR ANCESTORS: REVISITING INDIANTOWN

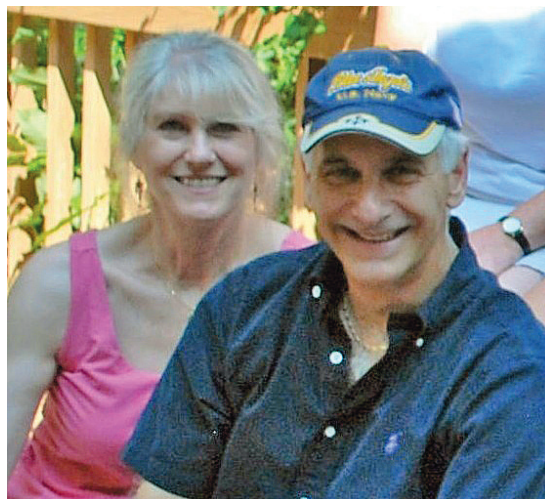
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Comings and Goings



STEPHEN GERMAN 1948-2021

Stephen German passed away at his home in North Granby, Connecticut, on August 1. Born in the Bronx, New York, on November 16, 1948, Stephen was the only child of Joseph and Sylvia Linder German. His grandparents, Max and Ida Linder, moved in the 1920s to what happened to be the oldest house in Montville – the George Manley home, ca. 18th century, at the intersection of Sandisfield and Town Hill Roads – which Steve owned at the time of his death.

Stephen's father, Joe, was a career U.S. Air Force officer. By the time Steve graduated college he had lived in six states as well as Italy. One of his proudest achievements was receiving a rare Boy Scout merit badge for completing the original route from Marathon to Athens while at Scout camp in Greece when he was about 11 years old.

Steve spent two years at the University of Hawaii before transferring to UMass Amherst, where he graduated with a degree in Financial Management in 1971. He spent 29 years at the Hartford Life Insurance Company, working his way up to Marketing Director before retiring in 2001.

For Steve, the third time was the charm, when he married his wife Lorraine in 2000. In the fall of 2001, they began second careers in the antiques business. They established Mad River Antiques, LLC,

naming their business after the brook that flows behind the Germans' home in Montville.

Steve's father had been a navigator on a B-24 bomber during World War II. Growing up on air bases, Steve developed a love for planes, especially the B-24 and P-51 Mustang. Whenever possible, he and Lorraine would attend air shows at Barnes Airport and Westover Air Force Base.

Two of Steve's favorite vacation places were Bermuda and Lake Placid. But his favorite place of all was the house in Montville, which he inherited after Sylvia's death in 2015. He spent every summer there with his grandparents while growing up and some of his best memories include hanging out at Marty Pinsky's house and square dancing with friends in Otis. He and Lorraine enjoyed restoring the house to the early 1800s – though with modern accoutrements – and enjoyed many happy memories there.

Steve is survived by his wife Lorraine, daughter Kristin, granddaughter Grace, Sylvia's 99-year-old twin sister Rose Linder Petrokofsky, and several cousins.

A memorial service will be held at a future date at the Sandisfield Arts Center in Sandisfield, Massachusetts. Donations in Steve's memory may be made to the Sandisfield Arts Center, Box 31, Sandisfield, MA 01255.



Comings and Goings



JOHANNA GARFIELD 1930-2021

Johanna Rosengarten Garfield of New York City and Fox Road, Sandisfield, died August 5 at the age of 90. Johanna was described by her family as “completely unpretentious and kind to all.”

She is survived by her husband, Leslie, her daughter Clare, her son Jed and his wife Karen, also of New York and Sandisfield, and her son Cory. She was an adoring grandmother of Clay and Charlie, her two grandchildren “she had always longed for.”

An active patron of the Sandisfield Arts Center, Jo loved theater, art, and classical music. An author, she published two books and many articles on the arts and other topics. She taught English at the Dwight Englewood School in Englewood, New Jersey for many years.

