

# THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

*Tribunus*



*Plebis*

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume XIII, Number 6

September 2022

## **BREAKING NEWS: SCHOOL DAZE**

# Principal Retires Under Fire

## INTERIM TO BE NAMED

By Bill Price

School began at the Farmington River Regional School this fall with the sudden retirement of the district superintendent/principal.

An interim superintendent/principal will be named at a public meeting Friday, September 2, who it is hoped will guide the school through a smooth leadership transition.

The retirement was announced following negotiations between the FRRSD School Committee and the principal, Thomas R. Nadolny, at a special committee meeting, August 29.

A search will be conducted for a permanent superintendent and a principal. At FRRSD, the same individual has filled both roles because

*Cont'd on p.3*

# Dedication Ceremony

NEW BOSTON VILLAGE  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Speakers, Town Officials,  
State Rep. Smitty Pignatelli  
Wilber Park, September 17.

Details on page 2.

# Riiska Brook Orchard Sold

## LOCAL BUYER TO KEEP IT "AS IS"

By Simon Winchester

To the relief of all, Riiska Brook Orchard, the jewel in Sandisfield's agricultural crown, the 150 acres of well-ordered joy along New Hartford Road, the comforting centerpiece to Sandisfield's rural beauty, appears to be safe from development and should remain unchanged for many years to come.

The orchard has been sold to a young local family who have pledged to keep it essentially as it has been for the past thirty years. Its founder, Bill Riiska, will stay on to run it for at least the next half decade and probably as long as he wishes and is able.

Emily Melchior, 35, and her husband Calvin Rodman, 36, who came up from New York City to live in an old farmhouse on Fox Road eight years ago – and who have since fallen for the town's charms and are happily raising their three young children here – completed the deal to purchase the land and the business early last month.

The price paid was around \$1.5 million, a carefully negotiated figure which includes the land, the fruit and sundry other trees, the main house and outbuildings, and an immense selection of equipment and farm vehicles – including the venerable Massey-Ferguson tractor Bill Riiska purchased back in the 1960s and which still runs as sweetly as the day it arrived.

Bill, who is 79, will stay on in the farmhouse in which – aside from a stint as a paratrooper in Vietnam in the Sixties – he has lived most of his life. He will continue to work on the orchard's 2,700 apple trees just as he has for the last quarter-century.



*Bill Riiska, second from right, with the new owners of his orchard, Emily Melchior holding Sara, 1, and Calvin Rodman. In front, Myrna, 5, and Walter, 4. Far right, Bill's dog Sadie.*

*Photo: Setsuko Winchester*

The first crop of Macintosh apples will come in shortly, followed in autumnal succession by Cortlands, Honey Crisp, Empires, Spencers, Galas, Macouns, Ida Reds, Braeburns, and finally the Fujis, which he'll pick in November, just before the first snows begin the blanket the low hills and turn the orchard, now green, red, and yellow, into its vast winter panorama of black and white.

Billy was exuberant beyond measure at the annual Fire Department Steak roast in mid-August, broadcasting his delight to his friends that his beloved family property had sold and looked certain to remain as he wished. His wife Barbara died four years ago, and he was well aware that by himself it would be difficult to run the orchard.

*Cont'd on p.8*

# Former Road Superintendent Pays Civil Penalty

By Bill Price

At the end of July, the State Ethics Commission accepted the payment of a \$50,000 fine from Robert O'Brien for having repeatedly violated conflict of interest charges while he was Sandisfield's Road Superintendent from 2015 until 2018.

In a Disposition Agreement, O'Brien admitted that while superintendent he had hired his private business, then P&R Construction, to provide services to the Town more than 90 times and that he had also signed off on Town payments to his business more than 40 times. He also acknowledged using inside Town information to underbid competitors for a Town contract, using his public position to solicit private work, and billing the Town for materials his business used to do private jobs.

With the acceptance of the payment of the fine, the Commission dismissed further adjudicatory proceedings against O'Brien.

According to a spokesman for the Communications Division, fees from civil penalties are payable to the Commonwealth General Fund. None of the amount accrues specifically to the aggrieved party – in this case the Town of Sandisfield – unless specified directly in the disposition agreement.

The Commission encourages public employees to contact the Commission's Legal Division at 617-371-9500 for free advice if they have questions regarding how the conflict-of-interest law may apply to them.



## Meet Alex Psillas

Alex Psillas took over as Transfer Station Attendant in early August.

He replaced Keith Larson who was a favorite on the job for the last couple years. Keith has become a full-time member of Sandisfield's road crew at the Department of Public Works.

Alex, the son of Helene Riiska of Sandisfield, grew up in Tolland and Sandisfield, graduating from Monument Mountain High School. A sideline for Alex, which may become a full-time job, is making soap and candles at his Cackleberries Farm. So far, his handmade soaps and candles are available at the Farmington River General Store in New Boston and Spice 320 in Winchester.

# Town Hall Annex

Opinion by Bill Price, Editor

What's with Town Hall Annex anyway?

When the Sandisfield School was consolidated with Otis in 1999, Town mothers and fathers hauled most of the offices and files out of the time-worn building near the Town Garage on Silverbrook Road, which had served as Town Hall since its construction about 1840, and up Rt. 57 to take over the former school building.

It must have felt like they were moving into a palace, but they called it the Annex. In order to keep things straight, the old building was logically called "Old Town Hall."

We've been confusing newcomers ever since, almost as if on purpose. Let's stop with "Annex."

The recently installed sign designating Town Hall simply announces "Town Hall." Let's continue that idea and call Town Hall "Town Hall." We can continue to call Old Town Hall "Old Town Hall."

The Select Board is on track to do just that. The idea will be on the agenda for an upcoming meeting, after being favorably discussed with a good dose of humor at a meeting on September 23.

A good idea. Let's grab this one, for a change.

# Dedication Ceremony NEW BOSTON VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT



# New Hours for Farmington River General Store

- Monday and Tuesday: 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday: 6:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday: 7:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

**NEW BOSTON VILLAGE NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT**

The district retains considerable architectural fabric from the mid 18th century to about 1890 including Federal, Greek Revival and Gothic Revival styles. Of 75 buildings or structures in the district, 49 are contributing structures in the historic character of the district which retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The town of Sandisfield, incorporated in 1792, was settled at the place by the David Brown family in 1792. Brown was the colonial agent and after his removal, the first building erected there was the first school. The first building erected at this site was the first church. The first house built in the Farmington River in the town of Sandisfield which stood at the New Boston site. They established the "New Boston" as an independent town in 1792. The town was named in honor of the British general James Oglethorpe who had founded the city of Savannah, Georgia in 1733. The town was named in honor of the British general James Oglethorpe who had founded the city of Savannah, Georgia in 1733.

Working with the Sandisfield Historical Commission, the state and national approval process spanned almost ten years of research, validation, and governmental reviews. Of the 75 buildings or structures in the district, 49 are contributing elements to the character of the district which retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The ceremony and unveiling of a historical marker at Wilbur Park will take place, rain or shine. Before the unveiling, brief remarks will be delivered by several speakers including Town officials, Historic Preservation expert, Bonnie Parsons and State Rep., Smitty Pignatelli. Following the ceremony there will refreshments and photo opportunities.


Parking is available behind the New Boston Inn. For more information contact Ron Bernard or Liana Toscanini of the Sandisfield Historical Commission at ronbernard@aol.com or liana@npcberkshires.org.

A dedication ceremony will be held at Wilbur Park in the New Boston Village center (at Rts. 8 and 57) on Saturday, September 17, at 11:00 a.m., to observe the recent listing of the Village as a National Register Historic District.

The honorary listings are prestigious and promote community pride and awareness of the benefits of historical preservation.

# FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS



**John Field** won the Governor General shooting finals in Canada in August. For target rifle shooting, John said, it's like winning the Queen's Prize at Bisley, England. The shoot is a series of qualifying rounds to make the final, then the top 24 shoot the finals at 800 and 900 meters. The winner is rewarded with a ride on a throne chair to the clubhouse for an awards ceremony. John said, "I'm only the fifth American in roughly 150 years to win the Governor General's." 

## Principal Retires Under Fire *Cont'd from p.1*

of an effort to save money; going forward, the roles will be separated.

