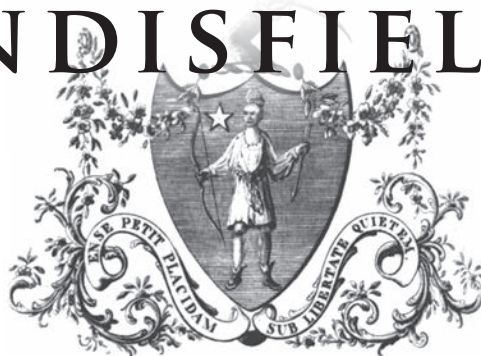


THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

Tribunus



Plebis

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume XIII, Number 2

May 2022

When Spectrum Calls

By Bill Price

(With Help from Some Who Have Already Answered the Door Bell)

THE BEST NEWS FIRST: Spectrum customers may be offered a temporary discount over some of their fees or special services. For example, fees generally increase after a year by \$25 a month. Some early customers have been offered a stepped version of that increase, meaning that instead of the increase hitting in the second year it doesn't hit until the third year.

As Spectrum explained: "In regards to pricing, we often offer new customers promotional pricing for a set period of time. This enables the customer to sample Spectrum services at a discount initially before deciding on the right plan for them and their family at the regular price. We offer broadband speeds up to a gig with no modem fees, data caps, or contracts, and customers can cancel any time without penalty."

We think that means the pricing and services can bounce around, so you might want to discuss that possibility with your Spectrum rep.

Cont'd on p.5



"Bub's Beans and the Dogs" opens for business. Proprietors Ethan Lemon, Olivia Lemon, and Layla White, left to right.

Photo: Hannah Van Sickle

Come 'n Get It!

NEW BUSINESS OPENS IN SANDISFIELD

By Hannah Van Sickle

In a fitting show of peer support, four students from Farmington River Elementary School were the very first paying customers at their classmates' burgeoning business on a blustery Wednesday morning in New Boston.

The grand opening of "Bub's Beans and the Dogs," slated to coincide with the April school vacation week, gave a trio of local entrepreneurs a chance to brush up on their customer-service skills while preparing food and doing simple math in their heads — before business heats up in earnest for the season.

Olivia Lemon, age 8, said that the whole idea started last summer. Olivia, a third grader at FRES, her brother Ethan, and their friend Layla White wanted to have a lemonade stand — a veritable rite of passage for kids their age — which they endeavored to do from the Lemons' front lawn on Sandisfield Road.

The kids worked together mixing lemonade, making signs, and creating a display to catch the attention of passersby (which, in these rural parts, were few and far between). In the end, it

Cont'd on p.4

INSIDE

CANNABIS BYLAW	2
SELECT BOARD REPORT	3
OUR ROADS THIS SUMMER	6
SCHOOL COMMITTEE PETITION	8
FRRSD BUDGET	9
ELECTION: CANDIDATES	10-11
TOWN CLERK APPOINTED?	12
WHO REMEMBERS DAFFER'S?	16



DRIVERS, WATCH FOR TURTLES!

Reflections on Memorial Day

By Scott Stone, Corporal, C.S. USMC, '86-'90, AMVets Post 77

Our nation endured a Civil War that unfortunately started long before the first guns were fired, but then began for sure at Fort Sumter in 1861. At the end of four long years of grueling battles between the Union and Confederate States, our Union prevailed, but the enormity of the lives lost across our divided nation was tremendous. The battle tactics at the time could devastate a village, town or region with a single volley.


5 May 1866 – Waterloo, New York: Local residents decided to close shops and businesses to decorate the graves of those who died during the Civil War.

30 May 1888 – General John Logan, a veteran of that war, after hearing about Waterloo, sought a national day of remembrance for all who died and declared this day for the purpose of strewing flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of those who died in defense of their country “whose bodies,” he said, “now lie in almost every city, village, hamlet, and churchyard in the land.”

The date was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle of the Civil War.

Over the decades that followed, and our country's involvement in other conflicts and wars around the globe to protect our democracy, Decoration Day evolved into Memorial Day in order to include all who died in defense of their country, including those who died during the Revolutionary War.

Please try to take some time over this somber day to remember the fallen and those who may have fallen from wounds to the soul. Acknowledge the veterans you can see and more importantly remember the veterans that you can't see. God Bless America.

Scott Stone of Sandisfield was born and raised in Pittsfield. After graduation from high school in 1986, with his parents' permission, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps at 17. He and Deb McCuin of Sandisfield were married shortly after his discharge from the Corps. They have two grown children, one grandchild and another on the way. He writes, “We are very blessed. Thank you.” 



Sandisfield Memorial Day Parade, 1981, near the New Boston Inn.

Photo: The Record, Sandisfield Times Archives

Memorial Day Parade

**SUNDAY, MAY 29,
STARTS AT 10**

The Parade is back, and this year includes the Lee High School Band.


The Parade will start at 10:00 a.m. at Old Town Hall on Silverbrook Road, continue down Rt. 57, stopping at the West New Boston Cemetery and later at the New Boston Rehab Center for ceremonies, and will end at the American Legion Pavilion with a Community BBQ. Everyone is welcome.

Decorated bicycles can join the parade, and non-motorized vehicles. The Recreation Committee and Cultural Council are helping kids decorate their bikes the morning of the parade and providing decorations.

Also old cars, fancy cars, and decorated floats can join the parade. Contact Ralph Morrison at 258-4742 to give him a heads up. Or just show up at Old Town Hall at 9:30 a.m., check in with Ralph, and get in line.

The Cultural Council arranged for students from Farmington River Regional Elementary School to drum in the parade, along with other community drummers under the tutelage of Tom O'Gara. Drummers who can keep a beat should call Tom at 258-4537 to join the Drum Contingent.

Submit photos of family or friends who were veterans and who are no longer with us for the Honor Wall at the Pavilion. Call Lynn Rubenstein (413-269-7357 or kowgirlruby@yahoo.com).

The Sandisfield Fire and Police departments are doing the lead planning for the day's events, with assistance from the Recreation Committee and the Cultural Council. The Council provided funds for the drum harnesses and will provide the ice cream truck. 

Revised Cannabis Zoning Bylaw

**TO BE VOTED UP OR
DOWN AT ANNUAL
TOWN MEETING**


By Sandisfield Times Reporters

The Planning Board has submitted a revised Cannabis Zoning Bylaw that will be on the warrant and needs a 2/3 vote to pass. People on both sides of the cannabis arguments are in agreement with this version. It is a reasonable compromise for allowing folks who want to grow cannabis in Sandisfield to do so, while also protecting homeowners from cannabis establishments infringing on their quality of life.


The new 14-page bylaw includes standard MA Cannabis Control Commission definitions and regulations. Specific to Sandisfield, the bylaw allows for retailers, treatment centers, and testing facilities within an overlay zone along Route 8.

The revised bylaw allows for a total canopy (growing space) of 500,000 square feet in total. Individual indoor or outdoor cultivation of any size tier allowable in the state may take place on properties with a minimum lot size of 50 acres and setbacks of 250 feet from the property lines.

All proposals for all cannabis establishments must be granted a Special Permit by the Select Board. A Citizen Sub-Committee of both full and part-time residents will be created to advise the Board when reviewing applications.

If adopted, Sandisfield will join the majority of municipalities in Berkshire County that have passed cannabis regulations. The Special Permit Granting Authority (which is the Select Board) will have uniform guidelines for all applications. 

Meanwhile, Down at Tuckers

Word from Marty Cormier, co-owner: We are making some ground! Jeff and I were able to come to an agreement with our insurance company on the building and contents portions of our policy. With this complete, we have begun with the demolition process which will reveal the full extent of the damage and let us know what it will take to rebuild. 

Informal Budget Meeting

MAY 5, OLD TOWN HALL, 7:00 P.M.

The Select Board will host an open meeting Thursday evening, May 5, at Old Town Hall on Silverbrook Road at Rt. 57. The meeting is to present the FY2023 budget and allow residents to ask questions in the hope that discussing the items ahead of time will make the Annual Town Meeting run more smoothly and efficiently.



Sandisfield Arts Center Launches 2022 Season with Dinner Theater May 21

by Hilde Weisert

Welcome back! Join us for the “Live at SArC” fundraising dinner, our first since 2019. Attendees will be treated to several short theatrical selections accompanied by a sumptuous dinner by chef Adam Manacher.

Come celebrate good times, good food, and good friends!

