

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

Tribunus



Plebis

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume XIV, Number 4

July 2023

Meet Our New Selectman

BOB FEDELL STEPPED UP TO FILL VACANCY

Story/photos by Bill Price

Most voters did not get a chance to know Robert Fedell before election day. Nominated at the Town Caucus with no opposing candidate, he won a seat on the Select Board at the May election with 58 votes out of 91 cast.

He could have won with only one.

The seat opened when Selectman Alex Bowman submitted his resignation after two years of his three-year term, leaving one-year to be filled. Alex, who moved to Northampton, resigned as of the election so the Board would not have to meet with only two members.

Steve Seddon was re-elected for a second term of three years. John Field has two years to go before his term is up and he faces re-election.

But with no one taking out nomination papers for the pending vacancy, it seemed the Town might have to limp along with a two-member Board of Selectmen.



Sandisfield Board of Selectmen: From left, Robert Fedell, Steve Seddon, John Field.

Then, at the Caucus, Robert Fedell stepped up and allowed himself to be nominated. The Times was unable to reach Bob in time to include him in its May election issue, which is how most candidates are introduced to the community. We were,

Cont'd on p.6



The Subaru, hung up on a tree.

There's a Crash YOU ARE FIRST AT THE SCENE THEN WHAT?

Story/photos by Ron Bernard

Have you ever considered what you would do if you were the first person to arrive at the scene of a car crash? If so, good for you. You may be better prepared than I was recently in that exact situation.

At home on a Friday afternoon last month, we were startled by the thud-sound of something big barreling into the edge of the forest across the street.

Our Beech Plain house sits precisely and only 35 feet from the road at the point where the road turns sharply, drops off and turns again forming an "S" pattern as dictated by the geography. In auto racing parlance this configuration is called a "chicane." Race car drivers love chicanes *because* they are dangerous and challenging. There are a lot of chicanes in Sandisfield.

Warning signs are posted at both approaches to this notorious Cold Spring Road chicane.

Most drivers heed the signs; some don't, rather frequently in fact.

In winter the evidence of careless driving is plentiful and plain to see because of tracks in the snow off-road. In the other seasons I discover long, deep

Cont'd on p.8

INSIDE

TOWN-WIDE TAG SALE	2
WIN THIS ATV	3
WHAT'S GOING ON AT TUCKERS?	4
LOCAL STARTS NEW LAUNDROMAT IN GB	7
FRRSD NEW PRINCIPAL	12





Tag SALE

THIRD ANNUAL TOWN-WIDE TAG SALE

SUCCESSFUL EVENT BEING REPEATED

By Maxene Kupperman-Guiñals

For the past two years, folks have come from as far away as Chatham, New York, Brattleboro, Vermont, and North Adams to discover the treasures being sold in our Town-wide Tag Sale.

This year, the tag sale will be on Saturday, August 19, from 9:30-3:30. Once again it is to benefit and sponsored by the Sandisfield Historical Society.

If you want to be on the map and get a butterfly marker for your driveway (this year's butterfly marker will be bigger and easier to see!), the cost

is \$25 per house. And should you not want to have a display at your own house, we are looking into a central site.

There will be wide media coverage in print, online, and on the radio. Maps will be available online as well as paper maps around town.

For more information, and to pay your fee, get in touch with Joanne Lazarowitz Olson at joanneo@aol.com or Maxene Kupperman-Guiñals at slx92@gmail.com or 413-258-4030.



SUMMER HOURS

NEW
TOWN DUMP
HOURS

Wednesday:

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday:

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday:

12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Winter Hours:

To Be Determined

NOTICE

If you were a client of **ROBERT J. MCMAHON, ARCHITECT** and WISH to have the architectural drawings & files pertaining to your project from his files, please email Jeanne Randorf at mcdorf@gmail.com to arrange to pick them up.

Files remaining will be destroyed in September.



Flag Day, 2023

A darkening sky and deep rolling thunder did not deter the patriotic crowd gathered at the Sandisfield American Legion (Post #456) on Flag Day, June 14.

Veterans Gene English, John Burroughs, and Maria Domato began with the reading of a ceremonial passage, which was followed by the sacred burning of a few hundred flags which had been dropped off previously. Additional flags were brought for disposal as the ceremony proceeded.

Towns people and veterans alike attended the righteous event. Chef a la Sal had prepared his specialty dish of hot dogs and sauerkraut for anyone who wished to partake.

Photos: Lynn Rubenstein

Sandisfield Historical Society



Win This ATV!

By Ann Wald, President

Don't miss out. There is still time to get the lucky ticket that wins a Polaris Sportsman 570 All-Terrain Vehicle. Our fund-raising raffle is continuing. We are purchasing this ATV, valued at nearly \$10,000, at a discount from New Boston Crane Service. You can stop by the shop and see an ATV like the one you could win, and you get to pick the color.



Your chances of winning are very good since we are limiting the number of tickets to 500, contingent upon sufficient ticket sales to cover the cost of the purchase. Second prize is \$500, and third wins \$250. The drawing will be at the New Boston Inn, August 31 at 7:00 p.m. and you don't have to be present to win. If you win the ATV and don't need it, you can easily sell it.

In any event, you will be making a donation to the Historical Society to help us build a bathroom at our Meeting House on Rt. 183. Ticket can be purchased at the New Boston Inn, New Boston Crane & Sleds, or from Barbara Cormier at 860-307-1332, or Joanne Olson at 917-686-1985. Cash accepted, or check, Zelle, or Venmo.

At our meeting in June we went over plans for the next few months. We are holding an Antique Appraisal at the Meeting House on August 19, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. If you have a treasure you've been wondering about for years, bring it by and Charlie Flint, the former Lenox antique dealer, will tell you how much it's worth. The cost is \$5 per item.

In September, Lorraine German will do a presentation on maple syrup. Please join us. Lorraine's talks are very informative.

We are working on plans for October and November so stay informed.

Our next meeting is July 8th at 11:00 a.m. at the Meeting House on Rt. 183 at the intersection with South Sandisfield Road.

See you in July. 🍁

The Culvert, Silverbrook, and Town Hill

A CONVERSATION WITH BRAD

By Bill Price

THE CULVERT

As all Sandisfield drivers know, the culvert replacement on Rt. 57 near Town Hall, scheduled to start the first of June, has been delayed. Drivers have seen surveyors and survey stakes installed and other signs of progress, but no road closure yet.

Brad Curry, Sandisfield's superintendent of roads, said not to worry, that an advance warning would be in place for drivers for when the road would be closed. The horrendous detour up Rt. 8 to Cold Spring Road to Town Hill and vice versa would not be activated without warning.

"There'll be signs on both sides of the work site to let people know when the work will start," Brad said. "Until then, we're waiting along with everybody else."

SILVERBROOK ROAD

Work continues along Silverbrook Road, but Brad said again, "Not to worry, we're not making it into a highway. We want it to continue to be a country dirt road."

His crew is taking out a few trees, "mostly old trees that would anyway soon be laying across the road instead of standing beside it. We are smoothing it in places and making sure all the culverts and drainage is clear."

He added, "But not paving any of it, not making it into something it shouldn't be."

During the detour phase of the culvert work on 57, Silverbrook will be used as a police and emergency route, but not as a primary detour.

TOWN HILL ROAD AT YANNER PARK

A few Town residents have lost front axels or ruined tire rims due to the perpetually recurring potholes and washouts on Town Hill Road below the entrance to Yanner Park. The road is particularly dangerous coming downhill at night when it is difficult at best to see what's ahead at road level.

Curry's Department of Public Works is determined, sometime late this summer, that that section of Town Hill will be fixed and stay fixed.

Brad has hired engineers to study the paths of the springs that constantly run under that stretch of the road and have destroyed every effort to maintain pavement. He will make a more concerted effort than previous road superintendents to control the path of the water and get its flow piped safely.

Brad isn't sure yet whether the work will require a detour or not, but he will keep the neighbors along that stretch of Town Hill apprised of what is going on. 🍁

Transfer Station Updates

The Town of Sandisfield announces changes regarding the Transfer Station hours and the annual fee.

The hours have been reduced from 19 hours to 15 hours in the summer and to 12 hours in the winter. This aligns the town more closely with our neighbors.

SUMMER HOURS:

Wednesday: 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Sunday: 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Winter Hours: To Be Determined

The annual fee has increased to \$90.00 for the first sticker and \$10.00 for one additional sticker for your household.