FRRSD in Otis serves some 30 of Sandisfield's Kindergarten-6th grade children, along with many more from Otis. The School Committee, similar to a district school board elsewhere, consists of four members from Otis and three from Sandisfield.

The issues that forced the negotiations and ultimate resignation arose following the results of a survey by the FRRSD teachers' union that was presented to the School Committee at its regular meeting early August. The vehemence of the survey results came as a surprise and created a furor.

The survey asked each of the 26 union members to respond to a single question: "How do you feel about the atmosphere at FRRSD?"

Many of the 18 members who responded, reporting anonymously, detailed grievances against the school administration, charging Nadolny with creating a "hostile" and "toxic environment." Others accused members of his administration with incompetence or unprofessionalism. Still others praised other parts of the school, other teachers, and parents.


Nadolny and school administrative staff replied at the meeting with denunciations

of the survey methods and its delivery. In a report by The Berkshire Eagle, August 5, Nadolny said the "accusations are untrue and lack evidence" and characterized the criticism as an effort by a teacher who wanted to create a "no-confidence vote" against Nadolny.

Generally, the sense of that August 1 meeting, which included agreement from Nadolny, was that many of the issues raised would have to be addressed. A member of the Otis Select Board referring to the accusations directed toward the administration, said, "This has to stop today. I don't care if you have to fire every-body on the staff. This has to stop."

A follow-up special executive meeting of the School Committee reviewed the school's options. Questions remained as to whether the current administrative team could supervise teachers who, in many cases, had already expressed opposition to the administration.

The solution that emerged was to divide the superintendent and principal positions, allow Nadolny to retire, and install new leadership which could gain the trust of the teachers and staff.

The September 2 meeting will be totally open though remote and unlike the School Committee meetings will be available via Zoom for parents and others to participate. The agenda will be posted on the school's website at [www.FRRSD.org](http://www.FRRSD.org). 

## Joint Select Board/ Planning Board Meeting

### FROM THE PLANNING BOARD


Announcing a Community Outreach Meeting of full-time residents and second home owners on September 23. Friday, at Old Town Hall, 7:00 p.m. We want to figure out how to embrace the different needs of each group for the Planning Board and the Select Board.

For example: Bylaws. Do we need a bylaw on fossil fuel restrictions?

On dark skies?

Short-term rentals?

Other issues.

Both the Planning Board and the Select Board need to hear what our residents think and the directions they want to go. Save the date and watch for flyers announcing the meeting. 

## Sandisfield Historical Society



### TAG SALE SUCCESS

*By Ann Wald, President*

The tag sale is over and hopefully everyone is happy with the outcome.

The Society thanks Joanne Lazarowitz Olsen and Maxene Kupperman-Guiñals for organizing the Townwide event. All monies we raised at the Society will help in getting a bathroom in the building. My personal appreciation to

Barbara, Janet, Linda, and especially Marsha who worked with me for three days to get everything done.

Everyone at the society wishes to thank Vicki Bakunis and her family for all their help for so very many years. They are missed.

We have many items still for sale, including an icebox, organ, and a wood stove, among others.

At our next meeting on September 10, 11:00 a.m., we will get organized for events for the rest of the year, including the Christmas Fair. Please join us and you will learn the identity of the lady in the painting that we advertised on ConnectSndisfield.



## The Face of Hanging Mountain

*Drone shot by Roger Kohler in August. Roger caught a very clear picture of Rt. 8 curving south of New Boston to cross the shining Farmington River and Eric Pachulski's long hay field between the highway and the river. And a clear shot of the climbing rocks on the face of the mountain. Roger posted this one on Facebook/ConnectSandisfield.*

*You can see it there in color or in our September issue on SandisfieldTimes.org.*

– Bill Price

# Cannabis Report

## AT LEAST ONE FULL SPEED AHEAD

By Bill Price

One underway, a second casting off, and a third .....

DayDreamz Estates, the cannabis-growing facility located up the steep hillside above Town Hall, is almost operational with about 1,200 plants in the ground. Owner/resident Philip Blum expects his product to be ready for market late this winter. He plans to have another 1,500 plants in the ground this fall. He will build his drying barn and greenhouse in the spring, making do in the meantime with three trailers.

Sandisfield has licensed two other cannabis sites, both along Rt. 8 south of New Boston. One shows signs of life, the other less.

The cannabis-growing facility of SAMA Productions, LLC, on the east side of the highway south of the Farmington River Bridge, began rooting out some of the huge tree trunks that litter their property in mid-August. A well driller was on site for a couple of weeks and presumably enough water can be tapped. So things are starting there, but slowly.

At the other site, the former Villa Mia Restaurant building and grounds were bought by Berkshire Mountain Cannabis to be turned into a store for cannabis and related products. When the project was announced, August 2021, the group's attorney suggested generously that the store could generate an annual windfall of \$300,000 to Sandisfield in tax revenues. Unless work is going on out of sight behind the closed doors of the Villa Mia building, there is no sign of life.



Philip Blume, left, owner of Daydreamz Estates, with his staff of cannabis experts: From left, Bill Breen of Goshen, Conn., Paul Jones, a Daydreamz partner; Nick Brown of Sandisfield; and Chaz Maxfield of Pittsfield.

Photo: Bill Price

Possibly the potential cannabis regulations pending in neighboring Connecticut have put a hesitancy in the minds of the investors. Pot shops will likely open in Connecticut, cutting into the potential sales for a store on Rt. 8 just north of the state line. Plus, Connecticut has forbidden out-of-state cannabis retailers from advertising in the state. So, no road signs between Bridgeport and Winsted announcing Cannabis, X miles ahead. 🍃



**Looking Glass Gardens and the Sandisfield Recreation Committee present**

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**Bub's Beans & the Dogs, Oktoberfest beer, & refreshments for purchase**

**German and Big Band music provided by local musicians**

**\*\*FREE ADMISSION**

## The Subcommittee

A Cannabis Subcommittee was set up by the Select Board to advise the Board on proposals and applications for cannabis-related projects. The subcommittee has no granting authority, which continues to be held by the Select Board

Committee members are:

- Leslie Garwood
- Carl Nett
- Jeff Bye
- Jay Greenwell
- Ed Brozman



## Even Our Samaritans Are Better Here

By Simon Winchester

Customers hoping to buy maple syrup at our Friday Farmers market last month, expecting to see on his usual folding chair Dragonfly Farms' longtime proprietor, Charles Adams, were in for a surprise.

In place of Mr. Adams with his work-stained baseball cap, plaid shirt and droopy mustache was a bewildered-looking young woman of markedly different appearance, a stranger to these parts, who had a most uplifting story to tell.

Which she proceeded to relate while Mr. Adams was off on a mission of kindly good-neighborliness which this lady will likely never forget and which should make Sandisfield feel proud.

Encountered by this reporter while on her temporary maple-syrup-selling duty, the young lady was a Californian named Ramya Sampath. She is a fourth-year medical student at the University of Rochester. On this particular Friday afternoon she had been driving her Nissan Quest on a 370-mile trip from Lake Ontario across to New Haven for a relaxing weekend with friends at Yale.

But she made three critical mistakes: one, not filling her tank to the brim with gasoline; two, using her cellphone to tell her the way; and three, believing that her cellphone was correct.

As she eased off the Turnpike at Lee her cellphone told her that the best way to Yale was along Route 20 to Becket and then south on Route 8 – toward us – through a confusion of pretty hills and villages with nary a single gas station – nor much else – in sight.

Heading south along the attractive but currently low-flowing Farmington River, her car's Tank Empty light started to blink. Soon an insistent dinging told her to start looking for help. Of which, in these hills, there was none.

By the time she reached the New Boston Inn she was running on fumes and wisely pulled over. The staff at the Inn told her what she already knew from her cellphone – a Shell station was at Riverton, twelve miles away. She responded like Sully in his doomed airplane: *Unable*.

She stepped out of the Inn's back door and saw, in a field in the distance, the Sandisfield Farmer's Market.

A small market, no customers, just a man playing pleasant music on a keyboard and three stalls: Old

Drone Apiary with honey; Floodgate Farm with vegetables; and selling maple syrup Dragonfly's redoubtable Charles Adams.

