

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

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Volume XIII, Number 10

January/February 2023

Town Collects Minery Back Taxes

A BETTER SOLUTION AGREED BY ALL PARTIES

By Jon Sylbert and Bill Price

On December 9, 2022, the Sandisfield tax collector received \$187,767.39 in back taxes owed by the Minery estate. Mass Audubon purchased the estate properties for \$335,000, all of which is earmarked for cleanup of an abandoned landfill on the property.

Robert Minery, a keen admirer of nature, had wanted his property to pass into the ownership of Mass Audubon for preservation as a nature sanctuary.



Bob Minery, a unique Sandisfield citizen from birth to death.

Photo: Sandisfield Times archives

The estate consisted of 173 acres along both sides of Cold Spring Road near Rt. 8. Born in 1932 to Sandisfield farmers, Bob Minery had little or no income through most of his life. His father was killed by an automobile while driving his team of horses home after dark when Bob was only 7. At the time of Bob's death in 2015 his property taxes had not been paid for many years, if ever ...

In a memoir in The Sandisfield Times (June 2015), Ron Bernard, Minery's nearest neighbor on Cold Spring Road, wrote that "the system did not know

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Bye, Tuckers. Hello, K-Play.

A NEW NEIGHBOR MOVING IN, SLOWLY

By Bill Price

Two creative builders located just south in Winsted, John Magnoli and Ken Valickis, purchased the burned-out site of MJ Tuckers for \$185,000 in November.

They were familiar with the location, Ken having been a frequent customer at Tuckers and knowing Marty Cormier, one of the owners, for several years. Because of extensive smoke damage, Marty was unable to rebuild and the building will have to come down.



The former MJ Tuckers, which will be demolished.

Photo: Jean Atwater-Williams

What are Ken and John going to do there?

They are going to expand K-Play, their successful playground equipment business and showroom which has outgrown its current space at the Whiting Mills complex in Winsted.

After years as builders for D'Angelo Building Company in Winsted (40 for Ken, less for John), specializing in remodeling and renovation and construction of high-end homes and commercial spaces, the two friends formed K-Play about four years ago from an idea of Ken's to build handcrafted organic playscapes for kids. Their playground design and construction firm, all for kids, has been growing since.

The KPlayFun.com website states: "After 40 years of building family-size homes, we decided to think small."



The owners of K-Play, John Magnoli, 38, left, and Ken Valickis, 57

But small is not how the partners are considering their future with K-Play.

Their goal is to move the headquarters of K-Play to the Sandisfield property where they may erect (they say, "Perhaps") a 30,000 square-foot

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Seeking Town Charter Committee Members

NEEDED: TWO AT-LARGE MEMBERS

From Town website: sandisfieldma.gov

The Town of Sandisfield is seeking interested residents to serve on its Charter Committee. The Committee will consist of one member each of the Select Board, Finance Committee, and the Planning Board and two at-large residents. A facilitator will help the Committee productively discuss significant topics by assisting with a decision-making plan and options, providing frameworks for decision-making, providing ideas and examples, etc., during a series of meetings with the Committee, and the Committee's recommendations will be brought forward at town meeting for consideration by the voters. The Committee will be subject to the Open Meeting Law and will require a Chair and a Secretary, and the creation and approval of Agendas and Minutes. The expected timeline is January 2023 through mid-summer.

The Town of Sandisfield was incorporated in 1762. As with many Massachusetts towns with populations under 5,000, the Town does not have a charter. Instead, Sandisfield operates under what is often referred to as a "legal base," which includes local bylaws, state laws accepted, and special acts of the legislature requested by the Town. Although the lack of a charter is common among Massachusetts towns with populations under 5,000, there has been a trend over the last few decades for these towns to write and adopt charters. The reasons for this are clear: the world in which towns operate has become significantly more complex over the last half century, and the pace of change continues to accelerate. Even just since 2000, the environment that towns operate in has changed substantially, with new state and federal laws, new demographic and environmental challenges, changing financial circumstances, rapidly-changing technology, and a growing divide between residents' expectations and towns' ability to deliver.

Some towns have responded to this by making the occasional changes to the structure via bylaw changes or narrow special acts. While these can certainly help solve some challenges, they are unlikely to solve all of the issues, and they can also introduce new challenges. As many towns have found, a stronger solution is to take a comprehensive and systemic look at how the Town government is operating, understand what is working, and identify any changes that would help provide the community with a government that will be more effective, efficient, responsive, and transparent. Moreover, whether the resulting changes from a charter process are major or only small updates, codifying those changes in a single, clear document can help the Town government better serve the public and help the public better understand the Town government.

At the same time, partially because undertaking the writing of a charter can have such a significant impact on the town for years or even decades to come, it is also an extraordinarily challenging endeavor – statutorily, logistically, and politically. For that reason, most towns embarking on the charter-writing or reform process seek outside expertise.

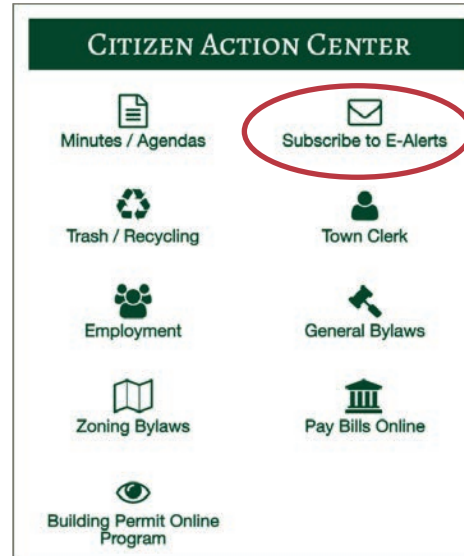
Interested parties please contact Janey Beardsley, Sandisfield Administrative Assistant, for more information at jbeardsley@sandisfieldma.gov.

Subscribe to Town E-Alerts

NEVER BE OUT-OF-THE-LOOP AGAIN

By Janey Beardsley, Administrative Assistant

The Sandisfield Town Hall is working to create a transparent and accessible local government for Town residents. In order to stay informed about all Town happenings, news announcements, board/committee meeting agendas and minutes, public hearings, and a lot more going on in Town government, subscribe to online notifications at sandisfieldma.gov.



This is a very important means of communication from the Town to residents. Currently only about 140 residents subscribe. Many more could and should. And not to worry. We will not fill your in-box with notifications you don't want to know about.

Visit sandisfieldma.gov and choose "Subscribe to E-Alerts" located in the Citizen Action Center on the left-hand side of the screen. Here you can list the types of notifications you'd like to receive. Hit subscribe, enter your email and voila! You will now receive email notifications. Stay informed! 📧

The Heat Pump in Our Future

By Bill Price

The Town was just awarded a grant for \$65,129 toward installing a heat pump heating and cooling system in Town Hall.

The heat pump system is Phase 2 of the Green Committee's energy plan. Phase 1 was last year's installation of solar panels on Town Hall and the Department of Public Works buildings.