The cost of operating the Transfer Station has increased due to inflationary pressures and a loss of competition in the business of hauling solid waste. This increase in cost is being split between our annual appropriations at Town Meeting and the revenue raised by the sticker/recycling fees.

Please visit www.sandisfieldma.gov/sandisfield-transfer-station for the FY24 Transfer Station Sticker Application, as well as the updated Recycling Fee Schedule. 🍁



What's Going on at Tuckers?

OR RATHER K-PLAY, OUR NEW NEIGHBOR

By Bill Price

You could be excused for driving past Tuckers south of New Boston and thinking nothing's happening, that those two Winsted dreamers who were going to build a children's playground factory were smoking Massachusetts weed.

You'd be wrong.

Inside, Tucker's building has been cleaned out to the rafters. The bar is gone and the walls stripped. The interior is being used to store logs and poles and heavy equipment. The existing concrete floor is strong enough to hold machinery and milling equipment, if that is what is decided should be used here.

The Winsted partners, Ken Valeckis and John Magnoli, originally thought they would use the site for the main display building for K-Play, their playground equipment business. They're



Eli Michaels, a K-Play employee, with owner Ken Valeckis beside their brand new Branson front-end loader bought just up the road at New Boston Crane Service.

rethinking that idea. Currently they plan to use the building as what it is already becoming, a very useful place for equipment, a workroom, and whatever else is needed. A large yard behind the building is being used for cutting and storing lumber.



One of the owners of K-Play, Ken Valeckis, in the re-purposed interior of what was once Tuckers.

"We're letting the business tell us how to proceed," Ken Valeckis told The Times. "We're finding the site would be more useful and valuable to us as a workplace and storage yard rather than a large showroom."

He added, "We don't have a strict timeframe. We're letting the business grow as it needs, organically."

In any event, Valeckis said, "We want to be good neighbors." His plans include cleaning up the roadside appearance of the building after the damage caused by the fire that ruined Tuckers.

"We'll either put windows along the front or a new façade on the building. We'll take down the fence and either build a new one or plant shrubs to protect the backyard. We'll eventually reduce the size of the parking lot, but still have it large enough to allow semis to back in."

A K-Play employee, Eli Michaels, was on site on a recent Sunday with his wife and three sons, ages about 3 to 8. Eli wanted to show his sons where Dad works during the day and had enlisted the kids to help with the construction, in a way. Tree trunks and lumber and stubs of trees that would be sliced and diced into playground furniture were piled neatly around the yard and inside the building. The kids were good helpers and cheerful about it.

Currently living in Litchfield, Eli hopes to move his family to Sandisfield in a couple of years. "I love it up here," he said.

Sandisfield is happy to greet its new neighbors. Welcome to Town, K-Play. 🇺🇸



Adam Brown
Consulting Forester
MA License # 461

P.O. Box 171
Sandisfield, MA 01255

shireforestry@gmail.com

Cell: 413.854.7525

- Forest Management/Stewardship Plans
- Chapter 61/A/B Program
- Timber Sales
- Boundary Marking
- GIS Mapping
- Foresters for the Birds
- Wildlife Habitat Improvement
- Recreational Trail Layout



Santiago and Son Housepainters

Quality Residential Painting Service by Santiago and Antonio In Berkshire County And Surrounding Areas.

SPECIALIZING IN OLD HOUSES

(413) 854-7438 • santiago51@msn.com

See our gallery of work at:
professional-home-painters.com



The Sandisfield Arts Center

JULY AT THE ARTS CENTER: ALIVE WITH ROMANCE

Story and photo by Hilde Weisert

Love is in the air at the Sandisfield Arts Center in July, beginning July 8 at 7:30 p.m., with a special screening of "A Stage of Twilight," a film starring Karen Allen, who will speak follow-ing the showing. Filmed in New Milford, the movie is a love story set in the final chapter of Cora (Allen) and Benny's (William Sadler) lives/ It's been shown at the Sedona and the Woodstock film festivals.

Sunday July 16 at 4:00 p.m., we're thrilled to offer a free piano recital, "Romance in the Afternoon," with selections by Bach, Mozart, Chopin, Rachmaninoff and others performed by pianist Josh Luxon-Robinson.

And though its relationship to romance may not be obvious, we have it on good authority

that playing Mah Jongg has led to many long-term relationships. If you've always wanted to learn how to play or brush up your skills, join us Saturday July 15 at 10:00 a.m., for the first of two Mah Jongg Workshops with local teacher Sandy Balayan, hosted by Mary Anne Grammer. A follow-on workshop is July 22.

IN (AND OUT OF) THE GALLERY

Our Second Bi-annual "Field Day" Outdoor Sculpture Show opens July 2, 4:00-6:00 p.m., on beautiful Sandisfield private grounds featuring regional artists. Enjoy light refreshments, talk with the artists, and walk the gorgeous grounds to see the work of Robert Adzema, Tomer Bengal, Bill Carlson, Serena Weld Granbery, Robert Osborne, Natalie Tyler, and Peter Vacchina (confirmed at press time, there may be others.)

Josie Miner's evocative, moving black and white photography show "When It Was" wraps up with a closing reception 4 – 6 pm on July 9.

Jaye Alison Moscariello's "People and Places: New Paintings" opens Sunday July 16 with an artist's talk at 1:00 p.m., followed by a reception from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

The One-Day Kids Art Show on June 11 was such fun (and such amazing work from local



At the One-Day Kids Art Show in June.

Back row: Maewen Wilson, Avelina Wilson.

Front row: Walter Rodman, Myrna Rodman, Louis Cofrin, Helen Cofrin, Amos Brown.

Not pictured: Hazel Gallagher, June Miner, Niko Friedmutter, Ava Maldonado.

artists 6 through 12) that we hope to do it again next year. In the accompanying photograph are some of the artists. In future years, we look forward to saying these talented artists got their start here. 🍷



Just out of curiosity...

If I could sell my house for \$_____, I would list my home this spring.

Text your answer to, or call 413.528.4859

**THE MARKET IS CHANGING
THE TIME TO LIST IS
NOW**

The Brockman Group

Jared Kelly
413.854.1504

Chapin Fish
413.528.4859

448 Main Road, Monterey
413.528.4859
brockmanrealestate.com



Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

williampitt.com

Great Barrington Brokerage | 306 & 308 Main Street | 413.528.4192
Lenox Brokerage | 34 Church Street | 413.637.4402
Each office is independently owned and operated 🏠

CW NELSON LANDSCAPE DESIGN & NURSERY

Landscaping & Masonry
Retaining Stone Walls
Patios and Walkways

Grading & Drainage
Septic Systems
Excavation
Driveways
Garden Planning
Landscape Planting

Waterfalls & Fountains
Water Gardens & Koi Ponds

413-258-3375

www.cwnelson.com
chuckwnelson@earthlink.net
*find us on Facebook

Meet Our New Selectman

Cont'd from p.1

however, able to announce his candidacy, and he was listed as a candidate on the Town's website. His seat will be up for election again next May.



Selectman
Robert Fedell

We met Bob briefly at the Select Board meeting June 5, and later made phone contact.

Bob grew up in New Marlborough and moved to Sandisfield's Town Hill Road about twenty years ago where he and his wife Tess built a house.

Together they have three daughters, Emelia, 19, Honora, 17, and Siobhan, 15.

He said he's pleased to be getting involved with the town. "I thought I could get my feet wet," he laughed, "with a one-year term. Then run for three years, if I think I can contribute more."

He has already attended the class for incoming selectmen held in Devon by the Massachusetts Municipal Association. "There were over a hundred people taking the class, veteran selectmen as well as newbies like me," he said. "There's a lot to learn."

One of the relatively complicated regulations is, he believes, the Open Meeting Law. "For instance, if Janey sends the three of us an email and I hit "return all" so it goes to Steve and John, that is basically a violation," he said. "I can say hello to them when we meet, but we can't discuss Town politics or affairs outside of an official meeting."

Bob is a long-tenured EMT volunteer in New Marlborough, where he is still a member of the EMS department. He was president of the Monterey Fire Responders. He formerly owned Hill Town Recycling, which he recently sold to Mike Milche of Monterey.

An ethical question arose because of Bob's employment as a crane operator with Radius Crane and Rigging of New Marlborough, which is owned by John Field, another Sandisfield selectman.

