Happy Birthday, Sandisfield!!

Although plans for a big public celebration in late July are well under way, the official 250th birthday of Sandisfield was recognized by a large and spirited gathering at the New Boston Inn on March 6. On that day 250 years ago, Sandisfield was officially incorporated as a town of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and could shed its previous identity as Housatonic Plantation or Township No. 3. We imagine that the founders — the Browns, the Smiths, the Demings and the Kilborns among a few others — raised their own glasses that day, probably right there at Daniel Brown’s New Boston Inn, in tribute to the momentous occasion. Wouldn’t they, our forebears, be pleased (and certainly amazed) to know that the town they created so long ago is cherished and that their efforts and sacrifices are still honored and appreciated?

In the weeks ahead there will be much more information and many activities to commemorate Sandisfield’s sestercentennial. (In the meantime see pages 8 and 9 for a montage of photos from the birthday party!)

Farewell, Tuckers

By Ron Bernard

Route 8 travelers were surprised last month to see that the popular watering hole, Tuckers Place, had closed. Proprietors since 2007, Deb and Scott Stone, put up a large thanks-and-good bye sign before turning over the keys to the mortgage holder, Marty Cormier. The building was erected in 1979 as the new home of Allan’s Restaurant operated by Tuffy and Joyce Allan Campetti until they retired in 1989. That year Barbara and Ray “Tucker” Cormier arrived to carry on the traditions but under a new name.

Well known for its lively, friendly atmosphere, great pizza and horse shoe pits and spirited competition, Tuckers has always had a loyal customer base, both among local residents as well as motorcyclists and outdoor sports enthusiasts. It is our hope that new owners will be found soon to continue this Sandisfield tradition.

This is good time to remind everyone to support Sandisfield restaurants, Villa Mia, the New Boston Inn and the SilverBrook Cafe. In addition to dealing with the tough economy, the mild past winter has been unkind to establishments that depend on winter sports traffic. According to Villa Mia owner Dia Klenja, seasonal patronage was off at least 50 percent for 2011-2012. A significant drop in diners was seen at the New Boston Inn as well. Our restaurants – and all our businesses – are very important to the well being of the entire town. Let’s not take them for granted. Your patronage will be very much appreciated.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

by Val Coleman

Charleston, Illinois, sometime in 1937. It was dark that night. It was the darkest part of the Depression but Franklin Roosevelt’s “New Deal” was all over the place - tin signs in the broomcorn fields, the CCC camp and the huge, brand- new ceramic generators out on Route 16. My Dad, who was a big supporter of the president, told us we were going out to Tom Whelan’s farm to see a miracle. As we drove across the tracks toward the farm he explained that the guys from the CCC camp had dammed up the Embarras River (pronounced “Am-Braw”), installed a water-powered turbine, built the generators and strung electric lines out to the farms. It was thanks to the REA (Rural Electrification Administration) that the Whelans and their
Annual Benefit Dinner Held for the New Boston Church

New Pastor Assigned; New Services Schedule Announced

On March 10 volunteers served up a terrific traditional corn beef-and-cabbage dinner at the Sandisfield Fire House to some 150 hungry friends of the New Boston Congregational Church. Formerly held in the old parish hall, the venue for the benefit has been at the main fire station for some years. Sandy Morrison, event organizer, was pleased with the community’s response and said, “We really count on these events to help pay the bills and it is nice to see a good turnout.” Another benefit dinner will be held this fall.

The congregation will also welcome a new pastor, the Rev. Brian Care. Starting in April he will conduct services (10 a.m.) on the first Sunday of every month and on major religious holidays and on special Sundays.
The trade of a reporter can be a trying thing. To be sure, ‘newspapermen meet the most interesting people’, as Pete Seeger reminds us every other day on WAMC. But there is another side, a darker aspect to the craft. Reporters from time to time manage to get themselves harrassed, arrested, shot at, killed - Marie Colvin, bombed recently in Syria, is the third friend of mine to have died in the last decade. All have suffered for performing the blameless and worthy task of trying to find out, and transmit to the reading or listening public, their best estimate of what passes for the truth.

