

Beginning our 15th Year!

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

Tribunus



Plebis

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume XV, Number 1

April 2024

To Lahaina with Love A HELPING HAND WITH MUSIC

By Jean Atwater-Williams

One might not think the town of Lahaina on the island of Maui, Hawaii, would have much in common with Sandisfield.

The differences *are* striking – Sandisfield has no tropical breezes, crystal blue ocean, palm trees, coconuts, or pineapples.

But there are similarities.

Lahaina is a small town with a tourist economy. Residents work in hotels and restaurants and clean and mow and care for the homes of transplants and out-of-towners. It's a place where – even before the fire – there was a serious lack of affordable housing.

Like Sandisfield, Lahaina is a place with rich historical traditions and heritage. And there are enduring connections between our part of the world and theirs. In 1820, the first Protestant

Cont'd on p.6

The Search for a DPW Chief MEANWHILE, HOW GOES THE DPW?

By Bill Price

Despite the fact that the Town's Department of Public Works is short one key employee – which happens to be the Chief – the department is “doing very well,” according to Town Manager Jon Sylbert.

During the “Topics Not Anticipated” at the March 11 Select Board meeting, Sylbert responded to a question about the status of hiring a DPW Chief to replace Brad Curry, who resigned last November. The Town has been without a DPW Chief for nearly five months. In his capacity as Town Manager, Jon is filling in as Acting DPW Superintendent during the search.

One major event this summer and fall will be the return of the State Highway Department to finish the reconstruction of Rt. 57 from near its intersection with Lower West Street to where the highway joins Tolland Road in New Boston. This will require at least two detours, the timing and locations of which have not yet been determined.

Following his comments about the search, Jon continued informally to discuss the department in general. His impromptu comments below were transcribed from the Select Board videotape.



Jon Sylbert, Sandisfield's Town Manager since March 2022.

Photo: Christina Lane Photography

At the meeting, Jon was asked how the search was going?

The search for a new DPW Chief is going as expected – not that well. We've had applicants but what I'm experiencing with applicants is that they won't come to a town that does not offer post-retirement benefits.

Cont'd on p.8



INSIDE

THE TIMES WITHOUT SIMON	3
THE REASONS FOR "NO"	4
THE SCHOOL MUSICAL	11
BAPTISTS AMONG US	12-13
HOP INTO SPRING	15

New Appointments

From the Town Website

- Joe Dieterle joined the DPW in December.
- The Town is advertising for a DPW Superintendent and a Grader Operator/Laborer.
- Mitchell Birkett was appointed to the Finance Committee.
- There remains two vacancies on the Finance Committee.
- Paul Greene, our Building Inspector, was appointed as the Fire Inspector.
- Lauren Paul was appointed to the Yanner Park Committee.
- Robert Krupski was appointed as Plumbing and Gas Inspector.
- Douglas Miner, our Town Clerk, was appointed as 911 Address Coordinator.
- Jonathan Sylbert, our Town Manager, was appointed as Emergency Management Director. 🗳️

News from Farmington Elementary



By Bill Price

The principal of the Farmington River Elementary School (PreK-6th grade), Laurie Flower, distributes a newsletter every month that has been described as “packed with updates and highlights from various facets of our school community.”

In the latest edition, mid-March, the newsletter featured “news from the adjustment counselor and the art teacher, happenings in Grade 3, PreK, and EK classrooms. Ans delves into recent schoolwide events, including “the Dragon Eggs Dance, the Bash, the Trash Assembly, and our vibrant celebration of Read Across America Week.”

A lot was going on at the Elementary School, and this editor was reminded of his own elementary education in a small town in rural Washington State almost 80 years ago. Ah man. The old days.

The newsletter concluded: “We’re committed to keeping you connected and informed, so dive into the newsletter to stay up-to-date with all the latest news and events.”

You can access the newsletter at frrsd.org. 🗳️



Presidential Primary Results

By Bill Price

Of the sixty-one Republican voters, nearly half, thirty in number, voted for Donald Trump as the Republican nominee.

More than half the remaining Republican voters cast a ballot for a candidate other than Trump. Nicki Haley received 26 votes, Chris Christie 4, and Ron DiSantis 1. The result was 31 others, and 30 Trump.

Of the sixty Democratic ballots, 52 favored incumbent President Joe Biden, three preferred Dean Phillips, one Marianne Williamson, with two writing in other names and two indicating no preference.

The two Libertarians who voted expressed No Preference for President.

Nominees for Town Offices

At the Town Caucus held March 4, the following residents were nominated as candidates for the following offices. So far, only one of the offices is contested. Other nominees may be added as write-ins. The number of registered voters in attendance was 25. The election will be held May 20, the Monday following the Annual Town Meeting, Saturday, May 18.

Office	Nominated
Moderator (1 year)	Dominic Konstam
	Janey Beardsley
Board of Assessors (3 years)	Steven Kopiec
Board of Assessors (1 year)	Jeff Bye
Select Board (3 years)	Robert Fedell
Board of Health (3 years)	Keith Larson
School Committee (3 years)	Carl Nett
Planning Board (5 years)	Paul Gaudette



Letter From the Editor

THE TIMES WITHOUT SIMON

If you read Simon Winchester’s “fond farewell” on last month’s front page, you know that Simon is stepping away from The Sandisfield Times because of work and travel pressures accumulating around his new book. We wish Simon happy writing and safe landings. We look forward to seeing his book as soon as it arrives in bookstores across New England and beyond.

Simon was the founding editor of The Times. In April 2010, in the paper’s first issue, Liana Toscanini, who was among the group that put the Times together, called it a tribute to Simon who led “several work sessions to hammer out the format, design, content, and tone of The Times.” The result, she added, “was a periodical far more interesting than any of us imagined possible.”

Until last month, Simon led the paper’s board of directors, providing guidance and encouragement to our series of volunteer contributors and writers, sometimes in person in the sunroom at his home on Silverbrook Road, sometimes on Zoom calls, and always cheerfully.

He has provided all of that and more to me since I joined the paper’s volunteers as editor in 2012, just in time for the Town’s Sesquicentennial Celebration.

And the paper is still here, plugging away through ups and downs. It’s been in the pits, lampooned in an outhouse skit on a float at a 2011 Memorial Day Parade and more recently described on Facebook’s Connect Sandisfield as perfect floor liner for a birdcage.

It has also received accolades from readers, including this one from a Westhampton historian in 2015:

I was surprised that [a town like] Sandisfield had its own monthly newspaper, then I looked at several issues and saw how stunning it was! Absolutely everything is treated as if it was the most important article. The photography is brilliant, the reporting concise and the layout is awesome.

Your town is so fortunate to have such a group of skilled volunteers to provide them with such a beauty of a newspaper!



We will miss Simon. His reporting on the major news in Town, his feature articles, and his column “Moreover” never failed to catch readers’ attention. While not everyone agreed with everything he wrote, he engaged readers, hopefully challenging them to reflect on our Town in new ways.

