

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

Tribunus

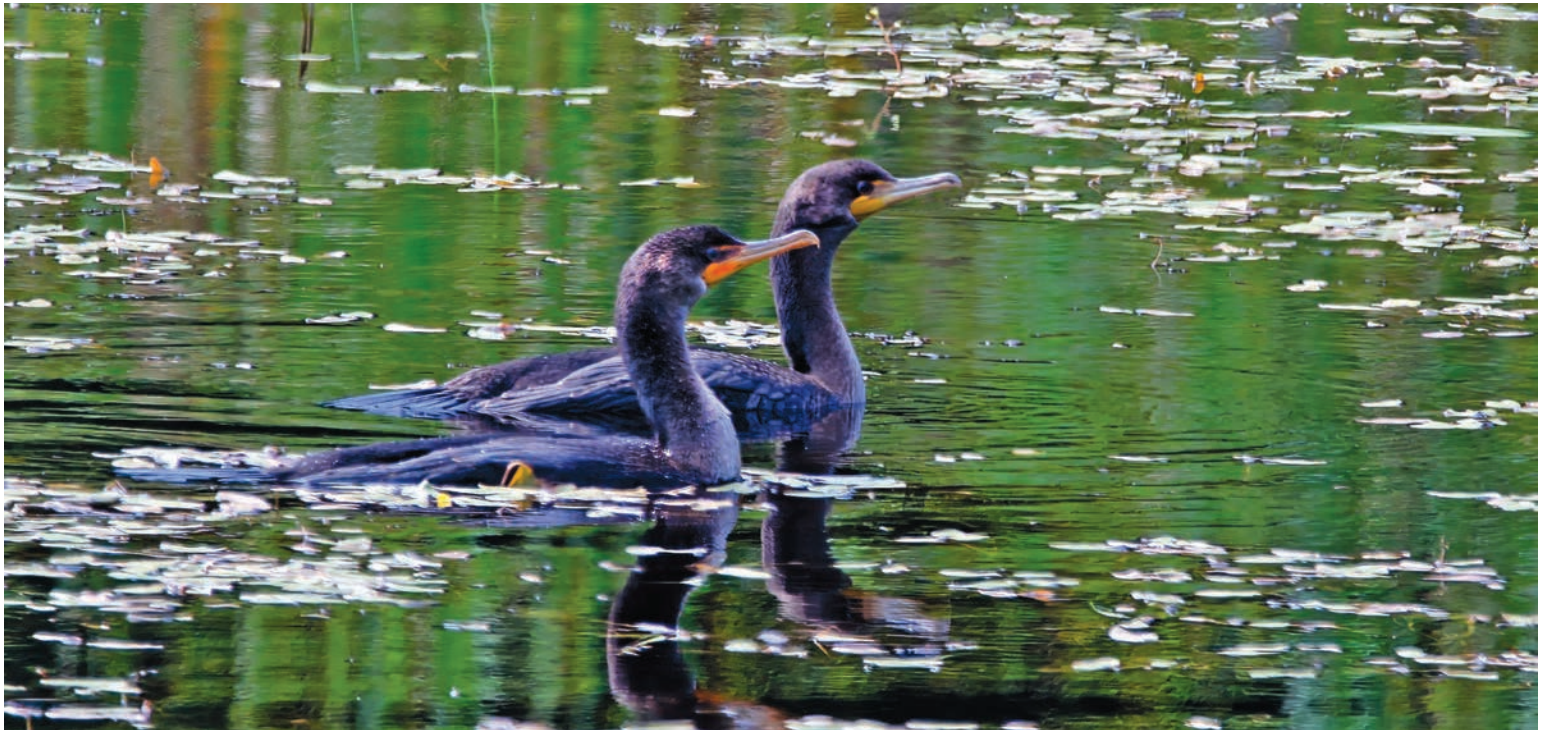


Plebis

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume XIV, Number 6

September 2023



Cormorants

Diane Barth of Sandy Brook Turnpike wrote The Times on August 23, "Yesterday I was outside and saw a bird fly across the pond and thought, hmmm, that looks like a cormorant. Hmmm, must go have more coffee."

"This morning I read on FB that a pair of double-crested cormorants have been spotted in Egremont. I looked out the window an hour later and..."



Town Charters Have Special Rules – And Limits

By Larry Dwyer

Last March the Town Charter Committee began working on a proposal to create a Town Charter for the Town of Sandisfield which would change the way the Town conducts its business.

According to an article posted on the website of the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA), most home-rule charters have been adopted by towns with populations between

10,000 and 25,000. Sandisfield's full-time population is less than 1,000 and only 672 registered voters. While there is nothing to say that we couldn't adopt a charter, with such a small population it does not seem to be the norm.

And it is so far unclear whether Sandisfield should or should not adopt this form of governance. It may complicate the way the Town conducts business. It will certainly change it.

Presently, Sandisfield preserves the open town meeting as its governing body and is regulated by the Town By-Laws. If the town decides to change a By-Law, it requires only a majority vote, except for zoning by-laws which require a 2/3 majority vote. By-Law amendments then go to the Attorney General's office which has 90 days to approve or recommend changes.

If the Town adopts a Town Charter, this system of making a change in the Charter or a By-Law would change.

Cont'd on p.6



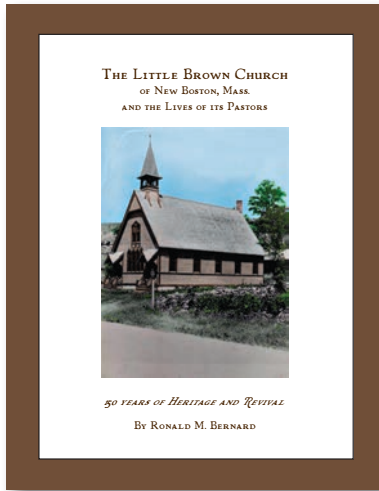
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New Boston Church History

PRE-PUBLICATION ORDERING AVAILABLE

By Times Reporters



Sandisfield historian, Ron Bernard, is taking orders for his new book, *The Little Brown Church of New Boston, Mass., and the Lives of Its Pastors: 150 Years of Heritage and Revival.*

At nearly 400 pages, the book tells the story of the Congregational churches in Sandisfield from 1754 through today and particularly the detailed history of the venerable New Boston church and its congregation since inception in 1874.

The American democratic system is largely based on the Congregational model of democracy which was officially aligned with town governments

in New England well into the 19th century. For many decades the churches were also the predominant social institution in Sandisfield and represent more than two centuries of town heritage.

This book includes fascinating biographies of all 45 pastors who presided at the historic "Little Brown Church." The writing of the book and its inception were explained in last month's Times. Many new (and expanded) general historical accounts that were not included in Bernard's earlier history of the town, *Sandisfield Then and Now*, published in 2012, will be found here. Anyone interested in the history of Sandisfield will discover much to enjoy in this book.

A special pre-publication price of \$25 is available for orders received before November 30. The book is expected to be available in December. Net proceeds from the sale of this limited-edition book will go to the New Boston Church.

PRE-PUBLICATION ORDER FORM

The Little Brown Church of New Boston, Mass.

- Please reserve ___ copy(s) at special pre-publication price of \$25 each plus \$6 each for shipping if necessary. *
- I'll save the shipping charge and pick up my book(s) in Sandisfield.