Powered by the existing solar energy system, the heat pump should produce a cost saving in heating oil alone of more than \$7,000 per year (at current oil price of \$4.40 per gallon).

The primary application manager and project manager of both the solar and heat pump projects was Larry Dwyer, a very active member of the Green Committee. Larry has stepped back from involvement with Town government due to the cancellation of the role of Webmaster which has been deemed redundant. Dwyer had been Webmaster for a couple of years and had made significant improvements in the Town's website.

The Chair of the Green Committee, George Riley, has assumed the management of the heat pump project. Riley said "I hope the project can start in April and be finished by September. The timing, of course, will depend on the installer selected."

The heat pump system will increase efficiency in the building while reducing the Town's dependence on fossil fuels. The system will off-set the current oil fuel boiler, which will remain in place as a backup heat source.

The Green Committee will provide grant administration and general oversight. 📧



Accolades for a Movie Filmed in Sandisfield

By Bill Price

One of the leading film reviewers for The New York Times, A.O. Scott, liked Diego Ongaro's "Down With the King" so much that he included the film and its star on three of his lists for the "best" of 2022.

In the December 23 Times, "Down With the King" was one of Scott's picks for Ten Best Films of the year, writing:

[This] quiet character study [features] a small cast; outdoor locations, uncomplicated scenes and a minimalist approach to plot. A hip-hop star, played by the real-life rapper Freddie Gibbs, has gone into the woods, like Thoreau, to live deliberately. His malaise, beautifully conveyed in Gibbs's subtle, unaffected performance, is specific to his own professional and personal circumstance, but also captures what a lot of us have felt in the past few years.

The film opened at the Berkshire Film Festival in Great Barrington. Its director, Diego Ongaro, lived on Tannery Road in Sandisfield before relocating to Norfolk, Connecticut. This was his second film featuring local farmer/logger Bob Tarasuk, Bob's wife, Sue, and their farm on South Beech Plain Road.

Scott and The New York Times didn't stop with the Ten Best Films list.

In January, Scott included Freddie Gibbs, the star of "Down With the King" on his list of the Ten Best New Actors of 2022, writing:

In "Down With the King," his movie-acting debut, Gibbs plays Mercury Maxwell, known as Money Merc, a successful rapper in the throes of a midcareer malaise . . . Withdrawing to a rambling house in rural New England . . . what is supposed to be a temporary retreat while he incubates his next albums turns into an existential crisis. Can Merc fulfill the expectations of his manager and his fans without betraying himself?

There's real suspense attached to this question, but Gibbs and the film's director, Diego Ongaro, choose nuance over drama. "Down With the King" is a quiet movie . . . It doesn't sentimentalize rural life, and it doesn't glorify show business either, but instead weighs the competing claims of ambition and friendship, contemplation and work. Merc's predicament is excruciatingly real, which is to say that Gibbs's performance is as good as it gets.

And, for good measure, on January 5 Scott included Gibbs in his "Should Be Nominated for an Oscar" list, writing:

. . . Merc is a Black man in a very white place, a fact that the movie deals with bluntly, and also subtly. . . The story emerges slowly and organically, following the rhythm of days spent trying to get stuff done and to find ways to avoid doing it. . .



Rapper Freddie Gibbs, left, and Bob Tarasuk in a scene from the film "Down with the King."

Photo provided by Diego Ongaro, courtesy of The Berkshire Eagle. Among the "Best of 2022"

Merc . . . develops a friendship with a local farmer — played by Bob Tarasuk, an actual Berkshires farmer who starred in Ongaro's previous feature, "Bob and the Trees" — that bridges differences of age and background. These relationships are sweet and surprising, but the movie doesn't overstate their transformative potential.

The trait "Down With the King" exhibits most powerfully is patience, something in short supply in modern cinema or, for that matter, the modern world. Instead of pushing to resolve conflicts or simplify contradictions, it asks us to examine how we live by walking for a while in someone else's shoes and feeling how they no longer fit.

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- Timber Sales
- Boundary Marking
- GIS Mapping
- Foresters for the Birds
- Wildlife Habitat Improvement
- Recreational Trail Layout

Town Collects Minery Back Taxes

Cont'd from p.1

what to do with Bob Minery. Property taxes? ‘They can collect what they want after I’m gone. I don’t take no services so what’s the big deal?’”

In a summary of the Minery property in The Sandisfield Times, June 2022, reporter Tom Christopher wrote that “At the time of Minery’s death the arrears with the town of Sandisfield were in excess of \$100,000.”



Remnants of the “bed-spring fence” Minery built along his property on Cold Spring Road.

Photo: Bill Price

A complication which prevented the Town from taking over Minery’s property for non-payment of back taxes was that approximately one acre of the property had been legally used as a primitive landfill for several years by Otis and Sandisfield until 1988 when, Christopher wrote, the Department of Environmental Protection “demanded that the site be properly closed, something Mr. Minery declined to do. In response, the Department attached a lien for \$400,000 to the Minery farm until such time as the closure of the landfill should be completed.” Had the Town taken title to the property Sandisfield taxpayers would have been responsible for the cost of the clean-up.

The result was that since Minery’s death the Town of Sandisfield, Mass Audubon, and the Department of Environmental Protection have all had a lively interest in the settling of the estate.

The conflicting titles required lengthy negotiations dating back to December 2020, when the Select Board voted to accept dual representation for attorneys regarding negotiations.

On February 5, 2021, Mass Audubon offered to acquire the properties, one parcel being the dump that was ordered closed in 1988. In exchange for the town’s commitment to petition the Department of Revenue (DOR) for an abatement of the

taxes owed, Mass Audubon offered \$20,000 in lieu of the more than \$100,000 owed.


The Select Board voted to accept \$30,000 in March 2021, and, in November, requested the Board of Assessors draw up the petition, written by counsel. The petition was submitted on January 3, 2022, which the Department of Revenue rejected, after follow-up, on March 28.

Following the denial, Mass Audubon began negotiations with the Town to again lobby the DOR and resubmit the petition. After many phone calls and

meetings between the Town Manager and involved parties, including the DOR, the DEP, and State Representative Smitty Pignatelli, the current Town Select Board decided that it was beyond the scope of their authority to act on behalf of the taxpayers by “donating” taxes and interest owed to the town, now calculated above \$165,000, to honor the agreement made by predecessor boards.

In a letter dated September, 12, 2022, the Select Board informed Mass Audubon that it would not pursue another abatement request. After further communications between the Town and Mass Audubon, Mass Audubon wrote to Rep. Pignatelli in November that the “best course of action ... to bring this deal to a successful conclusion” was to pay the liens in full and acquire the properties.

The Select Board feels that this conclusion reflects the best deal for each party’s interests; the abandoned landfill will be remediated, Mass Audubon will be able to expand its Cold Brook Wildlife Sanctuary, and the taxpayers of Sandisfield have received in full the taxes owed to them.