Select Board Chairman Steve Seddon said that he was unconcerned about the potential for a conflict of interest. He wrote in an email to The Times that "Bob has filled out his disclosure form for the appearance of conflict of interest and will submit that to the town clerk. John Field is a very respected member of the community with a solid moral compass. I would make the same statement for Bob Fedell."

In the meantime, Seddon added, "Our town is fortunate to have three individuals – who have very little free time – donating their time to advocate for the residents without personal agendas of their own."



You're insured *but*
**what about the car
coming at you?**

FRANK CONSOLATI INSURANCE

71 Main Street, Lee MA 413-243-0105 consolatiinsurance.com
Home Auto Life Umbrella Insurance Since 1942

PICASSO'S PAINTING

ENJOY SATISFACTION
OF EXCELLENCE

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

INTERIOR
EXTERIOR
RESIDENTIAL
COMMERCIAL
PRESSURE WASHING

PHONE: (413) 429-7571
EMAIL: HOUSEPAINT1@HOTMAIL.COM

A Laundromat Opens in Great Barrington

SANDISFIELD RESIDENT STARTS A NEW BUSINESS

By Bill Price

“I’m climbing a steep learning curve,” said Paula Kohler.

A first-time entrepreneur, Paula just opened a new laundromat following a 60-day rehabilitation frenzy. After closing on the property in March, she ambitiously planned to open her doors within 60 days. She did, opening May 20, but it was a hectic couple of months.

With new floors, 16 new washing machines, a renovated bathroom, and freshly painted walls, the place feels and looks brand new.

Laundryland is located on the site of the former Individual Laundry on School Street, Great Barrington. Individual Laundry closed its doors at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020 after nearly three decades in business.

Aside from the interior, a new payment system was installed. You can still pay with quarters from the vending machine on the back wall, but an option is to slide in a credit card or pay with Apple Pay or Google Pay.

Paula did much of the rehab work herself. “I’m learning a lot about the laundromat business,” she added, “a day at a time.”



Photo: Ben Garver, The Berkshire Eagle

She already knew about cleaning and building maintenance. Her only previous experience was with Maid in the Berkshires, her Airbnb cleaning and maintenance business where she was often her own boss as well as employee.

A resident of Cronk Road, Paula has two daughters at home, Hayley, 17, and Harlan, 9. Laundryland is open 24 hours a day, every day. Wi-fi is available at no charge. Paula expects to be able to add a drop-off wash-and-fold service by July 15.

The opening of Laundryland was eagerly awaited by laundromat customers. It has been featured in at least five welcoming articles in The Berkshire Eagle and online at The Berkshire Edge.

Route 57 on the New Marlborough Village Green



NEW MARLBOROUGH MEETING HOUSE

August 12
4:30 pm
Karen Allen
Join multi-award winning actor and director Karen Allen for a fast moving, interactive afternoon as she shares highlights of her exciting career.

August 26
4:30 pm
Alison Larkin
An in-depth conversation with Comedienne, bestselling author, and founder of the Berkshire based audiobook company Alison Larkin Presents.

Sept 2
4:30 pm
Simone Dinnerstein
Simone Dinnerstein returns by popular demand, performing works by Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, and others. Her 2021 performance at the Meeting House was sold out.

Sept 9
4:30 pm
Melissa Clark and Madhur Jaffrey
Tasting the World: Two of today’s great cookbook writers come to New Marlborough to discuss food, cooking, and their careers crafting delicious recipes.

Sept 23
4:30 pm
Trio Calore: Wincenc - Nikkanen- Asteriadou
The trio of renowned recitalists will perform works by Jacques Ibert, Franz Doppler, Bohuslav Martinu, J.S. Bach, and others.

Oct 7
4:30 pm
Simon Winchester
with Chandra Prasad, Francine Prose, and André Bernard
On writing in the age of artificial intelligence.

Meeting House GALLERY

June 23
thru
July 23
Coming Together
Opening Reception June 23, 5-7 p.m.
Presenting the work of some dozen artists, “Coming Together” aspires to show that disparate elements can be combined to reveal new insights.

July 28
thru
Aug 27
Motion/Emotion
Opening Reception July 28, 5-7 p.m.
Art moves and emotes. As it captures the moment, it also inspires a narrative of the before and after, the shift from darkness to light, the transition from birth to bloom.

Sept 1
thru
Oct 8
The 25th Annual New Marlborough Artist’s Show
Opening Reception September 1, 5-7 p.m.
The annual showcasing of New Marlborough’s finest fine art returns for its 25th Anniversary!

Note: Meeting House events can sell out!
Buy tickets ONLINE now
at: nmmeetinghouse.org

Route 57 on the Green | (413) 229-5045

There's a Crash

Cont'd from p.1

ruts carved into the lawn due to heavy braking. The repeated damage is annoying and never quite heals. Typically, errant drivers leave skid marks on the pavement but recover in time on the lawn then sheepishly drive off. Others however speed away, skid-and-run if you will. I have yet to hear anyone say, "Sorry 'bout that."

On this afternoon there had been just enough sprinkles to wet the grass. Just enough to send an unsuspecting driver who was not paying enough attention to slip-slide out of control.

Two grandmotherly ladies were heading to the City from their seasonal place in a neighboring town when the accident happened – in a flash. We often hear the disturbing screech of hard braking but not this time. There wasn't time to brake because even at 35 mph a vehicle will cover 90 feet from point of entry to impact in 1.75 seconds.

Upstairs, Jean also heard the commotion and saw the result. I dashed out the door shouting, "Call nine-one-one right now!" We were oblivious with no idea in those sixty seconds what to expect or what to do. I ran to the scene thinking, "Please no one be hurt ... or worse."

What a scene! After side-swiping a mature tree, the Subaru landed precariously on a smaller one at perhaps a 20-degree angle. That tree and a guide wire there acted like the landing restraints on an aircraft carrier. The driver's side front end was mangled and grotesque. Although the vehicle was probably "totaled," thankfully there was no roll-over or head-on collision with an immovable object.

The passenger had already emerged, normally,

and was standing by. The driver however was trapped by front and side air bags which had deployed marvelously. Stunned but otherwise uninjured the driver pleaded for assistance to get out. I obliged, and we stumbled through a jumble of twisted saplings, brush, and rocks.

It could easily have been much worse. The Subaru just missed colliding on the left with a giant utility pole with its menacing transformer. On the right, concealed in the woods, was an unforgiving boulder. I said, "You are sooo lucky!" We stood silently for some moments trying to comprehend what had just happened.




*The sign for a Sandisfield "chicane."
Be careful out there.*

The 911 operator was immediately informed about the travelers' relatively good conditions. No need for the helicopter, thank goodness. In only about ten minutes a convention of emergency apparatus and towing vehicles converged from east and west. The first to arrive was EMT Tegan Abear soon joined by EMT Mike Loglisci who, taking nothing the passengers said for granted, evaluated them for signs of trauma. The brothers Morrison and other members of the Sandisfield and Otis fire departments were on also on hand.

The response and coordination was amazing. We later asked EMT Abear who is a Beech Plain resident how long it took him to respond. He estimated that from the "tone" to his arrival, in gear, was no more than five minutes.

Police chief Mike Morrison returned the women to their original residence, shaken but surely relieved to have walked away. Except for the Subaru, best case scenario?

For us, the experience reinforced that in this life mayhem can strike anyone, anywhere at any time. No one is immune and random events like this are not experienced only "by others." It is nevertheless reassuring to know that come what may our local emergency response teams are at the ready, minutes away.

I have since been reliably informed that civilians who first encounter an accident, unless there is imminent danger to life, should leave occupants in the vehicle to await the professionals. Now I know. 

**PLEASE
SUPPORT
OUR
ADVERTISERS**

★ **DINE IN OR TAKEOUT**
New Summer Menu!

*HOUSE SPECIAL PRIME RIB
(thursday-saturday)

FISH & CHIPS
FIRE-GRILLED SALMON
GREAT SALADS
THE BEST BURGERS
SPECIALTY PIZZAS
PRIME TOP SIRLOIN STEAK
LOBSTER MAC & CHEESE

Great appetizers & more!



Book a private party with us!