I reflect on this slightly somber topic for three reasons, all entwined. I am writing this on the deck of a slowly rocking ship, anchored a couple of hundred yards off the tiny British colonial possession of Tristan da Cunha, eighteen hundred miles off the Atlantic coast of South Africa. Three hundred or so fishing families eke out a spartan existence here, on what is the most isolated inhabited island group on the planet. I have visited these islands before, many times. But on this occasion, as on three prior attempts, I have been barred from stepping ashore. The island immigration officer stamps my passport in scarlet letters Not Permitted to Land, and while all my shipmates go off happily to photograph the albatrosses and the penguins, I have to stay behind, fulminating - and all because of something I wrote about Tristan, sixteen long years ago.

What I wrote is immaterial here; the details won’t mean a thing on Shade Road or West Street or in the SilverBrook Café. All that matters is that it was entirely true. No-one here argues the point; and in any case those about whom the words were written have long since passed away.

But the publication caused a brief flutter of island embarrassment, and for that I have been officially banned.

Trivial. Nothing more. One small and rather laughable example of the trouble that newspaper people can on occasion attract. In the continuum of journalistic misery, an event barely worthy of notice.

And yet, interestingly, it had just the faintest of echoes last month in Sandisfield, eight thousand miles away. This made me reflect again that few in this trade ever manage to escape some form of hostility, if truth is the banner we choose to try to fly.

You may recall that in last month’s issue we ran, quite prominently, a small piece about a local man who had been accused - rightly or not the courts would decide - of shooting a local cat. The article attracted not inconsiderable attention, such that in places as distant as East Otis, those who kindly stock our paper, quickly ran out.

But not all were happy (leaving aside the cat and its alleged attacker). There was grumbling. Serious, semi-official grumbling. It was suggested, for instance, that the Sandisfield Times should only print good news. Items suggesting local malfeasance should be ignored.

This month marks the second anniversary of our newspaper, the beginning of our third year of publication - and as such provides the third reason for my reflection. For there is a certain connection between what happened down here on Tristan, and the rumbles of disapproval back home. Both are indications of the way in which Authority can react when uncomfortable truths are revealed. A moan here, a ban there - and elsewhere further out, an arrest, a deportation, a thump on the head...The spectrum of authority’s behaviour is broad indeed.

Nothing so serious would of course ever occur in our little town. But the principle that guides us is, and in my view should be, no different from that which underpins the workings of all this country’s great newspapers. As our Latin motto has it: we stand for the people. We are the voice that questions Authority, and tries to make certain, as best we can, that all the truth is told and all the right is done.

If that means that some of the news we print here is sometimes not so good - then I have to retort: so be it. For if it interests the public, and is in the public interest, then at least during this editorship, I hope you’ll be able to read all about it, here in the Sandisfield Times. - S.W.
By Laurie Foulke-Green, Librarian

New books soon to arrive:
• Calico Joe by John Grisham
• A Wandering Heart by Thomas Kinkade
• Aunt Dimity and the Village Witch by Nancy Atherton
• Death Comes Silently by Carolyn Hart
• Dorchester Terrace by Charlotte Pitt
• Gypped by Carol Higgins Clark
• The Limpopo Academy of Private Detection by Alex McCall Smith
• Letters From A Stranger by Bradford Taylor
• The Witness by Nora Roberts
• Capital Murder by Phillip Margolin
• Come Home by Lisa Scottoline
• The Innocent by David Baldacci
• The Lost Years by Mary Higgins Clark
• Fall From Grace by Richard North Patterson
• Henry Knox and The Revolutionary War Trail in Western Mass by Bernard Drew

One of the Sandisfield Library’s newest acquisitions is a new work of fiction, titled Shameless. The author, Sadie O’Rourke, is the Library Director as well as a busy mother. Sadie lives in Sandisfield with her husband, Brian, and their six children. This is her first published work. It has all the makings of a good read with a mix of romance, drama and suspense. It is available at amazon.com in both the paperback and Kindle versions.