We continue to be mindful of providing a safe and comfortable environment for all. Our venue is handicap accessible, well-ventilated, and spacious. Our servers will wear masks, and attendees are required to provide proof of vaccination. You can reserve tickets at www.sandisfieldartscenter.org.

For the rest of the season from June to December, we have a great lineup of films, music, workshops, art shows, theater, and poetry, which we’ll be sharing in future Times issues and on the website.

We are especially delighted that the popular and free Family Film Series with Riley and Bogart Muller resumes on three summer Fridays, June 17, July 15, and August 19, at 7:00 p.m.

The benefit dinner helps us offer other community events including gallery opening receptions and the July 9. 4:00 p.m., Ukulele Performance featuring renowned singer-songwriter Bernice Lewis and the “Berkshire Ukulele Band” (BUB) directed by Jeffrey Howard.

Voices of Poetry on July 17, 2:00 p.m., with National Book Award winner Cornelius Eady (with his trio) and award-winning poet Molly Peacock for a poetry reading, conversation, and book signing.

Two Smartphone workshops with Thad Kubis on August 19 and September 10, both at 11:00 a.m.

Afternoon Tea with Simon Winchester on November 19, 3:00 p.m., and a December Christmas Poetry reading for the whole family (time to be announced) with Ben Luxon and others.

If you’d like to get involved as a volunteer to help with events (such as greeting and ticket taking, serving refreshments at receptions, and handling sound or lighting for performances) or serve on a committee, please email community@sandisfieldartscenter.org and give us an idea of your interests. 🍷



Select Board Report

Submitted by Alex Bowman,
Select Board Member

The Select Board has been working diligently on the FY2023 budget for presentation to the Annual Town Meeting May 14.

With Chairman George Riley on a vacation that was expected to begin after the budget process was complete, finalizing the task has fallen to our interim town manager Jonathan Sylbert with key decision support from the other Board members, Steven Seddon and me..

Jonathan’s experience from his time in Monterey has proved invaluable. One of the central concepts he brought with him to Sandisfield is to create a clear separation of the operating budget from the special articles. The operating budget is funded by taxation and includes the costs that the town needs to operate from year to year – and how much that cost has gone up from one year to the next.

The special articles are those items that change from year to year and can be funded from any source: taxation, free cash, capital improvement, or stabilization funds.

The Board will host an open “Informational Budget Meeting” on Thursday, May 5, at 7:00 p.m., Old Town Hall, to present the budget and allow the public to ask questions. The Select Board hopes that this will make the Annual Town Meeting run more smoothly and efficiently.

Here are some of the special articles requesting funding for this year:

- Purchasing new highway equipment – a grader and a roller.
- Roadwork engineering to make Sandisfield an attractive applicant for infrastructure grant money.
- An external financial audit to ensure our processes and procedures are in order.
- A triennial recertification process required by state law.
- An executive recruitment process for a permanent town manager.

In other news, the board has:

- Reached an agreement with the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development to delay until FY24 the first scheduled assessment payment to the state for broadband.
- Started investigating a collaboration with Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative to expand public health offerings for the Council on Aging.
- Finalized the Highway Union negotiations to reward employees who attain licenses that will improve performance as well as placing a higher value on tenure. We are hoping these changes will help fill DPW vacancies more quickly when they arise.
- Announced a campaign to increase enforcement of town bylaws, especially around dilapidated vehicles and trailer violations. 🍷

Come 'n Get It!

Cont'd from p.1

was a great success: the friends collaborated on a plan, worked together to execute it, and made some money in the process — which they split three ways.

Olivia added, with a grin, “Then my mom came up with an idea: ‘How about next summer we do a hotdog stand?’”

Why would anyone with a full-time job go to such lengths to help her kids start a fledgling business?

“It’s a learning experience,” said the mother-in-question, Dawn Odell Lemon, citing the real benefits: “What they’ll get out of it, from communication skills to business sense [is invaluable].” She and her kids have signed on to a full-fledged commitment through the summer. To date, equal parts creativity and hard work have gotten the team where they are.

For starters, their moniker piques curiosity.

“Well, Ethan’s nickname is Bubs, and my nickname is Beans — and Layla’s nickname is Beans, too — so we kind of put it all together,” said Olivia of the clever name.

The stand, set up in the front lot at New Boston Crane Service and Sleds on Rt. 8 in New Boston, is flanked by a pair of brand-new picnic tables and a ketchup-and-mustard-themed umbrella.

“I’ve been thinking about hot dogs all morning,” said Brian McCuin, who walked over from New Boston Crane on his lunch break. “It’s nice to have a place in town to get food.” Four of his co-workers, including Billy White who owns the shop (and is Layla’s father), concurred.

“I hope they do well this summer,” White said, welcoming the kids’ business to his property. “I think it’s a great idea.”

The learning curve is bound to be steep. The busy Route 8 corridor, between Winsted and Otis, sees plenty of traffic come summer. Still, variables remain — chief among them: *How many hot dogs can residents of one tiny town consume?*

Layla White, age 11, is not concerned; instead, she’s focused on the many positives of her looming summer adventure.

“I am looking forward to spending more time with my friends, meeting new people, and earning money,” said the FRES fifth grader.

Indeed, valuable lessons are sure to abound.

“Like learning how hard it is to make money,” said Roger Harbour, Layla’s grandfather, who turned out in support of the opening day’s festivities.

As well as the correlation between the weather, hot-dog consumption, and by extension lunch-hour traffic on any given day – which, evidenced by frigid

temps and equally brisk business, might not be a problem.

“It’s fun, and my favorite part is making the hot dogs,” said Olivia, a.k.a. Chef Beans II, shouting out her favorite — the chili-cheese dog — to the dozens of customers who patronized their cart on opening day.

“I was kind of scared at the beginning of the day, because I didn’t really know how to [run a business]” said Ethan Lemon, age 11, who is in fifth grade at FRES. As to additional day-one challenges? “It was so hard [getting ready].” Ethan explained, pointing to a pair of extra-large coolers that had to be moved via forklift (an added perk of doing business with the Whites) to get them off his dad’s truck.

Still, he considers himself an entrepreneur — a hardworking one at that, having made several trips to Hartford, Conn., with his mom to stock up on supplies for the season (including all the ingredients for New Boston baked beans, on the menu and made from scratch). Plus, the hot-dog cart is fully licensed, permitted, and certified by the Sandisfield Board of Health.

“I’m excited,” said Ethan, a.k.a. Chef Bubs, of having his name on signs for a brand-new local business.

“I think it’s a great first job!” said Layla, a.k.a. Chef Beans I.

“I like keeping busy,” said Olivia, looking down the line at how she will spend her summer.

Beginning May 7, “Bub’s Beans and the Dogs” will be open Saturdays from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Summer season begins June 22 when the stand will be open Wednesday-Saturdays, same hours. Days and hours of operation are weather permitting, so follow them on Facebook or call New Boston Crane, 258-4653 before making a special trip.

“It’s the only deal in town!” said Billy White. “I think they’ll do great, especially if they can bring the weather with them.”

The Menu



NAKED DOG PLAIN ON A BUN	\$3.75
OLD FASHIONED DOG MUSTARD, KETCHUP, RELISH	\$3.75
NEW YORK DOG SAUERKRAUT, DIJON MUSTARD	\$4.25
CHEESE DOG SHREDDED CHEDDAR CHEESE	\$4.25
JALAPENO DOG JALAPENO PEPPERS	\$4.25
CHILI DOG CHILI	\$4.25
CHILI CHEESE DOG CHILI, SHREDDED CHEDDAR CHEESE	\$4.50

SIDE OF NEW BOSTON BAKED BEANS: BACON, ONION, CHILI SAUCE, BROWN SUGAR	\$2.00
BAG OF CHIPS	\$1.25
PEANUTS	\$1.00
SODA: COKE, DIET COKE, SPRITE, ROOT BEER, DR. PEPPER	\$1.50
BOTTLED WATER	\$1.50
ASSORTED COOKIES: CHOCOLATE BROWNIE, CHOCOLATE CHIP, PEANUT BUTTER, OATMEAL RAISIN	\$1.00

COMBOS	
(SERVED WITH A BAG OF CHIPS AND A DRINK)	
1 Dog: ANY STYLE	\$ 6.50
2 Dogs: ANY STYLE	\$10.00

SALES TAX INCLUDED
THANK YOU FOR KICKING OFF OUR DEBUT AND SUPPORTING US!!

