

Happy Independence Day!

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

Tribunus



Plebis

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume XIII, Number 4

July 2022

Thinking Globally, Acting [Very] Locally

INTERIM TOWN MANAGER
JONATHAN SYLBERT

By Hannah Van Sickle

For as long as he can remember, Jon Sylbert has been fueled by curiosity. As a young person, he was a voracious reader (and still consumes 100 titles a year). An inherent interest in the world around him soon took root and — in 1995 — these environs became the Berkshires. Looking back, Sylbert pinpoints a driving force in his career to date.

“It’s always been what interests me,” he told The Times, “so if you live in a small town, that’s your place.”

This attitude, coupled with the curiosity, is precisely what led the 24-year Monterey resident to Sandisfield’s Town Hall Annex where he’s been parked in a corner office since being hired as Interim Town Manager in late March.

Cont’d on p.5



*At the Fishing Derby,
American Legion Pond*

Hazel Gallagher and Louis Bowman of Sandisfield.

Photo: Laurie Seddon

INSIDE

Two well known senior residents, Kenny O’Brien and Victor Hryckvich, died in June. Ken’s obituary is on page 16; Victor’s will appear next month. Victor served three (non-consecutive) terms as Selectman and was a member of the Board of Health.

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New Boston Store on the Way

By Ron Bernard

The Farmington River General Store is just about ready to open.

Nick Smigel, Proprietor, told The Times, “The building is all set, ready to go. We will open this summer for sure, hopefully by the end of July. The date depends on availability of sufficient stock, for example prepackaged dry goods and local produce. We’ve had to renew relationships and agreements with many suppliers, which takes time but we are making headway.”

Cont’d on p.3

Our Local Businesses

Looking Glass Gardens

**CW NELSON LANDSCAPE
DESIGN & NURSERY**

By Tom Christopher

Back when he was young and footloose, working winters in ski resorts, Chuck Nelson got a job at Otis Ridge and fell in love with this area. First, he bought a cottage by Otis Reservoir so he could spend his summers locally. In 1976, when he decided to settle down and open his own business, he purchased 25 acres on Dodd Road in Sandisfield. Chuck had grown up in the landscaping business in Farmington, Connecticut, but had resisted for some time following in his father's footsteps. Eventually, though, he recognized that was where his heart was, and he founded Looking Glass Gardens, a complete landscape design and installation firm.



Today, the Sandisfield property, which over the years has grown through additional purchases to 48 acres, is not only a place in which to store materials and equipment, and the site of a family home, it is has also become a stunning display of Chuck's creative talents.

The business' name – Looking Glass Gardens – is a reference to the ponds and reflective water features with which Chuck has adorned the site. The extensive and dramatic stonework which complement the ponds, helping to integrate them into the natural setting, testifies to another of Chuck's skills. The colorful arrangements of perennial and annual flowers, shrubbery, and trees that run through the landscape also speak of his gift for design and his horticultural accomplishments.

Cont'd on p.4

LOOKING GLASS GARDENS

19 Dodd Road
413-258-3375
LookingGlassGardens.com

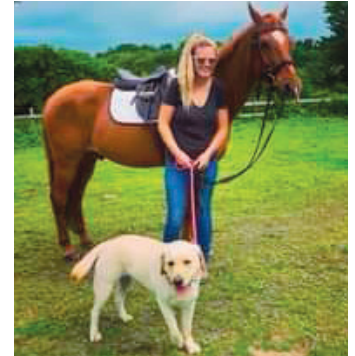
Sunny Rose Farm

**A SECOND GENERATION,
VERY CLOSE BY**

Eight years ago, around Thanksgiving time, the new generation of the Nelson family, Chuck and Zoe's younger daughter Rose, posed a question to her father as they drove down the driveway at Looking Glass Gardens.

Wouldn't it be beautiful, Rose joked, to see horses in that field over there?

Her parents knew this was no mere whim. Rose had first expressed an interest in horses at age three and had grown up helping on horse farms owned by her aunt and an older cousin. When she wasn't there, teaching riding to children, she was at horse shows. After completing high school, Rose had prepared herself for setting up on her own by taking a couple of business courses and working as a vet tech.



So, the morning after Thanksgiving, Chuck was out in the field cutting down trees. Together, the extended family built two barns, with stabling for 15 horses, and an indoor and outdoor riding arena. "Sunny Rose Farm" was born.

Since then, Rose has attracted riding enthusiasts from all over southern Berkshire County.



"I have a really great clientele," Rose says. "I think that's all based off the atmosphere we create here. Everyone says how welcomed they feel here, and either child or adult riding here, they say they come out with more knowledge than they were hoping to get out of a lesson."

The clients don't arrive to find the horse all ready for them. "They have to brush, they have to tack up on their own," Rose explains, and this creates more of a bond between the rider and the horse.

Cont'd on p.7

SUNNY ROSE FARM

19 Dodd Road
413-446-4944
SunnyRoseFarm.com

New Boston Store on the Way

Cont'd from p.1

It was just over a year ago when the town was all abuzz about the possibility of a new store on South Main St./Route 8 in New Boston Village. The Times sponsored a residents' wish-list survey to help proprietors, Nick and Megan Smigel, plan and prioritize store merchandise and services. By the end of 2021 an amazing 300 mail and online responses were being considered.

Covid and a concurrent shortage of local contractors intervened, forcing the couple to postpone the opening for a year.


Nick added that they are grateful for the community's survey responses which are very helpful to "put what people want on the shelves as much as possible."

"We are still getting online surveys," Nick said. Suggestions, comments and well-wishes may be directed to farmingtonrivergs@gmail.com. The business phone is 413-462-1104.

The Smigel's business plan is very focused because there are limitations such as staffing (it's only Megan), the

investment, the building's capacity, and its proximity to the Farmington River which precludes gasoline service, for example.

"But there will be fresh coffee all day, every day," Nick promised.

Store hours will be 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., seven days-a week except on major holidays. The "grand opening" of the Farmington River General Store will be announced on Facebook/Connect Sandisfield, the Town's unofficial community grapevine. For the event, the Smigels plan a surprise treat to lure visitors. 



Megan and Nicholas Smigel with their daughters, Ella, Hadley, and Ava, three potential employees.

Sandisfield Historical Society



ANNUAL TAG SALE, AUGUST 20

Be sure to attend this month's meeting of the Sandisfield Historical Society, July 9, 11:00 a.m., at the Meeting House on Sandy Brook Turnpike at South Sandisfield Road.

Our second Annual Town-wide Tag Sale, sponsored by the Historical Society, will be held on August 20 from 9:30-3:30, with a rain date on the 27th.


Last year's highly successful event drew buyers from as far as North Adams and Copake, New York.

Participants who want to display items at their home locations will be listed on a Tag-Sale Map and in social media for a fee of \$25. Last year, you were on the pink butterfly trail; this year, the butterflies will be blue.