The most important time-sensitive item currently on the planning schedule is the commitment of additional vendors. Barbara Cormier (258-4402) is collecting vendor forms and payment ($15 for one day, $25 for two days) for craftspeople. She is also seeking food vendors. First option is for food provided by local businesses while additional vendors with fun and festival food are welcome. Local groups, including Scouts and other non-profits, can sell popcorn, cotton candy, refreshing fruit drinks or other items.

Another exciting aspect of the celebration is the opportunity to explore the beauty of Sandisfield through guided hikes. The Berkshires Natural Resources Council has teamed with the 250th Birthday Committee to offer several hikes in the upcoming months. The first two are “Clam River Scrambles” on April 6 and April 7 at 9:00 a.m. The hikes will begin at the end of Hammertown Road, accessed from Route 57 and participants can choose from a gentle or moderate 2-mile scramble based on their abilities. These hikes will be led by Amanda L’Etoile and Doug Bruce. Additional information is available at www.BNRC.net. Participants should bring water and wear appropriate footwear.

There’s still much to do and Sandisfield residents are invited to the next committee meetings on April 11 and 25 at 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall Annex. For more information and to verify meeting schedule, contact Laura at 258-4688. Also, be sure to “friend” the “Sandisfield 250th” on Facebook for up-to-date information on the celebration.
Selectmen’s Letter

By Patrick Barrett

The Sandisfield Board of Selectmen would like to thank members of the 250th Anniversary Committee for the party they put together on March 6th to celebrate the day Sandisfield officially became an incorporated town in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This event was well attended and was a wonderful way to kick off our 250th year festivities. We would also like to thank Barbara Colorio for graciously hosting this event at the historic New Boston Inn. Barbara went out of her way to make the many guests in attendance feel welcome and she gave the young kids from our community open access to the grand ballroom for their imaginative play.

A meeting of the Regional Selectmen’s Forum was held February 15 at the new Tolland Municipal Building. Highway superintendents from Otis, Tyringham, and Sandisfield were on hand to discuss the potential for sharing equipment as well as common needs. Our next meeting will be held at the Otis Town Hall on Wednesday April 18, at 7:00 p.m. We have invited State Senator William “Smitty” Pignatelli, State Senator Benjamin Downing and State Senator Michael Knapik to attend in order to discuss current issues facing our communities. We will also be inviting United States Representative Richard Neal to this meeting. The public is welcome to attend.

We would like to thank Elaine O’Brien for filling in for Sandisfield Town Clerk/Administrative Assistant Dolores Harasyko during her medical leave. Elaine astutely kept the office running during one of our busiest times of the year, coming through for the town as she has repeatedly done over a long and distinguished career. We would also like to thank Margaret O’Clair for volunteering her time to help get Dolores caught up from her leave.

We would like to thank Sandisfield Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko and the election workers who manned the polls during the March presidential/state primary. Eighty nine Sandisfield voters cast their ballot in the primary. We appreciate everyone helping to make this important day successful.

We would like to recognize the hard work put in by the Sandisfield emergency personnel this winter not only responding to numerous calls, but also for taking training classes. The Sandisfield Fire Department recently took a class sponsored by the Massachusetts Fire Academy on the challenges of fighting structure fires with new building materials being used today. Sandisfield Police officers, firefighters, and EMTs took a course on March 14 to become recertified in CPR. This month members of the fire department will also be taking classes to renew their First Responders certification. Our emergency personnel provide an invaluable service to the Sandisfield community and we sincerely appreciate their efforts on behalf of the town.