Make check payable and mail to:
Ronald Bernard, P.O. Box 91, Sandisfield, MA 01255

Net proceeds to benefit the New Boston Congregational Church

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: _____

Enclosed is my check No. _____ for \$ _____

For more information, contact, Ronbernard@aol.com

Note: This is a limited edition book. Don't wait. Order now!

*Pre-publication price good through November 30, 2023

Local Artist Shown in Norfolk

Watercolors by Sandisfield artist Susie Crofut will be shown at the Norfolk Library from September 3-28.

An opening reception will be held Sunday, September 3, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. The Norfolk Library is at the Village Green on Rt. 44.



"Winter Cows," watercolor on paper by Susie Crofut

Join the Sandisfield Recreation Committee

FOR A PIG ROAST



LIVE MUSIC • FOOD • BOUNCY HOUSE

Sunday, September 10th, 5pm

This event is FREE to Sandisfield tax payers and employees ONLY. Proof required. All others, \$10 child and/or adult.

RSVP by 8.26.23

(413) 269-7357 or sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info

Co-Sponsored by: Mass Cultural Council

Officer Hurt in Fall

By Times Reporters

Residents might be missing the sight of Public Safety Officer Mary Bredenfoerder who is frequently seen driving local roads in the Sandisfield police cruiser. Officer Mary, very likely the most visible public servant in Town, is currently on medical leave after hurting her back during a fall at the DPW Garage in mid-August.

She is recuperating at home and expects to be back at work soon. This is good news.

Other good news is that Officer Mary was initially found not to have workers compensation insurance. This was later discovered to be a bureaucratic oversight: the town changed insurance providers last spring before Mary became full-time and her change in status was overlooked. The new insurance agent called his head office following the accident and the firm, in an act of decency, retroactively added her name so that her medical bills and other expenses will be paid.

We wish Mary a full recovery and hope to see her back on our roads as soon as she is able. 🍷

Empty House Break Ins

By Times Reporters



Late this February a major burglary happened on Cold Spring Road. Thieves broke into an unoccupied house that had been sold to out-of-towners in January.

A local resident driving by saw the front door was open and notified the Sandisfield Police Department. The new (seasonal) owners were informed about serious damage and that two "mini-split" units – a large pellet stove and an outside compressor – were missing. The apparently well-prepared intruders ripped out the mini-splits from their wall mounts by sawing away sheet rock.

Because the stove was oversized, they also damaged an aluminum ramp at the entrance by sawing off a railing. They also attempted to take a large refrigerator but gave up in the process.

The owners estimate the loss at "more than \$10,000." Neighbors learned of the incident in June when the new owners from out of state arrived.

A subsequent break-in occurred at a formerly vacant home under reconstruction on South Beech Plain Road. Little is known of this second incident.

Residents were not notified of either break-ins so they could take appropriate precautions. The Sandisfield Police Department, asked about the two occurrences, said only that "both cases were still open." 🍷

The Rest of 57 to be Finished

By Jonathan Sylbert, Town Manager

Next summer, it'll be done.

The Town received a letter from MassDOT July 24 announcing that the rest of Rt. 57, from the bridge below the Transfer Station to Rt. 8 at the New Boston Inn, will be repaved in FY24.

We have already met twice with MassDOT to review the program funding and to discuss the project scope. The letter was a confirmation that the work will be started and finished during FY24.

Their letter reads in part:

"MassDOT's Municipal Pavement Program [MPP] provides support to municipalities to improve the pavement condition of municipally owned state numbered routes. Each year, MassDOT works closely with selected municipalities to develop an appropriate scope of work for an awarded roadway and oversees project implementation. . . . I am pleased to inform you that based on these criteria, the following roadway segment in Sandisfield has been selected to be improved during the Fiscal Year 2024 program year: State Route 57 from mile marker 11.8 to mile marker 15.27."

The work will be funded entirely by an MPP grant and MassDOT will be responsible for implementing the project. Hopefully, by July 1, 2024, or soon thereafter, the roadway will be complete.

This repaving will substantially complete the paved roads in Sandisfield in need of reconditioning. We want to thank MassDOT for its commitment to Sandisfield. 🍷

A Matter of Balance

HELP FOR YOUR FEAR OF FALLING

Contacts: Beth Hoffman, Kay Purcell, Linda Riiska

The Sandisfield and Monterey Councils on Aging will repeat the Matter of Balance program in Monterey in September. There is no charge for the series.

To register call (413) 528-1443 x 112.

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER SCHEDULE

Classes will be at the Monterey Community Center, 468 Main Road (Rt. 23). On Mondays and Thursdays: **September 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28 and October 2, 5.** 🍷



Name This Weed

Photo: Bill Price

Last month The Times asked if anyone knew the name of a new (to us) invasive weed that is taking over sunny sections of Cold Spring Road and threatens to spread all over town. This uninvited visitor sprouts mainly in gravel near paved roads with sunny sections that allow it to take over from our local fauna.

The Times received a few "cards and letters" and learned that this nuisance we are calling a weed is Sweet Clover (melitous officinalis).

Bonner McAllister of Monterey came to Cold Spring Road to see the thing for herself. When she's not reading The Times, Bonner writes the Wildlife Report and other features for The Monterey News. She observed a plant that has spread rapidly this summer, encroaching two or three feet over the road and reaching, in some cases, almost seven feet in height.



"Sweet clover," she said.

The plant has pluses and minuses, apparently, but in Sandisfield, and wild, it is a nuisance and a driving hazard as its bushy stalks cover parts of our roads where it can destroy sight-lines, especially on curves.

When you see it, and you will, destroy it. Brad Curry, our road superintendent, has been alerted to do what he can.



The Sandisfield Arts Center

September at the Arts Center

“TWO GENTLEMEN FOLK” AND A DINNER GALA, PLUS DANCE, PHOTOGRAPHY, AND AN ANNIVERSARY FILM

by Hilde Weisert

The fall season at the Arts Center kicks off Saturday, September 9, with our annual fund-raiser gala.

The gala includes a rare showing of “Two Gentlemen Folk,” the PBS film with Sandisfield’s Ben Luxon and the late Bill Crofut in a 1987 performance of British and American music at Jacob’s Pillow. Reviewers have described the film as “all about the delight of making music together,” delighting the audience with such songs as Sweet Nightingale, The Flowers of the Forest, Waltzing Matilda, and Danny Boy.

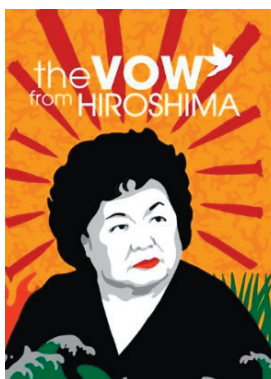
This gala event includes a delicious dinner prepared by master chef Adam Manacher, plus behind-the-scenes perspectives from Luxon and film’s director Bill Cosel. Tickets for the fund-raiser are \$75.

The following Saturday, the 16th, dancer, choreographer, and teacher Olivia Idella Martin presents “An Evening of Dance,” a collective of work by local dance artists. Like our annual “Evening of Song,” this special event includes wine and desserts and conversation with the performers.

Saturday September 23, at the Arts Center will be both solemn and inspirational. In the Gallery from 4:00-6:00 p.m. will be the free opening reception for “Andre Lambertson Documentary Photography.” A photographer, filmmaker, and teacher, Lambertson is known for his work documenting the inspirational lives of resilient people around the globe. Be sure to be there at 5:00 to hear Lambertson talk about his powerful work. The show will be on display until October 22.