*You'd like maple syrup?* he asked, hopefully. *No*, said a near-panicky Ms. Sampath, *I'd like gasoline*.

And here's where Sandisfield Nice comes in.



*You look after my stall*, said Mr. Adams. *I'll go fetch you some gas*. So he took his truck up to Tolland to get a five-gallon can, then vanished down Route 8 to acquire the promised elixir.

While Bill Taylor (he of the keyboard) and Jaye Moscariello tried to sell salad and kale chips and the man from Sheffield tried to sell honey and pies, our doctor-to-be from South India tried gamely to sell Mr. Adams' syrup. The birds chirped and the grass grew and few customers stopped by.

Thirty minutes later, Mr. Adams returned, his gas can brimming. He decanted it into the fumes remaining in the Nissan.

*How did you do?* he asked Ms. Sampath. *No sale*, she said, *I'm sorry. But I'll buy some. Lots*. She brightly scooped up as many bottles of syrup and maple cream as she could carry. *You take Venmo? PayPal?*

Mr. Adams, who is very much an old-school Yankee, has neither cellphone nor email and took only cash. The young lady, naturally, had none.

*Don't worry about it*, said Mr. Adams. But she did, and turned to the ever-helpful Ms. Moscariello, who did have Venmo. Ms. Sampath paid the significant sum to Ms. Moscariello, who then paid Mr. Adams for the syrup and gasoline. Ms. Moscariello then sold Ms. Sampath a bag of kale chips on the side.

Whereupon our young visitor took off for New Haven, reaching her friends a little more than hour later.

In a phone call later from Rochester, she said, *It is literally the most charming adventure I have had for a long, long time. The middle of nowhere, the nicest people on earth. I cannot say thank you enough. It restores one's faith*.

In Kismet maybe. Or, to someone whose parents are from India, *karma*. Very good karma, in dear old Sandisfield. 🙏

### **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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# A Heat Pump Near You It's A Cooling Pump, Too

By Larry Dwyer, Member,  
Green Committee

The Green Committee is considering the installation of heat pumps in Town Hall and possibly the DPW Garage. Initial cost estimates are high, but there would be no cost to the Town as the project will be paid for by a MASS DOER Green Communities grant.

## SOLAR SUCCESS TO BE FOLLOWED BY HEAT PUMP

This summer the Green Committee installed two solar arrays (solar panels), one on the roof at Town Hall and another on the DPW Garage. The arrays are currently producing more power than expected. Each array is producing more than 1,750 kWh (kilo Watt hours) per month. The current high performance is mostly due to the sunny weather conditions, but as we get into the cloudy and shorter days of the fall and winter months, electric production is expected to decrease. However, the anticipated annual electric production is still expected to be at least 10,000 kWh per array.

Our next project will be working the installation of a heat pump in Town Hall and possibly the DPW Garage.

It was always planned to pair the Town Hall solar array with a heat pump to reduce the town's energy usage. The heat pump at Town Hall is expected to use 10,000 kWh/year, which will use most of the projected electric energy produced by the solar array. However, since the heat pump will be heating the building, this will greatly reduce the oil usage for the boiler to almost zero. The system will not only reduce town expenses, it will also reduce our carbon footprint.

It still has to be decided if it worth installing a heat pump for the DPW Garage. The new building is the most energy efficient building the Town now owns, so the Green Committee needs to decide if it's worth reducing propane usage or do we just return the electric energy credit to the town's budget.

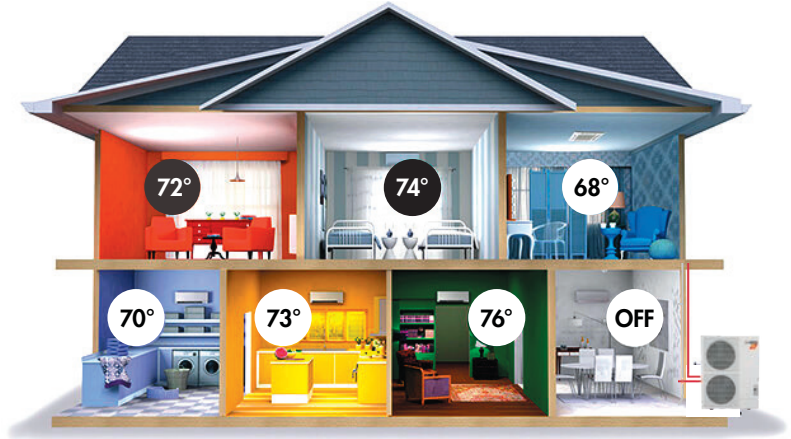
## WHAT IS A HEAT PUMP?

A heat pump basically works like an air conditioner, but unlike an air conditioner that is used only for cooling, a heat pump can also be used to heat – and cool – your home. The main component in a heat pump that allows this is called a Reversing Valve. The reversing valve allows the heat pump to provide heating as well as cooling.

You don't need a degree in thermodynamics to understand the process, but it helps.

## HOW MUCH?

Heat Pump prices vary widely depending on installation. An excerpt from BobVila.com states, "In moderate climates, heat pumps can be more energy-efficient than furnaces. They typically range in price from \$4,133 to \$7,294, with a national average of about \$5,696." However, the first quote the Green Committee received for the Town Hall was \$60,000, but Town Hall is a large commercial installation.



## What is a Mini-split?


*Mini-splits are small heat exchangers that can be installed throughout your house, and you can create multi-zones. Each room can have its own mini-split and thermostat to control heating or cooling.*

Prices would vary depending on the complexity of the installation, which would include piping into the house to a heat-exchanger into existing ducting. Another option is to install mini-splits. Mini-splits are small heat exchangers that can be installed throughout your house, and you can create multi-zones. Each room can have its own mini-split and thermostat to control heating or cooling. Depending on the complexity of your installation, this would determine the price.

## HOW EFFICIENT ARE HEAT PUMPS?

There is conflicting information on the efficiency of heat pumps. Eversource reports that "Heat pumps can be up to 400% efficient - much more than heating with oil, propane or electric resistance baseboards. This can lead to savings on your energy bills."

However, [www.estesair.com](http://www.estesair.com), a furnace provider in Atlanta reports, "Heat pumps do not operate as efficiently when temperatures drop to between 25 and 40 degrees Fahrenheit. A heat pump works best when the temperature is above 40." It's possible that Estesair is referring to older less efficient systems. Newer heat pumps use a different refrigerant (R410a) and would be more efficient and heat pumps can provide heat even if the outside air temperature is -10 degrees Fahrenheit.

I hope I have provided some answers about heat pumps. A few Sandisfield residents have installed them already; ask your neighbors. Massachusetts may have a rebate program for part of the expense. For cost of installation and operation, contact a local plumbing and heating company. 

*For a more detailed explanation of how heat pumps work, see <https://www.sandisfieldma.gov/green-communities-team>.*

**BIRDS OF PREY**  
with  
Tom Ricardi

Sunday,  
September 25th  
11AM-1PM

@  
**The American Legion**  
79 S Main Street  
Sandisfield, MA

Hosted by the  
**Sandisfield Recreation Committee**



The Recreation Committee will also be  
serving light refreshments.

Please RSVP to:  
[sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info](mailto:sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info)  
or # (516) 408-0597

Tom operates a Birds of Prey rescue shelter and will bring some of his permanent residents to visit with us right here in Sandisfield! Learn about these wonderful birds of prey with an in person demonstration.

**free!**





# The Librarian's Corner

By Terry Spohnholz

## Library hours

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

Wednesday, 2:00–7:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Closed Thursday, Friday and Sunday

Phone: 258-4966

Email: sandisfieldlibrary@gmail.com

## Library Events

The Week of September 20 – Story Board Walk  
 “Different Kinds of Hurt: Isaac’s Story.”