Executive Chef Jess Gannon

Check out our full menu & event info at:
knoxtrailinn.com
Like us on Facebook
Follow us on Instagram @theknoxtrailinn

★ **UPCOMING EVENTS** ★

July 1st The Conspiracy Band
July 7th The 413's Band
July 8th Smile Like Jack Walk/Run
July 8th Otis Reservoir Fireworks
July 14th Scott Silvia
July 15th Mr. Doubtfire
July 16th The Hilltown Blues Jam
July 22nd Hotshot Hillbillies
July 29th The Gist

NO COVER CHARGE!
Every Thursday Night @7pm
Knox Trail Trivia

OPEN WED & THUR 5-9PM ★ FRI & SAT 12-9PM ★ SUN 12-8PM ★ 413-269-4400 ★ 1898 EAST OTIS RD (RT 23) EAST OTIS, MA

recreation COMMITTEE



Good Things Coming

AND THANKS FOR MEMORIAL DAY

By Lynn Rubenstein, Recreation Committee

Sunday, May 28, was a beautiful, warm sunny day for the Memorial Day Parade/BBQ. Sandisfield held one of the few remaining parades left in the area.

The Recreation Committee, along with the Sandisfield Fire and Police Departments jointly sponsored the town BBQ and would like to thank the following for their time and donations: The American Legion Members, COA, Cultural Council, Farmington General Store, Domaney's, Price Chopper, Big Y, Lee Marching Band, Gregg S. Massini Bus Co. Inc.(Sheffield), Zoe Nelson, John and Roseanne Skrip, Dennis Olsen, Sandy Morrison, Lisa Hirle, and all the parade participants. We couldn't have done it without all your support.

In June, our highly anticipated Family Fun Day at Looking Glass Gardens had to be cancelled, due to the hazardous air conditions heading this way from Canada. Our event was over six months in the planning, so we feel your disappointment, but look forward to next year's line-up (yes, we've already begun).

Would having a Christmas/Chanukah in July help turn those sad faces into happy ones? Well then, your wish is our command.

On Sunday, July 23, (10:30-noon) – RAIN OR SHINE – meet us at West Lake, on the turn-around by the newly placed picnic tables where we will be handing out Surprise Goodie Bags for all ages (for adults as well as children). So we can have enough let us know by July 16 who and how many will be dropping by. Please send an RSVP to SandisfieldEvents@RecreationCommittee.info or phone 413-269-7357.

SAVE THE DATES:

We are making our list and checking it twice (see, we're already in the Christmas spirit).

Our Second Annual Sample Sandisfield is coming up soon. If you are interested in being on THE MAP, give us a holler.

We have a very busy schedule ahead of us, (Pig Roast on September 10, Oktoberfest, Halloween Costume Dance Party, Townwide Trick or Treating). Watch this space in The Times or sign up at SandisfieldEvents@RecreationCommittee.info for our monthly recreation program notifications, so you'll be among the first to know. 🗺



SAVE THE DATE
for a Sandisfield*



Pig Roast



Sunday, September 10th at 5pm

*This event is free to Sandisfield Tax Payers and Employees Only. Proof required. All others \$10, child or adult.

SAMPLE IS BACK!
SANDISFIELD



SATURDAY, AUGUST 19TH

Visit local farms, farmstands, crafters, goods makers, artists and studios. Buy fresh produce, eggs, maple syrup, fruit, crafts, art and more! All while driving through the bucolic scenery of this quaint Berkshire community.



More info coming soon, maps will be available.

SAVE THE DATE



sandisfield
ARTS CENTER

★ 5 HAMMERTOWN ROAD, SANDISFIELD, MA ★

JULY 2-30

2ND BI-ANNUAL OUTDOOR SCULPTURE SHOW

Opening reception 4-6 pm. On beautiful Sandisfield private grounds, featuring regional artists. Weekends by appointment. Suggested donation \$10

SAT., JULY 8, 7:30PM \$15

FILM: "A STAGE OF TWILIGHT"

Star of the film **Karen Allen** will speak following the showing.

TWO SATURDAYS, JULY 15 AND JULY 22 10 AM \$10 PER DAY

MAH JONGG WORKSHOPS Come for two successive Saturdays to learn the intricacies of Mah Jongg from local teacher **Sandy Balayan**.

JULY 16 - AUGUST 13 FREE

Gallery: **JAYE ALISON MOSCARIELLO:**
"PEOPLE AND PLACES" NEW PAINTINGS

Artist's talk at 1 pm, Opening reception 4-6 pm.

SUN., JULY 16, 4 PM FREE

ROMANCE IN THE AFTERNOON

Pianist **Joshua Luxon-Robinson** performs selections by Bach, Mozart, Chopin, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov, Prokofiev and Messiaen.

FOR DETAILS VISIT SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

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

A "Centennial Schoolhouse"

THE TOWN STREET SCHOOL

By Ron Bernard

In 1760, there was only one thoroughfare in Sandisfield, formally named Town Street (now Sandisfield Road/Rte. 57).

Town Street connected New Boston and Sandisfield Center, both settlements established by 1754 by the Browns in New Boston and the Bosworths in the Center. These founding families included adult children who carved out farmsteads of their own in the wilderness and set the stage for newcomers mainly from eastern Massachusetts and Connecticut.

By the time Sandisfield was incorporated in 1762, numerous settlers had arrived. Unlike the pioneers, many of these families included young children or soon would. Education, therefore, was an important matter to the newly-formed Select Board.

At first, in Sandisfield Center in 1763, schoolmaster Giles Lee was paid 20 schillings to teach the first term which was only 12 days. Tradition has it that the first schoolhouse was built on "the ledges" at the town green (common) near the church.

By 1766, the town had established four school districts: Town Street, South, Northwest, and North. In 1791, there were nine districts. Ultimately, by 1845, 16.

THE NEW CENTER SCHOOL

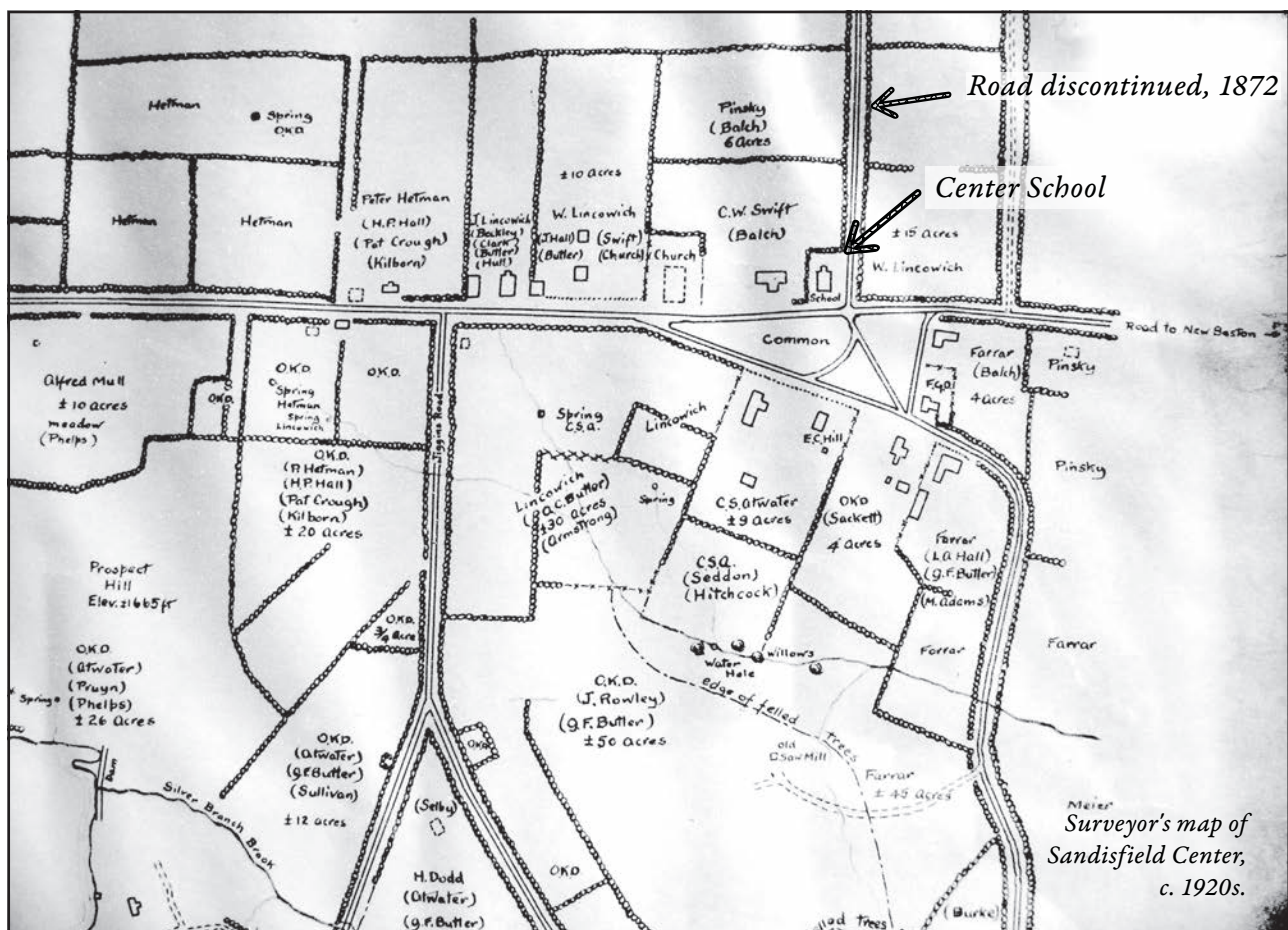
A new Center school was built in 1773, on the southern boundary of the Green. It faced south, below and east of the 1903-relocated former parsonage (current residence of Jennifer and Katie Rudolph). An 1858 map shows the building at the corner of Sandisfield Road and a former road parallel to it which originally connected the Center directly with the A. Hull & Co., tannery at the Clam River above

Montville. That road was discontinued at the 1872 Town Meeting.