Photo courtesy of Andre Lambertson



And at 7:00 p.m., on the 23rd, we’re honored to present a free showing of “Vow from Hiroshima,” a spectacular, tragic, and important film marking the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. The film makes this world-changing disaster personal through an intimate portrait of Setsuko Thurlow, a survivor who has devoted her life to ridding the world of nuclear weapons.



sandisfield ARTS CENTER

★ 5 HAMMERTOWN ROAD, SANDISFIELD, MA ★

SAT., SEPTEMBER 9, 6 PM GALA ANNUAL DINNER

Scrumptious dinner followed by a showing of the PBS film, “Two Gentlemen Folk,” (Bill Crofut and Ben Luxon) in a performance of British and American music at Jacob’s Pillow.

Director Bill Cosel will speak. \$75

SAT., SEPTEMBER 16, 7 PM AN EVENING OF DANCE WITH OLIVIA IDELLA MARTIN

A collective of work created by local dance artists showcasing a variety of styles. Wine and dessert to follow. \$35

SEPTEMBER 23 — OCTOBER 22 ANDRE LAMBERSTON DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHY

Opening reception 4-6 pm and talk 5 pm



SAT., SEPTEMBER 23, 7 PM FILM: “VOW FROM HIROSHIMA”

Showing of a spectacular, tragic film marking the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. An intimate portrait of Setsuko Thurlow, a survivor, who has devoted her life to ridding the world of nuclear weapons. **FREE.**



FOR DETAILS VISIT SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

Council on Aging

Help with Drug and Health Insurance

The Sandisfield Council on Aging has arranged for a representative from the Elder Services of Berkshire County (ESBC) SHINE program to explain about new prescription drug plans that will be available soon (usually in October-December, in time to change your plan).

The representative will also provide information on different medical insurance plans for individuals considering changing their plan (Blue Cross-Humana-AARP-etc.).

The representative will be available at COA, Town Hall basement, on Wednesday, September 27, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Please bring a list of your medications.

The ESBC SHINE program stands for Serving Health Insurance Needs for Everyone.

Contact: Linda Riiska, 258-4816 



Dining al fresco, Sandisfield-Style

Some two dozen seniors enjoyed comradery at a picnic table-luncheon supplied by the Farmington River General Store and sponsored by the Sandisfield Council on Aging on August 16. The first event of its type, the turnout and full parking lot was judged as "pretty good." We'll look forward to more of the same.

Photo: Ron Bernard


Free Workshops for Kids This Fall

Sparks at Flying Cloud Farm announces that there will be three STEAM (Science, Thinking, Engineering, Art, and Math) workshops for children ages 7-11 at the farm on the New Marlborough-South Sandisfield Road (Rt. 183) in New Marlborough.

The workshops are held for three days this fall – September 23, October 21, and November 18. Each program begins at 1:30 p.m.

Ceramicist and science educator Jane Burke will lead the programs, which are free thanks to the generous support of the Monterey, New Marlborough, and Sandisfield Cultural Councils.

Explaining the theory behind the programs, Jane Burke said in an email that "STEAM refers to thinking and actions that involve using two or more disciplines of science, technology, engineering, art, and math. For instance, making a glaze for the art of ceramics takes chemistry and math while informs the desired color and texture and the firing requires technology. Cyanotype Photography similarly requires chemistry, physics, math, and art. Kids can do things like this."

Pre-registration is required. Contact Jane at janesburke@gmail.com or text 413-429-6103. 

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Town Charters Have Special Rules – And Limits

Cont'd from p.1

Existing By-Laws would stay in effect, but if any fall in conflict with the Charter, the Charter's language takes precedence and overrides the By-Law.

Amendments to the charter would require a 2/3 majority vote by the town. Amendments are then made through the Home Rule petition process which requires submission to the Attorney General for his opinion and then to the state legislature and then to be signed by the governor.

Editor's Note: To Understand the Charter Proposal

The draft of the proposed charter can be read on the Town website, sandisfieldma.gov, under the Town Charter Committee webpage. It can also be read at Town Hall during business hours.

Last month, in the August Times, we published "Learn About the Town Charter Draft," by the Town Charter Committee. Earlier, in May, we published "Town Charter Committee Is At Work: Major Change in Town Government Proposed."

This month we published here Larry Dwyer's Out on a Limb column: "Town Charters Have Special Rules – And Limits."

The Times invites other responses to the Charter proposal for this series. Residents will be expected to vote on the proposed changes to Town government at a Special Town Meeting in November.

As an example of the time required for a piece of home legislation to work its way through the state bureaucracy, Sandisfield last November passed a Special Act defining the role of the Select Board and Town Manager. Nine months later, the petition is still meandering its way through the Legislature as Bill H.3907.

Meanwhile, the By-Law on Accessory Dwelling Units voted on at the same meeting has been approved by the Attorney General.

The Home Rule Petition process does not empower the locality, rather it puts the critical decision-making power in the hands of the state. The petition is the centerpiece of the Home Rule Amendment. A majority of home-rule petitions are not granted and there have been many complaints about the process. Some petitions remain stuck in committee for years.

Although Home Rule or self-governance exists in Massachusetts, when a city or town adopts a charter through the approval of its legislative body and its electorate the city or town then learns that it lacks authority to carry out many duties that once appeared simple. Among requests that cities and towns must seek the State's permission include issuing liquor licenses; to reorganize government or manage local elections; to reserve their money in special revenue funds; and to convey or lease certain property.


An article "Dispelling the Myth of Home Rule" on the MMA website outlined complaints from towns that had adopted the Charter form of government.

"An official from Malden complained: 'Every time we make a change to our charter we have to do a home rule petition, and it's a pain most times ... It takes too much time to get these changes through—too many stages in the process. And it's wrong that people from Longmeadow have control over what's going on here in Malden. These were internal structural changes and we still have to go before a committee because a representative not from Malden was concerned that the people didn't know about it. It's a cumbersome process and it bothers me that people can question what's best for Malden when they might not even live close to here.'"

An official from Millis summed up the situation this way: "Home rule is good in terms of town organization, but in terms of taxation and regulation, it's all driven by the state."

An official from the town of Franklin agreed with that assessment: "You have the right to establish your own form of government here in Massachusetts, but even that's constrained, to a certain degree, by what the [Home Rule Procedures Act] says ... So they say, 'well, you've got home rule.' But even though we have home rule we have to do a lot of things the way that they want [us] to do it."

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has also carved out other areas as being of insufficiently "local" concern to fall within the general home rule grant. For example, invoking the principle that that localities lack home rule power to regulate "areas outside a municipality's geographical limits," the court has invalidated a town by-law that barred the removal of gravel from its territory because of its impact on road construction throughout the Commonwealth.

To help understand how Charters and Home Rule works, download a copy of "Dispelling the Myth of Home Rule" posted on the Massachusetts Municipal Association website www.mma.org, search for "Dispelling the Myth." 

Out on a Limb: Op-Ed:

Subjects should be of interest to most of us and have a strong link to Sandisfield, written by and for Town residents. Address either PO Box 584, Sandisfield, or email. Opinions in Out on a Limb articles are those of the authors and do not represent The Sandisfield Times.



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Visiting Nurses to Stop Accepting New Patients

By Times Reporters


Starting next month, new patients in nearly half of Berkshire County's hill towns will not be able to receive in-home healthcare services offered by Berkshire Health Systems (BHS), according to an article in The Berkshire Eagle in late July. Sandisfield is among 15 towns affected by the cutback, which also includes Otis, New Marlborough, Sheffield, and Monterey.