OPEN HOURS

MAY & JUNE	
(BEGINNING MAY 7 TH)	
MOST SATURDAYS	11 AM – 3 PM

JULY & AUGUST	
(BEGINNING JUNE 22 ND)	
WEDNESDAY	11 AM – 3 PM
THURSDAY	11 AM – 3 PM
FRIDAY	11 AM – 3 PM
SATURDAY	11 AM – 3 PM

DAYS & HOURS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
WEATHER PERMITTING & COMMITMENTS

SO...BEFORE HEADING OUT.....
 • FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK (WE WILL POST ANY UPDATES OR CHANGES)
 • EMAIL: BUBSBEANSANDTHEDOGS@GMAIL.COM
 • CALL: NEW BOSTON CRANE: 413.258.4653



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When Spectrum Calls

Cont'd from p.1

THE REST OF THE NEWS: Remember Phases 1, 2, and 3 outlined by the Broadband Committee and in last month's Times's report? The phases were the sequence in which residents of Town were to be contacted for connection to the new fiber optic network being installed by Charter/Spectrum.

- **Phase 1**, the east side of Town including New Boston and Beech Plain, has been completed. Most residents there are already enjoying the new services. Phase 1 reportedly went smoothly and on schedule.
- **Phase 2**, covering the northwest side of town, began in late April and will be completed mid-May.
- **Phase 3**, on the south side, will begin May 16 and last three weeks.

The drill is that one of four representatives from Spectrum, who are now paying unannounced daytime visits to every residence, are working through Phase 2 and will soon start Phase 3.

If a homeowner is present and ready to go, the sign-up session can take place, followed within a day or so by the installation crew. If you're not home, you can make an appointment using contact information left at your house by the representative.

The range of service choices for internet, TV, and telephone combinations can be dizzying. A session can take as little as 15 minutes for those who already know what they want up to "as long as it takes" – which can be several hours. Longer sessions typically involve many questions about television options, such as particular stations and special requests.

It helps you – and the Spectrum rep – if you are at least a bit familiar with the choices before the knock on the door.

Information on what will be available at your place and at what cost can be found for Phase 2 addresses by visiting Charter/Spectrum and following the prompts to plug in your street address and zip code. Addresses in Phase 3 will be online beginning May 15. If you want to know already, simply plug in a random but legitimate address from Phase 1 or 2. You'll find more choices than you may want to choose from. We're no longer in an ABC, CBS, and NBC world and haven't been for a long time.

Good news is that there is nothing to sign and no contract. Spectrum services can be cancelled at any time.

ONCE YOU'VE AGREED TO THE SYSTEM, NOW WHAT?

The next step is a visit by technicians to install a line to the house and the modem equipment inside. This appointment can be about a week after the visit at an agreed specific time. The homeowner needs to be on

site, because the installation requires the technician to come inside the house. Installations start as early as 8:00 a.m. Monday through Sunday.



*Spectrum installation guys at work.
Photo: Jean Atwater-Williams*

Those who sign up with an email address will receive three messages from Spectrum, either through your email service, cell phone, or other electronic device. The first is a welcome message with information, the second confirms the installation time, and the last is to create your online account including a password and other details.

The more prepared the customer is, the faster and easier the installation process goes.

Say you already have a current internet service and decide to go with Spectrum. When should you notify your current provider that you're jumping ship? Some advisers suggest keeping your old service a week or so to make sure Spectrum works at your place before cutting the cord. Likewise phone service.

Also, technical issues may arise after hook-up. For instance, homes with several wi-fi connected devices used simultaneously may need a higher level of service. Very large homes may require additional wireless access or boosters. A different router may be needed if the current router can't handle the new speeds. The customer may need a mesh network for wide-range coverage. Spectrum offers routers and PODs (mesh network) to all customers. What kind of TV do you have? You may need a Roku device?


You may need to hire a 10-year-old kid to sort it all out.

THEN YOU'LL GET THE BILL (WITH A SURPRISE)

One enthusiastic Beech Plain customer, an early sign-up, has already received their first invoice from Spectrum. Having signed up for internet and basic TV for \$49 each per month, they expected to pay about \$100. The bill was \$122.70. It turns out there was a \$21 monthly "other charge" which they had not been told about. A "Broadcast TV Surcharge," explained Spectrum. That's 20 percent. Our neighbors said, "Big surprise to anyone signing on for TV."

YOU'RE ONLY HERE IN THE SUMMER?

Spectrum's Seasonal Service Plan enables customers to keep their account active while they are away from home at a reduced monthly rate for a minimum of two months and up to nine months.

NOTE: Seasonal residents cannot sign up on-line and should not use the company's general customer service "800" number. Trying to do that can cause confusion and delay. **If you're not in Town during the Phase for your place, contact either the Spectrum sales representative or Bill Haines of the Sandisfield Broadband Committee at wchains@gmail.com.** Bill will put you in touch with the Spectrum rep. 



NORTHERN LIGHTS, 1938

Val Coleman

It must have been August,
Mom had closed Swan's Way that afternoon
With the soft sound of a book's breath.
The first Concord grape was about to bloom
To flag the summer.

As it turned out, the sunset was an overture,
The White Mountains a sleeping cameo,
Orange colors geysered up to paint the clouds again.
It was nothing more than each evening's
Glimpse of God.

So it was that I went to sleep
Thinking of porcupines
And my mother by the grey wood well.
Sleep at six or seven can be plain and deep.

All of the sudden my father waked me up.
He smelled like a pine tree
And he took me in his arms
And he ran out the screen door
And he stood me on the grey wood well
And said, "Look!"

And there, above: pouring, boiling out of the zenith
Was every color I had ever seen,
Racing to the edge of the world.
All around me, all of the flags and fires and
Radiance!

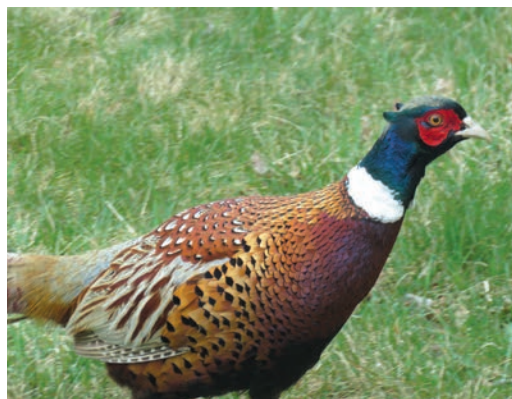
There were reds, noble and velvet,
Yellows and whole waterfalls of blue,
And above all, white! Darting, moving curtains of
white
Stretching down from heaven out to dry.

Oh my God it was beautiful
And I was six or seven and struck dumb.

That was the last summer in Maine before the war.
Nothing then or since has moved me more.



CRITTER CORNER.....



Pleasant Pheasant

It is not every day that a magnificent ring-necked pheasant visits your house. But this beautiful bird stopped by a Beech Plain residence Easter weekend. He patrolled the backyard and premises for about a half hour paying little mind to the photographer. Looking for love?

Pheasants, members of the grouse family, are not native New Englanders, but an exotic species introduced to the U.S. from Asia in the 1880s.

Photo: Ron Bernard



Our Roads This Summer

SLOW DOWN, LET THEM WORK

By Tom Christopher

Sandisfield motorists and local tax payers are getting some very welcome help from the state.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is providing more than \$3 million to help Sandisfield with the restoration of two major town-owned highways.

Department of Public Works Superintendent Brad Curry provided the following details:

This was made possible by the passage of the 2021 Transportation Bond Bill. The Baker-Polito Administration has authorized establishment of a municipal pavement program. This program will provide MassDOT with funds to directly support municipalities in maintenance of locally owned roadways, with an emphasis on the state numbered route system. Projects will focus on pavement preservation and rehabilitation, while also maintaining and or repairing existing safety, bicycle, and pedestrian infrastructure. Per the criteria, Sandisfield has been selected for this year's program for rehabilitation of 1.6 miles of Route 57 and 2.7 miles of Route 183. This is facilitated through the community grants program.


The stretches of road to be rehabilitated are:

- Route 57 from the intersection of New Hartford Road east to Lower West Street at the bridge over the Buck River. That's from the top of the hill at Sandisfield Center, down past Center Cemetery

and the Transfer Station and continue past Lower West Street to the bridge. It is not quite as far as the intersection with Town Hill Road.

- Route 183 from the Connecticut state line north. That's the entire length of 183 going north to where the Town repaved the road in 2020.
- The planned work will be satisfyingly thorough and will not require detours.
- Route 57 will be reclaimed to a depth of 16 inches and will include an application of liquid asphalt stabilizer. When this is completed, a 2.5-inch layer of hot asphalt pavement will be laid down, followed by a 1.75-inch layer of top course.
- Route 183 will be reclaimed to a depth of 12 inches and then receive a similar treatment to Route 57. At the same time, failing drainage pipes on both roadways will be replaced and road shoulders will be dressed with topsoil and turf or pavement millings.