Let’s give Simon the last word. As he wrote in a Letter from the Editor column in that first issue in 2010:

“Ours is a most unusual town, one of the largest in Massachusetts in area, and yet with one of the smallest populations. Most of us will probably agree that, delightful though it is to live here, we are not blessed with a powerful sense of community. Geography is one reason: there is no identifiable town center, and our high green hills and deeply-carved river valleys separate us one from another. Moreover, though many of our residents are from families that have been here for generations, a growing number are either newcomers or seasonal or weekend dwellers. All of these reasons have conspired to keep us somewhat distant from each other, and have prevented us from forging the kind of communal connections that are so very evident in many of our neighbor villages.

“So it is the goal of our new newspaper to try to change this – though only for those who would like to see it changed – and to forge a wide realization that all of us here in this very old highland town share a set of aims and aspirations that we hold both dear and in common. All of us want this to be an amiable, pleasant and civilized place to live – a place with good and responsible government, with clean land and waters, with safe roads, an environment in which our children can grow without fear or worry, and where the rest of us can live amongst our abundant natural beauty in peace and serenity.”

As Simon wrote at the time: “It is our newspaper, it is your newspaper, and everyone is invited to write articles or letters, to take or make pictures, or in other unimagined ways, to help assemble the monthly mosaic that each issue will turn out to be.”

And thanks to its volunteers, its readers, and its contributors, The Sandisfield Times still thrives.

Bill Price
Editor



The Historic
1737 New Boston Inn

Restaurant, Tavern and B&B
Six Guest Rooms, All Private Baths
(Breakfast for Guests Only)
Check website for list of events.
Restaurant open THURS 12-8, FRI & SAT 12-9, SUN 12-7



Pets Welcome! 101 North Main St., Sandisfield, MA (Corner of Routes 8 & 57)
413-258-4477 • List of events at www.NewBostonInn.com

Out On A Limb



Why the Select Board Said “No”

By Melissa Bye

During the March 11 Select Board meeting, our newest Selectman, Bob Fedell, addressed misleading information that appeared in a Letter to the Editor in last month's Sandisfield Times. Being at the meeting, I witnessed Bob's calm, professional demeanor which showed no trace of hyperbole, nor did he engage in ad hominem attacks, or show animus towards the letter writer.

As a matter of fact, it seemed his whole purpose was to clear up confusion regarding why the Select Board had decided not to allow our former fire chief, Ralph Morrison, to continue as part of our ambulance service.

The letter writer expressed her concern that the Select Board, by not allowing Ralph as part of that service, would be depriving Town residents of an EMT – a first responder who could provide direct patient care in a medical emergency. Bob also explained that while Ralph is indeed a first responder, his role has always been as an ambulance driver and never as someone who provided direct patient care.

Bob clarified that our town has no shortage of drivers and that there are currently two individuals who have recently finished EMT training and are completing the process to become certified.

Bob's point was that by not having Ralph associated with the ambulance service, the town was not jeopardizing its ability to provide qualified EMT's when medical emergencies arise. (It should be noted that Bob is a licensed EMT and knowledgeable regarding proper protocols involving these issues.)



Bob explained that while Ralph has provided years of service to Sandisfield, it is well known that there are qualified EMT's in town who don't wish to work with or for him.

For those reasons, our Select Board made the difficult decision not to allow Ralph to remain in his role with the ambulance service.

I personally feel the whole issue with Ralph and Mike should be put to rest. I have to question whether more letters to The Times, either for keeping Ralph involved or not would serve any useful purpose. I also feel our Select Board is doing an excellent job handling this situation so that we can move forward.

Finally, don't take my word for any of this. Bob's comments were all made in a recorded open meeting, so listen to the tapes for yourself. Or later read the transcripts. I am confident after examining the evidence your impression of events will be very similar to mine.

**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
Screened topsoil, compost and bark mulch available

413-258-3375
www.cwnelson.com
chuckwnelson@earthlink.net
*find us on Facebook

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.



Sandisfield
Arts Center

Two Events in April AND A NOD TO BILL COHN

By Hilde Weisert

Historian Ron Bernard will open our season with **Churches of Sandisfield**, a talk/slide show on Saturday, April 27. For 250 years churches shaped community life in Sandisfield. Come be introduced to the pastors and notable personalities whose fascinating biographies are in Ron's new Sandisfield history, *The Little Brown Church of New Boston*. The book is full of interesting and often surprising anecdotes. Ron's detailed research discovered, as Bernard Drew wrote in *The Berkshire Eagle*, "stories that go beyond buildings and liturgical matters."

Young artists: Submit your work by April 7 for consideration for the Daniel Manacher Young Artists Prize. Open to artists 17-26 years or age who reside or go to school in Berkshire County. This year's judge is Josephine Halvorson, Professor of Art and Chair of Graduate Studies in Painting at Boston University. Visit www.sandisfieldartscenter.org for details.

A Tribute to Bill Cohn: We want to express our appreciation for the life and work of Bill Cohn, who passed away last month at his home in Sandisfield. Bill's contributions to the Arts Center were many and significant. An obituary for Bill is on page 17.

A former college professor, Bill collaborated with Val Coleman to found the talk series, "Forum on American History, Culture, and Politics." The presentations Bill gave in this series were always fascinating, and relevant to current events. Each one sparked a lively conversation with the audience.

In 2015, Bill's presentation on "American Culture & Wartime Propaganda" marked the 100th anniversary of The Great War (1914-1918) and the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II (1945) with a discussion of the propaganda techniques used in each war that "regimented the public mind."

In October, 2016, he and Val provided useful historical context for the 2016 Presidential election. In 2017, Bill shared letters and photographs from his parents in "Over There -The Great War to End All Wars a Hundred Years Ago 1917-1918" to bring that period vividly and movingly to life.

In 2018, in "Looking Back: Those Who Cannot Remember the Past Are Condemned to Repeat It," Bill showed how that Santayana's observation was even more true today.

We will miss Bill's unique historical and human perspectives on our oft-confusing world, and we will miss Bill himself. 🇺🇸



sandisfield
ARTS CENTER

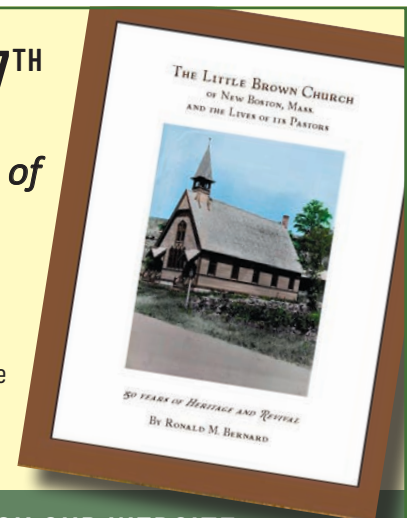
★ 5 HAMMERTOWN ROAD, SANDISFIELD, MA ★

Please join us for our
season's opening!

SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH
10:00 AM

*The Little Brown Church of
New Boston, Mass. and
the Lives of its Pastors:
150 Years of Heritage
and Survival*

Sandisfield Historian **Ron Bernard** will give
a talk and a slide show presentation
from his latest book. \$10



FOR DETAILS, RESERVATIONS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS, PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE.
SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

To Lahaina With Love

Cont'd from p.1

missionaries sailed from Boston to Hawaii. They overlaid onto the islands' already rich history and native culture some unique New England traditions (to this day, bread pudding is a popular dessert in Hawaii). These missionaries learned the Hawaiian language, devised a writing system, founded schools and churches (many built with New England-style architecture). In the mid-1800s, Hawaii was one of the most literate places in the world.

Lahaina town – and its charming historic district – was a vibrant, complex, multi-cultural mosaic when on August 8, 2023 – last year – an unthinkable disaster struck.

Wildfire!

Imagine if nearly every building in Sandisfield burned to the ground. That was the magnitude of the tragic fire in Lahaina.

Over two-thousand structures were destroyed, 86 percent of them residential. One hundred-and-one lives were lost. More than 10,000 people became homeless. Most of the survivors lost everything but the clothing they wore and what they could carry. Eight months later, there are still some 5,000 people living in shelters, many suffering from PTSD. Others had to move across or off the island. Maui Mayor Richard Bissen said in an NPR interview last month “I think our biggest challenge [now] is the mental health and stability of our residents.”

I am passionate about music, and I believe in its power to heal. Clinical studies prove that music can be a force for reducing physical and emotional distress and addressing trauma. I am also passionate about a sweet-sounding, easy-to-play Hawaiian instrument – the ukulele. This instrument is an important part of the cultural fabric of Hawaii. Nearly every home has one – or more. Thousands of ukuleles were lost in the fire.



Kanikapila session led by Jason Jerome, one of the Kanikapila Project's teachers. Jason's music store, Lahaina Music, was destroyed in the fire.

I volunteer with a non-profit organization called “The Kanikapila Project” (the Hawaiian word “kanikapila” means to play music together). Our mission is to expand access to ukulele-based initiatives that create human connection, comfort, wellness, and joy.


So we thought, “What better way for the Kanikapila Project to help than to replace instruments and provide opportunities for fire-affected people to play music together?”

We partnered with the Governor's office and other organizations on the ground in Maui, participating in weekly zoom calls to coordinate delivery of services. We raised money to purchase ukuleles and to fund local musicians and music teachers (some who had also lost homes and businesses). They went to the shelters to give away hundreds of ukuleles and to conduct weekly kanikapila sessions. We also provided prominent ukulele artists to perform at special wellness events.

And that's how I ended up in Maui last month. As Special Projects Manager for the Kanikapila Project, I was invited to attend the Maui Strong Mental Health Response Convening held by the Governor of Hawaii's Office of Wellness and Resilience to review the effectiveness of the response to date and to plan for the future. I first visited Lahaina in 2005. It was so vibrant and picturesque. Historic, too. In 1962, Lahaina was designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service.

To see it now – scorched and barren – was heartbreaking. But it was heartwarming to meet beautiful people who had lost so much working together with so much aloha and determination for the benefit and recovery of their beloved community. The job is nowhere near done. The community is still hurting. The burnt structures still stand like skeletons. The removal of soil – and human remains – is ongoing. It will take years for Lahaina to be rebuilt and it will take generations to heal this trauma.



But we can help. That's what I'm doing and you can, too. To learn more and/or to support the Kanikapila Project, go to KanikapilaProject.org. 

The Benefits of Music

Music has a powerful impact on the brain, particularly in reducing stress. When we listen to music, the pleasure centers in the brain are activated, releasing dopamine and creating feelings of relaxation and happiness. Additionally, music can decrease cortisol levels, a hormone associated with stress. Research by the University of Maryland Medical Center shows that listening to calming music for just 15 minutes can significantly lower stress levels and improve overall mental well-being.

Pre-K, Early K, and Kindergarten Enrollment Open

APPLY FOR BREAKFAST/LUNCH PROGRAM

Enrollment for PK/EK/Kindergarten is underway for the school year of 2024-2025 at Farmington River Elementary. See the ad on this page for eligibility and contact information.

As well, the Director of Food Services for the Elementary School has announced that the district will participate in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program. The district will offer healthy meals every school day at no cost to students regardless of household income. Families should still complete a Meal Benefit Application at the school. Applications are available in the school's main office, from the Nutrition Director, or online at frontoffice.frrsd.org. Only one application is required for all children in a single household. 🍷

Finishing Touches Coming to Yanner Park

By Adam Brown, Committee Chair

The Committee has been working with Greenagers, Inc., of South Egremont to put the finishing touches on the trail system that was funded through a grant from MA DCR's Recreational Trails Grant Program (RTP).

Although the trail construction wrapped up last August, several other aspects were completed after that or soon will be this spring to close out the grant, including creating a view spot at the highpoint of the property and installing directional signage at trail junctions

The Committee is grateful for Greenagers' guidance and high-quality work throughout this multi-year process.

As part of a separate contract, Greenagers install bog bridging along the section closer to Town Hill Road – these are plank walkways that help keep hikers' feet above the mud. This project will begin this spring/early summer and span into FY25 as well.

Once the trail is complete, then the challenge of maintaining it needs to be addressed. The Greenagers contract with the Town to provide brush management along some of the grassy sections of trail and perform basic maintenance such as clearing downed trees to keep the paths open.

The brush clearing, in particular, will be welcome as keeping the grass lower in some areas will limit the frequency of ticks. This has been a consistent complaint from visitors over the last two years as they – and their dogs – begin hiking the trail in summer only to become covered in ticks where the path initially passes through a low, wet area where the grass grows tall. Hopefully, this will be a long-term solution to that problem.

Another spring project will be planting two crabapple trees near the kiosk after the old crabapple that was there had to be removed due to persistent decline.

This past fall/winter, the Yanner Park Committee put out a town-wide survey asking what the community would like to see at the park. Thank you to the respondents who provided an array of ideas and suggestions – these will all be considered as we plan future efforts for the property.

As part of the survey we invited anyone who would be interested in becoming a member to fill a vacancy on our Committee. Lauren Paul responded with her interest and we are glad to welcome her as our newest member.

Yanner Park Committee members:

- Adam Brown (chair)
- Emily Gallagher
- Paul Gaudette
- Kathy Jacobs
- Roger Kohler
- Lauren Paul
- Sue Tarasuk (secretary) 🍷

DINE IN OR TAKEOUT

*HOUSE SPECIAL PRIME RIB
(served every thursday-saturday)

Weekly Specials

- SHEPHERD'S PIE
- KTI GRILLED SALMON
- GREAT SALADS
- ★ THE BEST BURGERS
- KTI PASTA & MEATBALLS
- HOMESTYLE MEATLOAF
- SPECIALTY PIZZAS & GRINDERS
- CHICKEN BROCCOLI ALFREDO
- RIB EYE STEAK

Great appetizers & more!

★
Book a
private
party
with us!