We were saddened by the deaths of Audrey Riiska, Rosemary Platt and Carmella Nardi. Audrey drove the school bus in Sandisfield for many years as well as being an election worker for many years. Rosemary was an active and dedicated member of the Sandisfield Council on Aging, serving numerous terms as chairperson for this important town organization. We sincerely appreciate their years of dedicated service to the Town of Sandisfield and our thoughts are with their families during this difficult time.

Rural Electrification

Cont’d from P.1

neighbors were going to have electricity for the first time and tonight was the night they were going to pull the switch.

I remember the yellow glow of the oil lamps coming from the Whelan farm house as we drove up. Maybe I didn’t understand it entirely but I was seven years old and somehow I knew it was the biggest deal in the world! The big knife switch was on the near end of the barn and we all stood around waiting for old Tom Whelan to pull it. I remember how excited my mother was - she was Nell Whalen’s best friend. In fact, all the grownups were behaving like kids until somebody, said “Nine o’clock! Let ‘er go Tom!”

You should have been there. The whole world lit up! Tom had strung light bulbs from the house to the chicken coop and on to the barn and everything, I mean everything, suddenly turned bright white and blue like it was high noon in Charleston, Illinois. What I remember most were the chickens who came bustling out of their coop and ran crazy around the yard, screaming and squawking and bumping into each other - and us. For some reason that seemed perfectly sensible at the time, Tom Whelan picked one of the chickens up and gave it a kiss.
Raised Beds

I love our raised beds. When we first started vegetable gardening many years ago, I was adverse to the raised bed idea. I felt you could get more vegetables in a traditional straight row garden than you could with using raised beds. However, over the years, I have come to appreciate the value in having raised beds, not only for vegetables, but for any gardening be it perennials, annuals and even shrubs.

The benefits of gardening in raised beds far outweigh the time it takes to build them. Let me tell you some of them.

First of all, if you happen to live in an area where the soil is not so great, perhaps it is sandy or clay or just not so fertile, building a raised bed lets you amend and create soil that will fit what you are planning to grow. I have a very deep raised bed just for carrots. Secondly, your soil is contained and therefore easier to maintain. If you build a raised bed that is as tall as 12”, you could even sit on the edge. How easy is that! A bed that is no wider than 4’ will allow you to work in the bed without stepping in it. This prevents compaction of the soil and keeps the soil friable and loose. You can make the length of the beds as long as you want.

Your raised bed can be constructed of any material. I would avoid using pressure treated wood as it may contain some toxins that you would not want in your vegetable garden. We used Hemlock boards. They are 8” x 2” x 12’. Use whatever height (8”, 10” or even 12”) and any length that works for your site. The most beautiful raised beds I have seen were constructed using flat rocks.

Your next step is to fill the beds. You may have a nice pile of compost you can use to fill your beds or you will have to get some topsoil and mix it with farm manure. It takes a lot more soil/compost than you think to fill a raised bed. I use whatever material you have or would like (wood planks, railroad ties, stones, bricks, etc.) The bottom layer would consist of several layers of wet newspaper on the ground. This will smother the weeds or grass. You next cover the area with grass clippings, plant prunings, vegetable compost from the kitchen, etc. After you have a good thick layer of material, say 2-3 inches deep, add 2-3 inches of manure or composted organic matter. Then add 2-3 inches of soil. Repeat these steps all summer and in the fall you can add a layer of shredded leaves (not whole leaves as they take too long to decompose). You can add soil and plants from your planters and spread this evenly. When these layers have reached the top of the bed, cover with a layer of wet newspaper and then mulch it with wood chips, shredded bark or even shredded leaves. Do not turn this mixture. It will all decompose in about a year and become a wonderful crumbly mixture of nutritious soil.

Raised beds have changed our ideas of vegetable gardening and I think they have simplified them. You still have to weed them, but I feel it is much easier to keep the weeds in control. Your garden of raised beds can be elaborate or simple. You can add vertical structures or arches and arbors. Take it as far as you like, but do plant those vegetables. If you have any questions, you may contact me at susantarasuk@gmail.com or call (413) 258-4929.
**A Nudist Colony in Otis Wood Lands?**

**By Ron Bernard**

Sandisfield is known for its beautiful rugged countryside and rural character, for its agricultural tradition, and for its bounty of cherished antique houses, the former homes of pioneer families.