This resolution was a long time coming and required a lot of work by many individuals. It is hoped that much of the Mass Audubon properties will soon be available to all for recreational use. 

Our Dwindling Cannabis Bonanza

By Bill Price

Retail recreational cannabis went on sale in Connecticut shops early this month for all adults 21 and over. The Associated Press anticipated about forty retailers would open across the state, with dozens of other marijuana-related businesses scheduled to open by the end of the year.

This should impact existing and planned cannabis retail stores and growing sites in southern Massachusetts, including those in Sandisfield. Initially cannabis sales in Connecticut will be limited to one-quarter of an ounce of cannabis flower or its equivalent to ensure there will be enough supply for medical marijuana patients. That small amount is expected to expand as supply broadens and becomes consistent.

In Sandisfield, one proposed retail venue at the former Villa Mia Restaurant south of New Boston Village, by Berkshire Mountain Cannabis, LLC., is likely to lose the potential benefit they would have received from cannabis being restricted a few miles south in Connecticut. So far there is no sign of remodeling and the investors may be

having third thoughts. When approved by the Select Board last March, the group hoped to be in business by the end of 2022.

Of two growing sites in Sandisfield, Day Dreamz Estates up the hill behind Town Hall is in business, while SAMA Production LLC south of New Boston has begun clearing the property of rocks and trees and will resume work following mud season.

The approval of recreational cannabis in Connecticut and subsequent loss of sales in Massachusetts may impact local growing sites as well. Some growing sites have covenants that restrict sales to their home state and demand may diminish as sales and cannabis growth increase in Connecticut.


Additional impact on recreational cannabis sales in the Berkshires will come as well from New York State as dispensaries begin to open just across the western border. With recreational sales legalized in small doses in 2021, New York anticipated expanded sales would begin in 2023.

AND THERE GOES THE 3%, TOO

The 3 percent excise tax windfall for towns that host cannabis producers and retail stores seems to be lost, as well. Town Manager Jon Sylbert reported at an October Select Board meeting that he had been informed that no cannabis establishment will be forced to pay the 3 percent fee built into most cannabis/town contracts.

Sylbert added, "This creates risks for towns that only approved cannabis growing and sales for the revenue it was expected to produce."

It was unknown, so far, if the fee restriction would impact current cannabis sites or only those going forward. It was anticipated that it would cover all of them.

As in the beginning of the cannabis regulatory revolution in the early 2000s, rules and impact are still being written and the impact felt across this new frontier. 

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Four sessions in March at the Colebrook Community Center, 2 Schoolhouse Rd., Colebrook. Meet Thursdays, 6:30 to 8 p.m. **March 2, 9, 23 and 30.** Fee is \$40 due at the first class. Call now to reserve a place. (860) 738-9521. 

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recreation COMMITTEE

Santa and a Winter Dance Party

By Lynn Rubenstein

Santa made his annual appearance at the Historical Society's Christmas Fair, despite last year's announcement of his possible retirement. The unprecedented number of children clamoring to sit and chat with Santa this year was heart-warming to say the least.

Thank you, Santa!



Santa talks things over with Christoph Newsome at the Christmas Fair. Photo: Laurie Seddon, Recreation News

While waiting for Santa to arrive, we offered a creative craft table where both children and adults made snow globes and reindeer ornaments and decorated holiday-themed items for themselves, as well as an extra ornament for a Berkshire Rehabilitation resident. Many thanks to Julia Salzano and Maggie Murray for helping out at this table. Thanks also to Bill Taylor and Jean Atwater-Williams for live seasonal music.


The following week we co-hosted our first Holiday tree and Menorah lighting at Berkshire Rehabilitation. We provided a highly visible outdoor tree and menorah which Berkshire Rehab gladly helped us set up and decorate. See "The Lighting Ceremony" on this page.

Our committee is taking the month of January off to clean out and take inventory of our storage area. While we do that, please feel free to share ideas/programs that you think our community might be interested in. Contact us at sandisfeldevents@recreationcommittee.info.

SAVE THE DATE !!

Saturday, February 11, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Join us for a WINTERDANCE PARTY at Fire Station #2 (Rt. 57). DJ Jonny Jams will have you rocking and rolling, twisting and shouting to some much needed music to brighten our Sandisfield winter. Finger foods and non-alcoholic beverages will be available. Put on your dancing shoes, pack up the family and let's have some fun. Please RSVP by January 28 at sandisfeldevents@recreationcommittee.info or by phone at 413-269-7357.

Wishing everyone a Healthy, Happy, and Warm 2023.

Lynn, Anina, Laura, Laurie, Katie 

The Lighting Ceremony

STARTING A NEW TRADITION IN OLD NEW BOSTON


By Joanne Olson

We hope we've begun a new tradition in the historic village of New Boston.

The first annual Tree & Menorah lighting on the grounds of the Berkshire Rehabilitation Center on Sandisfield Road, near the New Boston Inn, was sponsored jointly by the Sandisfield Historical Society and the Recreation Committee, supported by the staff at Berkshire Rehab.

On Saturday, December 10, a large crowd gathered on the front lawn of the Rehab Center to light the tree and the menorah and to hear the story of Rev. Edmund Sears, a native of Sandisfield who wrote the well-known Christmas Carol "It Came Upon The Midnight Clear." His story was presented by local historian Lorraine German. (See page 7.)

The gathering was then treated to caroling performed by the Farmington River Elementary School's Girls' Choir, "The Rosebuds," at their very first concert appearance. They were accompanied by their music teacher, Michael Flowers. Principal Robert Putnam, who played the keyboard for the singers, forgot his gloves but still supported the choir as if his hands were warm!

After the performance all were treated to cookies and hot chocolate donated by the Rehab Center. Thanks to everyone who supported us and turned out, especially to all who sang along with the kids! 



The holiday lights at Berkshire Rehab, and local residents gathered for the ceremony.

Photos: Lynn Rubenstein

The Story Behind “It Came Upon The Midnight Clear”

**AUTHOR BORN IN
SANDISFIELD**

*Adapted from the Presentation by
Lorraine German*

The man who wrote “It Came Upon The Midnight Clear,” one of the most popular Christmas carols, was born in Sandisfield in 1810. His family had lived here since the 1750s.

Edmund Hamilton Sears love of reading and poetry was encouraged by father, who sent him to Westfield Academy. In 1834, he graduated from Union College in Schenectady, New York with the thought of practicing law, but soon discovered another calling. Three years later, he received a degree from the Divinity School of Harvard University.

Reverend Sears served as pastor at Unitarian churches in Wayland and Lancaster, Mass. from 1839 until 1847. He left Lancaster for health reasons and returned to Wayland, where he continued to serve his former church until 1865. He then served as pastor at the Unitarian Church in Weston, Mass. until his death in January 1876.