## NEW BOOK ARRIVALS

### Adult Fiction and Non Fiction

- *Overkill* by Sandra Brown
- *The House Keeper* by Joy Fielding
- *The Hunt* by Faye Kellerman
- *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus
- *Upgrade* by Blake Crouch
- *A Prayer for the Crown-Shy* by Becky Chambers
- *Every Waking Hour* by Joann Schaffhausen
- *Last Seen Alive* by Joann Schaffhausen
- *The Challenge* by Danielle Steel
- *Shutter* by Ramona Emerson
- *Black Cake* by Charmaine Wilkerson
- *The Hacienda* by Isabel Cañas
- *Briefly, A Delicious Life* by Nell Stevens
- *The Ninth Month* by James Patterso

### Children’s section

- *The Smart Cookie* by Jory John and Pete Oswald
- *This Book Will Get You to Sleep* by John Jory
- *The Day You Begin* by Jaqueline Woodson

- *The Pigeon HAS to Go to School* by Mo Willems

### Young Adult Books

- *All Four Stars* by Tara Dairman
- *Sweep* by Jonathan Auxier
- *Treasure Hunters: The Ultimate Quest* by James Patterson
- *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate

The Children’s section is full of books, games, toys, and a train set.

The Library also offers notary service, public computer and printer availability, free wifi and access to ebooks from the Massachusetts libraries with your Sandisfield Library card.

If you have a particular author or book in mind, and the Sandisfield Library does not have it, we can borrow it from other libraries.

### BOOKS FOR SALE

To make room for new book acquisitions, we are weeding out old-but-in-excellent condition fiction, non-fiction, and children’s books. The books are for sale at a nominal fee. \$2.00 for hardcover, \$1.50 for softcover, six hardcovers for \$10.

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# Treasure Hunt

## FROM MY HOUSE TO YOUR HOUSE

By Bill Price


The Second Annual Town-Wide Tag Sale was a success with nearly thirty homes ridding basements, attics, back rooms, and front parlors of items once treasured and now ready for a second life with another family.

Maxene Kupperman-Guinal reported that people came "from Torrington and Winsted, Pittsfield and Blandford. Lots of Tolland folks." The route extended from Roosterville through New Boston, north to Hubbard Road and back south to Sandisfield and Dodd Roads and over to the Historical Society at Sandy Brook Turnpike.

The organizers were Maxene, Joanne Lazarowitz Olsen, and Marilyn Scaglione. Maxene and Marilyn made

the butterfly markets and the route maps. Lynn Rubenstein helped with publicity.

Maxene said that she was happy that people posted pictures on ConnectSandisfield of what they were selling. She added, "We'd love suggestions for next year."

Pictured here is Amanda Leavenworth's good idea to move her children's clothing boutique from River Road to the yard beside the Farmington River General Store on Rt. 8. A win for Amanda and for the store. 



# Riiska Brook Orchard Sold

Cont'd from p.1

Besides, a logger along with his life as an orchardist, he had barely survived after being crushed under a forest widowmaker "on the very day Obama was elected, in November 2008, so I couldn't very well vote for him, or anyone in fact."

Though he jokes today, the accident was a serious one, and for a while slowed him down – and after Barbara's death, alone on the farm, reality started to sink in. Bill let it be known last winter that if a suitable purchaser happened by, he was open to talking about letting go.

"We began chatting with him last January and spent a lot of time together to make sure we understood what was required to run the orchard and that we could take it on," said Emily Melchior, who frequently commutes to New York City for her job in the financial industry.


Like her husband Calvin, an attorney who had left a city job in New York (and joined the Sandisfield Finance Committee), Emily had quickly become fully invested in country life.

Calvin in particular showed a remarkable aptitude for working the land – the transformation of the family home and gardens on Fox Road, shaped by hours of his own back-breaking labors over the last several years, has impressed all who have passed by.

Branching out into a major orchard project might seem, however, a daunting prospect to most. But Emily and Calvin seem cautiously unfazed – especially now that they are to be helped and advised by a contented Bill Riiska – who has become, technically, their first employee.

They appreciate that Bill knows and loves every single one the trees and the hundreds of blueberry bushes and the pumpkin patch and who will be a permanent hand to offer counsel.

"I could not bear to have sold it to a developer," said Bill, "to someone who would build tract housing or who would quite change the character of the place.

"Barbara and I built this up carefully, just as my parents did, and my grandparents before them when they came over on the boat from Finland. We are proud of this place. Emily and Calvin are going to do wonderfully, I have no doubt. This is a truly great development for everyone – for my family, for Emily and Calvin and their children, and for the town. Everyone seems happy." 





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# Cultural Council

## Grant Application Season Opens

By Jennifer Hibbins

Applications for next year's selection of Sandisfield Cultural Council grants began September 1 and will continue until Monday, October 17 at 11:59 p.m.

Applicants must apply online at [www.mass-culture.org/sandisfield](http://www.mass-culture.org/sandisfield).

You may apply for projects, operating support, ticket subsidy programs, field trips, artist residencies, fellowships or other activities in the arts, humanities and sciences.

Last year the Cultural Council funded local programs in music, dance, theatre, history, education, and environmental stewardship. We also supported community events like the Sandisfield Memorial Parade and Magical Family Fun Day.

The grants are funded in part by the Town of Sandisfield, with primary support from the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

The mission of the Council is to broaden and enhance the cultural life available to Sandisfield residents.

We encourage Town residents to apply. We prioritize local programs. Applicants applying for cultural programming available to the general public can include individuals, nonprofits, public schools, libraries, municipal agencies, and religious organizations. Applicants must reside or be located within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Sandisfield Cultural Council Members include Karema Almeida, Connie Canty, Rosanne Carinci-Hoekstra, Ellen Croibier, Jennifer Hibbins, Barbara Kershner, and Jennifer Lenzi. Please contact us with questions at [culturalcouncil@sandisfieldma.gov](mailto:culturalcouncil@sandisfieldma.gov).




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# Helping Hands and Listening Ears

## SANDISFIELD'S INAUGURAL FULL-TIME PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER

By Hannah Van Sickle

For the many local residents who have come to count on Mary Bredenfoerder's familiar, friendly face around town, there is new reason to rejoice: in late July, she was named Sandisfield's first full-time Public Safety Officer (PSO).

"It's [been] a learning curve for me," Bredenfoerder told *The Times*, citing lots of things she doesn't yet know but is ready and willing to learn.

Her superpower might just be interacting with others, — whether doing well-being checks on home-bound residents or assisting motorists broken down at the side of the road. At this part of the job, Bredenfoerder is a pro — and for good reason.

"I am a listener; that's probably one of my biggest assets," said Bredenfoerder who, in her new role, now has the time to be a regular presence on Sandisfield's roads around Town.

After graduating from the part-time police academy in Palmer in 2021, Bredenfoerder came to work for the Town as a part-time police officer. In that role, she tended to work in four-hour stints a



couple times a week — plus road details — which precluded lots of face-to-face time with residents.

Today, Bredenfoerder enjoys the increased interaction that goes hand-in-hand with the title of PSO. An informal albeit successful collaboration with Lisa Leavenworth has proven instrumental in identifying older individuals, many of whom live alone, who might benefit from regular check-ins. While doing her job as a mail carrier for the USPS, Leavenworth has been collecting names and telephone numbers of those who are interested and passing them along to Bredenfoerder, evidence of the benefits that come from living in such a close-knit community. When she stops by, sometimes she helps problem solve, other times she pets the dog; in either case, she's providing invaluable human interaction.

"I have the time to talk to [residents] and kind of hear them out," she says, citing skills gleaned in her first career, the 23 years she spent in special needs at Kolburne School in neighboring New Marlborough. (In fact, Bredenfoerder was the last to leave campus on June 30, 2012 and locked the door behind her after the residential school for at-risk youth closed due to financial difficulties coupled with declining enrollment). She also spent a year working with handicapped adults and spent seven years at a nursing home — arming Bredenfoerder with more than three decades of experience helping individuals from all walks of life, the tie that binds her seemingly disparate experience together.

"Somewhere in my toolbox, I have a way I can talk to, help and listen to [anybody]," Bredenfoerder

says. Her extensive background that runs the gamut from working with children, adults and the elderly to individuals with dementia and traumatic brain injuries positions Bredenfoerder to effectively interact with almost anyone.

"I pull from my experiences based on who I'm dealing with at the time," she says, underscoring the fact that listening to a child requires a different approach than listening to a 48-year-old neighbor or a 20-year-old adult with special needs.

Bredenfoerder's new responsibilities include providing day-time coverage for police and ambulance for any emergencies that may happen during shift hours, with life-threatening medical emergencies taking first priorities.