We'll plaster the Berkshires and surrounding areas with news of our Sandisfield Tag Sale. There is sure to be lots of interest. And you can clear out your attic, barn, cellar, and closets.

The top earner last year made more than \$600!

Anyone can register by contacting either Maxene Kupperman-Guiñals at slix92@aol.com or 258-4030 or Joanne Lazarowitz Olsen at joanneo@aol.com or 917-686-1985. You can also sign up at the Farmers Market in New Boston on Fridays.

We had lots of fun and made some money last year, and we are looking forward to equal fun in 2022. 



Preservation Group to Visit South County SANDISFIELD AND OTIS ON THE TOUR

By Ron Bernard

"Cruising the Commonwealth" will cruise south to visit historic sites in Sandisfield and Otis on July 15.

Cruising the Commonwealth is a program of Preservation Massachusetts (PM), a statewide non-profit historic preservation organization founded in 1985 dedicated to preserving historic and cultural heritage in the State.

Comprised of experts in the field, PM advocates for and educates about the importance and benefits of preservation for communities. Preserving historic buildings and landscapes has revitalized communities and has had real economic impact while also enhancing quality of life locally.

In the Cruising the Commonwealth program, a team of experts visits selected communities in an area that has demonstrated a commitment to historic preservation through, for example, successful nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. The tours provide PM with ideas about how obstacles were overcome and other successful strategies that might apply elsewhere in the state.

This year one of the tours will be in the Great Barrington area, including most of a Friday, July 15, spent in Sandisfield and Otis. The historical commissions of our two towns feel fortunate to have made the cut.




The tour starts at 9:00 a.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on Hammertown Road. There the team is interested to see recently completed foundation work and to tour the building which has been restored and adapted as a cultural center. The building was awarded National Register status in 1995 as "The Montville Baptist Church." Art Center officials will guide the tour.

The group will proceed to New Boston Village which was designated in April as a National Register Historic District.

There will also be a stop at the c.1785 James Adams house on North Beech Plain Road. The house was restored in 2019-21 by new owners, Jeff Gonyeau and Jack Dennerlein of Dorchester. Mr. Gonyeau is a historic preservation consultant and serves PM as a Preservation Circuit Rider.

About 11:00 a.m., the group will visit West Otis Center to see the beautiful former St. Paul's Church which has been saved and is under restoration by the Otis Preservation Trust. The last local stop will be the White Church in Blandford, another adaptive reuse of a historic church.

Anyone wishing to learn more or interested in joining the tour or at an individual point may contact ronbernard@aol.com or 413-269-0012. 

Looking Glass Gardens

Cont'd from p.2

Local residents, as well as a clientele that stretches through the adjacent towns and into Connecticut, can attest to his mastery as a heavy equipment operator, someone who can clear a field or dig a trench, whatever you need. "Anything to do with land, rock, and water" is how Chuck summarizes his endeavors.

This diversity of skills has served Chuck well, as running a business is full of challenges and as Chuck says, "every year is different."

He loves designing a landscape from scratch and still drafts plans by hand, completing five to six new plans in the average year. The pandemic brought changes, however. The surge of people moving to the Berkshires has meant new customers.

However, Covid also caused a temporary halt in what had been Looking Glass Gardens' burgeoning popularity as a site for special events such as weddings and wedding receptions. The gardens on Dodd Road have reopened, but the event business hasn't yet returned to what it was.

A Free Magical Family Day was held at the Gardens June 26, sponsored by the Recreation Committee. The event drew many residents including more than 40 young children to participate in games and contests and shows.

And Chuck plans an Oktoberfest this fall, a tradition that has been suspended the last three years due to Covid.

Another effect of the pandemic has been a disruption of the supply chain which is still making it difficult to obtain necessary materials. Clients become impatient with the attendant delays, and these days, says Chuck, they often forego a formal design process, instead asking him to create as he installs. The current labor shortage in the Berkshires has also made it more difficult to find the skilled help Chuck needs – this year he has five employees.

Chuck admits to being 76. His wife Zoe retired in June 2021 from managing the cafeteria at Southern Berkshire Regional School, although she continues to drive a school bus and to volunteer for the town of Sandisfield as an emergency medical technician, something she has done for 32 years. When asked about retirement plans, however, Chuck replies simply, "Not yet." Clearly, he has not yet lost that creative urge.

Besides, adds Zoe and daughter Rose, "It keeps him young." 🍷



Jobs Jobs Jobs

THREE OPEN NOW RIGHT HERE IN TOWN

At least four jobs are open in Sandisfield, and others may open soon. Keep watch at www.sandisfieldma.gov. For full descriptions of the jobs listed below, go to www.sandisfieldma.gov.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER

A full-time position providing day-time coverage for Police and Ambulance for any emergencies that may happen during shift hours. Life-threatening medical emergencies will take first priority. Applicants must have valid driver's license and be Police and EMT certified. For complete job description, go to sandisfieldma.gov/publicsafetyofficer. Please submit cover letter and resume to Police Chief Michael Morrison at policechief@sandisfieldma.gov by July 15.

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, ensuring compliance with policies, procedures, and safety regulations, enforce MGL, disposing of deceased animals according to law, and responding to complaints. The position will remain open until filled.

Applicants should possess a high school diploma or equivalent; and two years higher education in animal science, veterinary science or a related field. Previous animal control, veterinary medicine, or professional animal handling experience may be substituted for higher education. Must have valid driver's license. Must have or be willing to obtain a certification as an Animal Control Officer by the Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts within the first year of employment. To apply please send cover letter and resume to jbeardsley@sandisfieldma.gov or by mail to: Town of Sandisfield, 66 Sandisfield Road, Suite 1, Sandisfield, MA 01255

DPW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Responsibilities include, but are not limited to responding appropriately to all mail, phone or email messages, managing accounts payable for DPW preparing Chapter 90 submittals and corresponding with MASS DOT, and creating requests for bid packages following state and federal mandates.

If interested, please submit cover letter and resume to Brad Curry at Highways@sandisfieldma.gov by July 15. 🍷



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**Thinking Globally,
Acting [Very] Locally**

Cont'd from p.1

Sylbert credits Dean and Fran Amidon, “The Ambassadors of Monterey,” for sweeping him — and his wife, Lisa Smyle, who has spent 20+ years working as a sign language interpreter for the State — up into small-town life which, by extension, often translates to politics. Sylbert got his feet wet serving on the Planning Board with Smyle chairing the Monterey Library Trustees through its extensive recent renovation; together they have two sons, ages 22 and 18, who just finished their college and high school careers respectively.

We had a proper, in-person sit down — on the penultimate Thursday of the fiscal year — during which he underscored that while Sandisfield has had its share of “bumps” (namely in the guise of turnover at Town Hall), our current situation is far from unique.

“It’s getting more and more difficult to fill positions in local government,” Sylbert said, citing a far-reaching issue in big cities and small towns across the Commonwealth: “It’s more cumbersome, it takes more training, and it takes more experience [to fill important Town positions], and many don’t see [Town government] as a career,” he said, pointing to the biggest of all obstacles: a general lack of interest in these positions.