One of Reverend Sears’ first poems, written when he was 12 years old, was simply named “Hymn.” He recalled later that he wrote it in chalk on his hat while digging a ditch in his father’s meadow, probably while they still lived in Sandisfield.

Although Reverend Sears authored almost 500 poems and hymns over the course of his life, most of them are unknown today except for his most popular hymn, the classic Christmas carol “It Came Upon The Midnight Clear.” It’s been said that he wrote it at the request of a friend in Quincy, Mass., who wanted something new for his Sunday School to perform.

The hymn was written following the Mexican-American War and during a period of unrest in Europe. Unlike other Christmas hymns that heralded Christ’s birth, this hymn reflected Reverend Sears’ disillusionment with a world that couldn’t hear the Christmas message of peace because it was too full of war, pain, and strife.

The Christian Register, a Unitarian weekly, published the hymn in December 1849 under the name “Peace on Earth.” In 1852, Richard Storrs Willis, a music teacher in New York City, saw the hymn and set it to music that he had composed earlier.

This popular Christmas carol had many names in the beginning. In 1850, the Portsmouth (N.H.) Journal of Poetry and Politics printed it as “Christmas Carols.” Other publications named it “Christmas Hymn,” “That Glorious Song of Old,” and “Peace Upon Earth.” It wasn’t until the 1870s that everyone settled on “It Came Upon The Midnight Clear” as the name for this beloved classic. 🍷

Local Man Involved in Bitcoin Meltdown

ONGOING STORY REPORTED IN THE PRESS

By Bill Price

This editor of The Sandisfield Times, since he began the job in 2012, has always allowed Town residents to keep their privacy, if that’s their preference. People settle in Sandisfield or still live here for a variety of reasons and sometimes it’s nothing more than that the place is remote.

If, however, the world press overtakes one of our own, we feel an obligation to at least acknowledge the fact.

That’s what has happened to Ryan Salame (pronounced Sa-lem), a young local man from South Sandisfield who built a personal fortune of, according to The Berkshire Eagle, some \$700 million through skillful management of what became a bitcoin empire. He is now 29.

Unfortunately, Salame is currently in the midst of the multi-billion-dollar collapse of the crypto financial world. The company Salame helped create, FTX Trading Ltd.,

declared bankruptcy last November following a run on its bitcoin deposits and its CEO, Sam Bankman-Fried, is facing an eight-count indictment for an alleged fraud scheme.

From his office in Nassau, Bahamas, where he was co-CEO of FTX Digital Markets-Bahamas, a Bitcoin subsidiary of FTX Global, Salame has seen much of his personal fortune evaporate with the cryptocurrency meltdown.

He has been credited with having notified the Bahamian authorities of the alleged fraud, but little else has been revealed or is known about the FTX collapse or Salame’s role in it, since the lawyers and prosecutors and forensic accountants have locked up as much evidentiary information as they can. The Times did not attempt to reach Mr. Salame for this article, understanding that he has bigger claims on his attention than a neighbor’s curiosity.

Salame has been featured in several articles in national financial newspapers and locally in The Berkshire Eagle. He grew up in South Sandisfield, graduating from Monument Mountain High School before leaving for UMass-Amherst (and later Georgetown University). According to this paper’s predecessor, The Sandisfield Newsletter, June 2001, Salame’s parents, Mike and Sue Salame, have lived in town since 1980, his father serving as Selectman from 1991 until 2001, after stints on the zoning and planning boards.

While Salame’s registered home is now in the Bahamas, last summer he invested more than \$6 million in restaurants and food service venues in Lenox, including the Olde Heritage Tavern and Firefly Gastropub.

According to The Eagle, December 17, he’s had a longstanding interest in the Berkshire food industry. The Eagle reported that when Salame was 14, he worked for Martin Lewis of Martin’s Restaurant in Great Barrington, who told the Eagle that Salame “started out washing dishes . . . but then he did everything. He was very smart and energetic. He’s just a wonderful person. A great kid.” The Eagle added that “Salame continued to work at Martin’s and train new hires throughout his high school years and later during college breaks.”

Whatever befalls Mr. Salame in the near future, The Times will occasionally update its readers on what’s happening. 🍷



Ryan Salame

Photo: The Berkshire Eagle, used with permission.

Bye, Tuckers. Hello, K-Play

Cont'd from p.1

building to house a construction and shipping hub for the products they sell across the United States.

Their first item of business in Sandisfield will be to build a showroom for their products and possibly an outdoor showplace. Work won't begin on the site until spring, and the hope is to open the showroom by the end of summer. "Be patient with us," they said.



The Curiosity Corner, a K-Play favorite post-and-beam creation.

"Our focus is fun!" states the firm's website. "Our playground equipment allows young minds to explore, create, and pretend, all while inspiring a love for the outdoors."

Many of their all-natural creations can be seen at the Whiting Mills location. Many more are featured on KPlayFun.com. The creations are built by master woodworkers from wood sourced from managed, healthy forests and is pressure-treated with up-to-date safe methods, according to the website. Building with wood, they say, is more sustainable, requiring less energy to manufacture than plastic, aluminum, or brick products.

Historically, K-Play will fit right in at their location near Roosterville Road which was the site of The Old Red Shop, then the largest building in Sandisfield. For more than a century, generations of millworkers turned out wooden school desks for shipping to school districts all over the United States. Other wooden products were made there, too. One year, said the late Willard Platt, the shop "turned out 6,000 chairs. That's a lot of chairs for a small factory with not many employees." We anticipate K-Play will soon have what may be the largest building in Sandisfield and will be shipping their products from the building to locations all over the country.

Ken and John like the site because they see Rt. 8 as a gateway to the Berkshires and Massachusetts. The site, filled with wooden creations designed for kids, should make an attractive southern introduction to Sandisfield.

From Designing and Building to Installing and Inspecting

Our certified playground technicians will be your go-to resource from the beginning to the end of your custom playground build. Our products are designed and built in-house, ensuring the quality our customers have come to expect. Our installation experts are licensed and insured to guarantee safety and a quality installation of your new custom playground.

Council on Aging



COA Report

By Nina Carr

Seniors, are you tired of looking at those same four walls? We do have some stuff going on at the COA which might liven up things a bit.

In January we started having pizza following the visit from our Public Health Nurse, who does a Blood Pressure and Wellness Clinic. Hope you didn't miss it. You have another chance, since we plan on repeating the event in February on the third Wednesday, February 15. Clinic is at 10, Pizza at 11:30.

We are also continuing our free Chair Yoga classes at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. And don't forget Coffee Hour every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. Hope to see you there.



FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

"Down With the King" is not the only Sandisfield movie that has won accolades. (See page 3). **Karen Allen's "A Tree, A Rock, A Cloud,"** from the short story by Carson McCullers, was filmed at the Silverbrook Café on Rt. 57 and at other locations in Sandisfield. When the 30-minute film was released in 2016, it played at many film festivals, winning numerous awards. In the film, a young boy meets an older man in the spring of 1947, and the man relates a luminous tale of personal heartbreak and loss and the nature of love. **Hannah Van Sickle** recently wrote in The Berkshire Edge that the film is now available to stream on global digital HD internet and satellite platforms. Specifically, the film can be rented at iTunes or YouTube for \$2.99. Also on YouTube you can find several behind-the-scenes videos and other items about producing and shooting the film right here in downtown West New Boston. It was a lot of fun that summer, now seven years ago, watching Karen Allen and her crew putting that film together.

Bill Price



CUPID AMONG THE UNEMPLOYED IN SANDISFIELD

From The Berkshire Eagle, February 19, 1931

Sandisfield, Feb. 19 - Among the unemployed in Sandisfield, although not officially listed is **Dan Cupid**. Although he might have been working quietly during the year the results of his labors are not overcrowding the matrimonial column of the town report. Although comprised of three villages, New Boston, Montville, and West New Boston, there was but one marriage in town in 1930. There were eight births and six deaths, the report of Town Clerk Jason Sears indicates.

Sourced from The Sandisfield Times archives

FY 2023 Transfer Station Regulations

The Town of Sandisfield is switching its Transfer Station stickers from calendar to fiscal year so that we may better budget for this service to our residents. Half-year stickers are available at half price and valid until June 30. You may purchase annual stickers for July 1-June 30 thereafter (the yearly fee is \$75.00). Thank you for your support.


Transfer Station stickers until the end of Fiscal Year 2023, June 30, are required for use of the Transfer Station. The first half-year fee is \$37.50 for two stickers.

If you WILL NOT be using the Transfer Station, your household MUST LET US KNOW HOW YOU WILL BE DISPOSING OF YOUR TRASH. Online at sandisfieldma.gov, find the Transfer Station section and follow the instructions. Or visit Janey Beardsley at Town Hall.

If you WILL BE using the Transfer Station:

- Visit the town website at sandisfieldma.gov, FY23 Transfer Station Application.
- If you would like to purchase your sticker in person, visit Town Hall Mon, Wed or Thurs, 10am-3pm. Or see Transfer Station Attendant during operating hours, Wed 12pm-5pm, Sat & Sun 9am-4:00pm.
- CHECKS PREFERRED. Credit card payments are not available.

Rules for issuing transfer station stickers: NO EXCEPTIONS.

- Each household **MUST** purchase a sticker if you will be using the Transfer Station.
- If you rent an apartment within your home, this is a **SEPARATE** household and both you **and** your tenant must have a sticker.
- If you own more than one home, each home **must** have a sticker of its own.
- Stickers must be affixed to your vehicle in the **driver's side rear window**.
- The Transfer Station is for **household trash ONLY**. Businesses are prohibited.
- At any time, the person issuing stickers may ask for photo identification or proof of residency.
- If you do not provide a valid license plate number, you will **NOT** receive a sticker.
- As of January 1, 2023, **any vehicle NOT displaying the ORANGE sticker will be denied** access to the Transfer Station. 

Please call 413-258-4711 Ext. 3,
or email jbeardsley@sandisfieldma.gov
with any questions.

Visit <https://www.sandisfieldma.gov/sandisfield-transfer-station>
for recycling fee schedule.

From the Town website:
www.sandisfieldma.gov



★ DINE IN OR TAKEOUT

New Winter Menu!

*HOUSE SPECIAL PRIME RIB
(thursday-saturday)

- BAKED HADDOCK
- CEDAR PLANK SALMON
- BROWN BUTTER GNOCCHI
- SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS
- WINTERBERRY SALAD
- PULLED PORK MAC & CHEESE
- KNOX CHICKEN PICCATA

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At a Crossroads:

COUNCIL ON AGING HAS MUCH TO OFFER

By Ron Bernard

Just after World War II in 1946 and over the next forty years, more than a dozen service and social clubs and other volunteer-run organizations were formed in Sandisfield. These groups generated pride and community spirit and greatly enhanced the quality of life here. Since then, for different reasons, many of them have closed or faded away. Their demise has left a vacuum in the once vibrant social life in Sandisfield. Today the few that remain are barely hanging on.

One of these, the Council on Aging, is at a crossroads.

Unlike the plight of many non-profits, funding is not a problem because the state and town provide resources. But dwindling participation is a concern.

Linda Riiska, a long-time volunteer and current member of the COA board, said, "It is the nature of our organization that members pass away." Yet all the well-funded and virtually all free programs

and welcoming environment depend on new people taking advantage of them.

WHAT IS THE COUNCIL ON AGING?

Congress in 1965 passed the Older Americans Act which established a framework for state legislation to serve older citizens and their families and caregivers with services and activities. In Massachusetts, councils operate under the auspices of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) in Boston but report locally to select boards. Funding is shared by the state and the town on a 60/40 basis.

The many valuable Sandisfield COA offerings are highly social, educational, comprehensive – and free! They include outreach, transportation, congregate meals, health screenings, health insurance counseling, socialization, fitness, wellness, recreation activities, and life-long learning and

more. Each council determines its own priorities based on local needs and resources.

IN SANDISFIELD

While the nominal age for COA participants is 65, in Sandisfield the age to avail of services is 60. Slightly younger residents with special needs may also qualify. The Town census of October 2022 counted 223 residents 65 or older, a significant one-quarter of Town population.

Besides transportation, the Sandisfield COA's activities include health fairs and assessment clinics, visits by the Visiting Nurse Association (flu shots), regional excursions to popular venues like restaurants and casinos, summer picnics at York Lake, quilting, flower arranging, fitness and exercise classes, birthday parties, and many more. The Sandisfield COA administers the Town's tax work-off program. Handicap resources are also available, for example there is a wheelchair for loan.

Linda said, "Our motto should be, 'So Much to Do!'" which is the truth. But the word needs to get out.

Several years of Covid trepidation have taken a toll on participation. A concern is that members and others may have gotten used to not attending,



Council on Aging members attending an early 1980s luncheon are, left to right, Charlotte Arnold, Elizabeth Spring, Ella Bartzsch, Alice O'Brien, Opal Daffer, Mary Wilber, Ruth Freeman, Constance Canty, Bob Freeman, Hazel Plante, and Kay Dirgo (seated).

Photo: Sandisfield Times archives

especially the Wednesday coffee hours. Still others may not be aware of what is available at COA. Nevertheless, *the COA's mission remains more relevant than ever.*

Linda told the Times, "Frankly, it is a 'use it or lose it' situation." What a pity it would be to lose this resource which for almost a half-century has benefitted so many older residents in so many ways.



*COA administrators Linda Riiska and Nina Carr
Photo: Ron Bernard*

The current board includes Linda Riiska, Nina Carr, Ann Wald, Shirley Spring, and Barbara Cormier.

Are you 60 or older? Why not see for yourself by attending a gathering? It could change your life.