Stop in and meet the new owner
of the Knox...Brooke Tame!

★ UPCOMING EVENTS ★

- Apr 5th Jon Taylor Music 6:30 pm
- Apr 6th Rumours Band 8 pm
- Apr 13th The Conspiracy Band 8-11pm
- Apr 16th Ratatouille Movie & ★ Pajama Party 4:30 pm ★
- Apr 20th Creek Road Band 8 pm
- Apr 21st Hilltown Blues Jam 2 pm
- Apr 26th Jon Berman 6:30 pm
- Apr 27th Side-Tracked Band 8 pm
- Apr 28th Paint & Sip Party 1 pm

INDOOR CORNHOLE EVERY WEDNESDAY
KNOX TRIVIA EVERY THURSDAY

OPEN WED-FRI 3-9PM ★ SAT 12-10PM ★ SUN 12-9PM ★ 413-269-4400 ★ 1898 EAST OTIS RD (RT 23) EAST OTIS, MA

The Search for a DPW Chief

Cont'd from p.1

[Sandisfield does not offer PRB. It is considered that the lack of post-retirement benefits was one of the reasons that drew Brad to Huntington.]

“Almost every other town near us offers PRB, and applicants won’t leave their town if they have to give up that benefit.

“We hired a new assistant to work with Connie in the office. And we hired a fourth laborer on the DPW. But the top position is still open.

Candidates for DPW Chief

“This is a difficult situation for a lot of towns. There are towns where the current DPW Chief does not know how to do all the high-level stuff. The paperwork, grant writing, Chapter 90 programs. Town administrators are stepping in to do that work, in effect getting stuck with it.

“It’s really difficult to find a DPW Chief who has all the experience on the roads and knows how to work with the state and get all the grants and make sure the programs are being implemented correctly. These people cost a lot of money and I’d say all of them are [already] working in other towns. There is a huge shortage.

“All of the applicants will be within 20 minutes of us. That means they’re already working, in New Marlborough, Otis, Monterey.

“It doesn’t make sense for them to make a lateral move, even though we are now paying very competitively. It’s just not enough.”

Options are slim.

“The only options we have are to find someone with all that experience, which is very unlikely, or finding somebody with a lot of experience who may need to learn some of the aspects of the job.

“Again, we have a problem with the total compensation package.

“And the state is hiring people for more money. Several DPW workers in Becket recently left their job to hire on with the state. [When I worked in Monterey] we had a young man who worked there for three, four years, and as soon as he had the experience went to work for a construction company for way more money.

“We’re not alone in this. There’s hardly a town in the South Berkshires that doesn’t have at least two openings on their DPW.”

Steve Seddon, Select Board chairman, interjected at this point. “But we’re not stranded. We have Jon and Connie who can apply for these grants. Every year you don’t apply you can lose a couple million in state grants.”

Jon added, “We’re doing very well. Connie [Cooper, DPW Administrative Assistant] is super.”



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

Customize your next project TODAY!!

CALL: (413) 229-2793

We specialize in:

- New Home Construction
- New Additions
- Complete Renovations - Inside & Out

Family Owned and Operated
 Servicing the Tri-State Area for Over 45 Years
 Southfield, MA

Promoting from within?

[Sylbert mentioned Foreman Tony Suarez as a possibility for consideration for Chief.] "Tony is working very hard. He's gotten a lot of kudos from people. He's really digging through things and is very thorough. He's finding culverts we never found before. He's discovered all sorts of water that was being redirected back onto town roads and causing an incredible amount of damage.

[Jon had mentioned earlier that Tony was not yet qualified for the top spot, adding "besides he likes what he is doing and doesn't want to change."]

"We have Tony and Dave [McCuin] in senior positions and two new hires who are learning the ropes, Joe Dieterle and Tim Deming.

"We have one open position, the DPW Chief, and we want to be really careful about who we hire. As Steve said, we're not dysfunctional, [even though] I'd love to have a fifth laborer.

"But guess what, after three years of waiting, we have the GPS fixed and the ERSA going. We've done it. We're going to pin every single culvert in town and it will add a layer to our [being able to stay ahead of trouble]. And we can use it to schedule culvert maintenance and check ups.

"When Rt. 57 was redone [last summer] we discovered four culverts that no one knew were there. They'd been covered up and had filled up because they'd been buried. We now know they're there and can maintain them on a regular schedule.

"It's worth saying that we're really doing much better."


At the Select Board meeting, Mary Turek recommended that the Town consider hiring a younger person with less experience but who would be ambitious and learn on the job. She said, "They could learn the grant part later. You can mold them. Sometimes you get these older people, you [aren't] going to mold them. And they know how to play the game."

Sylbert replied, "That's true. And that's why we're being very cautious about hiring."


Chairman Seddon added, "The job of Chief is more and more complicated, requires more layers of administration, and those are skills that a lot of these guys who are good with machinery might not have in their wheelhouse."

In conclusion, Jon Sylbert said: "Everyone is working well on the road crew."






William Pitt



Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

LOCAL REAL ESTATE EXPERT




THOM GARVEY

TGARVEY@WPSIR.COM

508-371-8219

*Service that's as elevated
as your standards.*

GREAT BARRINGTON BROKERAGE
306 & 308 Main Street | 413.528.4192
WILLIAMPITT.COM

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated 



The Librarian's Corner

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

Our new website: sandisfieldlibrary.org

APRIL, A MONTH OF MANY CELEBRATIONS.

This month is a three-for as we celebrate Arab American History month, National Deaf History month, and National Poetry month. Arab American History is a celebration that recognizes the contributions of Arab Americans to the nation's history. Americans of Arab heritage have advanced the nation's achievements in diplomacy, science, technology, as well as in art and culture. Deaf History Month is not a federally recognized holiday but a time to raise awareness of the contributions of the deaf and hard of hearing. National Poetry month, a celebration of that wondrous art form that with a few words or a thousand words reaches into our souls and transforms our view of the world. So, hop down to the library and check these books out!!!

- *The Little Brown Church of New Boston, Mass. and the Lives of its Pastors* by Ronald M. Bernard, donated by Janet Bumstead
- *Good Poems for Hard Times* selected and arranged by Garrison Keillor.
- *Pretty Boys are Poisonous* by Megan Fox
- *The Collected Poems of Emily Dickenson*
- *Deaf Utopia* – a memoir and a love letter to a way of life by Nyle DiMarco.
- *My Friends* – a luminous novel of friendship, family and the unthinkable realities of exile by Hisham Mata
- *Reconciliation Islam, Democracy and the West* – groundbreaking vision for how to bridge the widening gap between the Islamic World and the West by Benazir Bhutto

EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

April 25, Thursday at 6:30 the **Sandisfield Ladies Book Club** will meet to discuss "The Lincoln Highway" by Amor Towles.

April 17 starting at 6:00 p.m. we have **Games Night at the Library**. Join in for the flavor of the month, Pinochle, Rummy, Apples to Apples, Scrabble and more. All ages are encouraged. Bring your wits and your smiles. We'd love see them both.