Jo had extensive knowledge of Shakespeare with a quote for every situation. She was involved with many New York City cultural institutions including the National Arts Club, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art, Playwrights Horizons, the New York Youth Symphony, The Chazen Museum of Art at the University of Wisconsin, The British Museum, and The International Print Center, New York. She was also involved with Health Advocates for Older People.

When her mother and father bought their summer home on Fox Road in 1938, Johanna began a life-long love of the town and its people. Her descriptions of her childhood and young adulthood during Sandisfield summers, published in *The Sandisfield Times*, were charming reminiscences of growing up in a different world. The memoirs can be found at SandisfieldTimes.org, Archives.

Her ode to the spring-fed family pond, in August 2013, recalled family Thanksgivings when “After dinner, as it was getting dark, we’d plod down the hill through thick snow with lanterns and

brooms, sweep the ice, place the lanterns around the frozen pond’s edges, and ice-skate on the bumpy surface.”

In another memoir, “The Party Line,” published in 2014, she wrote that when the home was purchased in 1938 no phone service was available. “In those days, of course, it was possible for a business to survive for a few days without a phone – or face or computer. Inconvenient, maybe, but not impossible.” When eventually a phone was installed, “The black rotary sat in a place of honor in solitary splendor on a small round table with a chair in front of it beside our staircase. ... After a year or so, [my parents] were informed that neighbors also wanted a phone so the line would be shared.” When still other neighbors, down Fox Road, also asked for a phone, Jo remembered “my mother and father debating the matter. For others on our road to have individual lines, more unsightly telephone poles would have to be installed. So the decision was made. We would share the line with yet another family.” ... “The Smiths had one ring, we had two, and the Roosevelts three. Much later, when we became friends with the Roosevelts and were at each other’s houses, if we heard our two rings we could pick up the line and answer.”

In “When Pete’s Was Steve’s,” published in *The Times* in April 2015, Jo described the New Boston Store as “especially cozy in the cold, snowy winters because of the wood-fed stove in the corner opposite the post office. When I tired of studying the toy rack, I’d stand near it, getting warm and watching the customers who came in. ... Steve’s was the hub of whatever life was in the town and everyone who lived in the area came in eventually.”

Services for Johanna were held at The Riverside Chapel at 76th Street and Amsterdam Avenue in New York City. To plant trees in her memory, please visit the Sympathy Store at the Chapel.



Letters to the Editor

DESPITE HIS DEATH, KEATS LIVES ON

Brava to Karen Garfield for her poem “Mr. Hayden” in the August 2021 issue. As an English teacher it’s gratifying to hear her thanks; as a lover of poetry, it’s even better to hear that Keats’s words live on. It’s worth noting, though, that Keats himself died in 1821; his sonnet “On the Grasshopper and Cricket” was written in 1816, not 1884. But who needs to worry about dates? It’s the feeling that counts. Thanks, Ms. Garfield!

Brian Glover

Greenville, North Carolina (and summer visitor to Tolland)



Sandisfield's Farmers' Market



Friday afternoon Farmers’ Market at the American Legion field on Rt. 8 in New Boston started out with four valiant vendors. It has since expanded to eight and sometimes more.

Every Friday from 4:00–7:00 p.m. More vendors – crafters, farmers – invited. Booth fee \$10, benefit the Sandisfield Historical Society. Contact Joanne Lazarowitz Olson at 917-686-1985. All are welcome.



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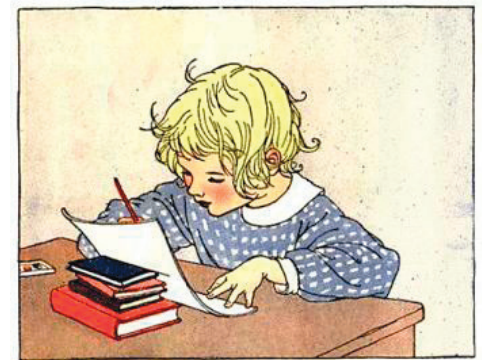
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NOW HEAR THIS!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro.