Inconvenience to travelers should be minimal as the work will necessitate no detours, just slow-downs at the actual work zones. The value to the town of the grant is considerable. Thus, the work on Route 57 will cost the Commonwealth an estimated \$1,250,448.62, and Route 183 will cost an estimated \$2,140,872.62.

Someone in some state office knows the source of each of the \$0.62 of the cost, but The Times did not want to know and did not inquire. 

Welcome back!

Sandisfield Arts Center

Join us for "Live at SArC" Fundraising Dinner
Saturday, May 21 at 6PM
(our first since 2019!)

You'll be treated to a sumptuous
dinner prepared by chef Adam Manacher,
accompanied by several short theatrical selections.

Come celebrate good times, good food and good friends!

TICKETS ARE \$75 • RESERVATIONS REQUIRED • VISIT SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG FOR DETAILS

PROOF OF VACCINATION REQUIRED



Town Buildings Go Green

Photo and Report by Larry Dwyer

Last month, Sandisfield installed solar panels on the Town Hall Annex and the DPW Garage.

It took four years of meetings, planning, bidding, and filing reports by the Town's Green Committee and the Select Board. Now Grenergy Solar, LLC, a Sheffield contractor, has finished the installation and the only work left on the project is for the system to be certified by Eversource and activated.

The cost of \$90,000 came out of a \$128,805 grant from the MassDOER Green Communities program that helps small Massachusetts towns install energy saving devices.

The next step for the Committee is to apply for a Competitive Grant to be used for a heat pump system for the Town Hall Annex which will eliminate the town's fuel oil use, saving the town money as well as reducing our energy usage and carbon footprint.



Town Hall Annex capped by its new solar panels.

With solar power systems on both town buildings, the town will generate almost as much electricity as we are currently using. This will allow the town to take advantage of Virtual Net Metering since both buildings will be serviced by the same Eversource electrical power grid. We expect the energy produced by the solar systems to more than offset the energy used by the heat pump system and the excess power could offset other electrical use by the town.

The Committee offers special thanks to town resident and retired NASA engineer Jeff Bye, who is not only head of the Town's Broadband Committee but contributed his engineering expertise in designing the solar system and selecting the electrical contractor.

Other members of the Green Committee are George Riley, Nina Carr, and Larry Dwyer. We also thank the Mass DOER Green Communities Regional Coordinator, Mark Rabinsky, and Grant Coordinator Jane Pfister who helped guide the Sandisfield Green Committee through the grant approval process.



New Boston Inn Is Here and Open

AN OOPS TWICE!

By Bill Price

When the Town lost Tuckers to the January fire, having previously lost Villa Mia and the Silverbrook, this reporter wrote that folks would have to go as far as Otis to the Knox Trail Inn for cocktails, beer, wine, cider, and victuals.

Neighbor Steve Harasyko took a cudgel to me on Connect Sandisfield for overlooking the historic Inn right here in downtown New Boston. "Our great little town paper cannot even promote a town business," he complained.

Replying on Connect Sandisfield, I apologized to Barbara Colorio, the Inn's proprietor, for "overlooking" her mid-town establishment. And to placate Steve, I said I'd buy him a drink at the old tavern this summer.

But then I got busy with other stuff and forgot to mention my oversight in the April issue of The Sandisfield Times. My second Oops.

This time Barbara herself wrote me an email. "I am shocked at you. Not even a mention of the only restaurant left in Sandisfield. After last month's issue, I thought you would correct it on your own so I wasn't going to make a big deal over it. But you said nothing, no letters from the editor ... very disappointed."

Double damn.

So I let Barbara know I wouldn't forget in May, and here it is.

Without Tuckers (maybe coming back), Villa Mia (gone for good), and the Silverbrook (soon, but not yet), you can always quench your thirst at the New Boston Inn, one of the oldest taverns in Massachusetts and which, in fact, has had a liquor license since 1756. And stay for supper.

Plus, the New Boston Inn hosts free summer concerts and will put on another Free Car Show on June 11-14, with live music from Blue Yonder. Don't miss it.

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“A Better Voice, a Fair Voice”

SANDISFIELD PETITIONS OUR OTIS NEIGHBORS

By Hannah Van Sickle

Reaching thirty years, whether for a wedding anniversary or high school reunion, is a memorable milestone.

Letting a document go three decades sans revision — the time elapsed since Sandisfield and Otis drafted the Regional District Agreement (RDA) in 1992 when the FRRSD was formed — seems nothing short of archaic and outdated.

To further complicate matters, the very fact the agreement has not been amended since its inception stems from an imbalance in the voices congregating around the proverbial negotiating table — something the trio of Sandisfield representatives to the FRRSD School Committee is looking to change via a proposed amendment, obtained via petition, on this year’s Town Warrant.

“The way I understand what the amendment would do is just smooth out this tiny rough corner in the agreement and make [things] more fair,” Jennifer Hibbins, current vice-chair of the school committee, told *The Times*.

She cited the primary issue at hand: different quorum requirements to hold a meeting versus those to transact business — in other words, to vote. At present, motions are passed by the school committee via simple majority vote with no requirement that the majority include at least one member from each town.

In contrast, the RDA specifies — as it should — that a school committee quorum requires a simple majority of members that includes at least one member from each town. The proposed amendment seeks to correct this inconsistency in the RDA.

Since the school committee can’t transact business without a quorum consisting of a simple majority with at least one member from each town, why should the school committee be able to pass motions based on a simple majority vote without at least one affirmative vote from each town?

The FRRSD School Committee is comprised of seven members, four from Otis and three from Sandisfield. “[Therein lies] the potential for it not being fair to Sandisfield as the minority town,” added Hibbins, whose three-year term

will end in May. She is not seeking reelection.

At present, the RDA — penned three decades ago — can only be amended by affirmative votes from each of the two towns. Once one of two conditions is met, town votes must be held on proposed amendments. Either the school committee votes in favor of the proposed amendment or a citizens’ petition, from one of two towns, indicates support of the proposed amendment by at least 10% of the town’s registered voters.

The former issue, in and of itself, has stymied both conversation and progress in the past months. Broadly speaking, school committee votes are largely unanimous.

“It’s rare that it’s split 4-3, although there have been some instances of that,” Hibbins said, pointing to one last summer — where she made a motion to add an item to the agenda, to discuss Committee member Carl Netts’ proposal on how to spend surplus funds — and the Otis members voted it down.

“It felt, to the Sandisfield members, that we were being silenced — that we couldn’t have a discussion and bring new ideas forward,” she said, citing widespread difficulties over the past year simply getting items on the agenda. (According to open meeting law, an item must be on the agenda in order for there to be discussion about it).

“We’re not able to talk about things directly related to the school and worthy of a discussion,” she said, pointing to mounting frustration that Select Board member Steve Seddon is “trying to rectify in proposing this amendment.”

Presented in January, with the support of the Select Board, the proposed amendment reads as follows:

All motions on Committee business shall be decided by a majority vote of the quorum in attendance, unless otherwise required by law, provided that at least one Committee member from each town votes on the prevailing side of any such motion. This should apply to setting the agenda for future meetings as well.

In the spirit of working together, Hibbins tried to persuade the Otis members to support the amendment. She suggested: “In supporting this, you are making [Sandisfield residents] feel like they are partners, [who] are being heard, and want to remain in the regional school district,” which Hibbins feels is in the best interest of all students involved — hence her own support of the proposed amendment.

Efforts to bring the topic forward for discussion have not been successful.

“In a lot of issues, Sandfield cannot — and will not — have a [say] because the majority rules. If they don’t agree, their voices are not heard,” said

Barbara Cormier, a Sandisfield resident and member of the School Options Committee.

Cormier tackled the issue by endeavoring to collect signatures from registered voters in town. “We only needed I think 40 names, and we got 90 [plus] signatures,” she told *The Times*, before offering a succinct summary of what the amendment seeks and why supporting it makes sense. “What we’re asking for [when voting] on any issue,” she said, “is that it always be a majority plus one member from each town... [which] will give [Sandisfield] a fair voice.”

At present, the signed petition has been delivered to the School Committee. It now goes to each town for inclusion on their respective warrants. “From there, we see what happens...before we proceed [further],” said Cormier who favors a step-by-step approach and cites, “a lot of options” for going forward — many of which are being explored by the School Options Committee that was created by former Town Manager Joanne Grybosh.