Sylbert brings two decades of experience in local government (but no blueprint to impose!) to his current position. Which is not to suggest he doesn’t have a vision for the Town.

Instead, he’s keen on following the job description as laid out by the State’s Department of Labor Standards — one whose verbiage describes the town manager as, “serving as the community’s chief administrative officer who is generally tasked with coordinating day-to-day operations...administering the policies and procedures laid out by the select board and orchestrating the town’s financial management activities, among many other tasks.”

Still, Sylbert points to a sticking point. “There’s this tension between wanting stability and some experience in the office and also wanting new blood,” he explained of a stance that could be applied to any of the Town’s various posts.

As such, in keeping with the State’s suggestion, he’s pushing for a town charter — akin to an operating manual for a small town — while underscoring the benefit:

“It’s the town meeting body that gets to decide how they want their town run, [which] they memorialize in a charter, and then [every elected or appointed official] gets their operating instructions.” Which, going forward, would not only streamline, but also facilitate, the process when turnover occurs.

While bylaws have been historically helpful in Town government, policies and procedures in writing them can be tricky. Namely, they can be created without much research and changed when someone gets uncomfortable (or the policy no longer suits them).

The main benefit of a charter is that it “memorializes [Town positions] in such a way that people come in and they fit into a role instead of trying to reinvent the wheel every time [there is turnover]” — which, in the case of the Select Board, can happen every three years.

On the day of our meeting, Sylbert was sorting through his inbox — with upwards of 80 emails having come in overnight — while looking ahead to July 1 when the new fiscal year begins.

Next year, Sandisfield’s \$800,000 broadband bill will be added to the Town’s “cherry sheet” — a detailed list of state aid and assessments, named for the cherry-colored paper on which it was originally printed — plus 3.5% interest to be paid for 15 years.

“But, if [we] can pay down the principal — for even one term — [we] pay less interest,” said Sylbert, citing one possible use of the \$266,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds currently available to the Town.

In theory this sounds great, but in practice is not allowable (as ARPA funds cannot be used for debt). They can be used for capital improvements — think big-ticket items for the highway and/or fire department — which would free up cash that could be used to pay down the broadband bill. Tension remains on how to disburse those funds, intended to aid in a municipality’s response to the public health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“So, that’s another example of stuff we’re working on,” said Sylbert, being clear to point out no decisions need to be made over the summer. As for the charter process, if the idea



Jon Sylbert, Interim Town Manager

gains momentum, that could be on the town warrant in 2023.

Bottom line? “I want [residents] to feel like they’re making the decisions, and we’re carrying them out,” said Sylbert who is happy to report that he and his colleagues at Town Hall are, “working well together and interested in doing the right thing.” Most importantly: “The Town’s in good shape, and I’m really enjoying being here.”



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Sandisfield Gets a New Fire Truck

DEMO MODEL SEEN AS JUST RIGHT

By Bill Price

Fire Chief Ralph Morrison and his team finally got a new engine.



The newly purchased 2022 Spartan/Toyne Fire Pumper will replace a 26-year-old fire truck that for now still rumbles out of Station #1 toward fires carrying hoses and fire equipment that had been recycled from an even earlier set of fire apparatus, stuff from as far back as 1968.

After six years of requests by the department and discus-

sions back and forth by Select Boards, Finance Committees, and one Town Master Plan Committee in 2017, the current Select Board bit the bullet and said, "Yes."

Nearly everyone along the way had wanted to replace the old fire engine, but few Town leaders were willing to actually stand in front of taxpayers and say this is what we're doing and this is how you're going to pay for it.

Until the current board. Taxpayers are entitled to a summary of how all this came about and the background of work required to make it happen.

Starting at the Annual Town Meeting in May with a \$350,000 proposal to buy a used truck – a proposal which Morrison, with Interim Town Manager Jonathan Sylbert's support, doubled by amendment to \$700,000 to instead buy a used, demo, or new truck – the Town voted overwhelmingly to go ahead.

A group of firefighters had already been searching websites – as had several other individuals in town, including Select Board members.

At a mid-June Select Board meeting, the Fire Department presented the board with its choice for the best available truck for the Town right now – a 2022 Spartan/Toyne Fire Pumper demo located in Rhode Island that been used to display fire-fighting equipment to potential buyers.

With only two members present at that meeting, the Board discussed the choice with the Fire Department, wondered aloud why the department had waited to present its findings at the meeting instead of ahead of time to allow for consideration (Answer: "This is how we've always bought

equipment. Find what's best for the price and present it."). After an hour's discussion the Board said, "come back next week."

Next week arrived, June 21, with all three board members at the table. The proposal from the Fire Department to buy the demo was discussed again, including concern that the Town was being pressured to buy at the top of a market that could in time collapse. After 45 more minutes of consideration the Board voted unanimously "Buy the truck,"

The truck itself costs \$575,000. Equipment to make the truck useful to fire fighters could have increased the price by \$175,000, but to bring the cost "back down" to the allocated \$700,000 Ralph's team scratched equipment that, while useful, would have added an extra \$20,000 or so.

The equipment costs include one piece of rigging Ralph's team believes is crucial to firefighting: a positive pressure exhaust fan which helps pull smoke out of a burning building. This feature is important given the toxic materials used in construction of homes and businesses today.

While the truck may not be the larger size Morrison had hoped for, at least it does fit in Fire Station #1 on Rt. 8 in New Boston. The team had rejected larger trucks that wouldn't fit in the garage. The Spartan/Toyne was driven to Sandisfield in May to ensure that it indeed could be backed into the station. The station had been enlarged several years ago when another new truck was purchased; to do so again would have been too expensive. Assistant Fire Chief Mike Morrison said, "We have to buy a truck to fit the garage we have."

The truck will be available following the New England Fire Chiefs' Exposition and after the purchased equipment can be loaded aboard. Because of supply chain issues for the equipment, Ralph expects the truck to be ready for duty in August. 🇺🇸

Town Seeks Board of Health Member

Because of the untimely death of Victor Hryckvich, the long-time Board of Health member, the Town must fill the term of his vacant seat, which will extend until the next election in May, 2023. Duties include working in conjunction with the Sanitarian, health management, reviewing contracts and agreements, reviewing and issuing permits, conducting various health inspections, and maintaining an overall healthy environment within the community. The Board of Health meets the first Monday of every month. If interested, please submit request for consideration and qualifications to Janey Beardsley at jbeardsley@sandisfieldma.gov. 🇺🇸



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413.258.4968
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Sunny Rose Farm

Cont'd from p.2

Rose also fosters a sense of community by sponsoring events for clients. This may be the Halloween parade she hosts for the children, in which they dress up the horses, or, recently, a book launch party for an author who boards her horses at the farm. One of the author's horses was abused and malnourished before she rescued it, so in addition to publication of the book, the event was also a celebration of how far the horse has come under this woman's care.