"A PSO offers the town the opportunity to combine several essential public safety functions into one full-time position," said Jon Sylbert, interim town manager, pointing out that a town of Sandisfield's size may not need a full-time police officer and a full-time EMT (though we may find will in the future). As such, consolidating the functions provides the Town with both services at a savings.

"Mary is well suited to both roles and will give residents additional police and emergency health coverage," said Sylbert, pointing to Bredenfoerder's new responsibilities which include providing day-time coverage for police and ambulance for any emergencies that may happen during shift hours, with life-threatening medical emergencies taking first priority.

Bredenfoerder lives in Tolland — satisfying the Town's 15-mile radius requirement for her position — where she is a volunteer EMT. (She has been a volunteer EMT in Sandisfield for the past seven years. In her free time, she pursues bowling and photography, kayaking and hiking.)

Bredenfoerder and her husband, Mark, who is currently employed at Ski Butternut (after having spent 15 years at Kolburne School) have two children, apples that have not fallen far from the proverbial tree: their daughter is a preschool teacher, their son a paramedic/firefighter.

In recent years, Bredenfoerder's even become a bit of an avid traveler, spurred by a good friend's timely declaration, "It's high time you crossed the pond." Since her inaugural international trip to Paris and London, Bredenfoerder's been to Alaska and a trip to Hawaii is on the horizon.

"I kind of have the travel bug now," Bredenfoerder jokes — which, for the moment, might need to be satiated via one hilly commute from Hampden County, traversing the telltale twists and turns of Route 57 to the collective delight of Sandisfield residents. 

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# Sandisfield Celebrated

## LOCAL MAGAZINE SAYS WE HAVE A LOT TO OFFER

By Tom Christopher

In July, Berkshire Magazine, in its series of “Town Guides,” visited “the peaceful and charming” town of Sandisfield.

The tour began at a luncheon at the New Boston Inn where the traveling reporter met local historian Ron Bernard who provided a colorful verbal trip from Sandisfield’s origins to the present. The reporter then stopped by to chat with “celebrated author” Simon Winchester to discuss his best-selling books, several of which were written in his studio at Barnhill Farm on Silverbrook Road.

From there the tour meandered through a thorough selection of Sandisfield’s cultural and natural high points. Even for a longtime resident, this list reminded the reader of just how rich our little town is.

Riches which include lodging at the New Boston Inn (with its 250-year history) and the Hillside Inn (the peerless view of the Farmington River from the Hillside’s Deluxe Queen Bedroom earned a mention); hiking in the 9,500 acre Sandisfield State Forest, swimming in York Lake, horseback riding at Sunny Rose Farm, the horticultural delights of Looking Glass Gardens, and rock climbing at Hanging Mountain. Plus all the produce of Snow Farm, Joshua’s Farm, When Pigs Fly, the new Floodgate Farm, and Riiska Brook Orchard.

Locals will no doubt have personal and perhaps secret pleasures to add, but scanning this guide (at <https://berkshiremag.com/town-guides>) will leave all of us with a sense of our good luck (and great good sense) to have located here. 🍷



**Berkshire**  
Town Guide

### Sandisfield, Otis, and Becket

BY BENJAMIN LERNER // PHOTOS BY JIMMY IENNER, JR.

The charming and peaceful towns of Sandisfield, Otis, and Becket are perfectly suited for travelers looking to unwind and revel in the majestic beauty of the Berkshire countryside. Inviting little shops, inns and restaurants, gorgeous farms, and numerous historic landmarks await upon arrival, as well as magnificent natural scenery. Whether you’re a lifelong Berkshire local or a visiting tourist, there’s never been a better time to enjoy a weekend of rest, relaxation, and recreation in Sandisfield, Otis, and Becket. Pack your bags, hit the road, and get ready for a memorable escape into the idyllic rural hamlets of southeastern Berkshire County.

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September **17** 4:30 pm

### Wael Farouk, Pianist

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October **1** 4:30 pm

### Simon Winchester

and Alice Sedgwick Wohl  
Discussing Alice’s acclaimed new book, *As it Turns Out: Thinking About Edie and Andy*, which deals with the relationship of her sister Edie and the artist Andy Warhol.

historia (Greek) - "inquiry, knowledge acquired by investigation" The discovery, collection, organization and presentation of information about past events.

# The Death of the Hired Man

## REMEMBERING KRESS KAZACKS

By Ron Bernard

Kress Kazacks died in what became my pond hut. He lived in Sandisfield from at least 1935 until February 7, 1952, when he died of natural causes in his shanty at the Rowley Farm on Cold Spring Road. He had been employed there as a saw mill worker.

I learned about Kress in 2006 when with permission of the family I salvaged his shanty and reassembled it at my place down the road. A family member told me, "a Russian man died in there." I have wondered about that ever since.

So here is the story of an old man from impoverished eastern Europe who made it to America and who died alone in Sandisfield far from his family and native culture, all but forgotten.

### THE HIRED MAN

Kress Kazacks was a native of Poland/Russia. (In the mid-to-late-19th century much of modern Poland was controlled by the Czar of Russia). Like many arrivals from Eastern Europe, his given name and surname were truncated, interpreted phonetically and recorded that way by Ellis Island immigration officials. Over time others such as census takers did the same so there could be many variations such as Kozak or Kassacks. No one here was quite sure of his last name.

What is known however is that he was taciturn and revealed little about himself.

He was called "Chris." He told people he was born in Russia. According to Cold Spring Road resident, Mike Loring, his grandfather William Rowley once asked Kress, "How did you come to America?" to which he replied with a smile and tongue-in-cheek, "I walked." No more questions.

The 1940 U.S. census provides a few details about him. It says he was born in 1863 in "Russia," town/region "unknown." He claimed 7th grade education, much the same



*The Hawley sawmill as it appeared around 1900.*

*Photo: Sandisfield Then and Now*

as many Americans then. The form asked where people had resided in 1935 and Kress told the census worker that he had been at the Rowley's.

He reported his status as "single," that he rented his accommodations, and he had valid alien status (U.S. immigration documents not found). The just-released 1950 census indicates a different origin, "Poland," and reveals that he was widowed. His name was transliterated as "Christopher Kazacks."

It is possible that Kress found his way to Sandisfield through the local Russian immigrant social network. There already were ethnic Russians established in the Beech Plain including Karp Kolesnikovich (Kolesnik for short), John Chodenitsky, and the Hryckviches. In this Yankee section, they were known affectionately as "the Cossaks."

Kress stopped working before 1950. After all, he had turned 77 in 1940. He continued to live in his uninsulated cabin (8 by 12 feet) near Spectacle Pond. It was fashioned from six panels allowing for reassembly at various lumbering sites.

### KRESS FOUND DEAD

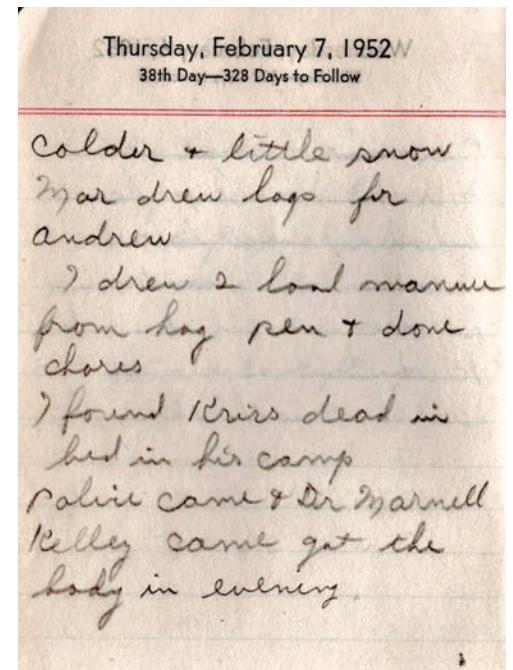
William Rowley's diary for February 7, 1952 includes this notation: "I found Kriss dead in bed in his camp. Police & Dr. Marshall [came]. Kelly came to get the body in the evening."

Dr. Marshall wrote that the cause of death was "hemorrhage," or stroke as we call it today. According to the Sandisfield death register Kress was a "retired wood chopper."