For more information, call Linda at 258-4816 or Nina at 258-3311. 📞

Former Sandisfield Community Organizations

- American Legion, Post #456 Auxiliary
- Arts Council
- Girl Scouts
- Grange
- Kiwanis
- Ladies Aid Society
- Omega
- Sandisfield Parent Teacher Organization
- Rod & Gun Club
- Taxpayers Association
- Snowmobile Club

The Young Friends of the Monarchs

By Times Reporters

Monarch butterflies have a host of new friends.

The 4th grade class at Farmington River Elementary School took on the study of these important pollinators and were thrilled at the idea that these distinctive orange-and-black, almost weightless creatures migrate thousands of miles from Mexico to our backyards and roadsides across New England every year.

Part of their studies was to raise a butterfly from caterpillar to its release as a winged marvel.

Then their teacher, Bethany Mielke, received a fundraising communication from Mass Audubon asking for support for the beleaguered butterflies and the class added a fundraising campaign to their studies, focusing on their school and the Otis/Sandisfield community.

The efforts of these budding environmentalists brought in \$461.31 for Mass Audubon.



The 4th grade environmentalists with Dale Abrams of Mass Audubon and teacher Bethany Mielke.

Mass Audubon's Berkshires Regional Education Manager Dale Abrams visited the class to look over their project and help roll the collected coins. He did so with pleasure. He has worked with these same students since they were in first grade.

In a report, the class wrote: "We want to give a lot of special thanks to the following people in our school community and beyond. Special thanks are going to Mr. Abrams for coming to visit from Mass Audubon, Mrs. Tolopko from Otis for collecting donations in a treasure chest from her community, Mr. Putnam our amazing principal, 6th grade for their helpful morning announcements, Mrs. Mielke for all of her support, and last but not least the amazing community we are all a part of! These are only a few special thanks. Remember, every penny did count!" 📄

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Your Child is Sick?

FROM THE FRRSD SCHOOL NURSE

With all the cold weather coming, I wanted to share this great information from Boston Children's Hospital about what level of care your child might need over the winter months. Please take a minute to review. In the coming weeks I will share more information that will go into more detail. Please keep me updated with any changes in health throughout the year. I am available via telephone or e-mail.

- Nurse Grace Terry, gterry@frrsd.org



WHEN TO CALL YOUR PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER:

- Your child's symptoms get worse or last for more than a week without improvement
- Your child of any age has a temperature higher than 104°F

WHEN TO SEEK URGENT CARE (MANY PRIMARY CARE PROVIDERS ALSO HAVE WEEKEND AND EVENING HOURS):

- Your child has any of the above symptoms over the weekend, a holiday, or your child's preferred primary care provider cannot see your child within one or two days
- Your child is younger than 12 weeks and has a temperature of 100.4°F or higher

WHEN TO SEEK EMERGENCY CARE:

Your child of any age has any of the following symptoms:

- Labored or rapid breathing
- Grunting or flaring nostrils with breathing
- Wheezing
- Dehydration or difficulty drinking
- Lethargy or trouble walking



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

The Library will be closed on February 20 for President's Day

Phone: 258-4966

Email: sandisfieldlibrary@gmail.com

BOOKS FOR SALE

Check out our Gently Used Books. Curl up this snowy season with some old favorites or discover a new author. \$1 a book (hard cover) or six for \$5. Fiction, non-fiction, and biography.

NEW BOOK ARRIVALS

Adult Fiction and Non Fiction

- *Sleep No More* by Jayne Ann Krentz
- *Night Shift* by Robin Cook
- *Wicked Dreams* by Lisa Jackson

- *A Dangerous Business* by Jane Smiley
- *Without a Trace* by Danielle Steel
- *White Horse* by Erika T. Wurth
- *Stella Maris* by Cormac McCarthy
- *Our Own Worst Enemy* by Tom Nichols
- *The Cabinet of Dr. Leng* by Douglas Preston
- *The Rabbit Hutch* by Tess Gunty
- *The Cloisters* by Katy Hays
- *The Twist of a Knife* by Anthony Horowitz
- *Punks* by John Keene
- *The House at the End of the World* by Dean Koontz
- *Devil's Delight* by M.C. Beaton
- *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks
- *Finlay Donovan Jumps the Gun* by Elle Cosimano

Young Adult Books

- *All My Rage* by Sabaa Tahir

And for the Younger readers and wee ones

- *Love from llama llama* by Anna Dewdney

The Children's section is replete with books, games, toys, Brio trains, and lots of arts and crafts supplies.

The Library offers notary service, public computer and printer availability, free wi-fi, and access to e-books 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. 🏠

WINTER SNOWFALL TO DATE

2022-2023 Snowfall to date as measured/estimated at a Beech Plain back-yard weather station.

November 2022

November 16 2.0 inches

December 2022

December 11 8.5

December 16 4.5

December 17 2.5

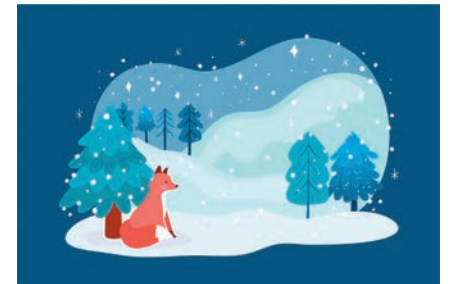
Total December 15.5

January 2023

January 12 1.0

January 15 1.0

Season to date 19.5 inches



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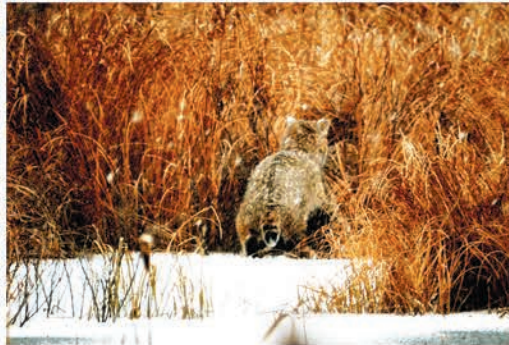
Source: Berkshire MLS and Broker's Off Market Sales Records in MA & NY, 1/1/95 - 10/10/22
 Each office is independently owned and operated. 🏠