Sunny Rose Farm is most definitely an all-season operation. Its indoor riding arena means that clients can ride here all year no matter the weather. The farm features a large outdoor jump course, riding trails in the property and on the adjacent dirt roads, and in the Sandisfield State Forest. Rose has hopes of expanding the existing cross-country course to include more jumps over natural obstacles such as logs and stone walls.

"It's a good place," says Rose, "for everyone to escape from their everyday routine. Kids, who struggle in school, their parents say how much this has helped them in school," learning the discipline and responsibility of caring for the horses.

And of course, adds Rose, the horses enjoy the stimulation of working with the kids and with the increasing number of horse-lovers who enjoy Sunny Rose Farm. 🐾



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New Boston Inn Car Show

More than three dozen unique cars – pickups, hot rods, new, old, rebuilt, added to, stripped down, anything beautiful on mostly four wheels – made their way to the June 11 New Boston Inn Car Show and Party. Hostess Barbara Colorio said that most of the cars were from nearby car clubs or Sandisfield neighbors and car enthusiasts. The event drew an audience from Connecticut, Rhode Island, the Hudson Valley in New York, and mid-Massachusetts. As well as every surrounding town. Many stayed for dinner at the Inn.

Photo: Walter Felix

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Sandisfield Graduates, 2022

By Christine Nadelman/Bill Price

The Times congratulates all of this year's graduating high school seniors: Kathryn Barrett, Ely Cormier, Jacob Gray, Gavin Murray, Kiera O'Rourke, Kota Rinaldi, and Ruby Smith. Good luck to all seven of you, wherever you happen to land.



Kathryn Barrett, Miss Hall's School in Lenox. Kathryn will attend the University of Denver where she will pursue a minor in French and leadership studies, with an undeclared major at present.



Ely Cormier, Monument Mountain Regional High School. Ely is the last of a long line of Cormier's to graduate from Monument, where he was a Western MA Wrestling Finalist twice and took third place in States his senior year. He also played four years of baseball. He loves hunting, fishing, and being outside. After graduation he will be begin a career in the construction field with plans for pursuing licenses for, but not limited to, heavy machine operating, hoisting, and a Commercial Drivers' License



Jacob Gray, Monument Mountain Regional High School. Jacob will take a gap year and pursue job opportunities while looking into Commercial Drivers' Licensure and other academic programs. He will also be a part-time lifeguard at Simon's Rock.



Gavin Murray, Monument Mountain Regional High School. Gavin will attend Bentley University in Waltham this fall.



Kiera O'Rourke, Monument Mountain Regional High School. A four-year cross-country athlete, Kiera graduated with high honors. She will attend Clemson University in South Carolina where she plans to study architecture and business.



Kota Rinaldi, Mt. Everett Regional High School, Sheffield. Kota's academic awards include President's Education Awards Program for Outstanding Academic Excellence, Louis Armstrong Jazz Award, and Band Department Award, plus several scholarships. He will attend the University of Massachusetts Amherst, College of Social and Behavioral Science, majoring in Communication.



Ruby Smith, Monument Mountain Regional High School. Ruby will attend the Massachusetts Colleges of Art and Design (Massart) in Boston with an undecided major.



Three Local Scholarships Awarded

The Sandisfield Scholarship Committee is delighted to announce that we have awarded scholarships to three high school graduating seniors.

- ▶ Kathryn Barrett of Miss Hall's School
- ▶ Kiera O'Rourke of Monument Mountain
- ▶ Kota Rinaldi of Mt. Everett

We are proud of them and their accomplishments and wish them all the best in college and beyond.

recreation COMMITTEE

A Great Day and More Coming

By Laurie Seddon

Thanks to everyone who came out for our Fishing Derby and a special thank you to Maria Domato, Commander, American Legion Post#456 for generously donating the fish. We had beautiful blue skies and warm, sunny weather. Some caught fish, some didn't, but all had fun. We loved that nearly 50 people turned out, some of the kids fishing for the very first time.

Don't miss out on our next event, co-hosted by the Sandisfield Library and the Recreation Committee at the playground next to the Sandisfield Library, Saturday, July 23 beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Do you love friendly competition? We'll have Minute-to-Win-It Relay Races. Ice cream. And at 1:00 p.m., the Sandisfield Library will host "Ed the Wizard." Ed will make everyone laugh, especially with his fantastical balloon creations. It is sure to be a fun afternoon.

For more information, e-mail the Sandisfield Recreation Committee at: sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info.



Above: Jack Boulais won a tackle box for the most fish caught during the Derby.



Right: Hazel Gallagher caught the biggest trout during the Derby, with her folks, Matt and Emily Gallagher.

Photos: Laurie Seddon/
Lynn Rubenstein

Route 57 on the New Marlborough Village Green



NEW MARLBOROUGH MEETING HOUSE

- August 6**
4:30 pm
Kristin Kimball and Mark Kimball of Essex Farm
A discussion about the benefits of organic food and sustainable farming, new systems of distribution, and what the Kimballs and Essex Farm have in store for the future.
- August 13**
4:30 pm
Rhythm Future Quartet
Gypsy Jazz with joyful abandon, rocketed into the future by incorporating multiple influences...it's downright infectious!
- August 27**
4:30 pm
Actor John Douglas Thompson
Award-winning actor John Douglas Thompson discusses his incredible journey to become one of the most compelling classical stage actors of his generation.
- Sept 10**
4:30 pm
Neave Trio - Violin, Cello, Piano
The group's 2019 album *Her Voice*, was named one of the best recordings of the year by both *The New York Times* and BBC. Performing works by Chaminade, Tailleferre, and Ravel.
- Sept 17**
4:30 pm
Wael Farouk, Piano Solo
A program including preludes by Alexander Scriabin, Rachmaninoff's Sonata #2, opus 36, and the famous Mussorgsky *Pictures at an Exhibition*. A Harold Lewin Memorial concert.
- Oct 1**
4:30 pm
Simon Winchester and Alice Sedgwick Wohl
Discussing Alice's new book, *As it Turns Out: Thinking About Edie and Andy*, about the relationship of her sister Edie and the artist Andy Warhol.

Meeting House GALLERY

- June 24**
thru
July 24
As the Crow Flies
Opening Reception June 24, 5-7 p.m.
A juried show featuring recent works by artists working within a 30 mile radius of New Marlborough.
- July 29**
thru
Aug 28
Simply The Berkshires
Opening Reception July 29, 5-7 p.m.
Artists express their connection to the Berkshires, and celebrate and honor how the Berkshires feeds the creative spirit.
- July 30**
1-4 pm
Young Artists Celebrate New Marlborough
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- Sept 2**
thru
Oct 2
The Annual New Marlborough Artist's Show
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We're Doing Something Right

By *Melissa Bye, New Hartford Road*

I was surprised at the tone and content of Simon Winchester's "Moreover..." column in the June Times

Roger Brown was a dedicated and hard-working Finance Committee chair who unfortunately left angrily and under a cloud of conflict. This is not in dispute. But he is only one out of many dedicated volunteers and individuals (along with our elected Select Board, Town Clerk, appointed Town Manager, and others) who serve on multiple committees and are committed to making Sandisfield a place we all can be proud to call "home."