In 1845, there was a heated debate about whether to repair the old school or rebuild somewhere else. It was decided to repair but to study options. The 1840s was the golden period for Sandisfield when population reached its historical high. The boundaries of Center District No. 16 included part of the old road to New Boston (now Silverbrook) and environs, New Hartford Road (upper section) and Sandisfield Road west to the line with New Marlborough.

District schools were located according to concentrations of children but this fluctuated so much that every year school committees had to deal with redistricting and sometimes closures. Because road conditions were problematic, concerned parents were vocal about where their children would be assigned. Schools were a major component of the town's budget and attention from officials. Schools management for many decades was a very contentious topic in Sandisfield.

Before the Civil War, Sandisfield Center was a beehive of activity. Besides a school it boasted a splendid church (meeting house), the renowned Hull general store, the Town's first post office



Surveyor's map of Sandisfield Center, c. 1920s.



Last Sandisfield Center schoolhouse, c.1900s. Note that the building is mothballed. DeMars collection, Great Barrington Historical Society.

and library, several taverns, some shops, a law office, several doctors, and even a bank. Immediately after the war, farming declined and the Center's status as the leading commercial and social setting gave way to a nearby industrialized Montville section and fiercely independent and thriving New Boston.

THE BOTTOM FALLS OUT

The Center's farming (school age) population was already diminished when the debacle of the failed railroad scheme in the mid-1870s devastated the remaining families. Many abandoned their homes and land and moved away. The Center became a ghost.


The situation went from bad to worse when the second school burned in December 1875. Nevertheless, a new building was approved at the same location the next year. Although the occasion fostered joy, pride, and celebration in that centennial year (1776-1876), the decision turned out to be unfortunate because the school age population in the district had practically vanished within half a decade. The school was closed after 1883 and remained dormant, apparently for more than 40 years.

SLOW, HALTING RECOVERY

It reopened as Center School in 1929 with 15 students, a typical count for Sandisfield neighborhood schools. The impetus was the earlier arrival of a "colony" of Jewish families from New York, for example the Linkovichs who arrived in 1914. They purchased dormant houses, land, and farmsteads in the vicinity, and raised families that revitalized the community.

Center School No. 3 also burned, in January 1935. In 2011, long-time Center resident Walter Linkovich recalled the incident which occurred when he was age ten and attending the school. He told an interviewer that the fire was the fault of the boy who was responsible for coming to school early to heat up the wood stove.

Recently we discovered a news account of the history of the school written shortly after the fire by resident and former pupil there, Mary S. Hawley. Mary grew up nearby on Silverbrook Road, the current residence of the Winchesters. An only child, Mary became a teacher. Like her father, Lamartine Hawley, she was very involved in the community including serving on school committees and at the South Sandisfield church. She died in 1958, age 81.

For more about the history of Sandisfield schools, see summaries in *The Times*, June 2020, and *Sandisfield Then & Now*, pp 110-17. 

Sandisfield's Centennial Schoolhouse.

Editor Berkshire Courier -

The little schoolhouse at Sandisfield "Center" which burned last week was built in 1876. The old schoolhouse, which was located a few rods west of this one, burned December 20, 1875, about midnight. The fire, as reported to the Berkshire Courier for December 29, 1875, was attributed to a box of ashes. The teacher was Miss Ida Pixley of Montville.

A week later William H. Rugg was making arrangements for a meeting to see about the erection of a new schoolhouse. The first meeting was held in the basement of the old Congregational church January 6, 1876. At the second meeting, Jan. 26, also held there, \$350 was appropriated for the new schoolhouse.

Later meetings were held at the home of Andrew Sackett, and Feb. 17, Joseph L. Shepard was given the contract for building the schoolhouse the following summer, for \$375. My grandfather, Austin Hawley, as shown by his diary, helped lay the foundation June 21, assisted about the underpinning October 3, and helped put up the stove pipe Nov 26.

The "district" must have had to pay for the schoolhouse, for Austin Hawley was taxed \$24.26 as his share of the \$375.

It stood at the four corners, near "The Rocks," and we could look across the hills to the Blandford church.

I have happy recollections of the days spent there when Miss Cora Butler, Miss Cora Webster, Miss Jennie E. Claffin, Miss Harriet Merrill, Edward R. Ingham, and "Jerry" P. O'Neil were teachers there.

The schoolhouse happened to be built in the Centennial year of our country. July 4 was a red-letter day in Sandisfield, with a celebration at the church at the Center. George A. Shepard delivered the address. On November 23, there was a "Centennial Tea Party" at the church, with entertainment, supper and sale, much like our modern church fairs. On this occasion also, George A. Shepard was the chief speaker, giving an original poem that gave the history of the church in rhyme.

Mary S. Hawley,

Southfield, Mass.,
January 28, 1935.

Berkshire Courier, January 1935

FRRSD Names New Principal

LAURIE FLOWER, TWO DECADES OF DISTRICT EXPERIENCE

By Bill Price

In choosing a new principal, the Farmington River Regional School community turned to a person they already knew who could provide local experience, consistency, and proven leadership skills.

Laurie Flower, for many years the school's technology director and for the past several months the school's administrator on duty, was the unanimous choice of a search committee and the school's two superintendent's, outgoing interim superintendent/principal Robert Putnam and incoming superintendent Timothy Lee.

The search for new administrators began when then superintendent/principal Thomas Nadolny abruptly resigned under fire at the beginning of the term in 2022. Putnam, hired as interim superintendent, selected Flower to work with him as administrator.

Last fall, when the search committee, which separated the roles of superintendent and principal, could not identify enough outside candidates for the position of principal, the search was put on hold. Lee was hired as superintendent, to begin July 1, but the position of principal remained open.



Principal Laurie Flower with pupils at Farmington River Elementary.

Photo: Sue Olds, Kindergarten paraprofessional


In April, Putnam recommended that the district look to Flower, who had a unique combination of tenure at the school, administrative ability, and knew many of the school families and all of the staff.

Putnam wrote that Flower's "knowledge of the school and her well established relationships with students, families, and staff give her the ability to help Tim [Lee] better understand and work with the FRES community."

Of the school's pupils, Flower told The Times in an email, "Our students amaze me every day with their enthusiasm for learning, curiosity, and creativity. They have shown they can work hard to achieve academically and think outside the box. "Beyond academics, their outstanding character shines through as they demonstrate caring and respect for each other and the community."

She added that her goal as principal "is to provide a rich learning environment where students feel safe and can find their unique strengths and interests."

Flower is a New Englander, raised in Vermont and a graduate of Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York. She initially taught math at a school in New Lebanon, New York, then, 19 years ago, joined the staff at Farmington River Regional Elementary where she taught technology and became the school's technology director. She completed a master's degree in education with a concentration in instructional technology in 2021.

Flower lives with her husband, Robert, in Stockbridge. They have two grown sons. 

This report is based primarily on a June 15 Berkshire Eagle article reported and written by Jane Kaufman, a Community Voices editor. Used with permission.