All month long - It is never too late to participate in the **Massachusetts Center for the Book 2024 Reading Challenge**. April's is a book about nature, the environment or climate change.

Latest additions to the library shelves (**adult fiction and non-fiction**)

- *Interesting Facts About Space* by Emily Austin
- *The Fox Wife* by Yangsze Choo
- *Maktub* by Paulo Coelho
- *Finley Donovan Rolls the Dice* by Elle Cosimano
- *The Ghost Orchid* by Jonathan Kellerman
- *The Frozen River* by Ariel Lawhon
- *The Morning side* by Tea Obrecht
- *How to Solve Your Own Murder* by Kristen Perrin
- *The Clinic* by Cate Quinn
- *The Underground Library* by Jennifer Ryan
- *Never Too Late* by Danielle Steel
- *Gothikana* by Runyx
- *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande
- *The Many Lives of Mama Love* by Lara Love Hardin
- *What Feasts at Night* by T. Kingfisher

- *Dead Wake* by Erik Larson
- *The #1 Lawyer* by James Patterson
- *Crosshairs* by James Patterson
- *5 Ingredients Mediterranean* by Jamie Oliver

Young Adult / Older Children

- *Dog Man #12* by Dav Pilkey

Children's Books

Pete the Cat's Wacky Taco Tuesday by Kimberly Dean

The Cool Bean Makes a Splash by Jory John

LIBRARIAN'S BOOK REVIEW

A Grandmother Begins The Story by Michelle Porter. Some books are simply magical. And this is one. When I picked up the book, relatively light (330 pages) so definitely not useful for weight lifting, I was intrigued by the cover-beaded work with a bison prominently featured. The book was magical and heart-breaking. Funny, poignant, laden with flawed but lovable characters. A rich tapestry woven with the strands of generations of Metis women, bison, grasslands and two irresistible dogs. This is an extraordinary novel told by a variety of characters trying to make sense of this world and the next. Yes, the bison and the grasslands are characters, too, and their story is integral to the story. Read and enjoy, but consider keeping a notebook handy to sort out the many wonderful characters. At the end of the book. I wanted to read it again, it was so beautiful. But it will have to wait a bit, because, as you know, so MANY books, not enough time! 📖



**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

School Musical

“WHATEVER HAPPENED TO HARRY?”

By Times Staff

You are invited to Opening Night of “Whatever Happened to Harry?”, this year’s annual spring musical at the Farmington River Elementary School.

The 5th and 6th graders wrote the script and several of the songs, basing the plot on two things they know well – attempting to save the environment and a Harry Potter-type character.

About 25 students at the school will perform, with another crucial eight helping backstage. Cast members include Bradley Pustinger, Flynn Craumer, Marc Catolane, Alexis Magane, Emma Pachulski, Khyia Baxter, Andrew Adams, Isla Collins, Tori Radwilowicz, and many 3rd graders playing the part of activists.

Isabel Macheselli, a musician and music teacher who has worked with FRRSD Community Productions for the past 5 years, will be the musical accompanist. Isabel’s assistance and piano skills are an important part of each year’s performance!

Dance/choreography was helped this year by Pulse, the three-decade-old nonprofit center for creative dance in Great Barrington. Tom Truss, a special program teaching artist from Pulse, led four workshops for the children to help them plan for the musical numbers in the show.

Laura Catullo, art teacher and musical director at the school, said in an email to The Times: “This year’s performance promises to be both magical and entertaining. It’s open to everyone, free of charge. The students will be selling baked goods and snacks, as well as a 50-50 raffle, to help cover costs associated with the production. Come out and join us for a night of entertaining magic!”

The performance space is at the Farmington River Regional School, 555 North Main Road (Rt. 8), in Otis. 



Tom Truss of Pulse coaches the young dancers.

Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste

Lee Wastewater Treatment Plant, 379 Pleasant Street, Lee, MA, 01233 will be accepting Household Hazardous Waste on Saturday, May 11th, 2024, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Pre-Registration is required. Please register online at www.tritownhealth.org. See right for details on what types of waste are accepted. For additional questions, call Tri-Town Health Department at 413-243-5540.





Household Hazardous Waste



For Residents of:
Alford Becket Egremont Great Barrington Lee Lenox Monterey
Mt. Washington New Marlborough Otis Richmond Sandisfield
Sheffield Stockbridge Tyringham Washington West Stockbridge

When: Saturday, May 11, 2024, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Where: Lee Wastewater Treatment Plant, 379 Tyler St., Lee, MA 01233

WHAT TO BRING

<p>From The Yard/Garden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pesticides, Fungicides Herbicides Insect Sprays Rodent Killers Muratic Acid Flea Powder No-Pest Strips Chemical Fertilizers Lighter Fluid Moth Balls 	<p>From the Workbench</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rust Proofers Wood Preservatives Wood Strippers & Stains Paint Thinners Lead & Oil-Based Paint Varnish Full Aerosol Cans Sealants Adhesives Solvents 	<p>From the House</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drain Cleaners Oven Cleaners Floor Cleaners Metal Polish Arts & Crafts Supplies Photo Chemicals Chemistry Kits Rechargeable Batteries 	<p>From the Garage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuels/Gasoline/Kerosene Brake & Transmission Fluid Car Wax/Polish Engine Degreaser/ Motor Oil Swimming Pool Chemicals Driveway Sealants Antifreeze Car=Lead Acid Batteries 	<p>Mercury Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thermometers Thermostats Other mercury Button Batteries
--	--	---	--	---

DO NOT BRING

Latex Paint, Medical Wastes, Asbestos, Standard Batteries, Fireworks & Explosives, Ammunition, Construction Debris, Gas or Propane Cylinders, Smoke Detectors, Radioactive Material, Fire Extinguishers, Fluorescent Lamps, Electronics, PCB's, Medications, Medical Sharps

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Please register online at www.tritownhealth.org or scan QR code

For additional questions, call Tri-Town Health Department at 413-243-5540



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

The Presence and Legacy of Baptists in Sandisfield

By Ron Bernard

Sandisfield's former Montville Baptist Church, once a synagogue and now serving as the Sandisfield Arts Center, is one of the area's finest examples of Greek Revival-style church architecture. It stands today in near original condition.

Why is it here? What happened to the Baptists? Who were they, anyway?

TO START AT THE BEGINNING

In 1620, some 100 English landed on the shores of Cape Cod. Lucky to have survived the journey across the North Atlantic, could they

have imagined that their courage – born out of desire for a better life, religious freedom, and self-determination – would profoundly influence the nature and culture of a great new society called America?

Four hundred years later that influence remains the basis for the American democratic system of self-government.

The contingent was organized and led by a group of 35, a faction, known as "Separatists," that had illegally broken from the Church of England. Dogmatic, they contemptuously referred to the others on the voyage with them as "the strangers." Before the *Mayflower* landed in Cape Cod, discord between the groups had reached a boiling point, threatening to wreck everything. Leaders calmed the tensions. An agreement known as the Mayflower Compact became the basis of self-government not only for them, but also for the colonies and the new democratic American nation 160 years later.