For Simon to suggest that in the wake of Roger's departure our town will succumb to the fate of Monterey and become "a miasma of lawsuits, boycotts, and private investigators" only to be run by a "toxic" administration is a case of fear mongering and casting aspersions where there truly should be none.

I also have to question why Simon chose to describe John Field as "well-liked but inexperienced." John

was a thoughtful, respected, contributing member of the Planning Board and is a life-long Sandisfield resident. I don't recall Simon referring to another newly elected Select Board member as "inexperienced." Why John?

Finally, while Simon may feel that when it comes to the future of our little town "all bets are off," based on recent positive developments I and others are the most optimistic we've been in a long time.

We have a hardworking Select Board chair and a new member, none of whom appear to have personal agendas, but rather are committed to working as part of a team, all while learning what residents want, need and expect from their town leadership; we finally have high speed internet; solar panels have been installed on some of our town buildings; a cannabis bylaw was approved nearly unanimously by voters; and hundreds of thousands of dollars have been returned to our town's coffers after years of overpaying to the FRRSD. We also just had one of the best attended Memorial Day parades and picnics that our town has seen in recent memory. All of these successes happened because folks devoted countless hours, rolled up their sleeves, and worked to be part of the solution rather than just complain about the problem. And, it must be noted, our interim Town Manager, Jonathan Sylbert, and new Town Clerk, Douglas Miner (both of whom Jeff and I have had the pleasure of working closely with) are committed to helping to ensure our town is run professionally, ethically, and efficiently.

I realize Simon feels he has an obligation to shine a light on what he perceives as our town's shortcomings. It's his paper. Still, it wasn't that long ago that Heather Bellow wrote about the passing of our cannabis bylaw, aka the "grand compromise." Shortly thereafter, The Berkshire Eagle devoted an op-ed to our little town highlighting the fact that Beacon Hill and even Washington should take a page out of our playbook. Contrary to what Simon thinks, we must be doing something right.

And yet, despite these recent positive developments and acknowledgments, it appears Simon sees Sandisfield's future as dim. I'm truly sorry he feels this way. I don't share his pessimistic outlook, but rather see better, brighter days on Sandisfield's horizon.

PS: Going forward The Times should consider including a disclaimer to remind readers that Simon's "Moreover..." column is opinion and not meant to be taken as factual reporting.

No One More Qualified

By *Larry Dwyer, West Street*

Simon Winchester's column "Roger and Out" was spot on.

I had the privilege of working with Roger Brown on the Finance Committee for the last six months of Sandisfield's town budget preparation. I like challenges, I like numbers, and I'm not afraid of getting out of my comfort zone. I wanted to learn how the budget worked, and I wanted to work under Roger because there is probably no one more qualified in Sandisfield, in finance, than Roger.

As well as joining the Finance Committee, I also serve on the Green Committee, I'm the Town Webmaster, and I am also the president of a Co-op in New York City. I like to keep busy and by next year some of these activities will be winding down. It was my plan to work under Roger for two or three years and learn the ropes and make a smooth transition into Municipal Finance. However, when Roger resigned from the Finance Committee, so ended my plan of a smooth transition.

The reason Roger resigned was that he challenged Interim Town Manager Jonathan Sylbert on the results of the town budget. This created a schism and in response Jonathan brought up the vacancies on the Finance Committee at the Select Board meeting on June 30. Roger challenged him again and said that the composition of the Finance Committee is between the Moderator and the Finance Committee of which the Select Board has no authority. Jon accused Roger of not doing his job and, this being the last straw, Roger resigned.

I worked directly with Roger on this year's budget, and he had spent hundreds of hours examining the school and town budget. To say he was not doing his job is unconscionable. Now, instead of filling one vacancy on the Finance Committee, Jonathan had created a second and the committee has had to scramble to reorganize.

Before I retired from my career, I was called onto the carpet numerous times, but I put up with it because I was getting paid. With volunteers you can't do that, especially when it's so difficult to get volunteers with knowledge and experience. Luckily for us, Roger said he will make himself available to advise the committee.

The vacancies are now being filled, but it's going to take a long time to fill Roger's shoes.

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From Members of the Select Board

From Steve Seddon, Sr.

When I read the article "Roger and Out" by Simon Winchester. I was disappointed with the dark divisive nature of the content.

With all of the positives to take note of in town, I can't help but wonder what drives Simon to exploit only aspects he finds negative?

I understand there was a story to write regarding the Finance Chair resignation, but why include ominous statements such as "For the time being it has to be acknowledged that so far as Sandisfield's future is concerned, all bets are off." What is the goal with that statement? Is it to undermine the progress made in town government since last year? Is it to erode confidence in the elected officials? I don't see the value in adding this slight.

It should also be noted that the Finance Committee did not build the budget with the input of the Select Board. The Interim Town Manager and the Select Board built the budget with the input of Finance. In 2017 a bylaw was passed that took the budget ownership and creation from the Finance Committee and gave the responsibility to the Select board. It has been that way since then.

It is of course your prerogative to print whatever you want in your publication. I would only recommend that you give equal time to the positive aspects of our small community. I think your readers would find that valuable as well.

From Alex Bowman

It is a challenge for Sandisfield to find candidates for many of its positions, whether they be the full-time Town Manager, part-time Town Clerk assistant or the as-needed Animal Control Officer. (Please check out our list of job opportunities and apply!)

Part of that challenge is due to the public perception of what it's like to work in Sandisfield. We need all the help we can get – even just to get people to apply.

The insinuation that our Interim Town Manager, Jonathan Sylbert, is importing toxicity from Monterey is harmful not just to Mr. Sylbert but also to Sandisfield as a whole.

Mr. Sylbert is the de facto day-to-day leader of Sandisfield operations. While he is not to be shielded from criticism, he deserves a fair shake. Many of The Times' readers only get their local information from The Times, but those who attended our budget meetings saw Mr. Sylbert's expertise, diligence, patience, and professionalism. He worked hard to help Sandisfield create

a clear and concise operational budget, one more easily comparable year-to-year. No small task, and completed on a tight deadline!

Small-town politics are traditionally full of drama, and you can still frequently read all about it across Berkshire County in a number of publications. However, the current Board of Selectmen has eschewed drama and hopes to move Sandisfield forward with its focus on results. Criticism and commentary is always acceptable, but please help us prevent distractions by not inserting drama where there is none.

From John Field, Jr.

Having read your latest edition, I want to remark on the outstanding parade attendance. It made me proud to share the day with so many Sandisfield residents and share in a sense of community that has long been lacking. Alex, Steve, Jonathan, and I were overwhelmed by the interest in town matters. So many people shared with me thoughtful questions, comments, concerns, and advice. Whether it's because I'm "well-liked," "inexperienced," or the weather was pleasant, who can say? All I know is, this arborist is excited to work!