Hibbins, who has more than done her homework, is looking ahead.

Otis taxpayers voting down the proposed amendment (thereby retaining the status quo) would give Sandisfield the legal argument to withdraw from the District. “We [will have] tried to make this agreement more equitable, and [have been] shot down by Otis,” she said, citing recent precedent in which Worthington withdrew from the Gateway Regional School District. “There is an argument to be made,” said Hibbins — who underscored she does not support that course of action — and was “trying to convince the Otis members that [voting in favor of the amendment] was in their best interest as well.”

Regardless of the amendment’s future, another issue of equity is not likely to be addressed anytime soon. The distribution of school committee members is based on census data in the two towns (Sandisfield students represent 43% of the enrollment, and Otis students represent the remaining 57%). “Even if we get over that 50% [enrollment], we would not get another member on the [school] committee, because the overall town census of Otis far exceeds that of Sandisfield — and that is really frustrating,” said Hibbins, pointing to another flaw in the outdated agreement.

“Until we go through the first step and see if the towns will agree to this, we don’t want to look ahead,” Cormier said, hopeful that both Otis and Sandisfield taxpayers will vote in favor of the amendment — thereby creating “a starting step [for Sandisfield residents] to have a better voice, a fair voice.”



FRRSD Budget Approved

UP ABOUT 2 PERCENT

By Jennifer Hibbins

At its March 7 meeting, the Farmington River Regional School Committee unanimously passed the school budget for fiscal year 2023, which runs July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. The annual assessment for Sandisfield is \$1,483,30, amounting to a 2 percent increase from the final budget from FY2022.

However, as reported in The Sandisfield Times January/February issue, the school district returned just under \$200,000 of unspent funds to the town to reduce this year's assessment payments. Compared to the budget passed at the town meeting last year, the new budget actually represents a decrease of \$169,409 or approximately 10 percent.

EXPENSE PERCENTAGES

Cafeteria	1.1%
Capital Expense	1.5
Compensation	39.2
Employee Health Ins	10.3
Retiree Health Ins	3.5
Tuition	24.3
Transportation	7.5
Utilities	1.6
TOTAL	88.84
Remaining	11.2

"I am pleased that all of the School Committee approved the budget," said Superintendent Thomas Nadolny. "I hope the Select Boards and Finance Committees agree,"


Next year's budget seeks to maintain the staffing and programs currently in place. Staff salaries reflect a 2 percent increase to FY22 levels, per the union contract, and makes up just over 39 percent of the budget. Health insurance for active employees reflects just under a 2 percent increase and make up about 10 percent of the budget.

Tuitions for middle and high school students attending Lee for both regular and special education were held to a 3 percent increase, while fees paid for Berkshire Hills students increased by 4 percent. The line item for Special Needs Non-Public Out-of-District Placements decreased by more than \$84,000, while Special Needs Public Out-of-District Placements decreased by approximately \$47,000, due to students leaving programs.

Special needs transportation correspondingly decreased by \$68,200 with fewer expected students. Total transportation expenses make up 7.5 percent of the general fund budget and include a new daily rate of \$333 per bus for five buses from the Dufour Bus Company.

A capital project is planned to remove acoustical tiles and repair the gym ceiling. The tiles, which were adhered to the ceiling during the original building construction in 1998, are falling as a result of the glue drying out over time. Capital funds are also budgeted to replace three exterior doors and repair a fourth door, as well as replace an aging carpet cleaning machine.

The Excess & Deficiency Fund has been certified at \$237,660, \$200,000 of which funds have been used to offset the assessments in FY23.

The budget documents are available for review at frrsd.org, by selecting the District Information section and then Budget Information. The budget will be on the warrants for a town vote at the annual meeting in May. 

Jennifer Hibbins, a Sandisfield parent with two students at FRRSD, is a School Committee member whose term expires this month. She has chosen not to run for reelection.

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CANDIDATES FO



George Riley: SELECT BOARD

I'm running for another term on the Select Board to continue and consolidate the advances which the Select Board has accomplished in the past three years. The Town is a complex mechanism, with each part affecting the others. As a result, progress can at times be slow, but despite that we are in a far better situation than we were three years ago. I'm looking forward to working with my Select Board colleagues and with the Town Hall team, all of whom share a dedication to continuing to make Sandisfield a great place to live.

George Riley has served on the Sandisfield Select Board since 2018 when he was elected to fill a vacated term. He was re-elected in 2019 to a full 3-year term.

George and his wife Annalee have lived in Sandisfield nearly 25 years. They've raised five children and five foster children; all now adults. Currently semi-retired as a nonprofit consultant, George continues to serve on the board of directors of local and national organizations. He was a nonprofit administrator, grant writer, and fundraiser who has served as executive director and director of development with several organizations. He's been on building committees that have planned and supervised multi-million dollar-plus projects. He has been treasurer of numerous organizations large and small, and, he says, "knows how to read a financial statement." He has also been a grant writer and has overseen the construction and submission of successful grant applications.



Douglas Miner: TOWN CLERK

My family and I moved to Sandisfield in 2016. Since then I've gotten to know the town, its history, and many of the people who reside here.

I've been working as Town Clerk since March 28, and before that served for a time as Mary Kronholm's assistant. I've met so many new faces and learned so much about the town and our fascinating form of government. Open Town Meeting is the oldest living form of direct democracy. That is very cool and I'm very much enjoying being a part of it.

The previous Town Clerks gave their heart and soul to this town. I intend to do the same. It would be an honor to continue working to serve the residents of Sandisfield.

Douglas Miner holds an undergraduate degree from New York University and a Master of Business Administration from the Zarb School of Business at Hofstra University. He and his wife Josie, along with their three children, live on Cronk Road in northwest Sandisfield.



Stephen Rubenstein: BOARD OF HEALTH

I am seeking to fill the available position on the Board of Health.

My wife Lynn and I have lived in Sandisfield for 17 years, both as second homeowners and residents. I am a retired Pediatric Dentist, having practiced for over 40 years along with one partner. My practice included fifteen employees along with six other dentists. We were always compliant with Federal, State and City health requirements.

My educational background and interest in keeping up-to-date in health matters is what would help me with assisting our town in what impacts us and what can be done. My aim is to keep our residents informed of all current issues concerning the well-being of our residents.

ALSO RUNNING

RESULTS OF THE ANNUAL TOWN CAUCUS

Nominees for offices to be elected on May 16, 2022.

Number of registered voters attending the Caucus on April 4: 16.

Office	Nomination Papers	Caucus Nomination
Moderator (1 year)	Dominic Konstam (incumbent)	No Caucus Nominee
Board of Assessors (3 yrs)	Bethany R. Perry (incumbent)	No Caucus Nominee
Planning Board (3 years)	No papers	Linda Leavenworth
Planning Board (5 years)	No papers	Barbara Cormier



R TOWN OFFICES



Paul and Alexcia Adams
with their son, Andrew

Paul Adams: SCHOOL COMMITTEE

I grew up not far from here in Charlton, a small town in Saratoga County, New York. While not quite as sparse as Sandisfield, it shared many of the same great qualities: Open woods, rural character, and a North East climate with four great seasons – the 5th season we have here called “mud” was not one I was acquainted with as a child.

Growing up I developed a love of the outdoors and now find many places here to satisfy my hiking, biking, and skiing activities. In 2005 while living in St. Paul, Minnesota, I met and eventually married a Sandisfield native, Alexcia Fales. Alexcia had the requirement that we eventually move back East to be near family. So in 2013 we decided to build a house on land off North Beech Plain Road that her grandparents, Alex and Vi Hyrcvich, had bought in 1950. I’m proud to be raising our son, Andrew, as a 5th generation Beech Plain Road Sandisfield resident.

Why I am running for School Committee.

I’ve always respected my dad’s choice to be involved in his community as a selectman. Watching him I learned the value of giving back to your town. I’ve been looking for ways to help our town given my time and talents.

I also have two grown children from a previous marriage and experienced the value of good, quality public education, so the School Committee seemed a natural choice for me. I feel that the committee should have representation from parents, particularly parents who have (or had) children in the Farmington River School.

As Andrew progressed from Kindergarten through 4th grade, I’ve seen the struggles our school system experiences as well as the great things it has to offer our young people. I want it to have accountability and leadership toward greatness – and I believe you can have both. Given the reality of our small town, I think this means focusing on getting the most out of every dollar we spend and pushing our school towards greatness for our kids, our kids-kids, and to draw new families to our town.