The Separatists are best known today as the Pilgrims. Their religious life style was very rigid. Soon others, somewhat less dogmatic, formed a sect known as the Puritans and they became the protestant denomination, Congregational. Leaders of the Congregational Church were also leaders of the Massachusetts government, essentially synonymous institutions in New England until the Revolution. (The churches were called "meeting houses," for many years basically de facto town halls.)

One of them, Roger Williams was outspoken about the need to separate church from state influence. He felt leaders had lost their way. For this he was banned by the colonial (Congregational) administration in 1631. He went south and founded a new colony called

Rhode Island Plantation. There he founded the Baptist Church of America in 1638. Ironically, Baptists became known as separatists.

THE RISE OF BAPTISTS IN SANDISFIELD

By the time Sandisfield was settled in the 1750s, the Baptist faith was widespread in southern New England though still much less influential than Congregational. In Sandisfield there were sufficient followers so that in 1779 a petition was approved for a church in northwest Sandisfield called the Free Meeting House. The original barn-like structure stood at the top of Town Hill Road at the intersection of Route 23 near the town lines of Sandisfield and Otis.

In deeply loyal and traditional Congregational New England, the advent of a competing and rising Baptist denomination was considered a threat by the establishment, but there was nothing that could be done about it.

SHAYS' REBELLION AND THE BREAKAWAY

Some members of the Congregational Church supported the 1786-87 uprising known as Shays' Rebellion. This was an armed insurrection by people living in western Massachusetts against the Massachusetts government. There was strong support for the cause in Sandisfield. The uprising was led by Daniel Shays, a Revolutionary War veteran who led protests against economic policies that caused many farm foreclosures and the imprisonment of debtors. The rebellion fizzled out by early February 1787.

In April 1788, nineteen members of the Sandisfield Center Congregational Church who supported Shay's Rebellion, broke away from the church because of the unpopular stance taken against the insurrection by the pastor, Eleazer

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


Berkshire
Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center
7 Sandisfield Rd., New Boston

MAINTENANCE STAFF NEEDED

Temp to Perm/Fire Watch & Housekeeping
2 F/T positions/40hr 3p-11p & 40hr 11p-7a/\$16hr

Please contact Berkshire Rehabilitation at 413-258-4731 or email your letter of interest to Administrator@BerkshireRehabilitation.com



The Free Meeting House on Town Hill Road, 1893.

Storrs. They hired a minister and built a separate church, also in the northwest section of Sandisfield, on West Street.

THE MONTVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1838, the two societies merged (on paper at least) and planning began for a modern building in Montville. The minister of the first church presided at two places until the new building was constructed in 1839/40. For about 35 years, membership was large and active. Following the economic debacle of a failed railroad line in the 1870s and the resultant sharp decline in town population, attendance and support at the Montville church steadily diminished until the doors closed in 1918.

Several years later the deteriorated building was purchased and converted as a synagogue by the growing Jewish community in and around the Montville section. The synagogue was active for about sixty years then went dormant. In the 1990s, the building was salvaged and repurposed by a community group as the Sandisfield Arts Center.

WHY THIS IS IMPORTANT

The building is one of the area’s finest examples of Greek Revival-style church architecture and stands today in near original condition. Its history includes three distinct periods including two improbable rebirths. Entered on the National Register of Historic Places as

the Montville Baptist Church in 1995, next year the building will celebrate both its 185th year and the 35th anniversary of the Arts Center.

A book is underway for early-2025 release that will tell the complete story of this marvelous structure including biographies of some forty ministers and rabbis and the caretakers who were responsible for saving this significant heritage asset for Sandisfield and for posterity.



The Montville Baptist Church, 1893. The building currently serves as home to the Sandisfield Arts Center.



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



William Pitt

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

BE A BETTER GARDENER

The Length of Day in Your Garden

By Thomas Christopher

My spirits lift as spring draws near and the days grow longer – and that’s not just because I know a return to the garden is imminent. Like almost 40 percent of the U.S. population, I experience a certain degree of depression when exposure to sunlight drops to its nadir in mid-winter. Apparently, the loss of light causes chemical changes in our brains. Fortunately, these changes typically reverse themselves as the daily hours of daylight increase.

Your plants also react to changes in the relative balance of light and dark. Indeed, they synchronize their growth and the stages of their development to such changes. That’s because they contain compounds that act as photoreceptors. These compounds undergo changes when they are struck by various colors of light, and then gradually revert to their original state during the hours of darkness. The proportion of the one chemical to the other reflects the current proportion of daylight hours to hours of darkness, enabling the plant not only to read the immediate situation but also chart trends in the increase or decrease of day length.

This, in turn, allows plants to synchronize their activities to the season. So-called “long day” species such as foxgloves, petunias, carnations, and coneflowers switch to producing flowers as the period of daylight stretches to more than 12 hours daily in summertime. “Short day” flowers such as chrysanthemums and poinsettias bloom in fall when day-length is growing shorter and night length is growing longer. In both cases it is the trend, the gradual movement toward longer or shorter days, that triggers the plant. Not all plants synchronize their bloom with day length; geraniums, impatiens, and begonias react to other environmental triggers such as temperature.

Sensitivity to day length (actually, research has found that it’s the length of the dark

period or night that plays the decisive role) is also important to the vegetable gardener. For example, it’s sensitivity to lengthening days as well as increasing temperatures that causes your spring lettuce to bolt and go to seed as summer settles in.



The vegetable crop best known for its reaction to day and night length are onions. When you order plants or seeds of onions from the nursery catalog, you’ll be confronted with three different categories: short day, long day, and intermediate cultivars. If you are gardening in the South, where onions are a fall and winter crop, you need to plant a short day type of onion, whose bulbs start to swell as the period of daylight drops to 10-12 hours or less. From New Jersey north, onions are a summer crop, and you must plant a long day type whose bulbs swell when the day length reaches 14-16 hours. In between, in a band stretching from northern California to the Carolinas, intermediate types yield best because they adopt a middle road of initiating bulb formation when the day length reaches 12-14 hours.

Being aware of the impact of plants’ readings of daylight trends can save you from disappointments in the garden. Nursing that basket of petunias through the heat of the summer with the hope that it will cover itself with flowers again as fall brings cooler weather disregards the fact that petunias are long day plants. That is, it is the trend of increasing day length that triggers their flowering in early summer. Autumn’s trend is shortening days, and that will switch off the petunia’s flower production.

Clearly, understanding the basics of such natural systems can help you garden more effectively. For me, however, the impact is more in the sense of wonder such knowledge evokes that nature, even in our backyard plots, is so ingeniously constructed.