Thank You to Our December Donors

<i>Anonymous</i>	<i>Mark Fay</i>	<i>Adam Manacher</i>
<i>David Abramson</i>	<i>Paul Folta</i>	<i>Michele & Vinnie Mauro</i>
<i>Alexia & Paul Adams</i>	<i>Mary Ann Gacek</i>	<i>Kenneth Mayer</i>
<i>Axel Aldred</i>	<i>David Glaser</i>	<i>Dorothy & Stephen McCuin</i>
<i>Michelle Arnot</i>	<i>Jeff Gonyeau &</i>	<i>Andrew & Tina McDowell</i>
<i>Roger & Roberta Ball</i>	<i>Jack Dennerlein</i>	<i>Emily Melchoir &</i>
<i>Ron Bernard &</i>	<i>Lorraine Greenwell</i>	<i>Calvin Rodman</i>
<i>Jean Atwater-Williams</i>	<i>Antonia & Jack Grumbach</i>	<i>Rochea & Dean Monteleone</i>
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<i>Michael Barrie &</i>	<i>Karen Haines</i>	<i>Bill Taylor</i>
<i>Fredrica Duke</i>	<i>Rosanne Hoekstra</i>	<i>Christine Nadelman</i>
<i>Eva & Jean-Paul Blachere</i>	<i>Nicholas Holliday</i>	<i>William & Alicia Newsome</i>
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<i>Ruth Buchanan</i>	<i>John Huydic</i>	<i>Tom Christopher</i>
<i>Jennifer Collins</i>	<i>Barbara Lynn &</i>	<i>Lauren Paul</i>
<i>Victor & Maryann Colucci</i>	<i>Paul Jacoby</i>	<i>Bill Price</i>
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		<i>Kurt Will</i>
		<i>Peter Wool</i>

CRITTER CORNER

If you have a picture for Critter Corner, please email it to editor@sandisfieldtimes.org.

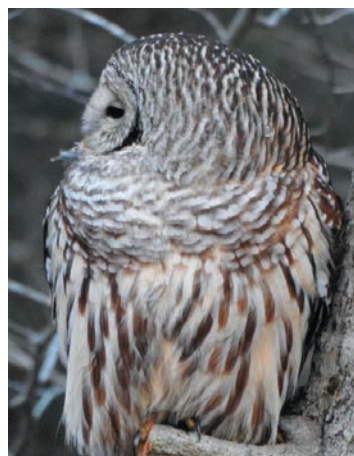


Our Bobcats I watched this pair of bobcats hunting on the ice in December. I saw the first one, focused on it through the viewfinder, and suddenly the second one appeared. They saw something in the reeds and waited patiently . . . butts wiggling like any cat would before they pounced. Fantastic hunting and they ended up with a muskrat for lunch (getting a little wet in the process). I learned later, after looking it up, that kittens often stay with the mother for up to a year, learning to hunt. Diane Barth, Sandy Brook Turnpike



Very Handsome Pileated Woodpecker

This direct descendant of the Famous Woody enjoys the suet served on Jean Atwater-Williams' back porch on Cold Spring Road, where she captured him in a fine photograph in January.



Barred Owl

This barred owl took up residence about 20 feet from our back deck in December. He didn't stay too long, but was beautiful while he was here. Cindy Ragusa, Otis



FINAL STREETLIGHT COMMENT REQUEST

Upon review of the initial responses to the streetlight comment request, the Sandisfield Select Board has created an updated list of streetlights for potential removal in an attempt to eliminate wasteful spending and reduce energy use. Please see below for the updated streetlight list:

DESCRIPTION	ACTION
Transfer Station	Flood Remove: replace with controllable
Transfer Station Cobra (Unlit)	Remove: not in service, duplicative
Rt-57 @ Montville Buck River Curve	Remove: closest homeowner does not want, signage
Rt-57 @ #90 Sandisfield (Beardsley)	Remove: closest homeowner does not want
Rt-57 @ #66 Town Hall	Remove: not in service, add controllable light to Town Hall
Rt-57 @ Library (Cobrahead)	Remove: add controllable light to Library
Rt-57 @ 15 Sandisfield Rd (Paladino)	Remove: closest homeowner does not want
Rt-57 @ #234 Sandisfield Rd (Field)	Remove: closest homeowner does not want
New Hartford @ #47	Remove: move to S Sandisfield intersection
Roosterville Rd Start	Remove: low traffic, low speeds



DELANEY MAE PEASE

Jennifer and Charles Pease of South Main Street announce the birth of their second child, a daughter, Delaney. Born October 14th at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Delaney is a granddaughter of Charles and Laureen Pease of Sandisfield and Mary and Jim Florek of Westfield, MA. She is also welcomed by her sister Fallyn.

Please submit all final comments via email to:

jbeardsley@sandisfieldma.gov with subject: **Street Lighting Comments**



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(SEE PAGE 15)

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TOWN OF SANDISFIELD GUIDELINES FOR SELECT BOARD MEETINGS

The following guidelines have been established to make the best use of time at Select Board meetings. We value input from residents and look forward to hearing your questions, comments or concerns. While offering public input, it is important that the Select Board is also allowed enough time to conduct their other business. Select Board Meetings are scheduled for Mondays at 6:30 p.m., unless otherwise posted.

1.) To reserve time on the agenda persons must contact the Town Manager at 258-4711, Ext.1 or at manager@sandisfieldma.gov by NOON on the WEDNESDAY before the meeting.

2.) The Select Board encourages public participation as follows:

- Town residents can bring comments before the Select Board that require a minimum of discussion and are on the agenda, only after being recognized by the Chair. If your issue is not on the agenda, you may bring it up under “Future agenda items.”
- “Topics not anticipated” should be brought to the Chair for possible consideration prior to the meeting.
- Please try to keep your comments short and to the point. Plan on being allowed up to three minutes per person, not per topic, to speak at any meeting.
- If it appears that the topic(s) being discussed will consume longer than the three minutes allocated, then,

at the discretion of the Chair, the matter will be placed on an upcoming Select Board meeting agenda.

- If you believe that your topic will require more time or desire to make a more formal presentation than is allowed under these guidelines, please contact the Town Manager to ask to be put on a future agenda so that we can properly allocate enough time.
- You are free to ask questions or to make your point for all to consider. However, engaging in active debate with Select Board or audience members will not be allowed. All comments and questions must be directed to the Chair of the Select Board per MGL Chapter 30A, Section 20(g).
- All remarks must be respectful and courteous, free of personal attacks. Inappropriate language will not be tolerated.

3.) Employees and Board members who have business with the Select Board should be placed on the agenda beforehand (see Item # 1.).

4.) Correspondence listed on the back of the Select Board agenda is available for review at the meeting.

5.) Anyone wishing to contact the Select Board in writing may do so at: Select Board Town of Sandisfield 66 Sandisfield Road Sandisfield, MA 01255 The Select Board appreciates your cooperation in honoring these guidelines.

* All meetings are held per the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25. 

Approved by Select Board 10/18/2021

From the Town website: www.sandisfieldma.gov



WINTER DANCE



The Sandisfield Recreation Committee invites **EVERYONE** to dance those winter blues away!

Join us for music by DJ Jonny Jams, appetizers, non-alcoholic beverages, chocolate fountain and more!

RSVP by 1.28.23 to sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info or (413) 269-7357

Saturday, February 11th
5pm - 8pm

FIRE STATION #2
ROUTE 57



Comings and Goings



WILLIAM J. CARR
1966-2022

William J. Carr of Otis died November 26, 2022 at home.

He was born July 19, 1966 in Springfield, Mass., to the late Louis F. and Barbara E. Carr. He studied auto mechanics at Putnam until his graduation in 1984. He became a licensed plumber's apprentice and worked for several companies over the years.