The reduction applies only to new patients serviced by the Berkshire Visiting Nurse Association (BVNA). Visiting nurses will continue to service current patients.

"This decision will definitely impact Sandisfield and small towns in Southern Berkshire County, such as Monterey," said Nina Carr, a Sandisfield Council on Aging member. "I'm very concerned about it and have contacted Smitty Pignatelli's office as well as the Southern Berkshire Health Collaborative."

A BHS spokesperson stated that the cutbacks are due to a staffing shortage. "This is temporary and we are continuing our intensive recruitment efforts so that we can provide home care services to all members of the community," Michael Leary, of BHS said in a statement to the Eagle. The article reported that there are 49 clinicians working as visiting nurses, down from about one hundred a year ago.

Tamaryn Clowdus, a physical therapist with BHS, told The Eagle that the cuts to home healthcare visits will mean that some people "will either have to go into a nursing home or that they don't get services."

The article did not state when BHS expects to hire enough nurses to return services to the affected areas. 



This Fall at the Society


By Ann Wald, President

We will have held the ATV Drawing at the New Boston Inn on August 31, too late to announce the winner and runner-ups in this issue of The Times. Congratulations to everyone who won and even those who bought raffle tickets. The proceeds from the sale will help us enormously at the Meeting House. Thank you.

At our recent meeting we discussed appraiser Charlie Flint here on August 19. We were looking forward to see what items will be brought for appraisal.

On Saturday, September 9 at 3:00 p.m., Lorraine German will present a talk on maple sugar and its history in New England. Also Charlie Adams will be bringing maple syrup and cream as well as sugar molds used for sugar candy.

On October 1 we will host an apple festival at Riiska Brook Orchard on New Hartford Roads. Look for more information in coming days as well as on the ConnectSandisfield Facebook page.

Remember September 9, 3:00 p.m., at the Meeting House on Rt. 183 at the corner of South Sandisfield Road. 

Tag Sale Day

About fifteen locations all around town – from South Sandisfield to New Boston – offered tables piled full of 'gotta-haves' on Saturday, August 19. A central location for those too far out of the way was the New Boston Inn, pictured here.

The Great Sandisfield Tag Sale, the second of a now-annual event, was sponsored by the Sandisfield Historical Society and held in conjunction with the Sandisfield Recreation Committee's "Sample Sandisfield Day."


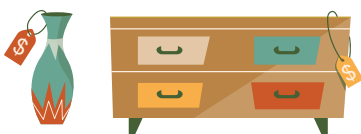
Several venues reported that customer traffic was not as robust as last year's event. Perhaps some normally avid treasure hunters were dissuaded by the daunting Rt. 57 detour. Do it again! 

Photo: Ron Bernard





The Librarian's Corner

By Terry Spohnholz

Library hours:

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

Wednesday 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

BOOK CLUB

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

- **September** – *The Little French Bridal Shop* by Jennifer Dupree
- **October** – *The Elephant Whisperer* by Lawrence Anthony with Graham Spenser
- **November** – *Haven* by Ruth Gruber

PINOCHLE ANYONE?

The Library is hosting a pinochle group at the library that meets at least once a month; sometimes two nights. Knowledge of pinochle is not required – we learn as we go. We will meet next on **Wednesday, September 6 and Wednesday September 20 at 6:30 p.m.**, at the Library.

NEW BOOK ARRIVALS

ADULT FICTION AND NON-FICTION

- *Happy Place* by Emily Henry
- *Out of Nowhere* by Sandra Brown
- *Cursed at Dawn* by Heather Graham
- *The Invisible Hour* by Alice Hoffman

- *Lion & Lamb* by James Patterson
- *Dead Mountain* by Douglas Preston
- *The Bone Hacker* by Kathy Reichs
- *Family Lore* by Elizabeth Acevedo
- *Witness* by Jamel Brinkley
- *Canary Girls* by Jennifer Chiaverini
- *None of This is True* by Lisa Jewell
- *Times's Mouth* by Edan Lepucki
- *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride
- *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett
- *The Discreet Charm of the Big Bad Wolf* by Alexander Smith
- *Happiness* by Danielle Steel
- *All the Sinners Bleed* by S. A. Cosby
- *Silver Nitrate* by Silvia Moren-Garcia
- *Ink Blood Sister Scribe* by Emma Torzs
- *The Breakaway* by Jennifer Weiner

NEW TO THE OLDER CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULT SECTION

- *Magic Tree House #5* by Mary Osborne

NEW BOOKS IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION

- *Llama Llama's Little Lie* by Duncan Reed
- *See the Ghost* by David LaRochelle

Story Time (In the Gazebo if the weather cooperates, in the Children's Section when it doesn't.) Every Saturday at noon and treats too!

ARTS AND CRAFTS

No Arts and Crafts this month. Coming in October, spooky crafts!

CHILDREN'S SECTION

The Children's section is replete with books, games, toys, Brio trains, and lots of arts and crafts supplies. We also offer notary service, public computer and printer availability, free wifi 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.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Check out our Gently Used Books!!! Curl up this season 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. ♡

Our September Poem

A BOOK

by Emily Dickenson

He ate and drank the precious words,
His spirit grew robust;
He knew no more that he was poor,
Nor that his frame was dust.
He danced along the dingy days,
And this bequest of wings
Was but a book. What liberty
A loosened spirit brings!
There is no frigate like a book
To take us lands away,
Nor any coursers like a page
Of prancing poetry.
This traverse may the poorest take
Without oppress of toll;
How frugal is the chariot
That bears a human soul!



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Cultural Council Report

TIME TO APPLY FOR A CULTURAL COUNCIL GRANT

By Jennifer Hibbins

The Sandisfield Cultural Council is reminding you that it is time to begin thinking about the next cycle of grant applications funded through our Council, a local agency which in turn is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

KEY DATES:

- Friday, September 1, applications will be available online.
- Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 11:59 p.m., deadline for all applications.

Grant applications are to be filed online only at www.mass-culture.org/sandisfield.

We encourage Sandisfield residents to apply as we would prefer more local applications. Recent grantees include the Berkshire South Community Center, Blandford Historical Society, Farmington River Elementary School, Festival Latino, Flying Cloud Farm, Music Dance.edu, the Sandisfield Arts Center, Sandisfield Library, Sandisfield Recreation Committee, Sculpture Now, and WAM Theatre.

Applicants may apply for projects, operating support, ticket subsidy programs, field trips, artist residencies, fellowships, or other activities, based on local priorities and needs. Local councils may also choose to fund cultural field trips for children, grades pre-K through 12, by subsidizing the cost for children to attend programs in the arts, humanities, and sciences, including performances, educational tours, and exhibits.

Sandisfield Cultural Council Members include Karema Almeida, Connie Canty, Ellen Croibier, Jennifer Hibbins, and Jennifer Lenzi.



Our Council is always looking for additional members; please reach out to us at culturalcouncil@sandisfieldma.gov if you are interested in learning more. The time commitment is modest, and we are in need of individuals who can bring their love of Sandisfield and the Arts to this Council.



And the Author Is . . .

The Sandisfield Women's Book Group enjoyed a potluck dinner on August 25 at John and Rosanne Skrip's home as well as a discussion with Leslie Wheeler, the author of "Rattlesnake Hill." What made this book more exciting to the group was that Ms. Wheeler placed the novel in the Berkshires. Said member Ellen Croibier, "We all guessed at the barely disguised locations including, for two, the town of New Marlborough and the Red Lion Inn."