The more we know, the greater the beauty of our gardens. ♣

*Be-a-Better-Gardener is a community service of Berkshire Botanical Garden, located in Stockbridge, Mass. Its mission, to provide knowledge of gardening and the environment through a diverse range of classes and programs, informs and inspires thousands of students and visitors each year. Thomas Christopher is a volunteer at Berkshire Botanical Garden and is the author or co-author of more than a dozen books, including *Nature into Art* and *The Gardens of Wave Hill* (Timber Press, 2019). He is the 2021 Garden Club of America’s National Medalist for Literature, a distinction reserved to recognize those who have left a profound and lasting impact on issues that are most important to the GCA. Christopher’s companion broadcast to this column, *Growing Greener*, streams on WESUFM.org, *Pacifica Radio* and *NPR* and is available at berkshirebotanical.org/growinggreener*



Shire Forestry

Adam Brown
Consulting Forester
MA License # 461

P.O. Box 171
Sandisfield, MA 01255

shireforestry@gmail.com

Cell: 413.854.7525

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

recreation COMMITTEE



HOP INTO SPRING

RECOMMITTEE BRINGS BUNNIES TO TOWN

Story/photos by Laurie Seddon

The weather was not spring-like, but we Hopped Into Spring with Berkshire Bunnies all the same! This event is one of our favorites to host.

Fifty or more local residents and surrounding communities; one family came all the way from Dalton.

This year we provided ceramic animal-themed flowerpots to paint and live succulents to plant, hot chocolate, donuts, and cuddly bunnies. While it was icy and cold outside, we were cozy and entertained inside Old Town Hall.



Left from top to bottom:
Ava Maldonado and Hazel Gallagher.

Declan Murray with a bunny. Levi Antionazzi in bunny pen.

Hazel with a furry friend.



Above from top to bottom
Isla Murray and Hazel.

Laura Messina of the RecCommittee
with Benjamin Burcher.

The stars of course were the bunnies themselves. Elizabeth Torsay-Wilson, owner of Berkshire Bunnies, a certified rabbit breeder out of Otis, always provides a calm and nurturing experience for both bunny and child.

This year three children at a time were able to hold a bunny in their laps while enclosed safely in a large enclosure. There was also a mature bunny on an elevated stand to pet while children waited for their chance to hold a bunny.



Thank you so much Berkshire Bunnies! Please check out their website at www.berkshirebunnies.com for more information on their amazing selection of rabbits.

Did you miss the event? We received more RSVPs as the event was ongoing, but couldn't reply. We hope you chose to just come over anyway. We encourage everyone to email us at sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info to join our mailing list so you receive notifications of our upcoming events.

Save the Date! Our next event is the Spring Fling Dance. DJ Johnny Jams will be back to help us dance off the winter blues. Saturday, May 4, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. at Fire Station #2 on Rt. #57. We will serve a light dinner, sweet treats, and non-alcoholic beverages. As always, our events are free and open to everyone. Please RSVP by April 26, 2024, to sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info if you'd like to attend.

Saturday, May 4th
5PM - 8PM
Fire House #2, Rte. #57
Refreshments and Non-Alcoholic beverages will be served

SPRING FLING DANCE
with DJ Johnny Jams

RSVP by 4.26.24 to sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info

For Third Time, Resident Ordered Off Property CAN RETURN TO CLEAN IT UP

By Bill Price

This report includes excerpts from a Berkshire Eagle article by Jane Kaufman, March 15, 2024. Excerpts used with permission.

Resident Jennifer Pilbin was told again by a Western Housing Court judge that she and her mother cannot live on her property on West Hubbard Road in northwest Sandisfield. The property has been condemned for human habitation by the Town's Board of Health. Similar Housing Court hearings on January 12 and 30 resulted in similar rulings.

At the most recent hearing, March 13 in Pittsfield, according to Jane Kaufman's report in The Berkshire Eagle, "Housing Court Judge Jeffrey Winik also ordered Pilbin to remove 13 chickens and seven ducks and, for a second time, ordered her to remove all generators, electrical cords, fuel and fuel tanks, as well as all fresh, frozen and shelf-stable food."


Pilbin is only allowed on the property to conduct the clean-up, with prior notice to the Town's health agent, Jayne Smith.

The report added that "Sandisfield officials tried numerous times, though unsuccessfully, to stop her from living on the property, which does not have running water or sewer or septic."

It continued: "... the judge appeared to be both surprised and displeased that Pilbin and her mother appeared to be living on the property, although the town had submitted health inspections showing signs of human habitation on the property in February. One week earlier, Pilbin told the judge that a Pace Arrow brand RV trailer and two storage Pods on the property were 'frozen in' and couldn't be removed.

"At the hearing, Winik ordered Pilbin to give the town a key to the recreational vehicle if it can't be removed. He gave her 24 hours to supply the name of a person she will designate to feed her chickens and ducks for the next two weeks, but he was explicit in his instruction to her: That person cannot be her."

The Eagle report concluded with an account of Pilbin's having submitted "a copy of a Sandisfield police report that was written by Police Chief Michael Morrison. In it, Morrison said Pilbin contacted him because 'she was being harassed by local residents.' The list included people driving by her property 'real slow, taking pictures.' She also reported seeing two men trespassing on her property.

"Morrison advised her that no action could be taken regarding cars on a public way, but that action could be taken regarding trespassing if people were identified." 

KOHLER ENGINES

ATV

SNAPPER PRO

Kawasaki ENGINES

POLARIS

NEW BOSTON

CRANE SERVICE & SLEDS

STIHL

American Converters & Log Splitters

Branson TRACTORS

Husqvarna

GENERAC

BRIGGS & STRATTON

HONDA ENGINES

TRITON TRAILERS

Simplicity

DR (Professional Service Done Right)

INTERSTATE BATTERIES

FERRIS

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

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

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

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



Comings and Goings



BILL COHN
1931-2024

William Cohn of South Sandisfield Road died at home on March 14 at the age of 92.

Born in Toledo, Ohio, Bill graduated from DeVilbiss High School in 1949 and attended the University of Michigan before transferring to Ohio State where he earned his Master's degree. Bill served in the US Army at the Presidio in San Francisco from 1955-1957.

In 1966 he was divorced from his first wife and moved to Madison, Wisconsin where he earned a PhD in European History. Bill studied with Professor Harvey Goldberg, considered at the time to be one of the top history professors in the United States.

Bill married Jan Kadetsky, a well-known English professor. They moved to Pittsburgh where for ten years he taught history at Carnegie Mellon University, eventually moving to Reston, Virginia where he worked at George Mason University. About ten years later they moved to Hartford where Bill taught history. His wife died in 2004.

Bill endlessly researched World War II, becoming an expert on the subject. He made several presentations on the war, a number of which later on were at the Sandisfield Arts Center.

Bill was a wonderful athlete and was skilled at baseball, basketball, and tennis. He was a patron of the arts, supporting opera, ballet, animal rescues, the environment, women's rights, and almost any other humanitarian cause. He was a generous man.

During the past twenty years, Bill and his partner, Rita Kasky, travelled abroad and in the United States. In recent years Bill was confronted by several health issues. He battled them with dignity and strength.

His life was full and well-lived.