Bill had the talent to fix almost anything that had a motor and the drive to finish every project he started. He had a big heart and always wanted to be there to help those that needed him. He always had a joke to make someone laugh and you knew he loved you if he cared enough to tease you.

He enjoyed spending his summers with extended family on the lake and around the campfire in Otis

He will be remembered by his daughter, Avery L. Carr, and her mother, Kellee L. Kimberling of Sandisfield. He will also be remembered by his siblings Michael Carr of Westfield, Mass., David Carr of Hudson, Florida, and Barbara Mazur of Ware, Mass. Bill also leaves several nieces, nephews, family members, and lifelong friends. The family knows that many people cared for Bill, so a celebration of life will be held in 2023, time and location to be announced.

Published in the Torrington Republican, December 1921, 2022.



Ron and Louise Daigle operated the Cottage Kitchen for about seven years.

Photo: Louise Daigle

RONALD D. DAIGLE
1946-2022

Ron Daigle, 76, formerly of Sandisfield, Mass., and Chillicothe, Ohio, died September 21, 2022 in his Crossville, Alabama home surrounded by his loved ones.

Ron and his wife, Louise, operated the Cottage Kitchen diner on Route 8 in New Boston Village in the late-1980s, locally famous for blueberry pancakes and "Lazy Lasagna." Ron worked at the Kolburne School in New Marlborough, Mass., for twenty years. He started as a night shift caregiver, had increasing responsibility and was night supervisor for ten years.

He was born on February 12, 1946 in Fort Kent, Maine, to Zenon and Cecile Bard Daigle. A proud veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Ron served in Vietnam with the 821st Combat Security Police Squadron during the infamous "Tet Offensive" in 1968.

Ron is survived by his wife of fifty years, Louise Deschaine Daigle of Crossville, his daughter, Jennifer Henderson (Kyle) of Chillicothe, Ohio; sons, Brandon Card and Kevin Card, both of Crossville; Brian Daigle of Washington D.C.; seven grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, many nephews, nieces, cousins, and a multitude of others who considered him as a father figure and friend. He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Florence, Rena, and Donald.

He will always be remembered as a caring, generous, funny, goofy, honest, hat-collecting, hardworking, most-of-all kind man who also cherished his role of grandfather.



NOW HEAR THIS!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro. Please send notices for Now Hear This! to editor@sandisfieldtimes.org

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY EVENTS

Sandisfield Select Board Meetings are currently through Zoom and in-person. New start time: 6:30 p.m. Please visit sandisfieldma.gov or call 258-4711 for information.

Playgroup on Tuesdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Otis Town Hall. Sponsored by South Berkshire Kids. Weather permitting. No pre-registration is necessary. Led by Nina Carr. This fun program includes free play, crafts, stories, and songs! A great time to meet up with friends and meet new friends! For confirmation, please call Nina Carr (258-3314). Free!

Coffee Hour on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. at the Council on Aging, Town Hall. Snacks and conversation! For more information, contact Nina Carr (258-3314). Free.

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

New Boston Church Service on Sunday, January 29 at 10:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church, Route 57. Weather permitting. All are welcome.

Winter Dance on Saturday, February 11 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Fire Station #2 on Route 57 sponsored by the Sandisfield Recreation Committee. Everyone is invited to dance those winter blues away! DJ Jonny Jams will be hosting this free event. There will be appetizers, non-alcoholic beverages, a chocolate fountain, and more! Please RSVP by January 28 (sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info or 413-269-7357).

Sunset Hike, sponsored by Berkshire Natural Resources Council on Tuesday, February 14, from 4:45 to 6:00 p.m. at the Clam River Reserve. Participants will walk through cathedral pines during this 2-mile loop. Please park at the Town Hall Annex. For more information, visit bnrc.org. Free.

New Boston Church Service on Sunday, February 26 at 10:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church, Route 57. Weather permitting. All are welcome.

ONLINE EVENT

LEARN! Wildlife Connections Using Trail Cameras via Zoom on Thursday, February 16 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. Join this Berkshire Natural Resources Council-hosted online event to learn

more about local wildlife. Camera specialist Sally Naser of CR Wildlife Cams will discuss using trail cameras to learn about our wildlife neighbors, including those in our own backyards. For more information and required registration, visit bnrc.org. Free.

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!

Beginner Snowshoe/Winter Hike on Saturday, January 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Housatonic Flats in Great Barrington, sponsored by the Berkshire Natural Resources Council. This will be a one-mile beginner winter hike. If weather permits, it will be a snowshoe hike. For more information and required registration, visit bnrc.org.

Painting with Margaret on Saturdays (every other beginning on January 28) from 1:00 to 2:15 p.m. at the Monterey Community Center at 468 Main Road. Visit ccomontery.org for more information. \$5 per session.

Great Barrington Winter Farmers Market on Saturdays, January 21 and February 18 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Housie Dome on 1064 Main Street in Housatonic. Featuring locally grown and produced foods, including fruits and vegetables, cheese, meats, breads, and more. Masks are not mandatory, but encouraged.

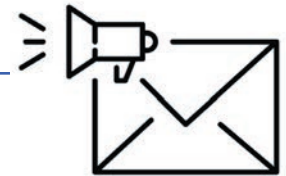
Sheffield Winter Farmers' Market on Saturday, February 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Dewey Hall on 91 Main Street in Sheffield. Local produce, meats, baked goods, crafts, and live music.

Bushwhacking Forest Wander on Sunday, February 12 at 1:00 p.m. at Peoples State Forest in Barkhamsted, Connecticut. Join forester Ralph Scarpino and biologist Pete Picone for an "on-the-trail/off-the-trail" ramble through the woods looking for deer and moose signs and interesting plants and other wildlife signs. Hike is weather dependent. Meet at the intersection of Greenwood and Parks Road in Barkhamsted. Bring water and snacks. Dress for the weather. Free.



EARLY MARCH EVENT

Ukulele Classes for Absolute Beginners. Thursdays, March 2, 9, 23, and 30, 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Colebrook Community Center, 2 Schoolhouse Rd., Colebrook. Instructor Jean Atwater-Williams will teach you the basics of this popular and versatile instrument. Bring your own or a limited number of instruments available. \$40 fee at first class. Call to reserve a place. 860-738-9521.



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THE SANDISFIELD DIRECTORY UPDATES

Those Times readers who cut our Directory from the paper and post it on the 'fridge need to take out pencil or pen and make these fixes to the Directory we printed in December. The updates are courtesy of Lynn Rubenstein.

- **American Legion** email is yankeefruitloop@gmail.com
- **Board of Health** meets first Monday of every month at 6:00 p.m.
- **Recreation Committee** email is sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info
- **Select Board** meets at 6:30 p.m., usually on a Monday

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



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*See page 15 for December contributors to
our Annual Appeal.
Thank you for all of your support.*



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