I hope to bring my enthusiasm for public education and my concerns as a taxpayer together to help our community build a better future. I welcome your thoughts and appreciate your support.



Amanda Leavenworth: SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Amanda and her daughters
McKinley and Graysyn
Holland.

I was lucky enough to be raised in Sandisfield. I loved growing up in such a small community and I feel blessed to be raising my family in this wonderful town. My oldest daughter experienced Farmington River Regional in recent years before we decided to homeschool. Now, as a homeschooling parent who is looking to re-enroll her children into the local school systems, I am invested more than ever to see that our students receive the best education possible. I have loved hearing the incredible work that our current school committee and school options committee have put into the future for our children. I’m looking forward to running for a seat on the School Committee and becoming an advocate for our children.



Mary Turek: LIBRARY TRUSTEE

I have been a library trustee for approximately 16 years.

My husband, Donald, and I have been part of the Sandisfield community for over 40 years. We have raised our two children who have enjoyed their trips to the library.

As a trustee, I have had the pleasure of working with the other trustees and librarian as we continue to make the library the valuable asset to the community that it is.

My passion is the childrens’ section. In this digital era, it is important to have the physical connection to a book.

I am excited to see the trustees and librarian make active changes to continue to excite children with books and continue to deliver the wonderful escape that books, both physical and digitally, provide to the Sandisfield community.



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Town Clerk: The Case for Appointed Over Elected

By Melissa Bye

Ron Bernard's speech at our Special Town meeting in February (which I attended) and his following essay in *The Times* (April), in which he promoted the premise that our clerk should remain an elected position are both examples of his passionate opinions on the subject. However, if the vote at our Special Town Meeting is any indication, a significant cohort of our town's voters hold the opposing view.

I am one of those voters.

Ron makes the argument that town leadership is pushing the appointed option because they claim there is "a lack of qualified or interested people in town." This paints an inaccurate and disingenuous portrait of what many folks in town understand – that by making the position appointed the pool of qualified applicants is expanded. This doesn't seem a "patronizing and unfair" attitude, but rather a case of leadership acknowledging the difficult reality of filling such a critical position with only full-time residents from which to choose.

Ron dismisses the idea that the position has become "too technical" and that "the system has worked well for 260 years," so why change it?

The reality is, our town's business is becoming increasingly complex, especially with more residents wanting to take care of that business online. To claim that what worked for 260 years still does, despite rapidly changing technology (i.e., the prevalence of Zoom meetings) could be seen as out of touch.

Meaningful and productive in-person interactions between town's people and our clerk are vital. Indeed, "soft" skills in these forward-facing positions will always be valued. Unfortunately, to disregard the importance of "hard" technical skills and the understanding that the parameters of the role should be modified to successfully meet an increasingly technically complex working environment is a critical mistake.

The claim that leadership is pushing toward the appointed solution because "it is easier to find an outsider to boss around than it is to get along with a trusted independent officer" implies that this is an either/or situation. While "independent" thinking is always valued, regardless of whether a clerk is elected or appointed, the clerk should have the necessary skills to work well with others as part of a team, and be accountable to leaders of the team. In this case, those leaders are our elected Select Board members and appointed town manager. Just as in our state and federal governments, where appointed heads of departments and agencies answer to the elected leaders who do the appointing, the important position of Town Clerk should be no different.

Ron poses a series of rhetorical questions in which he suggests our town could be on the hook for costly moving expenses (and possible buyouts later if things don't work out) should we hire someone from out of the area. These are all conditions that no doubt would be covered in a contract between the clerk and the town such that the town could be protected from such liabilities. To suggest multiple "what ifs" is a case of unnecessarily borrowing trouble.

Ron also argues that the only way our town elections can stay free and fair is if the clerk is elected. There is no reason why a thoroughly vetted candidate for

clerk wouldn't be every bit as honest and trustworthy as an elected one. To suggest otherwise is to cast doubt on the integrity of the clerk and our town's long-standing election processes.

Ron writes that the only way we will have "continuity and stability" is to have an elected clerk. While it is true that the previous elected clerks were in their positions for long periods, if a qualified candidate is appointed that individual would also bring stability to the position. We can all agree that every position has a learning curve. Still, if policies, procedures, and expectations are clearly defined (as they should be) and everyone involved in town government works and communicates as a team (as they should), an appointed clerk would also provide stability along with competency.

Ron bemoans the fact that while our town was dealing with the vacancy in the Town Clerk's position, he felt unwelcome at the Annex. While I'm sorry that was his experience, that has never been my husband's and mine. Indeed, we are in the Annex frequently (aside from being in the building to tend to our personal town business, Jeff is involved on two committees and we regularly attend Select Board meetings) and have never been made to feel unwelcome, regardless of the status of the Town Clerk's office. Whether our Town Clerk is appointed or elected should not affect the atmosphere at the Annex.

I would be the last person to ever diminish or fail to appreciate the years of service Dolores Haray-sko and our previous clerks devoted to our town. Still, a competent and conscientious appointed Town Clerk should be able to show the same level of compassion and problem-solving skills that Ron describes in a touching exchange he had with Dolores.

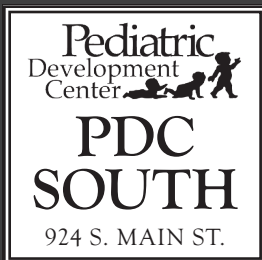
I agree with Ron that Town Clerk is an important office. And as such, going forward, as is the case in many Berkshire towns, should be filled by the most qualified person, not the most popular. 🍷

OUT ON A LIMB: OP-ED:

Subjects should be of interest 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. Opinions in Out on a Limb articles are those of the authors and do not represent The Sandisfield Times.



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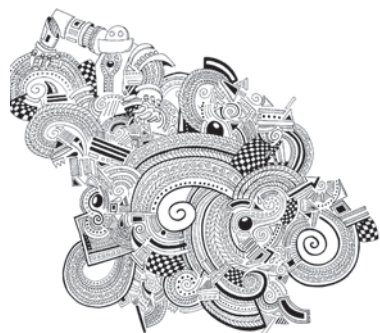
Prize Announced for Young Artists

JUNE 15 DEADLINE

By Times Reporters

The Sandisfield Arts Center announced this month the Daniel Manacher Prize for Young Artists.

Three artists will be selected as finalists and each will receive \$350 in support of their art practice, as well as a group show of their work at the Sandisfield Arts Center on August 13 this summer.



An artist and designer, Daniel Manacher channeled his spirit through his personal brand design Shwoopy Loops. This drawing is from 2013.

Created by Adam Manacher and Carol Birnbaum, the parents of Daniel Manacher, the prize is in memory of their son and his passion for art. “Daniel worked on different surfaces, always hand-drawn,” said his father, Adam. “He loved interacting with people in their love for art. We hope, with the Daniel Manacher Prize for Young Artists, to inspire other young artists and to assist them as they reach for their dreams.”

Eligible artists are those 17-26 years of age living or attending school in Berkshire County. There is no fee associated with the application and all entrants will be judged based solely on the merit of the work presented.

This year, applications will be accepted from those working in painting, drawing, mixed media, sculpture, digital paintings, and digital drawings. The entry deadline is June 15. Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee and artists will be notified no later than July 15.

For more details about the application requirements and exhibition dates, visit sandisfieldartscenter.org. Direct any questions to gallery@sandisfieldartscenter.org.

Recreation Committee Kid’s Fishing Derby

NO LICENSE REQUIRED UNDER 15

By Lynn Rubenstein

Come to at the American Legion Pond on Rt. 8, New Boston, on Saturday, June 4, from 10:00 a.m. until noon and try your luck.

Bring your poles and buckets. We will supply the bait.

The Sandisfield American Legion Post #456 has graciously donated 200 hungry Brook trout for this event. The fish were hatched and raised at The Berkshire National Fish Hatchery.

No license required for children under 15.

Ages 15-17 need a free MA fishing license, available online at massfishhunt.mass.gov.

Anyone older must have a valid MA freshwater fishing license.

For more information, call Lynn Rubenstein at 413-269-7357.



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“The Underwater Adventures of Marvelous Marina and Poop-Deck Pete”

DON'T MISS THIS SHOW, JUNE 10!!

By Laura Catullo

Actors and actresses at Farmington River Elementary School are in full swing with rehearsals for this year's Annual Community Production, thanks to grant funding from Otis and Sandisfield Cultural Councils.

The grants allow for community participation of a local accompanist, Isabel Marcheselli, and Berkshire Choreographers to help students prepare for the final performance on June 10, 2022.