As I begin my three-year tenure as a Selectman, I invite all residents to attend town meetings (check our website).

By doing so, you will see exactly what is happening. Reading second-hand opinions does, in my opinion, cause nothing but doubt and division. Sandisfield needs to continue building a strong sense of trust and transparency; we are committed to doing just that. Everyone is welcome and everyone's opinion matters. We are a diverse board, and I hope we represent a broader reflection of Sandisfield residents.

Given recent changes to several boards and committees, it probably feels as though things are in flux. They are, but change is good, albeit difficult. But change is no tragedy.

REPLY FROM THE EDITOR

If the Sandisfield Times were not optimistic about the town and its future we would not still be writing and publishing the paper after 12 years and counting. Consider our June issue: election results, the Annual Town Meeting, Snow Farm, the Memorial Day parade, and much more on happenings in a small town in western Massachusetts.

Sometimes we include an "Out on a Limb," a column we reserve for readers' opinions. We also reserve space for The Times' founding editor, Simon Winchester, who contributes his thoughts in the "Moreover" column.

On these two facing pages you've seen letters from readers who either took offense or praised Simon's June column, which dealt with the sudden resignation of the Town's Finance Committee chairman after a rancorous and embarrassing Select Board meeting. The Town has recently endured other resignations, as well, including walk-outs by a Select Board member and a former town manager.

As Simon pointed out, the town needs a shift to continuity, compromise, and clarity. Maybe the new Select Board and town appointees will provide that, but until town leadership demonstrates that it has significantly moved in that direction and can stay the course, then, as Simon wrote, "so far as Sandisfield's future is concerned, all bets are off."

In the meantime, we have a commitment to reporting news, as well as to offering a forum for opinion. The Times relies on our readers to know the difference.

Bill Price, Editor

The Sandisfield Times

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The Sandisfield Arts Center

SUMMER'S HOT AT THE ARTS CENTER

By Jean Atwater-Williams

It's been said that the Sandisfield Arts Center's diverse programs have "something for everyone." This summer's offerings are a case in point.

May started out with "Live at SArc," a dinner theatre-inspired fundraiser and an art competition, the Daniel Manacher Prize for Young Artists. June brought us Ari & Mia and the Roger Street Friedman band, a gallery show by Jacob Fossum, and "The Green Box," a book talk and film preview by Jim Kurz based on his father's experiences as a soldier and POW in World War II.

Here's a look at what's coming up in July:

Saturday, July 9, 2:00 p.m., Ukulele Workshop with Bernice Lewis; \$20; 4:00 p.m. concert, Free

Experience the First Annual Mini-Ukulele Festival at SArc. Renowned singer-songwriter Bernice Lewis will present a workshop at 2:00 p.m. Bernice has been featured at NPR's Mountain Stage and the Kennedy Center. An educator and singer-songwriter with a national following, she studied vocal improvisation with Bobby McFerrin, guitar with Alex DeGrassi and Guy van Duser, and songwriting with Rosanne Cash.

At 4:00 p.m. a free performance will feature Bernice and the "Berkshire Ukulele Band" (BUB) directed by Jeffrey Howard. This is an uplifting

and fun-filled afternoon you won't want to miss! Sunday, July 10, 2:00 p.m. Free. Gallery Opening with Stacey Silkey. Work on display through August 3.

Stacey Silkey, a Berkshires-based artist who received a Masters of Fine Arts in Visual Arts degree from Lesley University College of Art and Design, has had her work exhibited in Cairo, Egypt along with numerous locations across the United States. Stacey is the recipient of the Berkshire Art Association 2016 Fellowship Award. Her work is privately collected, both nationally and internationally.

"My paintings are based on hurried sketches of moving images or photographs that my consciousness has not fully processed. Recognizing the neurological aspect of storing memories and the influence images have on experience, I focus on creating opportunities for shared meaning where a viewer's memories can mingle with my painted, incomplete memories."

Sunday, July 17, 2:00 p.m. an extraordinary afternoon of poetry, music, and conversation! Free admission to encourage the widest possible audience: seniors, students, everyone.

Join Voices of Poetry's founder Neil Silberblatt, together with Hilde Weisert as they host two world-renowned poets: Cornelius Eady and Molly Peacock.

Cornelius Eady is a National Book Award finalist and Pulitzer Prize nominated poet who has set his poetry to music with the Cornelius Eady Trio. Eady's songs tell the story of passing time, the Black American experience, and the blues in the style of Folk & Americana music.

Molly Peacock is an acclaimed poet, biographer,

essayist, and writer of tales. "Peacock has many talents, not the least of which is her voice, characterized by engaging honesty and self-deprecating humor. She comes across as that fellow passenger on an airplane to whom you have suddenly and quite naturally confessed your story (and learned hers)." – Lorna Blake, The Hudson Review.

Special note: For the July 17 reading/performance, we have put our two famous poets overnight at our local New Boston Inn. The Cornelius Eady Trio members will overnight at Hillside Gardens Inn.

Saturday, July 30, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. \$10. Mushroom Foraging: Workshop and Walk with Matt Glushien.

Start with a workshop to learn mushroom identification essentials from expert Matt Glushien. Then it's off to the foraging site which Matt has picked out especially for its fungi possibilities!

Sunday, July 31, 4:00 p.m. \$20. Enoch Arden: Epic Poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson, set to music by Richard Strauss

Don't miss this rare opportunity to see and hear this moving and unique work combining poetry and music performed by our very own world-renowned Baritone Ben Luxon and his grandson, Josh Luxon, visiting from England, on piano.

Upcoming offerings: more movies, workshops, concerts, and theater. Find the events that are right for you at www.sandisfieldartscenter.org



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Chestnuts Planted

This year's planting on June 4 brought about 40 local volunteers to help start more than 400 American Chestnuts in a field in north Sandisfield where Doug and Josie Miner have dedicated several acres of their property on Cronk Road to the American Chestnut Foundation for a chestnut seedling field. Eventually 2,000-3,000 American Chestnuts will grow on the property, producing seeds for chestnut plantings across the country.

Photo: Bill Price

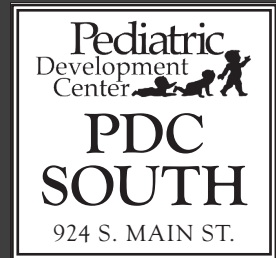
CRITTER CORNER.....



Liana Toscanini admired a really big snapping turtle on Lower West Street.

Photo: Richard Migot

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Historia

An Early Mobile Home

ELEANOR KIMBERLEY AND THE TWINGS OF SANDISFIELD AND MONTEREY

By Ron Bernard

I am constantly on the lookout for old photos of anything or anyone related to Sandisfield. Any previously unpublished image is nearly always the basis for a story. When this framed but fuzzy copy of a picture was left at the transfer station swap shop recently, I brought it home. (See photo at lower right.)