*The North Beech Plain Road cemetery where Kress is buried.*

*Photos: Ron Bernard*



*The portion of William Rowley's diary where he tells of finding Kress.*

*Courtesy of Mike Loring, grandson*



The 1930s shanty, relocated with added porch and reoriented door and windows.

Kelly funeral home records have his age as 75, but this is probably incorrect because the 1940 and 1950 U.S. censuses and the death registers for both Sandisfield and Massachusetts show 1863 as his year of birth.

A simple funeral/ceremony, presumably sparsely attended, was arranged two days later. The Rowleys dug a grave for Kress at the center rear of the tiny, ancient and now closed cemetery on North Beech Plain Road. Mike Loring once told me, "My grandfather placed a small stone there on which he carved some letters." We recently found that humble marker with the letters 'K' and possibly 'S,' barely legible, hidden among branches and detritus of a recently fallen pine tree draped over the site.

**WHAT WE WILL NEVER KNOW**

Why and how did Kress arrive on these shores and wind up in this remote place? Was he a refugee from a pogrom? Did he speak Polish or Russian? (Probably both is my guess). Apparently widowed before 1940, he may have been married at the time of crossing. Did he have friends or relatives?

Or was he, as Robert Frost described in "The Death of the Hired Man:"

*Poor Silas, so concerned for other folk,  
And nothing to look backward to with pride,  
And nothing to look forward to with hope,  
So now and never any different.*

All the people who knew Kress and could speak to his character are long-gone. He passed barely noticed alone at age 89 in a one-room shack with no memorial or public recognition of a long life of hard, dangerous work. At least now, resting among pioneers of the Beech Plain and veterans of the Revolutionary War, he has this elementary legacy. ♡

*The Adams-Hawley-Rowley Farm*

The Adams-Hawley-Rowley farm was one first and longest continuously operating same-family farms in Sandisfield. Before 1760, Richard Adams, from Preston, Conn., built a mill near Spectacle Pond, the source of the Clam River, possibly the first mill in town.

In about 1845, Adams' great-grandson, Harry G. Adams 2nd, married Lucy Hawley, a descendant of Dr. John Hawley, one of the first settlers in New Boston. Her brother, William H. Hawley in 1855 bought 200 acres from his brother-in-law Harry who died the next year. The rest of the farm passed by will to the Hawleys. William eventually expanded the property to some 900 acres including an old growth forest and a large portion of Lower Spectacle Pond. Lumbering on dormant farm lands starting in the late 19th century became a key economic activity here. By 1886, Hawley was milling an amazing 200,000 board feet of lumber. The mill operated into the 1970s.

His granddaughter, Ada Hawley married Alfred Rowley of Tolland in 1908 and for the next hundred years the place was known as the Rowley Farm. In 2008, the Commonwealth purchased the property and annexed it to the Otis State Forest as Spectacle Pond Farm.

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# recreation COMMITTEE

## Fun Coming Your Way

### AND OUR WIN-IT-IN-A-MINUTE DAY

By Laurie Seddon

We have a lot of activities coming up – and not just for kids – so save the dates.

Birds of Prey, Sunday, September 25 at 11:00 a.m. at the American Legion Pavilion. Tom Ricardi, who operates a Birds of Prey rescue shelter, will bring some of his permanent residents to visit. We will serve light refreshments. Please RSVP to sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info.

Sample Sandisfield Tour, Saturday, October 8, 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. We are organizing a farm, farmstand, and homemade-in-Sandisfield tour. Do you have a farmstand, farm, art gallery, homemade crafts/goods? Let us know. The Recreation Committee is organizing a map for our Sample Sandisfield Tour. Contact us at sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info to participate or for more information.

Oktoberfest, Looking Glass Gardens, Sunday, October 9 from 11:00-3:00 p.m. free admission. The Recreation Committee will have two events at Oktoberfest

One is a Dessert Baking Contest. One MAJOR RULE, you must use local Sandisfield ingredients (and provide a receipt for the ingredients, that they were bought here). The Sample Sandisfield Tour is the prior day, a perfect time to gather your ingredients. We have lined up surprise judges. After judging, the desserts may



Cooling down at the gazebo: Maggie and Maeve Murray and Luke Carriveau.


be shared with everyone.

We're also holding a Pumpkin Decorating event at Oktoberfest. Join the Recreation Committee for glow-in-the-dark pumpkin decorating. Pumpkins, stickers, and paints will be provided.

We're grateful to everyone who turned out late July for our Minute-To-Win-It Relay Games on a blistering hot day during the heat wave. One of the favorite games was "Cookie Monster." Start with a cookie on your forehead, move it down your face and into your mouth without using your hands in under a minute. Another fun game was "Junk in the Trunk". We laughed and laughed as the kids had to wiggle, dance, jump, and groove to get all the ping pong balls out of tissue boxes tied to their waists, sitting just above their "trunks." Don't miss the video on our FB page.

We held other relays, too, including Cereal Bracelet and Cereal Box Jigsaw. As mentioned, it was a HOT day near the Library, so the kids found their way down to the low-running Farmington to cool off. We also had ice cream, a welcome relief.

Ed the Wizard joined us and made countless animal balloon creations in the shade of the Gazebo.

Our thanks to all those who braved the heat wave with us. A special thank you to the Sandisfield Library for sharing your space and inviting Ed the Wizard to entertain and dazzle us. See you at Birds of Prey, September 25, at the American Legion Pavilion. 



## Our RecCommittee WHO IS BEHIND ALL THESE EVENTS?

By Christine Nadelman

For many years our Sandisfield Recreation Committee has been organizing and sponsoring events for all ages.

The current chairperson, Lynn Rubenstein, has been in the position since October 2020. She's been a full-time Sandisfield resident for the last two years in the home on Town Hill Road that she and her husband Steve have owned for 17 years. Originally from Long Island, New York, Lynn works from home while her husband is a retired dentist (and a recently elected member of the Sandisfield Board of Health).

If you've ever had the opportunity to talk to Lynn, you know she is dedicated and hard-working. The Recreation Committee is just one of the many things she's passionate about and takes pride in.

Years back the committee was headed by Robbin Campetti and others. More recently, a group community center committee took over the planning, using the basement library community center, mostly for fund raising to hold events such as the 5-K walk and bus trips. Today the committee consists of five members: including Lynn, there is Nina Carr, Laura Messina, Katie Murray, and Laurie Sedden. Dawn Lemon, recently resigned, is now busy assisting her entrepreneurial kids with Bub's Beans 'n' the Dogs. Thank you, Dawn.

In October 2020, with the pandemic threatening all of us, many families wanted to organize a safe way for kids to experience trick-or-treating by driving by participating homes who would leave candy out on their driveways. Lynn stepped in at that point to give advice and guidance and decided to apply her organization skills for future events and asked to be appointed. Using a budget from the Town and grants she applied for, Lynn, with dedicated committee members, has since worked on events for all of us to participate in without charge.

In December 2020 there was a Santa Drive-By at the firehouse. There have been crafting events such as fall wreath making, chocolate making, and Create Your Own Gnome. April brought hands-on live bunnies

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and Easter treat bags. Memorial Day events such as bike decorating at Old Town Hall and a BBQ and Wall of Honor at the Pavilion. The BBQ was co-sponsored with the Sandisfield Fire and Police Departments, the COA, and the Cultural Council.

In June there was the very successful Magical Family Day at Looking Glass Gardens, including Sunny Rose Farm. In July there was the Minute-to-Win-It contests, games, ice cream co-sponsored with the Library's Ed the Wizard. August was free ice cream every Saturday.

While finding event space can be a challenge, the committee has made good use of the Old Town Hall by the Silverbrook, the two firehouses on Routes 57 and 8 which are both kitchen-equipped, and the American Legion Pavilion, which is currently under a lease agreement with the committee. Residents have offered their farms and businesses as locations for events as well. Zoe and Chuck Nelson of Looking Glass Gardens and their daughter Rose of Sunny Rose Farm were gracious to host Magical Family Day.