This year's Spring presentation is "The Underwater Adventures of Marvelous Marina and Poop-Deck Pete."

Students in grades 4-6 wrote the script and discussed the music that will be included in the program. Children in grades 2-6 auditioned for roles and began rehearsals at the beginning of March, using their after-school time.

This year's show promises to be delightfully funny with a theme focused on pirates who wish to end their thieving ways and become movie producers, and the underwater creatures they meet when their ship capsizes.

Everyone in the community – that means YOU – is invited to attend this year's production, free of charge, on June 10, at 6:30 pm, at the Farmington River Elementary School in Otis.



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Bunnies at the Library!! The library thanks Elizabeth of Berkshire Bunnies and Lynn Rubenstein, Sandisfield Rec Committee, for allowing us to host this wonderful event at the library last month. Everyone enjoyed feeding and holding the bunnies. A must-do-this-again kind of event!!!



Library Events

ARTS AND CRAFTS

An hour of **Story-Telling** with kid-crafting fun will begin again May 14 from 11:00 a.m. to noon. Arts and crafts combined with story-telling at the library every second Saturday of the Month.

Saturday, May 21, the library will host **Davis Bates**, performer of stories and songs that speak of the human spirit. This wonderful program will begin at 1:00 p.m. FREE to all. Come enjoy an afternoon of engaging and fun family stories. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Sandisfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS

Saturday, July 23, **Ed the Wizard** will bring his fun and fantastical balloon making to the library.

August 6 – **Something’s Fishy!** A Fun show for AN OCEAN of POSSIBILITIES by nationally recognized story teller, Mary Jo Maichack who sings, plays guitar, tells tales, and leads the fun in this puppet show with audience participation.

NEW BOOK ARRIVALS

ADULT FICTION AND NON-FICTION

- Against All Odds* by Alex Kershaw
- Beautiful* by Danielle Steel
- Breathe* by Joyce Carol Oates
- Death of the Black Widow* by James Patterson
- Diamond Eye* by Kate Quinn
- Dream Town* by David Baldacchi
- Give Unto Others* by Donna Leon
- Good Left Undone* by Adriana Trigiani
- Kingdom of Bones* by James Rollins
- Paris Apartment* by Lucy Foley

- Sea of Tranquility* by Emily St. John Mandel
- The Story Teller: Tales of Life and Music* by Dave Grohl
- Young Mungo* by Douglas Stuart
- Sacred Bridge* by Anne Hillerman

CHILDREN’S SECTION

- The Library Fish* by Alyssa Capucili
- Get Well, Eva* by Rebecca Elliott

We continue to add new and, enlightening books to both the adult section (upstairs) and children’s section (downstairs). The children’s section is replete with books, games, toys and a train set.

We also offer notary service, public computer and printer availability, free wifi and assess 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.

In an effort to make room for new book acquisitions, we have begun weeding out old but in excellent condition fiction, non-fiction, and children’s books. These books are for sale at a nominal fee. \$2.00 for hardcover, \$1.50 for softcover. \$10 dollars gets you six hardcover books!



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Who Remembers Daffer's?

By Christine Nadelman

Town resident Leslie Perretti posted a simple question on Connect Sandisfield.

“Who remembers Daffer's?”

It turns out a lot of us do.

Located in Sandisfield Center, on the stretch of Rt. 57 between Firehouse #2 and When Pigs Fly, Daffers was a big white roadhouse on the north side of the road. Daffers served booze and food, provided live entertainment, and created local lore from the 1960s until 1989 or so when it was remodeled into a residential dwelling.

Since then it's been remodeled a few more times. Now the property consists of a white residence, a small cottage, a barn with two goats (one named Daffer, go figure), and a dog. The residence is home to the Kershner family, of whom Seth is editor of *The Times*, currently on leave to finish a Ph.D. in U.S. history.

And the farmhouse is well remembered and loved as – yes – Daffers.

It had another life before it was Daffers. Around 1934 Robert and Leonie Cina of Switzerland came to Sandisfield, purchased the land, and built the three-story, nine-room building. In 1937 the doors were opened year-round as Cina's Restaurant. The family-style restaurant and bar attracted local patronage, Connecticut residents, and hunters. Rooms were for rent. Mrs. Cina was known as an excellent cook and the atmosphere was friendly.

In 1964 “Ma and Pop Cina” sold the home and business to William and Opal Daffer, and it became Daffer's Mountainside Inn, where the home-style tradition was carried on, along with live entertainment, chess and darts tournaments, piano playing, a juke box, and video games. In 1976 their son Bill and wife Jeanie Daffer took the business over until around 1989, after which the restaurant closed and the building reverted into a residence.

BUT WHEN IT WAS DAFFER'S ...

Stories of playing card games of 9-5 and cribbage, pool, darts, meeting friends for drinks, and, of course, the food, triggered many memories



Photo, 1961. Sandisfield Historical Society in Sandisfield Then and Now

that nearly 40 of us, in answer to Leslie's question, shared on Connect Sandisfield.

Several of us worked there at one time or another: Zoe Marinelli Nelson, Lauren Pease, Peggy Riiska (who had wavy bangs), Tina Ferry, Patty Dennis Haecker, Eric Field, Dave Lacasse, and Anina Carr, to mention a few. Lindsay Pennington recalls that her husband Will's parents worked there together, and in fact that's where they met.

Hunting season “was wild” and brought lots of business. The rooms that were available for rent were often filled to capacity.

Breakfast, lunch, and dinners were served, and people would be at Daffer's well into the late nights.

Tom Ragusa and Jeffrey Johnson reminisced on Connect Sandisfield about Bill Daffer's jokes. Bob LaPierre remembered Bill always drove the newest model Cadillac.

Daffer's was the place to go on Saturday nights, the place to meet local friends for drinks, said Bob Tarasuk, and the place to savor traditional Sunday dinners.


All the good times were packed with a million laughs, hugs, drinks, and good meals, remembers Margaret Margraf Wilcox. Margaret wrote that she will never forget elderly Jeanie Daffer smiling on the front stoop while a group of friends piled in the back of a pick-up truck sang off-key Christmas carols.

And the food ... way back to Cina's chicken dinners. BBQs, clambakes.

Gary Gilbert recalled the home-cut French fries drying out by the fireplace.

Dolores Harasyko wrote that Daffer's served the best prime rib dinners ever.

And Jacob Wilcox remembered how he would be dropped off at Daffer's by the school bus and he'd always stop for a burger and fries.

Who would have thought that a little question on Connect Sandisfield could spark so many sentimental, delightful walks to a place and time which brought so much joy and happiness to Sandisfield. 

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Comings and Goings



Berkshires historian Gary Leveille provided this Don Victor photo of this special couple enjoying a special moment in July 1985.

KAARE & PATRICE BOLGEN, FORMER RESIDENTS

Mrs. Patrice Bolgen died at her North Adams home last November at the age of 94. Her husband, Kaare Bolgen, died in 2005. They were residents of Cronk Road for several years, drawn by the Berkshires' culture and arts atmosphere in the 1980s. They later moved to North Adams where they were active in the arts and in several causes in the community. Their former home is now the residence of George and Annalee Riley. – Ron Bernard



DOROTHY PATRICE BOLGEN 1927-2021

Dorothy Bolgen was born in Newburgh, New York, March 17, 1927, to George Manuche and Rita Federico-Fredericks. She attended Newburgh Free Academy, New Paltz State Teacher's College, and completed her Master's Degree at New York University. A dedicated, creative and loving teacher at the Great Neck Long Island Elementary School, she retired in 1981 after 34 years of teaching. To her last days, she remained in contact with many of her prior students whose lives were forever touched by her wonderful approach to teaching.

Patrice was predeceased by her husband of 44 years, Kaare A. Bolgen and by her brother,

George of New York City and his wife, Martha Wright. She was a loving aunt to their four children as well as to her ten grandnieces and nephews. Patrice is also survived by Kaare's grandnephew, Jarle Edler, and his four children, of Oslo, Norway.

Patrice was passionate about animal rights and a life-long vegetarian. She cared deeply about the environment and current events globally. Mostly, she kept a love and playful joy for life. Her sheer love of living and interest in this world was more than full color as could be seen in her many pieces of artwork, paintings, and intricate "doodles." She was deeply loved by family, friends, and amazing caregivers, who were all also family to her. She changed the lives of all her knew her, reminding us to notice everything around us – there is wonder in all things large and small.