"Rattlesnake Hill" is the first of a series. The book group would be happy to host Ms. Wheeler again next year to discuss the sequel.

The Women's Book Group includes, from left, seated, Flora Parisky, author Leslie Wheeler, Josephine Freedman, and Rosanne Carinci-Hoekstra. Standing, Joanne Olson, Mary Gonzalez, Connie Canty, Rosanne Skrip, and Gloria Spector.

Missing are Anita Carr and photographer Ellen Croibier.

★ DINE IN OR TAKEOUT

*HOUSE SPECIAL PRIME RIB
(thursday-saturday)

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- Sept 1st Scott Silvia 6pm
- Sept 2nd The 413's Band 8pm
- Sept 8th Jon Berman 6pm
- Sept 3,10, 24 - Musical Bingo 2pm
- Knox Trail Trivia Night Thursdays @7pm
- Sept 9th Generation X-Rock 8pm
- Sept 15th Melissa Brinton 6pm ★
- Sept 16th ROCK 201 8pm
- Sept 17th The Hilltown Blues Jam 2pm
- Sept 23rd Scott Silvia 6pm
- Sept 27th Sign Painting Party 6:30pm
- Sept 29th Acoustic Bandwidth 7pm
- Sept 30th Cruise Control 8pm

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Bridge Over Troubled Wetlands

By Simon Winchester



Photo: Simon Winchester

It started on Monday July 24 when Highway Superintendent Brad Curry switched on two big electronic DETOUR signs – one near the turn by the Fire Station #2, the other halfway down the perilous slope that is the western edge of Tolland

Route 57 closed 1.5 miles ahead said the sign by Fire House Two.

Three miles ahead said the other.

Both said *Follow detours*.

The problem was ostensibly trivial: a culvert over a tiny and nameless tributary of the Clam River needed repairs.

Normally the solution would have been simple enough, involving traffic lights and maybe a temporary widening of the highway's shoulder. But those in Town Hall charged with protecting all and any part of Sandisfield deemed to be wetland forbade such a plan on environmental grounds. No wet grass could be trampled, no mud disturbed. Only a total closure of the route was acceptable.

The complex topography and uniquely convoluted road network of Sandisfield severely limited the ways along which most traffic might then be diverted.

Eastbound drivers unfamiliar with our town were sent three miles north along Town Hill Road, then four miles east on Route 23, then four further miles back south on Route 8 – or vice versa, if the hapless driver was heading west. A whopping eleven-mile detour to protect the sanctity of a tiny smidgen of local mud.

Savvy local drivers realized they could save much time by diverting themselves up or down Silverbrook Road, a hitherto little traveled dirt lane used primarily by the few house dwellers along it.

It so happened that the Morrison brothers, Ralph and Mike, – still our fire and police chiefs – had recently demanded Silverbrook be widened in places to allow for emergency vehicles to pass more easily.

As it happened, that provision was needed halfway through the closure: a tourist-laden bus lost its brakes coming down the Tolland escarpment in early August and ploughed the full length of the runaway truck lane at the foot of the hill and rescue vehicles careened down Silverbrook from Firehouse #2 with sirens blasting.

One elderly lady, much shaken and stirred, was the sole minor casualty: everyone else hobbled away.

The sole other casualty of the nearly month-long detour was the Sandisfield Post Office.

Since any potential postal client unlucky enough to live on the wrong side of the nameless brook would have to drive eleven miles simply to buy a stamp or to post a parcel, most decided to stay away or to drive to the New Marlborough or Monterey post offices instead.

And so our postmaster was the first to realize that the road had been opened.

"At last!" she cried with delight that morning as cars began to pour into her lot. "Customers!"

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Hanging Mountain Draws Experienced Climbers

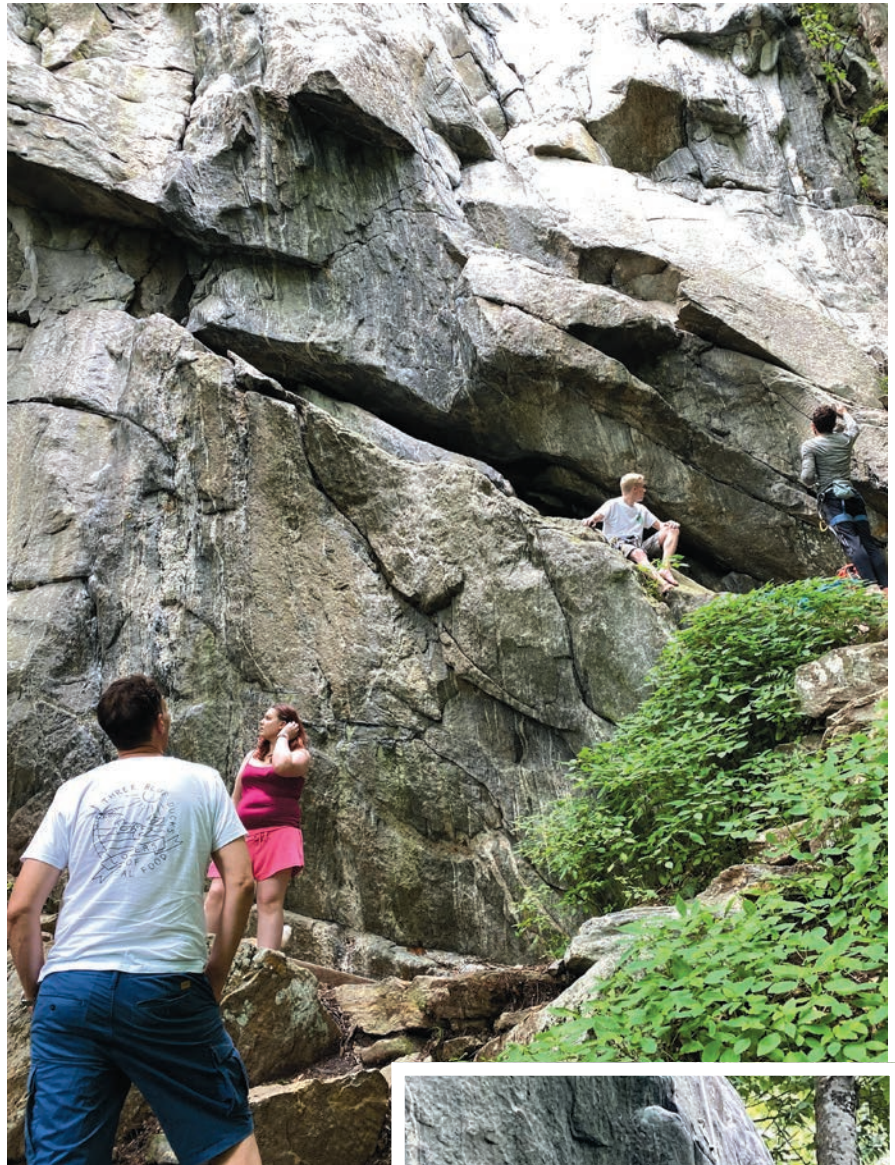
By Times Reporters Photos: Setsuko Winchester

When the Western Massachusetts Climbers Coalition bought the face of Hanging Mountain in the fall of 2019, Alex Bowman called to say he thought The Times should report the story. We asked Alex to write it, and his article about the group's effort to turn Hanging Mountain just south of New Boston into one of the Commonwealth's destination rock-climbing sites appeared on the front page of our November issue that year.