As improbable as it may seem, perhaps the second-ever nudist camp in the United States was established in Sandisfield. The first mention of it was a 1939 Federal Writers Project points-of-interest guide. "In 1933, the Burgoyne Trail Association opened the first Nudist Colony (no visitors) in the Berkshires, founded in the belief that physical and mental health, a relaxing of nervous tension, a normal attitude toward sex, and a spiritual re-creation are fostered by properly regulated nudism."

The leader of the movement was the Rev. Henry S. Harrington of Scarsdale, N.Y., who purchased a parcel on North Beech Plain Road, including land on both sides of the town line with Otis. He named the place after defeated British Gen. John Burgoyne, who supposedly stayed at the old Issac Norton House on the property in 1777. Burgoyne’s surrendered army, or a portion of it, passed by on the Knox Trail on its way to Boston from Saratoga, which is a historical fact. However, historians today are convinced that Burgoyne was not with the contingent and he took a different route east.

The camp operated for only a few years, without incident, but it created a considerable buzz among Otis residents. Membership was not significant so Harrington lost interest and sold most of the land by 1937. In 1958, The Connecticut Trails Council (Girl Scouts of America) opened Camp Sequena on 345 acres with three existing houses including the old Norton place, a barn and a cabin. In 1964, the organization built an earthen dam to form a brook-fed pond or lake.

In 1972, Ross Williams, inventor and manufacturer of Wash ‘n’ Dri towelettes, bought the closed Camp Sequena for $240,000 with plans for a private community to be called Otis Wood Lands (OWL). Sandisfield approved development plans in March 1973 that included 250 home site lots and about 100 acres of common area. The Girl Scouts’ 22-acre lake with about 1½ miles of shore line was improved and became a community centerpiece. The old Norton house served as a clubhouse until it burned in September 1978. After prolonged litigation a new community facility opened in 1981.

Williams turned title over to the home owner’s association, OWL Club Inc., in 1979, and it assumed responsibility for all aspects of property management, including the lake and the roads.

Prolonged heavy rains in June 1984 created a scare both for residents of OWL as well as those in Otis and Sandisfield who lived along Route 8 and the Farmington River down to New Boston. The earthen dam suffered a breach and part of Route 8, below, was flooded. Authorities feared the dam might give way entirely. About 60 residents were evacuated, some twice, but the dam held and was subsequently reinforced.

The town line runs directly through the community with lots about equally divided on either side. Owl Lake is entirely in Sandisfield while the clubhouse and most of the community facilities are on the Otis side.

The great majority of Otis Wood Lands residents are seasonal. Almost every lot has a house, producing considerable net revenue for both towns. Because the association maintains the roads, including snow plowing, and there have been few if any resident school-age children, Otis Wood Lands has been a model and beneficial addition to both towns.

_This concludes the series of town section histories._

_The articles will be included in the upcoming book, Sandisfield Then And Now: 1762-2012, due in June._

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**Note to All Subscribers:**

In the past few months, we have received back some copies of monthly issues marked by the Post Office “Return to Sender, Not Deliverable as Addressed, Unable to Forward”. We realize that some people change their residences at different times of the year. We have made an effort to contact people if they have furnished an email address or current phone number. If you have not received your subscription issue to the Times, please contact us at editor@sandisfieldtimes.org and let us know which issues you have missed along with a current mailing address so we can supply you with these missing issues. You can also drop us a note at The Sandisfield Times, PO Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255. Thank you for your understanding.
Happy 250th Birthday!