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

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

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

Storytelling and Arts & Crafts at the Sandisfield Library with Maxene 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 please call Joanne (917-686-1985).

A Walk in the Woods with photographer Peter Baiamonte and Berkshire Natural Resources Council staff on Saturday, September 4, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. This will be a casual photo hike in the Clam River Reserve in Sandisfield. Please email gallery@sandisfieldartscenter.org if you would like to join the walk. Bring your camera along. The meeting point will be in the parking lot of the Sandisfield Town Hall Annex. After the walk, the Sandisfield Arts Center will host the opening of Peter's exhibit in the Gallery from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Free.

New Boston Church Service on Sunday, September 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church, Route 57. All are welcome!

Meet the Select Board Candidates on Thursday, September 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall. Please come with your questions and concerns. Sponsored by the Council on Aging.

Songs and Stories for All Ages on Saturday, September 18, 1:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Free Public Library. David Bates presents a lively intergenerational program for families and seniors.

"Our Town" at the Minack, 2016 on Saturday, September 18 from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammertown Road. A film documenting the preparations and trip by the Sandisfield Players to the Minack Theater in Cornwall, England. \$10.

Car Show on September 19, 1:00-4:00 pm. At the New Boston Inn. Live music, burgers and hot dogs. Corner of Rts. 8 and 57. You can't miss it.

Special Election on Saturday, September 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall on Silverbrook Road. The position is for the Select Board with a term to end May, 2023.

Tribal Historian to Speak at Arts Center on Saturday, September 25 at 10:30 a.m., about efforts to protect Mohican and Munsee (Lenape) cultural sites and to repatriate cultural items. A one-time event, not to be missed. Proof of vaccination, masks, and social distancing required. Donation suggested. For more information, visit SandisfieldArtsCenter.org or contact Ron Bernard at 413 269-0012.

Whimsical Mini Terrariums! on Saturday, September 25 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the American Legion Pavilion on Route 8. Preregistration (413-269-7357 or SandisfieldRecComm@outlook.com) is required by September 15. Sponsored by the Sandisfield Recreation Committee. Free.

EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

SculptureNow at the Mount through October 13. This is a new exhibition of 30 large-scale contemporary outdoor sculptures at The Mount in Lenox. The grounds and gardens are open from dawn to dusk. Exhibit funded with support from the Sandisfield Cultural Council. Free.

Berkshire Busk on Friday, September 3 and Saturday, September 4 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in

downtown Great Barrington. What is busking? The activity of performing in the street or another public place for voluntary donations. This final week of Berkshire Busk will feature various performers including an acrobatic circus duo, comedy stunt person, living statuary, and several musicians. Free.

Woodland Hike from Gould Farm to the Berkshire Fish Hatchery on Saturday, September 4 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. There will be van service back to Gould Farm. Meet at the Harvest Barn at Gould Farm. Free.

Explore the Perennial Plants of the Pfeiffer Arboretum in Great Barrington on Saturday, September 4 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. A guided exploration with Devan Arnold. Meet at 249 Long Pond Road. Free.

Kids Fishing Derby on Saturday, September 11 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.

Royal Hemlock Trail Hike at the Bidwell House on Saturday, September 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Trace the route of early settlers. Register at bidwellhousemuseum.org. Free.

Geology Hike at Monument Mountain (west) on Saturday, September 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Join Professor of Earth Sciences Mike Bergman for this hike, from giant geological boulders to panoramic summit vistas at Flag Rock. Please register (bergman@simons-rock.edu). Free.

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*The Times is grateful to readers who
contributed in August*

Alan Boye & Linda Wacholder

David & Amy Gutschenritter



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