Bogart Muller wrote about the mountain next, in April 2020. We continued to report on the progress at the site until, after a bit of delay due to Covid, the site opened in October 2021, an event featured in our November issue. The climbing center, which is open to birders and hikers as well as climbers, has improved ever since, with increasing numbers of cars filling the parking lot summer and fall weekends. The New Boston Inn has seen pre- and post-climb reservations for rooms and dinners. The Platt brothers in Roosterville have proposed reopening their father's tent/campground across the bridge on Clark Road. The Farmington River General Store sells lunch and picnic supplies to visitors. If Tuckers hadn't burned . . . well, it's nice to imagine a few climbers bellying up to that particular local bar *after* their days' climb.

Setsuko Winchester stopped in at Hanging Mountain last month and came back with these photos. She wrote:

"In August I climbed to the base of Level 5.11 Cloud Buttress to find some serious climbing going on. Clearly, Hanging Mountain is not for amateurs. I learned that a Class 5 Rock Face means technical difficulties and belayed roping is required.



Fearless, Colin Squire says he climbs a Level 5 Rock Face almost daily.

"On the upper right in the first photo (see above) are two climbers strategizing their route, getting ready to start. Standing is 24-year-old Edward Stetson from Northampton who has been climbing for 10 years. Sitting on the rock is 17-year-old Colin Squire from South Hadley, who is the son of a professional rock climber.

"Observing the scene at the lower right are two visitors from London, England: Alex and Lola Winchester."



In the distance, an experienced climber, deep in concentration, hangs on the side of the mountain . . . a position which takes your breath away just watching.

NEWS FROM THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

By Ron Bernard

FEMA GRANT ANNOUNCED

Sandisfield Fire Chief Ralph Morrison last month reported that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) awarded the Fire Department a grant of nearly \$160,000 to upgrade certain critical but obsolete “breathing apparatus.”

He told The Times, “Had we not received this money, our equipment would be out of compliance with national standards and decertified for emergency use. Now we can acquire ten new units which will make an astronomical difference including fire fighter safety.”

Another grant – to install the power stretcher, equipment that voters had approved – may be imminent. “The stretcher, hopefully, will be in service by the end of October,” Ralph said.

The department has to budget for essential equipment. So when a grant is awarded – something never certain – it can be significant savings for Sandisfield taxpayers. Anyone who has applied for grants understands that it is a cumbersome, bureaucratic, and sometimes lengthy process with no guarantees of success.

The department has a contract with First Responder Grants, a South Carolina company that provides professional grant assistance. This strategy appears to be paying off. Ralph complimented John Burrows and Maria Nardi for their collaboration in recent successful grants. The cost of the contract with First Responder is \$1,500 per year, Ralph said.

Chief Morrison is also optimistic about a potential \$25,000 grant for a new gear washer-dryer. Also in the works are applications for new turnout gear and, thinking big, a potential new tanker/pumper for Station #2.

PLANNING FOR 75TH ANNIVERSARY NEXT YEAR

The Department is looking ahead to 2024, which will be the department’s 75th anniversary.



More than 200 dinners were served at Steak Roast 2023.

Photo: Sandisfield Fire Department

The Sandisfield community and former residents should circle the month of September 2024. A grand anniversary celebration is planned to commemorate the dozens, perhaps hundreds, of Sandisfield men and women who serve and have served as volunteer fire fighters and EMTs. They will all be invited home.

Chief Morrison said that the Recreation Committee and others are already considering events which might be included, for example, a car show, a display, a grand cookout, a dance, and more.

Here’s an idea. While we are at it, why not go a step further and reprise “Old Home Sandisfield,” an annual town reunion day which was especially popular between the 1930s and 1960s. Invitations were sent to former residents to come back and celebrate their town and reconnect with old friends.

If you have ideas or suggestions or wish to volunteer, contact Ralph at 413 258-3381.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Two Sandisfield first responders, Alec Morrison and Shamus Gaherty, attended an EMT course at Northwestern Community College in Winsted.

STEAK ROAST A BIG SUCCESS

The Department reported a successful annual steak roast last month – its 34th continuous event. Chief Morrison said, “We thank department personnel and their families who prepared more than 200 servings and everyone who bought tickets. Proceeds from these events go toward purchases of fire and EMT equipment.”



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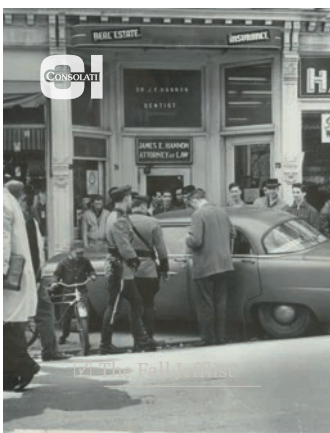


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Zoning With Thoughtful Care

by Alex Bowman

The Planning Board is in the process of drafting bylaw changes that could fundamentally reshape our town.

(See Planning Board meeting minutes at sandisfieldma.gov, Citizens Action Center, Minutes for June 13 and July 11. Zoning was also discussed at the Community Outreach meeting July 21.)

While it's clear that Sandisfield needs zoning updates to modernize and encourage growth, the utmost care is required. Even seemingly harmless changes can create loopholes that allow irreversible damage to our community. I

encourage all Sandisfield stakeholders to watch closely, whether or not you are registered to vote. One proposal under consideration involves reducing the minimum requirements for buildable lots in designated villages. New Boston on Rt. 8 from the New Boston Inn to Villa Mia and Montville from Town Hill Road to the Post Office are being discussed.

Presently, town-wide rules demand 200 ft. of road frontage, one acre of land, and a 30-foot setback for any location.

I support relaxing these rules for villages, with some caveats:

- Aim to encapsulate as many existing nonconforming properties/structures as possible.
- Shorten the distance for Montville.
- Extend New Boston on 57 from the runaway truck ramp to the Rugg Bridge.
- Introduce a South Sandisfield village.
- Establish a West New Boston village.

Why not even go a bit denser?

Numerous historic village properties already deviate from these norms (less than one acre or 200-foot wide and set back less than 30 feet). Current regulations force property owners to follow the special permit process for any alterations, entailing neighbor notices, newspaper ads, and public hearings. As these changes are seldom controversial, the process is often wasteful. Let's empower these property owners to make reasonable adjustments.

Furthermore, denser development can bolster infrastructure and services for our community. The existing 200 ft. and one-acre rule spreads us thin, leading to growth on low-traffic, subpar roads that end up demanding significant funds to service. Lowering these requirements promotes sensible density, expanding the tax base without straining resources.


Historically, Sandisfield's villages were dense in the mid-19th century during the population peak. Encouraging density now in these areas is logical. Many successful Hudson valley towns in New York rekindled vibrancy via compact downtown zones. Let's allow Sandisfield to build similarly.

Another topic is the creation of "by right" business zones.

Currently, all non-agricultural businesses require special permits. This proposed change would eliminate the need for notice or approval. The areas being considered encompass Routes 183, 57, and 8, as well as New Hartford Road and Dodd Road in their entirety, which currently are overwhelmingly residential.

While I support allowing small, inconspicuous businesses in residential zones, I'm apprehensive about this change. The proposed areas are too expansive and could dramatically alter significant expanses of Sandisfield without recourse. It seems to me this would encourage sprawl.

Balancing the opportunity for small businesses with preserving our rural peace and privacy is crucial. Villages can accommodate some higher traffic businesses due to existing traffic patterns, but we should heed the concerns of our neighbors who live there now.