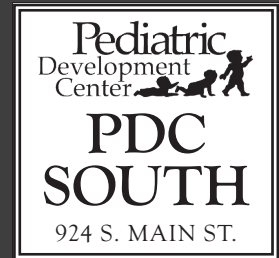
Collaborating with different town entities, such as the Cultural Council and COA, reaches out to many residents and people's different interests. Efforts are made not to schedule programs that conflict with nearby Otis or the Sandisfield Arts Center.

The RecCommittee's programs and events are out there for all to participate in and be part of the Sandisfield community. The events create a place for residents to gather, chat, get to know one another, their families and children. Lynn says she likes to "guild the lily," make the events extra special, the best she can to peak the interests of the children, teens, young families, and older people. She has many surprises and ideas to come that she would not divulge. So sign up for upcoming programs, come with family, or friends, meet new friends.

The Recreation Committee is a dedicated force providing an open door to that home town community feel we all love and need. Thank you, Lynn and all the members, for your time and efforts. For suggestions or comments, emails are always welcome at: [sandisfieldevnts@recreation-committee.info](mailto:sandisfieldevnts@recreation-committee.info).



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## California Dreamin'

### A RETROSPECTIVE OF ART

By *Jaye Alison Moscariello*

My retrospective of my artwork from the 1990s-2020 from the 1990s to 2020 will be on exhibit at the Sandisfield Arts Center from September 10-October 8.

This show reflects my journey from living in New York to life in California as documented through my art. I am a relatively new person here; a great portion of my artistic life was in California.

My work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally, in print, film, television, the web, and off-off Broadway. One project, an artistic installation, was a popular destination on the Open House New York Tour for over a decade.


I left New York in 1992 because I longed for a little more time and freedom to pursue my art. The California light, warmth, and lower rents provided what I needed to express what was most pressing: external surroundings, personal landscapes, worldly issues, and environmental and political concerns. I could work longer hours and more months of the year unencumbered by inclement weather and poor light. It was liberating! My multiple artistic personalities unabashedly expressed themselves.

Please be my guest and come to the show. On exhibit you'll see colorful narratives, contemporary landscapes, seascapes, abstracts, and a few stories thrown in for good measure; this is, after all, a retrospective.

Many thanks to Gallery Director Jessica Cofrin and the Sandisfield Arts Center Board.

Artist Reception, September 10, 4-6 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center, 5 Hammertown Road, Sandisfield, MA 01255

Artist Talk and Film, "From the Ashes," October 8, 2-4 p.m.

Gallery is open during events. To arrange a visit outside of these times contact: (310) 970-4517. 



*Paintings by Jay Alison Moscariello*



sandisfield  
ARTS CENTER

★ 5 HAMMERTOWN ROAD, SANDISFIELD, MA ★

**SAT., SEPTEMBER 3 AT 8 PM \$20**  
**CHRIS BRUBECK AND TRIPLE PLAY CONCERT**

**SAT., SEPTEMBER 10 FROM 2-4 PM FREE**  
**GALLERY OPENING: "CALIFORNIA DREAMIN'"**  
**RECEPTION WITH ARTIST JAYE MOSCARIELLO**  
EXHIBIT ON DISPLAY THROUGH OCTOBER 8

**SAT., SEPTEMBER 17 FROM 11 AM - 1 PM FREE**  
**SMARTPHONE PHOTOGRAPHY EDITING**  
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**SAT., SEPTEMBER 17 AT 7:30 PM \$45**  
**EVENING OF SONG**  
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WITH MEMBERS OF THE SANDISFIELD PLAYERS

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# Letters to the Editor

## ART AT THE ARTS CENTER

There are multiple reasons to visit the Art Center's first floor gallery.

I recently had the pleasure of seeing the work from the three winners of the Daniel Manacher Prize for Young Artists. This annual prize in Daniel's name recognizes young artists who tenaciously pursue their vision, seek to make the ordinary extraordinary, and bring community into conversation.

To see the work inspired by the artists' personal journeys and challenges was an unanticipated gift. Julia Rose Miner's 3-dimensional, bold-colored, textural works evoked landscapes that I wanted to explore.

Alorah Welti's work was also textural, using fabric and other objects to create pieces with a decidedly social message.

Natasha Wein's multicolored geometrical work sprung from her own life difficulties and the often joyful and playful forms demonstrated a mature response to these challenges.

All in all, the excellent quality of these young-in-years artists makes this show well worth a visit. To visit the show, call Adam Manacher, 617-645-6525, or visit during an Art Center event. Their work is on display through September 6.

The next exhibit, starting September 10 (opening event is 4-6:00 p.m.), is California Dreamin', a display of my wife Jaye Alison Moscariello's artwork during three decades in California. Her work is an incredible retrospective of the diversity of that state and her life there, from contemporary landscapes to abstracts and bright colored narrative paintings. See her article about her work on the previous page.

Bill Taylor  
Sandisfield Center

**CHICKEN BARBECUE**  
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**5 TO 7 P.M.**  
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# NOW HEAR THIS!

*Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro.*

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

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

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

**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, call Nina Carr (258-3314). Free!

**Coffee Hour** on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. at the Council on Aging, Town Hall. For more information, contact 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. Information, contact Nina Carr (258-03314). Free.

**Farmer's Market on Fridays** in September, weather permitting, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the New Boston Inn parking lot behind the building (corner of Routes 8 and 57). Fresh produce, eggs, baked goods, and crafts.

**Rhizophagy** in September. A one-hour Farm & Garden Show on berkshireradio.org any Monday in September at 10:00 a.m. An interview with a Rutgers University biologist explains how plant roots actually consume to both, which can change farming and gardening away from the use of fertilizer as the biological process gets plants everything they need from what exists in the soil already. Jaye Alison Moscarriello and Bill Taylor host this September show.

**Chris Brubeck and Triple Play** on Saturday, September 3 at 8:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammertown Road. At this time, masks are optional but recommended. Social distancing and attendance is capped at 60 percent. \$20.

**Massachusetts State Election Primary on Tuesday, September 6 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall on Silverbrook Road.**

**Gallery Reception and Show: California Dreamin'.** A Retrospective of Art from 1990 to 2020 by Jane Alison Moscarriello on Saturday, September 10 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammertown Road. Jane is an accomplished painter who studied at Paier College of Art and has had success showing her work in New York and Los Angeles. The show runs through October 8 and can be viewed before other events or contact gallery@sandisfieldartscenter.org to arrange a viewing. Free.

**New Boston Church Service** on Sunday, September 11, at 10:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church, Route 57. All are welcome!

**New Boston Historic District Designation** on Saturday, September 17, 11:00 a.m., at Wilber Park, downtown New Boston. Speakers, Town officials, Rep. Pignatelli. Parking available behind the New Boston Inn. Observe the recent listing of the village as a National Register Historic District. Details on page 2.

**Chicken Barbecue** on Saturday, September 17 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Firehouse Station #2 on Route 57. Sponsored by the New Boston Congregational Church.

**Evening of Song Fall Fundraiser** with Linda Mironi, Brian De Lorenzo, and Special Friends on Saturday, September 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammertown Road. Enjoy a fancy dessert, glass of Prosecco, and world-class singing. At this time, masks may be required. Social distancing and attendance is capped at 60 percent. Visit sandisfieldartscenter.org for tickets. \$45.

**Berkshire Public Health Alliance Public Health Nurse** on Wednesday, September 21 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sandisfield Council on Aging, basement level of the Town Hall. The nurse will provide an assessment, including a blood pressure check and wellness update. All are welcome. Free.

**Live Birds of Prey!** on Sunday, September 25 at 11:00 a.m. at the American Legion Pavilion on Route 8 in Sandisfield, sponsored by the Sandisfield Recreation Committee. Tasty fall refreshments will be complimentary following the event. Free. Please RSVP to sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info.

### SAVE THE DATES: RecComm Events

**Sample Sandisfield Tour**, Saturday, October 8, 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. A farm, farmstand and homemade-in-Sandisfield tour. Join in. The Recreation Committee is organizing a map for a Sample Sandisfield Tour. Contact us at sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info to have your place included.

**Baking Contest**, Sunday, October 9, time TBD. At Looking Glass Gardens Oktoberfest, the RecComm is sponsoring a Baking Contest. All ingredients must be from local, Sandisfield sources (receipt requested).