Now accepting new students!
 Group or private riding lessons available at your home or on our Sandisfield farm
 Boarding and Leasing Horses Available
 Specializing in Eventing, Dressage, and Hunter-Jumper lessons
 Lessons available for all ages
Rose Nelson, Instructor and Owner
 •
 Massachusetts certified,
 Pony club eventing participant and USEA eventer
 Email: sunnyrosefarm@yahoo.com
 Phone: (413) 446-4944



COOK BUILDERS
Superb Craftsmanship

All Phases of Building & Remodeling
 New Home Construction, Additions & Renovations

CALL TODAY: (413) 229-2793

Serving the Tri-State area for over 45 years



The Librarian's Corner

By Terry Spohnholz

Library hours - **NEW HOURS:**

Mon., Tues., and Wed. 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Wed. evening 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Closed Thursday, Friday and Sunday

Phone: 258-4966

Email: sandisfieldlibrary@gmail.com

Sandisfield Woman's Book Club meets every 4th Thursday at the Library. 6:30 p.m. The club reads a variety of books suggested by members and is always looking for new members. Stop by on Thursdays. Selections for the next few months are as follows:

JULY – *Time and Again* by Jack Finney

AUGUST – *Rattlesnake Hill* by Leslie Wheeler (Local Author)

SEPTEMBER – *The Little French Bridal Shop* by Jennifer Dupree

PINOCHLE ANYONE?

The Library is looking at starting a pinochle group to meet at the library once a month. Knowledge of pinochle is not regarded – we will learn as we go. If interested, please contact the library by email, phone, or in person.

NEW BOOK ARRIVALS

Adult Fiction and Non Fiction

- *The Wind Knows My Name* by Isabel Allende
- *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict
- *Robert B. Parker's Bad Influence* by Alison Gaylin
- *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi
- *Lone Women* by Victor Lavall
- *Walking with Sam* by Andrew McCarthy
- *Zero Days* by Ruth Ware
- *Whispers at Dusk* by Heather Graham
- *The Five-Star Weekend* by Elin Hilderbrand
- *The Happiness Plan* by Susan Mallery
- *Private Moscow* by James Patterson
- *Cross Down* by James Patterson
- *Welcome to Beach Town* by Susan Wiggs
- *Palazzo* by Danielle Steel

New to the Older Children and Young Adult Section

- *The Frugal Wizard's Handbook* by Brandon Sanderson

New Books In the Children's Section

- *A Little Ferry Tale* by Chad Otis

SUMMER EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY JULY 1- AUGUST 31

Bingo Summer Reading Blitz

- Prizes for all
- Special prizes for Bingo Blackouts
- New cards for each month – June, July and August
- Super special prize for blacking out all 3 months
- Read to me, early reader, 3rd to 6th grade and young adult reading cards.
- Cards will be available beginning Monday, June 5th.

Story Time in the Gazebo

Every Wednesday beginning June 14th at noon and treats too!

Arts and Crafts

July 11th and 25th its crafting time at the library from 10 until noon.

THE LIBRARY ALSO OFFERS:

Children's Section

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


Computers, E-Books, and Intra-Library Loan

We also offer public computer and printer availability, free wi-fi and access to e-books from the Massachusetts libraries with your Sandisfield Library card.

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

Books for Sale

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

Notary Services available when the library is open or by appointment. Please call 907-244-6466 for an appointment. 







NEW BOSTON

CRANE SERVICE

&

SLEDS
















Route 8 / P.O. Box 691
Sandisfield, MA 01255
www.newbostoncrane.com

Call/Text 413-258-4653
fax 413-258-2884
nbcinfo@gmail.com

Sales, Parts & Service Available for ATV's, Snowmobiles, Motorcycles,
Lawn & Garden Equipment, Generators, Log Splitters, Trailers

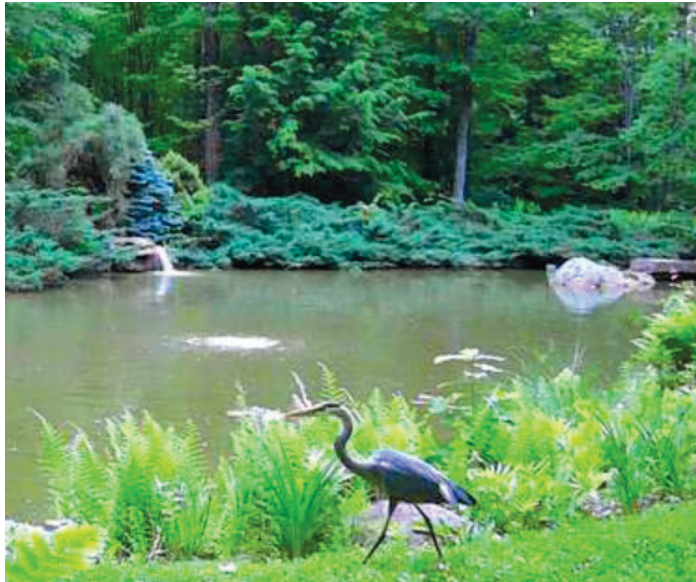
AMERICAN LEGION PAVILION AVAILABLE FOR GROUPS

Contact: Post 456 Commander Maria Domato
May-October (413) 258-4578; November-April (941) 624-2459
Email: yankeefruitloop@gmail.com



- ★ Daily rental \$300 (adjusted for local non-profits)
- ★ Renovated 800 sq. ft hall with band / DJ stage
- ★ Fully equipped commercial kitchen includes cook & dishware
- ★ Beautiful riverside field with pond and covered fire pit
- ★ Season May-October (Off season, field and covered fire pit available)

CRITTER CORNER



Looking for Lunch? Frogs Beware!

The great blue heron arrived at a Sandisfield pond precisely at noon on June 23.

Photo: Sandisfield Times



Car Show, New Boston Inn

Antique cars, personally modeled sports cars and trucks – all very fancy – filled the field behind the New Boston Inn on a warm sunny Saturday, June 10. Entertainment was provided by Blue Yonder Music of Winsted, with Ken Sills on guitar and vocals and Jeanne McMillan on 8-string ukulele.

Photo: Bill Price

Join us for our

CHURCH SUPPER

BENEFIT DINNER FOR
NEW BOSTON
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

SAT., JULY 22
5:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Roast pork dinner
"with all the fixin's"

Fire Station #2, Route 57

DINE IN OR TAKE OUT



Sit Down Awhile

Thanks to the Regional Parks Director, two picnic tables stand ready for customers at West Lake. Bring a picnic, go birding, or just chill and enjoy the view.

Photo: Michelle Arnot

The Historic 1737 New Boston Inn

Restaurant, Tavern and B&B

Six Guest Rooms, All Private Baths
Restaurant open THURS 12-8, FRI & SAT 12-9, SUN 12-8, MONDAY HOLIDAYS 12-6

Pets Welcome!

JULY 4TH WEEKEND: June 30-July 4
Two-Night Minimum, Full Breakfast.

101 North Main St., Sandisfield, MA (Corner of Rtes 8 & 57)
413-258-4477 • Events at www.NewBostonInn.com

- LOBSTER BAKE!**
JULY 7 - JULY 10 (res. req.)
**JEANIE & KEN 7/9, 2-5PM
- SMOKED WEEKEND!**
JULY 14 - JULY 17
**DAKOTA PLAY 7/18, 2-5pm
YARD SALE 7/17, 9am-1pm
- MOTORCYCLE WEEKEND!**
JULY 21 - JULY 24
**KEITH KEY 7/23 2-5PM
- FISH FRY WEEKEND!**
JULY 28 - JULY 30
**THE SHINNING 7/30 2-5PM



Comings and Goings



MARY ANN GACEK

1952-2023

Beech Plain resident Mary Ann DeRuiter Gacek died in North Carolina June 9, following an illness of several months. She moved to that state in November 2022, to be closer to family and for specialized care at Duke University Medical Center.

Mary Ann was born in Passaic County, New Jersey, in August 1952, daughter of Nicholas DeRuiter and Marie Trommelen of Haledon, New Jersey, where she was raised. She was a graduate of Manchester Regional High School, Haledon, and later worked as a clerk-typist for New Jersey Bank, Passaic and for The News in Paterson.

She married Robert "Bob" Gacek of Connecticut at a ceremony in Pompton Plains, New Jersey, in August 1983, second marriages for both. The Gaceks moved to Waterbury, Connecticut, where Bob worked in retail sales for lumber products companies. Mary Ann was employed by the City of Waterbury for many years. After retirement the couple moved to Sandisfield in 2006, where they renovated a summer home on Cold Spring Road for full-time living (see Sandisfield Times, December 2014).