These adjustments could profoundly shape Sandisfield for decades. Let's engage in thoughtful discussions, open-mindedness, and provide feedback to collectively forge a vibrant future for our town. 

Out on a Limb: Op-Ed: Subjects should be of interest to most of us and have a strong link to Sandisfield, written by and for Town residents. Address either PO Box 584, Sandisfield, or email. Opinions in Out on a Limb articles are those of the authors and do not represent The Sandisfield Times.



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A Dream Come True

Story and photo by Ron Bernard

It's not often that a life-long wish is answered. But for Susan Edwards her dream of one day owning a certain cottage in the back woods of Sandisfield has come true. The cottage had a special meaning from her childhood.

In December 2014, the Times included a story about two humble summer places opposite each other in the Beech Plain section (see "A Tale of Two Cottages"). One, decrepit, dating from 1926, was to be torn down; the other, built in about 1930, would live on as a residence.



Darrien and Susan Edwards

In 1936, the land and its seasonal cabin at 150 Cold Spring Road was bought by Al and Hilda Nastro of New Haven, Conn. Their daughters, Louise and Anita and son, Andrew, vacationed there every summer until 1954, when the Nastrois sold the place.

Granddaughter Susan was only two at the time but throughout her childhood the family spoke of wonderful times at the cabin picking blueberries and fishing and swimming in Spectacle Pond just up the road.

Beginning in her teens, Susan made excursions from Connecticut to the Berkshires that always included a drive by No. 150 and a wistful moment about the magical summers her family spent there.

Susan said, "For years my mother, Louise, talked about those good times. She often said to me, 'Honey, you should try to buy that place.'"

Neither law school and a busy legal practice, nor marriage and life in North Carolina displaced her quest to return that cottage to the family fold. From time to time she learned of nearby properties coming up for sale and sometimes she made visits, opportunities to stop by her real target of interest to see if the occupants would be interested in selling. This went on for more than forty years until December 2022, when 150 came on the market.

"We immediately agreed to the listed price, site unseen," she said. "That was an unbelievable moment!" Susan and her husband, Darrien, a retired North Carolina farmer, woodsman, and skilled handyman have spent the summer upgrading their treasure.

Every afternoon Susan swims in Spectacle Pond which she feels is an enchanted place that represents a deep connection to her childhood and the memories of her mother and grandmother. So, dreams can come true after all.

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Comings and Goings



NORMAN G. CARR
1957-2023

Better known as "Buzzy" to his friends and family, our brother Norman passed away peacefully on August 7 after a long struggle with cardiopulmonary disease at his home in Maricopa County, Arizona. He was 65.

Born in Bristol, Conn., Norman was the fifth of the twelve children of James and Eloise Carr. The family moved to Sandisfield in 1962, where they operated Carr Metal Products in the red barn on Route 57 in West New Boston. The company produced precision fuel system components for the aerospace industry. Norman was mechanically inclined and became a very skilled machinist in the family business.

Norman played a seminal role in the certification process which allowed Carr Metal to release critical components directly to point-of-use facilities for installation in aircraft without the need for pre-acceptance by the original equipment manufacturers.

All his life Norman enjoyed outdoor activities such as fishing, camping, and cycling.

He was also an avid, well-informed reader, always up-to-date on current events. He was never reluctant to share an opinion, "whether it was wanted or not."

He moved to Arizona in the mid-1990s where he obtained a commercial pilot's license for twin-engine aircraft. Later, he worked as a company pilot for the Rydell Group in North Dakota. Due to a motor vehicle accident he was unable to maintain his license so he returned to Arizona and the warm weather he much preferred to begin a new career in campus security at Maricopa County Community College.

Norman was pre-deceased by his parents, his sister, Peggy and brothers, Patrick, James and Sean. He is survived by five sisters and two brothers as well as eleven nephews and four nieces

Norman was much loved by family and friends who will miss him and who say, "Not goodbye, Norman, but until we meet again."

A service is being planned for a later date.



Letters to the Editor

CONGRATULATIONS, LIANA

On August 9, The Berkshire Eagle announced that the Non-Profit Center of the Berkshires, headed by none other than Sandisfield's own Liana Toscanini, achieved Charity Navigator's highest ranking of 4 Stars.

Charity Navigator is the gold standard for evaluating non-profits in regard to transparency, efficiency, and ethical leadership. As a matter of fact, I always check Charity Navigator before I contribute to any non-profit. A 4-Star rating means that one can confidently give funds knowing they will be used responsibly and in such a way that they will do the most good.

So, kudos to you, Liana, for achieving this important goal for the NPC of the Berkshires! You and your organization do important work. And I, for one, am grateful you are part of the Sandisfield community.

*Melissa Bye
New Hartford Road*

PEOPLE ARE NOT THE POLITICIANS

Thanks for the Simon Winchester's August Times article on a look at China. No, Winchester has not "drunk Kool Aid." His article reminds us that a country's populace is distinct from its politicians. Of course, as their lot improves, Chinese people have hope and seek happiness. I certainly pray folks in other countries do not think America is as dysfunctional as our last administration and the popular media indicate. If we are dissatisfied with things in America, the solution is not to hate the Chinese people or even its government, but to be informed and to vote.

*Roberta Myers
Monterey, California*

SO, WHO'S FOMENTING AGGRESSION?

In his "Moreover" column, author Simon Winchester notes in his gushing praise for China that we ought to take cues from and aspire to be more like them than foment aggression.

He notes "although even the most implacably knuckleheaded now accept that human-caused climate change is upon us and will gain in ferocity unless we do something about it – which we can – there seems to be no similar certainty about how we view and should view and so deal with China."

Indeed, Mr. Winchester seems deep into the Kool Aid. He mentions nothing about China's industrial machine churning its way unchecked toward planetary destruction to feed an addiction to low-cost (and mostly low-quality) highly profitable widgets of every sort.

China's amazing ancient civilization has nothing to do with its current CO2 emissions, which increased by four percent in the first quarter of 2023. It is on track to exceed estimates of 13 percent more climate-harming pollutants being spewed into the air annually as its 82 new coal-fired plants come online. That's eighty-two.

Remember, profits equate to money and money is power and power is political. Who is fomenting aggression, after all.

Recognize that Chinese companies are quietly gobbling up American farmland and now own nearly 400,000 acres of it, along with food companies – including Smithfield, the largest pork producer in the U.S.

And in New York State you can no longer outfit a new apartment building with fossil fuel-fed appliances, a teaspoon of remedy against the tsunami of damage caused by one nation – China.

*Brigitte Ruthman
Dodd Road*



NEW MARLBOROUGH MEETING HOUSE

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Sept
2
4:30 pm



Simone Dinnerstein
Simone Dinnerstein returns by popular demand, performing works by Franz Schubert, Robert Schumann, Philip Glass, and Jean-Phillip Rameau. Her 2021 performance at the Meeting House was sold out.

Sept
23
4:30 pm




**Trio Calore:
Wincenc - Nikkanen- Asteriadou**
The trio of reknowned recitalists will perform works by Franz Doppler, Bohuslav Martinu, J.S. Bach, and Melanie Bonis.

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.

Oct
7
4:30 pm



**Simon Winchester
with Chandra Prasad, Francine Prose, and André Bernard**
A Writer and a Robot Walk Into a Bar: Writing in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.

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

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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.

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

NOW HEAR THIS!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro.