Bill is survived by sons Jeff and Scott Cohn of Newton, daughter-in-law Sally, two grandchildren, and two great grandchildren, and his sister, Marnie.

A memorial ceremony was conducted March 18 at the Sandisfield Center Cemetery.





Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor, Friends, and Neighbors,

I am writing to address a subject that has been very important to me since 1989 when I began my journey as an EMT.

Recently, it has been mentioned several times that I am "on my way out" as an EMT. I may be "out there," but am not "on my way out."

I continue to serve the community, but due to changes in my life I can't respond as much as I would like to, but I will be on the job whenever possible and as long as I can.

I thank you all for your support over the years and for giving me the privilege to serve.

I would also like to thank my fellow EMTs and the First Responders, who are also our Firefighters, for their understanding and covering the numerous calls.

I encourage anyone who is interested in becoming an EMT to contact our Fire Department. Working as an emergency medical technician is a very rewarding profession. We need young people to help us out.

The good news is we do have some very enthusiastic young men stepping up to the calling. We can always use more, both men and women.

Over the years I have served with many wonderful people and would like to thank them as well. I will be on the job as long as I can.

Zoe Marinelli Nelson
Dodd Road

FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

Sandisfield resident **Jaye Alison Moscarillo** will be a featured artist in a rotating exhibit of women artists from the Berkshires at Hancock Shaker Village from April 13 until May 31. A reception will be held May 18 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. Jayne's current abstract series, titled "Abstracted Memories," has been described as "resonating with joy and upliftment, transforming personal and worldly complexities into visual harmony." Shaker Village is at 1843 West Housatonic St. in Pittsfield; visiting hours are museum hours.



FREE Science and Art Workshop at Flying Cloud Farm

Science-Technology-Engineering-Art-Math for children grades 1-6

Ceramicist and Science educator Jane Burke - Artist Scotty Salame

Saturday April 13
9:30 to 12:30

At the Flying Cloud Farm in New Marlborough.

Pre-registration is required.

Contact Jane at
janesburke@gmail.com
or text 413-429-6103

FREE thanks to the Cultural Councils of Monterey, New Marlborough, Sandisfield, and Sheffield.



Running your business is your business

Walking you through coverage is ours

CONSOLATI INSURANCE

71 Main Street, Lee MA 413-243-0105 consolatiinsurance.com
Independent Insurance Brokers Since 1942



OPEN DAILY 8:30AM-8PM

MUST BE 21+ WITH PROPER IDENTIFICATION

Himalayan High Recreational Dispensary

YOUR PREMIER DESTINATION FOR HIGH QUALITY CRAFT CANNABIS IN WESTERN MASS.

2727 JACOBS LADDER ROAD
BECKET, MA 01223

WWW.HIMALAYANHIGHLLC.COM

NOW HEAR THIS!

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

APRIL 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 up with friends and meet new friends! For confirmation of dates, please call Nina Carr (258-3314). Free!

Coffee Hour on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. at the Council on Aging, Town Hall Annex. 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 3 Silverbrook Road, sponsored by the Council on Aging. For more information, contact Nina Carr (258-3314). Free.

Ladies Book Club Meeting on Thursday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m. at the Sandisfield Public Library. The discussion will be on *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. The May 23 meeting will be featuring *The Cuckoo's Calling* by Robert Galbraith.

The Churches of Sandisfield with Sandisfield history writer Ron Bernard on Saturday, April 27, 10:00 a.m., at the Sandisfield Arts Center. \$10. For more information visit sandisfieldartscenter.org.

New Boston Church Sunday Worship Service on Sunday, April 28 at 10:00 a.m. For more information, visit newbostoncongregationalchurch.org. All are welcome. The New Boston Church is located on Route 57. The church business meeting will follow the service.

SAVE THE DATE!

Gallery Opening on Saturday, May 4, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. The season begins with an opening artist's reception featuring "After the Thaw",

a show of work by members of the Guild of Berkshire Artists.

Spring Fling Dance on Saturday, May 4 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Firehouse #2 on Route 57. Everyone is invited to dance with DJ Johnny Jams, refreshments and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. Please RSVP by April 26 (sandisfeldevents@recreationcommittee.info).

ONLINE EVENTS

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

An Evening with Timberdoodles, an Online event on Thursday, April 11 from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. presented by Kayleigh Filkins. Learn about timberdoodle ecology and fun facts as well as a scientific roundup from the eastern woodcock migration research cooperative. Kayleigh Filkins is a graduate student at SUNY Brockport conducting her Masters on American woodcock habitat selection in New York during the breeding season. The presentation is hosted by the Berkshire Natural Resource Council. Register at bnrc.org.

The Mount Book Club via Zoom on Thursday, April 18 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. This will feature a discussion on *Edith Wharton's The Children*. Visit edithwharton.org/event/ to register. Books are available for free online at Project Gutenberg.

EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

Saturday Morning Bird Walks at 10:00 a.m. on the River Front Trail in Great Barrington. Meet at the Berkshire Co-op Market and join Ben Nickley of Berkshire Bird Observatory. For questions and to register, email Ben (ben@berkshirebirds.org). Beginners welcome. Free.

Energy Efficiency Forum on Wednesday, April 10 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at Berkshire South Regional Community Center in Great Barrington. Learn how to save money on energy efficiency upgrades for daily life with Mass Save and other incentives. Networking and complimentary refreshments from 5:30

to 6:00 p.m. Register for free. Dinner will be provided.

Daffodil and Tulip Festival from Friday, April 19 to Sunday, May 12 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Naumkeag, 5 Prospect Hill Road in Stockbridge. Stroll through 8 acres of world-renowned gardens decorated with tulip, daffodil, and other bulbs in celebration of spring in the Berkshires. For tickets, please visit thetrustees.org.

Great Barrington Farmers Market on Saturday, April 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Housy Dome on 1064 Main Street in Housatonic. Featuring locally grown and produced foods, including cheese, meats, breads, and more. Local musicians performing across a variety of styles and genres will be showcased.

Friends of the Otis Library Book Sale & More on Saturday, April 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Otis Ridge Ski Lodge. Please email friendsotislbrary@gmail.com or 413-429-1083 to donate books or for more information.

Great Barrington Arts Market on Sunday, April 21 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Saint James Place on Main Street. This annual Winter Market features the finest regional artisan products.

Barkhamsted Earth Day Nature Festival on Sunday, April 28, from 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. at Matthies Grove Pavilion, Peoples State Forest, East River Road (approximately a 20-30 minute drive from New Boston) in Connecticut. Learn about fish and wildlife, construct bird boxes (for kids), and enjoy presentations, on topics from bald eagles to native plants. This is a free event and open to all. Sponsored by the Town of Barkhamsted and the Friends of American Legion and Peoples State Forests.

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

P.O. Box 584
Sandisfield, MA 01255

Thank you to last month's donors:

Hannah Andrews

Bonner McAllester

Emily Melchior



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, 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, the library, and Paige's Place; 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 Southfield 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.

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

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) _____

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