Mary Ann was a well-known figure in Sandisfield and Otis. She was active with local organizations in both towns including the Sandisfield Council on Aging, the Sandisfield Historical Society, and the New Boston Congregational Church where, according to Pastor Eric Kriebel, "she never missed a service." She loved to sing, enjoyed Bingo and writing poetry. A number of her poems were reprinted in The Times.

Bob died in Great Barrington in May 2019. Mary Ann leaves a son, Nicholas Shabrack, his wife, Amanda, and grandchildren, Jordan DeSimone, Sebastian Shabrack, and Mason Shabrack in Apex, North Carolina. Mary Ann's brother, Donald DeRuiter, died in 2020. She leaves her sister-in-law, Joyce Hook DeRuiter and grandchildren, Brian and Jennifer. Mary Ann also leaves a step-daughter, Elizabeth Hoffman, and her good friend, Cindy Ragusa of Otis.

A memorial is planned for late July or August.



**NOW! HIKING TRAILS
INSTALLED & MAINTAINED**

TIM DEMING
**Field and Brush
Mowing**



413.537.6681
1403 New Boston Rd.
Tolland, MA

tdeming1@hotmail.com

Electric Rate Savings Possible

OPT-OUT STARTING IN JULY

Editor: The Town of Sandisfield posted a notice on its website regarding a possible savings on your electric bill this summer.

Every electricity user in Town that is serviced by Eversource is currently enrolled in the Town's Community Choice Power Supply Program. This program allows the Town to negotiate for a lower aggregate Basic Service Rate. Because of circumstances last fall at the time of negotiations, the Town's rate was set higher than what Eversource is offering beginning in July.

What you can do to save on your electricity rate is explained below in the note from the Town:

You are receiving this notification because you're currently enrolled in the Town of Sandisfield's Community Choice Power Supply Program.

Eversource's Basic Service rate will be lower than the Town's aggregation rate starting in July. The

Town's current product offering is 100% renewable and the rate is fixed at \$0.22765 per kWh for all rate classes until your January 2024 meter read. Eversource's Residential Basic Service rate is fixed at \$0.14854 per kWh from July 1, 2023 thru December 31, 2023.



The Town's aggregation rate was set last fall when electricity prices were elevated due to economic and geo-political conditions worldwide. The 12-month term provided protection against further market spikes without locking the Town into the higher prices beyond that should the market stabilize.


To leave Sandisfield's Program for the summer, you can do one of two things:

- **OPT-OUT Online:** Visit colonialpowergroup.com/sandisfield and click the OPT-OUT button, then fill out and submit the Opt-Out Form.

- **OPT-OUT by Phone:** Call NextEra at (855) 782-9307 and ask to leave the Town of Sandisfield's Program.

For both of the above options, please have your Eversource bill handy in order to provide some required information. You may OPT-IN or OPT-OUT of the Town's Program at any time in the future with NO CHARGE.

The Town will announce its new aggregation rate later this year and will let you know if you should re-join the Program to see additional savings.

Residents with questions about the Program may also contact Colonial Power Group, the Town's aggregation consultant, at (866) 485-5858 ext. 1. Basic Service rates change twice a year or more, depending on rate class. As a result, the aggregation rate will not always be higher than the Basic Service rate. The goal of the aggregation is to deliver savings over the life of the Program against Eversource Basic Service. However, such savings and future savings cannot be guaranteed. 

Source: Sandisfieldma.gov



JOHN FIELD
TREE SERVICE, INC.

QUALITY TREE CARE...SAFELY DELIVERED

fieldtreeservice.com 413-329-6519









RALPH E. MORRISON 413-258-3381



A & M AUTO SERVICE

COMPLETE AUTO & TRUCK CARE
IMPORT AND DOMESTIC
24 HOUR HEAVY DUTY & LIGHT TOWING & RECOVERY
FLAT BED SERVICE

ROUTE 57/EAST SANDISFIELD, MA 413-258-3381

KWIK^{Color} PRINT
INCORPORATED

EXPERIENCE • SPEED • QUALITY

- Full Color Digital Printing
- Full Color Envelope Printing
- Large Format Printing
- High Speed Copying
- Laminating
- Inline Bookletmaking
- Perfect Binding
- Folding
- Perforating
- Mailing Services
- Graphic Design Services

35 Bridge Street
Great Barrington, MA 01230
Ph: 413.528.2885 Fx: 413.528.9220
typesetting@kwikprintinc.com
www.kwikprintinc.com

Thank you, Departing Members

AND HELLO TO NEW ONES

From Rob Putnam, FRRSD Interim
Superintendent

In a note sent at the end of May to parents and guardians of pupils at the Farmington River Regional School, interim superintendent Robert Putnam said thank you to three members of the combined Sandisfield/Otis School Committee and hello to three new members. He wrote:

In 1826, the Massachusetts legislature – citing the importance of ensuring public educational opportunities for all its children – provided for a special committee whose sole duty would be to oversee “those preparing the youth of the community to take their places as educated and responsible citizens.” Only in America is the responsibility for education entrusted – via elected or appointed school committee members – to the citizens of each community.

Serving the community as a School Committee member is a complex and demanding responsibility. School Committee members represent the whole community at all times and their primary responsibility is to the children of the two towns. The recent town elections resulted in Melissa Bye and Denise Hardie being chosen to join the FRRSD school committee. These newly elected members will replace Roger Kohler and Arlene Tolopko.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Roger and Arlene who served the FRRSD admirably and thank them for their service.

Roger served one three-year term. He was always well prepared for meetings, and he could be counted on to offer insightful commentary during deliberations thanks to his education background.

Arlene served the FRRSD for three terms, a little over nine years. She too was always prepared for meetings and also brought the perspective of an educator to deliberations. In addition to her work as a School Committee member, Arlene has been a tireless supporter of the school. She regularly attended school functions throughout her tenure. Through her work with the Cultural Council, she coordinated grants to support teachers who requested funds to support innovative programs for the students; the Cultural Council has also funded many enhancements to the school. Through her

work with the Otis Observer, she helped publicize the many positive attributes of the FRES and build community support.

The FRRSD community owes both Roger and Arlene a debt of gratitude for their civic service.

Sandisfield also recently appointed Douglas Miner to fill out the 2022-25 term previously held by Alex Bowman. Alex only served for several months, but he brought an analytical and inquisitive approach to deliberations. He will be leaving the area. and I wish him well.

School Committee meetings are regularly scheduled for the first Monday of every month. The meetings are open to the public. There is also a School Committee Webpage on the FRRSD site that publishes meeting dates and locations, agendas, and approved minutes. 🗓️

A MATTER OF BALANCE Afraid of Falling? Here's Help.

Contacts: Beth Hoffman, Kay Purcell,
Linda Riiska



Are you held back by fear of falling or unsure of your balance? The Matter of Balance program may be the solution.

The Councils on Aging of Sandisfield and Monterey will bring the Matter of Balance program to both towns – Sandisfield this summer and Monterey in the fall.

There is no charge for the series.

SANDISFIELD SCHEDULE

Town Hall, 66 Sandisfield Road, basement,
9:30-11:30 a.m.

To register, call 413-528-1443 x 112

- Tuesday, July 18; Thursday, July 20
- Tuesday, July 25; Thursday, July 27
- Tuesday, August 1; Thursday, August 3
- Tuesday, August 8; Thursday, August 10 🗓️

STEAK ROAST

**To Benefit the
Sandisfield Fire/EMT
Department**

**SAT., AUGUST 12
5:00-9:00 p.m.**

MUSIC

RAFFLE

**FIREHOUSE #2
Sandisfield Road, Rt. 57.**

**Steak and baked potato,
corn, salad, dessert.**

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

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

BEER ★ WINE ★ LIQUOR

Domaney's

Fine Wine ★ Unique Beer ★ Discount Liquors
Temperature Controlled Wine Room ★ Cigar Humidor

66 Main St. Great Barrington, MA 01230
p. (413) 528-0024 ★ f. (413) 528-6093

www.domaney.com

NOW HEAR THIS!

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

JULY EVENTS

Sandisfield Select Board Meetings are currently through Zoom and in-person at 6:30 p.m. every other Monday (summer schedule), unless otherwise posted. 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. Pre-registration not 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.

Story Time in the Gazebo every Wednesday at 12:00 noon at the Sandisfield Public Library. Ice cream, too. 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.

Farmer's Market on Fridays from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Farmington River General Store on Route 8.

New Boston Church Service on select Sundays at 10:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church, Route 57. All are welcome.