Embedded in this image are stories to be told of Kimberleys, Twings, and a certain very hard way of life that endured here as late as the 1920s.



*Eleanor Hart Kimberley.
Photo courtesy of her son,
Robert Kimberley*

Eleanor Hart was born in Monterey in 1908. She married Claude B. Kimberley (1912-92) of Sandisfield in 1934. They lived at the Kimberley farm on Town Hill Road situated near the town line with West Otis until her death in 2008, age 97. A passage in the book, *Sandisfield Then and Now*, which includes some of her photos, describes Eleanor as "locally recognized for both her poetry and professional photography. As a girl of twelve in 1920 she and her twin sister were given a camera. From that point Eleanor loved recording family events, both of her own and those of so many others. She became a professional portrait photographer. Her favorite subjects however were nature and wildlife and her images often appeared in calendars. Eleanor also published poems which earned

acclaim." She supported many good causes and was a beloved figure in Sandisfield, Monterey, and Otis.

Her obituary reads in part, "She was active in 4-H club work; a member of the calf club, sewing club, garden, canning, and room-improvement clubs. Later she led younger girls in 4-H sewing and canning projects. She was a member of the Audubon Society, American Poetry Society, the Great Barrington and Berkshire Museum Camera Clubs, the Click Chicks East, and the Photographic Society of America. She taught Sunday school in Monterey and was den-mother for Cub Scouts in Otis. She worked at Tassone's Photography Studio in Great Barrington for several years. She loved nature, enjoyed photographing it and took a home-study course in coloring photographs."

Samuel & Margaret Cooley Twing came to Sandisfield from the Springfield area in 1803 with three surviving children. They settled in the vicinity of upper Town Hill Road where they had five more kids who eventually spread out around Hubbard Road, across northwest Sandisfield, and into Monterey. Family ties were close and the Twings intermarried with established Sandisfield families.

Although the Twings were numerous, they were not civically active or socially prominent so the public record is scant. But one, Joel Twing, 53, of Town Hill Road did make the news by drowning in Spectacle Pond while



The Kimberley place on Town Hill Road in the 1920s.

Photo in Sandisfield Then and Now.

fishing with a friend in the pitch dark early-morning hours of April 21, 1890. His is the only known drowning at the Pond.

After the Civil War, farming in Sandisfield and its surrounds declined precipitously. By the early-20th century the land was largely reforested. Some families turned to logging. The Kimberley farm, which dates to 1870 and is the oldest continuously operating farm in Sandisfield, is an example. Another is the c.1750s Adams-Hawley-Rowley ancestral farm at Spectacle Pond which converted to logging early and operated into the 1970s.

Frank Eugene Twing, great-grandson of the above Samuel, was born in Monterey in 1902 to James and Gertrude Hart Twing. A bachelor, he was a logger and sawmill worker. In March 1933, Monterey appointed Frank as town "Field Driver," an early New England term for an officer authorized to round up and impound domestic farm animals roaming at large. His tenure was not long because he died of an unknown cause in 1938, at the age of 36.

At least this rediscovered photograph with a few words about Frank preserves his legacy. 🍷



An inscription credits Eleanor Kimberley as the photographer of this probably late-1920s image. The wagon and transportable shack belonged to her cousin, Frank Twing of Monterey, who lived in it "while working his horses on logging jobs. When a job was finished, he moved, shanty and all, to another logging site." Because of poor quality the photo isn't clear, but Twing is in fact sitting in the "driver's seat" of his mobile home.



The Librarian's Corner

By Terry Spohnholz

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Rippling crystal waters shine like silver to reflect summer's glow. Soothing and calming in rhythm, echoing its lyrical flow. Magical music of nature, a symphony of splendid delight. Skies like blue oceans in paradise, birds soaring to grasp full flight.

Gentle swans glide gracefully, elegant yet proud and strong. Birds and bees in unison, the joyful hum of nature's song. Rolling summer meadows shimmer, like jewels in Mother Nature's crown. Embellishing fields of emerald green draped in its golden gown.

Light sweet air blows softly, scented by sweet cherry blossom in bloom. Delicate, pretty petals lifting to dance in harmony with summer's tune. The sounds and scents of summer, its melody light and free. Sands of gold that glisten, embracing waves of a warm and whispering sea.

– Edel T. Copeland

LIBRARY EVENTS

July 23, Sunday, join us at the Library for a **Family Fun Day** beginning at 11:00 a.m. Minute Relay Races starting at 11:30 and at 1:00 p.m. Ed the Wizard will bring his fun and fantastical balloon making with ice cream to make us sweet. Thank you, Recreation Committee, for helping us make it fun.

August 6, Saturday – **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

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- Finlay Donovan Knocks'em Dead* by Elle Cosimano
- Robert P. Parker's Revenge Tour* by Mike Lupica
- Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting* by Clare Pooley
- This Time Tomorrow* by Emma Straub
- Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt
- Book of Night* by Holly Black
- Nettle and Bone* by T. Kingfisher
- Family of Liars* by E. Lockhart
- The Island* by Adrian McKinty
- Local Gone Missing* by Fiona Barton
- The Hotel Nantucket* by Elin Hilderbrand
- Companion Piece* by Ali Smith
- The Girl who Survived* by Lisa Jackson

A Face to Die For by Iris Johansen

Children's Section

- The Day the Crayons Came Home* by Drew Daywalt
- The Crayons Book of Feelings* by Drew Daywalt
- Stick and Stone on the Go* by Beth Ferry
- The Donkey Egg* by Janet Stevens
- Three Billy Goats Gruff* by Janet Stevens
- Tops & Bottoms* by Janet Stevens

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 access to ebooks from 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.

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In an effort to make room for new book acquisitions, we are weeding out old but in excellent condition fiction, non-fiction. and children's books. These books are for sale at \$2 for hardcover, \$1.50 for softcover. \$10 dollars gets you six hardcover books. 📖



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Comings and Goings




KENNETH O'BRIEN
1948-2022

Kenneth O'Brien died June 12, a Sunday, surrounded by his loved ones.

Kenny was well known in Sandisfield for his lawn-mowing and snowplowing business, "O'Brien and Son."

Born in Great Barrington, May 11, 1948, to Joseph and Alice (Flint) O'Brien, he attended grade school in the Sandisfield "New School," which was

located in what is now the Town Hall Annex. He continued to reside in Sandisfield with Chrystal O'Brien until about 12 years ago when he moved to Lee to live with his children and enjoy his retirement with his grandchildren.

He was a longtime employee at Maxymillian Inc. of Pittsfield, where he worked on many large construction projects around the Berkshires, including Sandisfield. At Maxymillian he earned his nickname of "Killer." He was a loyal and dedicated worker; regardless of what project he was on he could always be depended on. After nearly 40 years of projects and hard work he retired to go on to his next adventure: retirement.