**Pumpkin Decorating**, Sunday, October 9, time TBD. At Looking Glass Gardens Oktoberfest. Join the RecCommittee for glow in the dark pumpkin decorating. Pumpkins, stickers and paints provided on site.

## 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!

**Great Barrington Farmer's Market** on Saturdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on 18 Church Street in Great Barrington. Featuring locally grown and produced foods, including fruits and vegetables, cheese, meats, breads, and more.

**Opening Reception, New Marlborough Artist's Show** on Friday, September 2, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the New Marlborough Meeting House. The show will run from September 2 through October 2. For more information, visit nmmeetinghouse.org.

**Woodland Hike from Gould Farm to the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery** on Sunday, September 4, from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m., part of the Housatonic Heritage Walks initiative. Learn about Gould Farm's history and mission and the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery. This program is rain or shine, approximately 3 miles. Meet at the Harvest Barn at Gould Farm. Free.

**Kids Fishing Derby** on Saturday, September 10 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery on 240 Hatchery Road, 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. Free.

**Explore the Historic Becket Quarry** on Saturday, September 10 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This will be a moderate hike to learn about the history of the quarry. Wear appropriate shoes, bring water, and meet on Quarry Road. Free.

**Market at East End Park in Winsted** on Saturday, September 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Farmers, crafters, and other vendors.

## Help Wanted FINANCE COMMITTEE

Member, Finance Committee. The FinComm consists of five members, four of which must be registered voters or taxpayers in Town; one can be an unregistered voter. Duties are to provide the Select Board with recommendations on the Town's budget and vote on appropriation requests for the Town Meeting. Current members: Larry Dwyer, Myles Reynolds, and Calvin Rodman. All are registered voters.

# SANDISFIELD TOWN DIRECTORY

SEPTEMBER, 2022

**TOWN HALL:** Janey Beardsley, Assistant Secretary,  
413-258-4711, x 3, jbeardsley@sandisfieldma.gov

**TOWN WEBSITE:** www.sandisfieldma.gov.  
Webmaster: Larry Dwyer. To report town news or events,  
write to webmaster@sandisfieldma.gov

**AMBULANCE:** 911. Non-Emergency: 258-4742

**AMERICAN LEGION Post 456:** Maria Domato, Commander  
258-4578 (April-October) or rainbow2498@embarqmail.com

**ASSESSORS OFFICE:** 258-4711 x 6  
Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**BOARD OF HEALTH:** Meets 2nd Tues: 7 p.m., Old Town Hall.

**BUILDING INSPECTORS:**

- Fire Eric Munson, Jr., 258-4590
- Plumbing: Brice Middleton, 413-269-7269
- Wiring: Jay Reynolds, 860-798-2578
- Building: Paul Greene, 413-446-0964

**CEMETERY COMMITTEE:**

Kathie Burrows: 258-4943. Meets as needed.

**CONSERVATION COMMISSION:** Meets 3rd Tues: 7 p.m.  
Email: concom@sandisfieldma.gov.

**CONSTABLES:**

Nazario Sanchez: 258-4705, Temporary: Michael Morrison, 258-4742

**COUNCIL ON AGING:** Linda Riiska, Nina Carr: 258-4711 x 8  
Wed: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Senior Center/Town Hall  
Business Meeting 1st and 3rd Wed: 10 a.m.

**DPW SUPERINTENDENT:** Brad Curry:

Emergency, 717-7627 cell. Office 258-4711 x 7  
DPW Email: highways@sandisfieldma.gov

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR:**

Mike Morrison, 413-441-2129

**FARMINGTON RIVER GENERAL STORE**

Nick and Megan Smigel, Proprietors  
83 South Main Street (Rt. 8), 413-462-1104  
Hours: Mon-Tues, 6-8; Wed-Fri, 6-6; Sat-Sun, 7-6

**FARMINGTON RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOL:**

North Main Street, Otis, 413 269-4466; Thomas Nadolny, Principal  
School Committee: Meets every first Monday at 7 p.m.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Meets as needed. Check for schedule.

**FIRE:** CALL 911

Fire Chief: Ralph Morrison, 258-4742

**HISTORICAL COMMISSION:** Ron Bernard, 413-269-0012;

ronbernard@aol.com. Meets 2nd Tuesday or as posted, 7 p.m.,  
New Boston Firehouse training room.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** Ann Wald, President

258-4415 or annaw2@verizon.net.  
Meets 2nd Saturday, Apr-Nov. Sandy Brook Turnpike/Rt. 183.

**JUSTICE OF THE PEACE:** John Skrip: 258-4788

**LIBRARY:** Librarian: Theresa Spohnholz: 258-4966;  
sandisfieldlibrary@gmail.com

HOURS: Mon, Tues, Wed: 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wed eve: 5:00-7:00 p.m.,  
Sat: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Closed Th, Fr and Sun.

**NOTARY:** Joanne D. Olson, 258-4465 or 917-686-1985  
Theresa Spohnholz: 258-4966 or 258-4711 x 4

**PLANNING BOARD:** Meets 2nd Tues: 6 p.m., Old Town Hall

**POLICE-LOCAL:** Emergency 911, Non-emergency: 413-258-4724  
Chief Michael Morrison: cell 413-441-2129  
Email: chief@sandisfieldma.gov

**POLICE-STATE:** Lee Barracks: 413 243-0600

**POST OFFICE:** Amy Rintoul, Clerk, 258-4940  
Window Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 a.m.-noon & 1-4 p.m. Sat: 8-11:30 a.m.  
Delivery boxes in both lobbies accessible 24 hours.

**PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER:** Mary Bredenfoerder: Emergency, 911;  
non-emergency, 258-4742

**RECREATION COMMITTEE:** Lynn Rubenstein  
kowgirlruby@aol.com

**SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER:** (May-December)  
5 Hammertown Road, PO Box 31  
258-4100; www.sandisfieldartscenter.org

**SANDISFIELD TIMES:** Bill Price, editor  
editor@sandisfieldtimes.org  
PO Box 584, Sandisfield

**SELECT BOARD:** 258-4711 x 2

Meets Monday, regular meeting, 7 p.m. Town Hall.  
See posted agendas for changes in meeting times  
**Select Board Assistant:** Janey Beardsley, 258-4711, x 3

**STATE OFFICIALS:**

Smitty Pignatelli, State Representative  
413 637-0631; rep.smitty@mahouse.gov  
Adam Hinds, State Senator; 413 344-4561; adam.hinds@masenate.gov

**TAX COLLECTOR:** Gina Campbell

258-4711 x 4; Mon/Tues, 11:30-4 p.m.; Wed/Thurs, 9 -2 p.m.

**TOWN ACCOUNTANT:** Margaret McClellan

by appointment; 258-4711 x 5 or accountant@sandisfieldma.gov

**TOWN CLERK:** Douglas Miner, 258-4711 x 2

PO Box 163, Sandisfield, MA 01255 or townclerk@sandisfieldma.gov  
Mon: 8 a.m.-2 p.m./ 6 p.m.-7 p.m  
Tuesday - Thursday 8 - 4 pm or by appt

**TOWN HALL:** At Town Hall

66 Sandisfield Road, PO Box 90, 01255  
Open Mon-Thurs: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mon: 6-7 p.m. or by appt.

**INTERIM TOWN MANAGER:** Jonathan Sylbert, 258-4711, x 1

**TOWN TREASURER:** Gina Campbell, 258-4711 x 4

treasurer@sandisfieldma.gov  
Mon/Tues, 11:30 - 4 p.m.; Wed/Thurs, 9 -2

**TRANSFER STATION:** Alex Psillas

Wed: 12 noon - 5 p.m., Sat/Sun: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**VETERANS SERVICES:** Laurie Hills

413-528-1580, Great Barrington Town Hall

# THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



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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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*email: [editor@sandisfieldtimes.org](mailto:editor@sandisfieldtimes.org)*

*Advertising/Subscriptions: Ron Bernard*

*Graphic Design: Tina Sotis*

*Website: Jean Atwater-Williams*

*Now Hear This!: Laura Rogers-Castro*

*Founding Editor: Simon Winchester*

### **How to Contact Us**

*Mail can be directed to*

*The Sandisfield Times, PO Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255.*

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