Second Bi-Annual Outdoor Sculpture Show featuring regional artists from July 2 through July 30 at the Miners' residence at the intersection of Cronk and West Streets. Opening Reception on Sunday, July 2 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. with light refreshments. Suggested donation \$10 to benefit the Sandisfield Arts Center.

Film: "A Stage of Twilight" with Karen Allen on Saturday, July 8, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammertown Road. Hailed as an intimate, real drama, this love story is set in the final chapter of Cora and Barry's lives. Peter Baiamonte will be the host for the evening. Ticket sales end at 7:00 p.m. and can be purchased online at www.sandisfieldartscenter.org. \$15.

Mah Jongg Workshops on two Saturdays, July 15 and 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammertown Road. Purchase tickets online (www.sandisfieldartscenter.org) for July 15. \$10 each day.

People and Places-New Paintings by Jaye Alison Moscariello Opening Reception on Sunday, July 16, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammertown Road. The show will run to August 13. Free.

Romance in the Afternoon: A Piano Recital with Joshua Luxon-Robinson on Sunday, July 16, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammertown Road. Joshua will perform selections by Bach, Mozart, Chopin, and more. Free.

Matter of Balance on Tuesday, July 18, Thursday, July 20, Tuesday, July 25, and Thursday, July 27 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Town Hall on 66 Sandisfield Road. Are you held back by a fear of falling or unsure of your balance? The Matter of Balance program may be the solution. To register, please call 413-258-1443, ext. 112. Free.

Monthly Wellness, Blood Pressure Clinic, and Coffee Hour on Wednesday, July 19 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Council on Aging, Town Hall. Snacks and conversation, too! For more information, contact Nina Carr (258-3314). Free.

Church Supper on Saturday, July 22, between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. at Fire Station #2 on Rt. 57. Roast pork "with all the fixin's." Dine in or take out.

Christmas/Chanukah in July! Goodie Bags for Adults & Children! on Sunday, July 23 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. hosted by the Sandisfield Recreational Committee at West Lake. Meet at the turnaround by the newly placed picnic tables. Please pre-register by July 16 at 413-269-7357 or sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info.

SAVE THE DATE

Antique Appraisal on Saturday, August 19, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Historical Society Meeting House on Rt. 183. Hosted by the Sandisfield Historical Society. Charlie Flint, the former Lenox antique dealer, will appraise your piece, \$5 per item.

SAMPLE SANDISFIELD on Saturday, August 19. Contact 413-269-7357 or sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info to be included on the Map. (See ad on page 9.)

Sandisfield Pig Roast on Sunday, September 10, at 5:00 p.m. Location, etc. to be determined. Free to Sandisfield taxpayers and Town employees (proof required), all others \$10.

ONLINE EVENTS

A Farm and Garden Show with Sandisfield residents Bill Taylor and Jaye Alison Moscariello streamed every Monday, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at berkshireradio.org.

EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

Playgroup on Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Monterey Library, sponsored by South Berkshire Kids. No pre-registration is necessary. Meet for stories and songs followed by creative crafts. For information, please call Nina Carr (258-3314). Free.

Transformational Breathwork with Sandisfield residents Antonia and Roger Vanoro on the last Friday of every month from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the Monterey Community Center. A combination of deep rhythmic breathing, vocalization, self massage, and energetic movement. The suggested fee is \$30. For more information, visit ccmonterey.org.

Sheffield Farmers Market on Fridays from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. in downtown Sheffield at the First Congregational Church parking lot on 125 Main Street. Local farmers, food producers, artists, and educators to promote local business, healthy eating, and social gathering.

Great Barrington Farmers 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.

Kids Fishing Derby on Saturday, July 8 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m., sponsored by the Friends of the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery, at the National Fish Hatchery in Monterey. Children will learn how to fish while competing for prizes. No child leaves empty-handed!

Family Summer Hike on Tuesday, July 18 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Housatonic Flats in Great Barrington. For more information, visit bnrc.org.

Robbins Zust Marionette Show: The Three Little Pigs and Rumpelstiltskin on Saturday, July 29 (raindate July 30) from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Otis Town Hall Green, One North Main Road in Otis. This event is sponsored by the Otis Historical Commission and Otis Preservation Trust. Two shows will be performed with a one-hour break at 12:00 p.m. Picnics, blankets, and lawn chairs are welcome. Ice cream will be available. No charge but please register (www.otispreservationtrust.com or www.townofotisma.com).

SANDISFIELD TOWN DIRECTORY

JULY, 2023

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

TOWN WEBSITE: www.sandisfieldma.gov.
Webmaster: Janey Beardsley. 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

ANIMAL INSPECTOR: Kim Spring, 258-4450

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: Charles Pease, 413-394-0213
- Wiring: Jay Reynolds, 860-798-2578
- Building: Paul Greene, 413-446-0964

CEMETERY COMMITTEE: Meets as needed.
Chairs: Lynn Rubenstein, Brenda Larson
Email: Cemetery@sandisfieldma.gov. Meets as needed.

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

CONSTABLES:

Nazario Sanchez: 258-4705, Dana Beardsley: 258-4958

CULTURAL COUNCIL: Chair; Jennifer Hibbens

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:
Michael 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:
Timothy Lee, Superintendent/Laurie Flower, Principal
North Main Street, Otis, 413 269-4466
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 as needed.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Ann Wald, President
258-4415 or Email sandisfieldhistory@gmail.com
Meets 2nd Saturday, Apr-Nov. Sandy Brook Turnpike/Rt. 183.

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 at the Town Library

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
U.S. Mail: PO Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255

SELECT BOARD: 258-4711 x 3

Meets Monday, regular meeting, 6:30 p.m. Town Hall.
Summer hours meets every other week.

See posted agendas for changes in meeting times.

Administrative Secretary: Janey Beardsley, 258-4711, x 3

STATE OFFICIALS:

Smitty Pignatelli, State Representative
413 637-0631; rep.smitty@mahouse.gov
Paul W. Mark, State Senator; 413-464-5635; Paul.Mark@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, Tues, Wed: 10 a.m.-2 p.m., or by appointment

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.

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: Attendant: Mitch Birkett
Summer: Wed: 2-5 p.m.; Sat: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.; Sun: Noon-6 p.m.
Winter: TBD

VETERANS SERVICES: Laurie Hills
413-528-1580, Great Barrington Town Hall

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

P.O. Box 584
Sandisfield, MA 01255



*The Times appreciates donations received
last month.*

Eric & Jennifer Kriebel

Carol Ginsburg



THE SANDISFIELD TIMES is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization staffed by volunteers from the Sandisfield community and funded by individual and business sponsors. Its mission is to connect the community through reliable, regular, and relevant information. The paper is published 11 times each year, with a joint January-February issue and monthly issues thereafter.

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

Times, P.O. Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255 or donate online at our website: . Donations to The Sandisfield Times are deductible under section 170 of the Federal Income Tax Code. Donations do not include subscriptions. Subscriptions do not qualify as donations.

The Times is distributed free of charge to all Sandisfield postal address and boxes. Free copies are available at the following town locations: The transfer station (Wed/Sat/Sun), the Library, When Pigs Fly Farm, and in New Boston at A&M Auto, the Farmington

River General Store, and the New Boston Inn. The Times is also available in West Otis at the laundromat, library, and the Farmington River Diner; in East Otis at Katie's, Pappas, and the Knox Trail Inn. Also at the Monterey Library (outside box), in Colebrook at the post office and the general store, and at the New Marlborough General Store and the Mill River General Store. Back copies are available for purchase.

The Times can be mailed to your home (non-Sandisfield addresses only) by paid subscription (see form at left) or you can read it (free) online as a PDF document at www.sandisfieldtimes.org. Classified ads, 30 words or less, are free.

We welcome submissions, comments and suggestions, including letters to the editor by the 15th of the month prior. Maximum 300 words. We may edit for space, style or clarity. We will try to publish Public Service Announcements when we have room, with priority given to Sandisfield organizations. No portion of the The Sandisfield Times may be reproduced without permission.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

To have the *The Times* mailed to your home, please complete the information below and send a check for \$25 (annual subscription fee for 11 issues) made out to *The Sandisfield Times* to:

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES
PO BOX 584, SANDISFIELD, MA 01255

Name _____

Out of town address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Email address: _____

Phone (only used if paper is returned by USPS) _____

Editorial Staff

Editor: Bill Price

email: 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