Even after his "retirement" he enjoyed working so much that he went to work for his son, Gary and daughter in law, Kristen, at Gary J. O'Brien Property Services in Lee. He loved working with the lawn mowing side of the business with his good buddy Pedro and Crew. He continued with this until about four years ago.

Kenny loved summer Saturday shopping trips with Kristen ("Mrs. Kitzel") and the twins followed by his Saturday night where he was a regular at Lebanon Valley Speedway sitting in the Orange section with his favorite friends Russ, Pedro, and Donna, cheering on his son in #57. On Sundays you could find him walking around neighborhood pushing his grandkids in their cars chatting with

anyone he saw or a new "buddy" along the way.

He loved scratch tickets, casino tips, automotive swap meets, or talking about car shows with Matt and Francine. He loved music, dancing, and daily chats with his best friend, Marvin, from Sandisfield.

In his younger days he enjoyed playing "setback" cards with Bob and Linda Croze, nights dancing with Evie, Joe, Margret, Russ, and Chrystal and adventures in his later years with Betty "Bop." He loved going to Costco and tag sale adventures with his daughter Michelle and family.

Ken is survived by his son; Gary J. O'Brien, aka "Garr," and his wife Kristen, aka "Mrs. Kitzel;" his daughter: Michelle O'Brien Ransom, aka "Shell," and Robert Brockmann; his grandchildren: McKenna "Scooter" and McKenzie "My Pride" O'Brien, Colin "little man" and Victoria "Tori" "Little Nurse" Ransom; and his step-grandchildren: Dylan Tyer and Sierra Besanceney.

A graveside service was held June 18 at Sandisfield Center Cemetery, followed by a celebration of life at the Tyringham Pavilion in Tyringham.

Ken's family thanks Crystal Fox for her devoted loving care and Hospice Services of Western Mass for their care at the end of Kenny's life. If you would like to leave a message or share pictures with the family, please visit www.kellyfuneralhome.net.



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Correction Envy

A correction from the June 7, 2022 New York Times reads:

An earlier version of this obituary misidentified the television show on which Brian Hyland performed “Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini.” It was “The Dick Clark Show,” also known as “Dick Clark’s Saturday Night Beechnut Show” — not “American Bandstand.”

Instead, we get to make corrections like this:

In our report on the Annual Town Meeting in the June issue of The Times, we wrote that the Driveway Bylaw had passed by a 2/3 majority. Not so – what passed was an amendment to the bylaw draft. The bylaw itself was returned to the Planning Board, to the Board’s distress, for “further consideration.”

This error was first pointed out to us by an astute reader via a ConnectSandisfield Facebook post the day after the issue was published.

Council on Aging

A Berkshire Public Health Alliance Public Health Nurse will be on duty at the Sandisfield COA on the third Wednesdays of each month at 10:00 a.m. The nurse will provide monthly nursing assessments that include blood pressure checks and wellness updates.

All are welcome.

Dates for the nurse’s visits this summer to winter are July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, and December 21.

Covid Test Kits at the Transfer Station

Board of Health Member Keith Larson, who is also our Transfer Station attendant, obtained 180 Covid test kits from the Massachusetts Board of Health in mid-June. He was to distribute the kits free to town residents, two per household, first-come, first-served. He anticipated that his supply of tests would be exhausted before the 4th of July.

TIGER LILIES

Larry Dwyer

I was transplanting tiger lilies from my garden.
I loaded them in my pickup truck and drove to the edge of my property by the road.
I parked my truck and put on the flashers.
Along the garden slope, I started digging.

A car came by and saw my flashers.
The driver stopped and asked, Do you need help?
Yes, I said. Grab a shovel and start digging.

He looked down the slope and saw the planting.
Wise guy.
Well, you offered.
He turned ahead and drove away.

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

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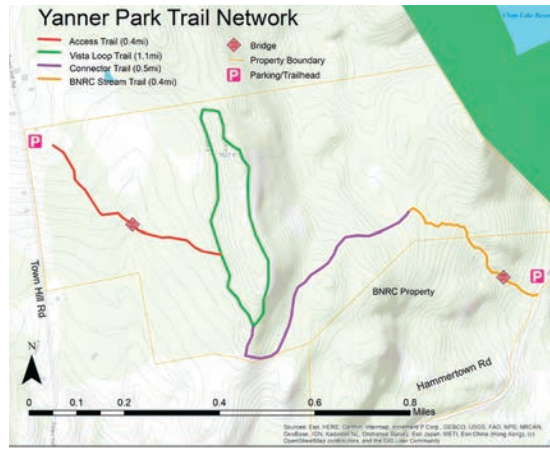
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If internet accessible, all letters, news events and tips, ideas, obituary and family announcements, photos (600 dpi if possible) and advertisement queries to editor@SandisfieldTimes.org.

How Goes Yanner Park?

by Adam Brown, Chairman, Yanner Park Committee

The committee has been busy lining up and overseeing work at the park this spring that included the stone columns flanking both entrances, a split-rail fence, repairs to the stone sign, and tree planting.

Special thanks to Sam Mercier of Mercier Stone for procuring the stone



columns and donating his time and expertise to install them. They definitely lend a bit of rustic New England elegance to the front of the property. Thanks as well to Ward's Nursery for heavily discounting the pricing for the two sizable sugar maples that now flank the stone sign.

After a long (but worthwhile) wait, the Greenagers will begin construction on July 5 of the hiking trail that will span the 275-acre property from Town Hill Road to Hammertown Road. They will be working through August 11 with the rest of the construction slated for summer of 2023. Construction of the trail will be paid for out of a \$50,000 grant received from the Massachusetts DCR's Recreational Trails Program.

A project further out on the horizon is a timber-framed 30' x 50' pavilion, designed by Kevin Kiwak of Sears Road. The plan is to have all of the wood for the frame come either from the Yanner Park property or sourced from the immediate area. More information on this will be forthcoming soon, but suffice it to say that the Yanner Park Committee is excited about the opportunity to create a long-lasting community gathering space in such a beautiful setting.



The new split-rail fence near the Park's entrance.

Photo: Adam Brown



Great Weather for Haying

June 21 was a good warm, clear day for the Pachulski family at the end of Roosterville Road to rake newly mowed sun-dried hay from the field near their home. Matthew Pachulski is driving the family's 1949 Farmall M tractor, originally owned by Matt's grandfather, Tuffy Campetti.

Photo: Eric Pachulski



STEAK ROAST

To Benefit the Sandisfield Fire/EMT Department

SAT., AUGUST 13
5:00-9:00 p.m.

MUSIC RAFFLE

This year, sit down friends and neighbors in the open-doored fire station or under the awnings.

Firehouse #2 on Sandisfield Road, Rt. 57.

Steak and baked potato, corn, salad, dessert.

Tickets \$30. Purchase from any Fire or EMS volunteer or call A&M Auto, 258-3381.

Tickets must be purchased ahead so we know how many steaks to order.

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