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

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sandisfield Select Board Meetings are currently through Zoom and in-person at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays 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. No pre-registration is necessary. Led by Nina Carr. This fun program includes free play, crafts, stories, and songs! A great time to meet 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 basement. 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 September 10, 10:00 a.m., New Boston Congregational Church, Rte 57. **Congregation group photo for book to follow service.**

Gala Annual Dinner with Showing of "Two Gentlemen Folk" on Saturday, September 9 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammertown Road. Enjoy a delicious dinner prepared by master chef Adam Manacher, followed by a special showing of the PBS film, "Two Gentlemen Folk," with Bill Crofut and Ben Luxon, in a performance of British and American music. The film was produced by Bill Cosel for PBS in 1987. Bill and Ben will be on hand to talk about the making of the film recorded at Jacob's Pillow. Visit sandisfieldartscenter.org for tickets. A fundraiser for the Center, \$75.

Pig Roast on Sunday, September 10 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the American Legion Pavilion, Rt. 8 in New Boston. Food, live music, and a bouncy house for the kids. Free to all Sandisfield taxpayers and employees. Proof required. All others, \$10. RSVP required by August 20 (413) 269-7357 or sandisfieldevents@recreationcommitte.info.

An Evening of Dance with Olivia Idella Martin on Saturday, September 16 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammertown Road. A collective of work created by local dance artists showcasing a variety of styles and presented by choreographer and teacher Olivia Idella Martin. Wine and dessert to follow. Visit sandisfieldartscenter.org for tickets. \$35.

Film: "Vow from Hiroshima" on Saturday, September 23 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammertown Road. A showing of a spectacular, tragic film marking the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima. An intimate portrait of Setsuko Thurlow, a survivor, who has devoted her life to ridding the world of nuclear weapons. Free.

Sandisfield Woman's Book Club on Thursday, September 28 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sandisfield Public Library. The book selection is *The Little French Bridal Shop* by Jennifer Dupree.

SAVE THE DATE:

Oktoberfest on Sunday, October 8 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Looking Glass Gardens on 19 Dodd Road. Music, drink, food, and beer. RSVP by September 24 (413) 269-7357 or sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info.

ONLINE EVENTS

A Farm and Garden Show with Sandisfield Residents Bill Taylor and Jaye Alison Moscaricello 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. Suggested fee, \$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.-1:00 p.m. on 18 Church Street in Great Barrington. Locally grown and produced foods, including fruits and vegetables, cheese, meats, breads, and more.

Hike on the Royal Hemlock Trail on September 2 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Bidwell House in Monterey. This hike traces the route of the early settlers of Township No. 1 from their homes to the first meeting house on a hill near the museum. Richard Greene will lead the group on the old roadways, past foundations and stone walls, exploring the flora and fauna along the way. Terrain is steep and rocky in a few places. To register, email bidwellhouse@gmail.com. Free.

Opening Reception: Susan Crofut Watercolors on Sunday, September 3 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at The Norfolk Library in Connecticut. For more information, visit norfolklibrary.org. The show will run through Thursday, September 28.

Kids Fishing Derby on Saturday, September 9 from 9:00-10:30 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!

Walking Tour of Historic Lee on Saturday, September 9 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Join Tracie Etheredge, from the Lee Historical Society, for a walking tour of Main Street and learn about important buildings, people, and historical events that occurred in town. To register, email ether@gmail.com. Meet at the town picnic gazebo next to the post office of Frank Consolati Way. Free.

Forest Ecology and Tree Identification with Forester Tom Ryan on Saturday, September 9 from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at the Bidwell House in Monterey. Explore the woodland trails of the Bidwell House Museum to learn tips to tree identification. To register, email bidwellhouse@gmail.com. Free.

Hike at Steepletop Reserve on Sunday, September 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in New Marlborough. Steepletop Reserve is the Berkshire Natural Resources Council's largest reserve, containing five miles of well-maintained, easy grade trails. To register, email chood@bnrc.org. Free.

10th Annual Berkshire Pottery Tour on Saturday, September 23 and Sunday, September 24 from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The self-guided tour features seven open studio shops and nine guest potters in several towns in southern Berkshire County, including Richmond, Stockbridge, Housatonic, Great Barrington, Monterey, and New Marlborough. A map is available on www.berkshirerpotterytour.com.

recreation COMMITTEE

**Pig Roast! Oktoberfest!
Halloween Dance!
Trick-or-Treat!**

By Laurie Seddon

Hello everyone! The Sandisfield Recreation Committee has certainly been busy.

We hosted Christmas in July at West Lake on July 23. It was a super-hot day, perfect for enjoying the views and the two new picnic tables overlooking the lake. We gave out little gift bags to everyone who came, kids as well as their grown-ups.

In August we hosted the 2nd Annual Sample Sandisfield event.

This year more than a dozen locations signed up for visiting. We listened to last year's feedback and coordinated the date with the Town-Wide Tag Sale hosted by the Sandisfield Historical Society, and we provided a handicap-accessible portable toilet at Yanner Park for visitors' convenience.

Up next is the Pig Roast at the American Legion near the Farmington River General Store on Rt. 8 in New Boston. The Town-wide event is Sunday, September 10, at 5:00 p.m. The Pig Roast is open to every Sandisfield taxpayer and Town employee. An RSVP was asked by August 26, now past, but if you want to join us and haven't signed up yet, please reach out immediately to (413) 269-7357 or sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info.

We are excited to host Oktoberfest again this year along with Looking Glass Gardens on Dodd Road on **Sunday, October 8, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** The Recreation Committee will be hosting a Dessert Baking Contest (and dessert!) and autumnal crafting for kids and adults. There will be live music, hayrides, and \$2 pony rides from Sunny Rose Farm. Food will be available for purchase by Bub's Beans and the Dogs, as well as beer and beverages.

Everyone who joined us for last year's Winter Dance couldn't wait for us to have another ... so we are! Join us for a Halloween Dance at Fire Station #2 on **Sunday, October 22, 5:00-8:00 p.m.** Costumes are welcome and encouraged! DJ Jonny Jams is back, and we are ready to dance the night away.

Last but not least, the Sandisfield Halloween Trail. **If you want Trick-or-Treaters at your home, please reach out by October 21 to be added to the map.** We will hand out driveway markers prior to Halloween. **Trick-or-Treating will be on Tuesday, October 31 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

For any questions and/or to RSVP to any of the events please contact us at (413) 269-7357 or sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info.



The Sandisfield Recreation Committee
INVITES YOU TO A
HALLOWEEN
Dance
WITH DJ JONNY JAMS COSTUMES WELCOME!
FREE Event
RECREATION COMMITTEE
All Ages Welcome
SUNDAY, OCT 22ND | 5PM - 8PM
FIRE STATION #2, RTE 57, SANDISFIELD
RSVP BY 10/7/23 TO (413) 269-7357 OR
SANDISFIELDEVENTS@RECREATIONCOMMITTEE.INFO



Oktober Fest
Sunday, October 8th
11AM-3PM
FREE Admission
RECREATION COMMITTEE
SANDISFIELD MASSACHUSETTS
All Ages Welcome
*Available for purchase
Music * Drink * Food * Beer
Presented By:
Looking Glass Gardens
and the Sandisfield
Recreation Committee
19 Dodd Road, Sandisfield
RSVP by 9/24/23 to (413) 269-7357 or
sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info
BUB'S BEANS & THE DOGS
EST 2022
Autumnal Crafting
Baking Contest
\$2 Pony Rides
Hayrides

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*The Times appreciates donations
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Natalie Powell



Just out of curiosity...

**If I could sell my house for
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Text your answer to, or call 413.528.4859

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