KAARE A. BOLGEN 1908-2005

Kaare Bolgen died in North Adams at the age of 97. A native of Oslo, Norway, he was fluent in English when he arrived in 1929 for a year's service on an Indian reservation in Vancouver Island, British Columbia. The next year he attended the University of Washington in Seattle, where he met Joselyn Finlay, a native of Victoria, BC, and they married in 1931.

He soon returned to Norway and was active in the early underground resistance movement against the ascendant Nazi's. Returning to the United States in 1933, he applied for citizenship. The couple lived in Seattle until about 1937 when they moved to Anaconda, Montana where Bolgen had an appointment as a violin teacher. He registered for the draft in 1940, age 32, but was not called for duty. The marriage ended at some point.

In 1961, Kaare (known as "Kay") and Patrice were initially brought together by their mutual sympathy for abandoned greyhound racing dogs. Kay had worked with greyhounds and other species

throughout the years. They were married in Greenwich, Conn.

In 1999, at age 91, after breaking his arm speed-skating and with nothing to do for six weeks, he wrote, *Dead Ends and Detours: The World and Science in the 20th Century*. The book is a semi-autobiography based on his world travels and nine decades of observing "the human condition."

Bolgen is also remembered for his English interpretation of a narrative he titled, *The Long Norwegian Night: A WWII Resistance Fighter's Life in Nazi Camps*. It is the story of O.M. Magnussen, a Norwegian resistance fighter who endured three Gestapo prisons and two Nazi concentration camps. Magnussen secretly recorded notes and drawings of prison life which he smuggled out after his release in 1945. Magnussen had been a childhood friend of Bolgen and his writings were found among Bolgen's papers after his death in 2005, the year the book was published.



PAULINE ANN HAMILTON 1948-2022



Pauline "Pat" A. Hamilton, 73, of River Road died February 16 at Fairview Hospital. She was the wife of Richard A. Hamilton Sr.

Pat was born March 27, 1948 in Winsted, Connecticut, the daughter of the late William & Pauline (Roy) Blanchette. She was a healthcare worker for many years until she became a stay-at-home grandmother caring for her grandchildren.

Pat loved animals, birds, and flowers.

In addition to her husband of 56 years, Pat is survived by her daughter Victoria Bakunis and her husband Raymond, son Richard Hamilton Jr. and his wife Diane, all of Sandisfield. and son Jonathan Welles of Georgia. She is also survived by seven grandchildren, William Bakunis, Pauline Bakunis, Mark Hamilton, Tim

Hamilton (partner Jessie), Jeff Hamilton (partner Ellen), and Haley and Jason Welles, as well as one great-grandchild, Lily Hamilton.

She is also survived by her beloved Yorkie, Copper.

Pat also leaves a sister, Jeane Wilber of North Carolina, and three brothers, Francis Blanchette of Maine, and Roy and Edwin of Connecticut. She was predeceased by her brothers Robert, James, and William Blanchette.

A memorial service will be held May 21 at the New Boston Congregational Church at 11:00am. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Arthritis Foundation in Pauline's name – in hopes of a cure one day – in care of Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. To send remembrances to the family, please visit www.finnertyandstevens.com.



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**Letters
to the
Editor**

RE: TOWN MANAGER

Eva and I appreciated the essay by Ron Bernard in the April issue. "Why do we need a town Manager anyway?" resonates with plain old common sense and should be explored further. We look forward to hearing more about it.

Jean-Paul Blachere
South Sandisfield



RE: SCHOOL COMMITTEE

I want to let the residents of Sandisfield know that I have decided not to seek re-election as a School Committee member so that I may spend more time with my family. I have two young children who are wildly disappointed whenever I have to go to a meeting.

But I am proud of the accomplishments of the district during the last three years, including improved MCAS scores, facility repairs, new playground equipment, a free early-K program, expanded summer program and popular new afterschool program – all while continuing to educate our children during the Covid-19 pandemic.

I will continue to support the school as a member of the PTA and continue to support the town as chair of the Sandisfield Cultural Council. I am pleased that Paul Adams is running to join the School Committee and give him my full support. He has a Ph.D. in computer science, has

worked for more than 30 years in teams as a software engineer, has attended all of the school committee meetings this year, including the budget discussions, and, perhaps most importantly, has a child attending Farmington River Elementary. I know that as a fellow Sandisfield parent he is committed to the success of our school.

Thank you for the trust you have placed in me these last three years.

Respectfully yours,
Jennifer Hibbins
Sandisfield Road



THANKS TO THE TIMES

We always enjoy reading The Times, thanks to your excellent team of volunteers. A donation is enclosed.

Good luck to all and keep working on all the problems that come with running a small town that isn't wealthy.

Your former neighbors,
Don and Charlene Peet
Charlestown, Rhode Island

MAY-FLOWER

By Emily Dickinson

Pink, small, and punctual,
Aromatic, low,
Covert in April,
Candid in May,
Dear to the moss,
Known by the knoll,
Next to the robin
In every human soul.
Bold little beauty,
Bedecked with thee,
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NOW HEAR THIS!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro.

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

MAY EVENTS

Sandisfield Select Board Meetings are currently through Zoom 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 necessary. Led by Nina Carr. Meet outside behind the Otis Town Hall in the gazebo for stories and songs followed by creative crafts. For confirmation, please call Nina Carr (258-3314). Free!

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.

Informal Budget Meeting on May 5, Thursday, 7:00 p.m., at Old Town Hall on Silverbrook Road at Rt. 57, to allow residents to ask questions about the articles ahead of the Annual Town Meeting.

Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 14 at 10:00 a.m. at the DPW Garage Building on 3 Silverbrook Road.

Story-telling at the Library on Saturday, May 14 at 11:00 a.m. Arts and crafts combined with story-telling.

Annual Town Election on Monday, May 16 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall on Silverbrook Road.

Davis Bates at the Library on Saturday, May 21. Davis is a performer of stories and songs that speak of the human spirit. Come enjoy an afternoon of engaging and fun, family stories. Check with the library for updated information, including the time.

Memorial Day Parade and BBQ on Sunday, May 29, at 10:00 a.m. Begins at the former Silverbrook Cafe and ends at the American Legion with a free BBQ. There will be bicycle decorating before the parade at the Department of Public Works.

SAVE THE DATE:

Kids Fishing Derby on Saturday, June 4, 10:00 a.m. until noon at the American Legion Pond, Route 8, New Boston. See page 13.

FRRES Play on June 10, 6:30 p.m., Farmington River Regional Elementary School, Otis.

Free Car Show on June 11-14 at the New Boston Inn with live music from Blue Yonder.

EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

Playgroup on Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Monterey Library. Sponsored by South Berkshire Kids. Weather permitting. No pre-registration is necessary.

Meet for stories and songs followed by creative crafts. For information, please call Nina Carr (258-3314). Free!

Plants and Answers Plant Sale on Friday, May 6, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, May 7, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Berkshire Botanical Garden on 5 West Stockbridge Road in Stockbridge. The event will offer a wide range of regionally appropriate plants hand-picked by the Garden's horticulturists. The garden's popular "Ask Me" staff and volunteers will be on hand to provide expert advice. Admission and parking are free.

Guided Wildflower Walks at Bartholomew's Cobble on Saturdays, May 7 and May 14 and Sunday, May 15 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Join veteran wildflower guides for a guided tour of the Ledges Trail to learn about the flowers, insects that pollinate them, and what makes them so unique. The trail is 0.5 mile and has a few steep staircases and hills. Not recommended for young children or

families. Visit thetrustees.org to register for the walks. \$5 for members, \$10 for nonmembers.

Berkshire Grown Farmer's Market on Saturday, May 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on 18 Church Street in Great Barrington. Featuring locally grown and produced foods, including fruits and vegetables, cheese, meats, breads, and more.

Kids Fishing Derby on Saturday, May 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. Sponsored by the Friends of the Berkshire Hatchery in conjunction with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Nature Journaling with Nanci Worthington on Saturday, May 28, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Bartholomew's Cobble in Sheffield. Observe the changing seasons in this nature journaling group sponsored by The Trustees of the Reservation. For more information and the required registration, visit thetrustees.org. Free.

Lincoln Memorial Centennial Celebration at Chesterwood on Monday, May 30, from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Chesterwood on 4 Williamsville Road in Stockbridge. Tours, readings, jazz, ice cream! Free to members and children under 18 years. \$10 for adults. Picnics encouraged. For more information, visit www.chesterwood.org.

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*The Times is grateful to readers who
contributed in April:*

*Jed Garfield
Sergey Kosyakov
Don & Charlene Peet*



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Donations of any amount are needed to ensure the continuation of this newspaper. Please send checks to: The Sandisfield

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