Photos by Richard B. Migot
March 6, 2012
New England towns “center” themselves around traditions: the town green, the town meeting, holiday parades, and annual community suppers. Bringing people together to discuss, to honor, to celebrate and to share is the cornerstone of every strong community. Sharing stories, sharing ideas and sharing traditions are brought out in all cultures through sharing food. There is nothing better to capture the heart of a New England country town than a community cookbook. *Sandisfield Eats*, our new cookbook published this spring, is a marvelous representation of how a community “centers” itself.

Compiled by our own Josephine Alessi Freedman and her group of editors, *Sandisfield Eats* brings us to the center of every Sandisfield household: the kitchen hearth. This is where family recipes, along with family stories and town lore are passed down from one generation to another. Reminiscences of the old country and dreams from the new are all documented here in a fabulous collection of memoirs and recipes from our community.

*Sandisfield Eats* gives us a rich picture of the special mix of people that make up Sandisfield. The book begins with some historical narratives about our town, those who live and lived here, and some of the magnificent old homes dating back to the 18th and early 19th centuries. Great meals came from the ovens of these old houses and *Sandisfield Eats* provides us with more than 350 local recipes in 16 sections. Each section begins with a historical photo of Sandisfield and fabulous stories from town residents describing the adventure of creating and eating good home cooking, and the recipes follow. Reflecting the true immigrant nature of American cuisine we encounter foods originating from Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Hungary, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Sweden and many others. We find traditional “American” recipes that mix cultures right in the mixing bowl! In the melting pot of America, here there are recipes in which everyone can connect. As one note exclaims, for a Dandelion wine recipe, “Although my Polish grandmother claimed this wine for her own nationality, it is really the wine of the ‘grandmothers.’” Mention it and most people will wistfully say with historical romance, “Oh, yeah, my grandmother used to make that.”

From appetizers to pies and tarts; from seafood, poultry, meats to jams and relishes, we read and learn the basics as well as the tricks. All recipes are clearly written and easy to follow. Many provide added notes detailing tips passed down from generations or special thanks to friends for sharing. And each recipe notes the name of the contributor, honoring the cooks of Sandisfield with an index of contributors alongside the recipe index. Adding to the cookbook’s usefulness for every kitchen is a well thought out “pantry basics.” Here you’ll find valuable information about herbs and spices, baking techniques, cooking times, measurements and product substitutions, calorie counting, cooking terms and, my favorite, “quick fixes,” or handy tips to save the day for that dreadful kitchen moment!

Created by the Sandisfield Historical Society commemorating Sandisfield’s 250th anniversary all proceeds from the purchase of the cookbook go directly to the Historical Society. *Sandisfield Eats* is a delicious and creative way to bring all of us together!
Hard to believe winter is over. (seems to me that it only “visited” a couple of times this year) and the signs of spring are everywhere! The children are really enjoying running around outside during the beautiful weather we’ve been experiencing so far this spring!

Through the combined efforts of the PTO, the generosity of a great number of our local businesses, and the support of our community, the PTO was able to pull off a remarkably successful Cash Calendar Raffle fundraiser for the second year in a row with gross sales reaching an amazing $11,160 this year! The three top selling students/families were:

Kelly & Haley Couch $1,120.00
Dean Argiro $1,000.00
Matthew & Collin O’Brien $960.00

The proceeds will be used to help offset technology costs of the school, as well funding Field Day and enrichment programs for our children.

The continued success of this fundraiser has ensured that this will be an annual event, and we already have a waiting list of donors who wish to be part of next year’s calendar. If you or your business would like to sponsor a day on next year’s calendar please contact the PTO at frrspoto@yahoo.com.

Farmington River began a new paper recycling program in March. Bins have been placed in the classrooms to collect all paper waste. On the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month students from the 3rd and 5th grade classes will bring the bins to the loading dock, and on Thursday, parent Craig Drenga has graciously volunteered to deliver the collected paper to the Otis transfer station. We’d like to offer a special “thank you” to Craig for helping Farmington River Elementary to become more environmentally friendly.

Preschool registration & screening for the 2012-2013 school year will begin on Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon. Please call the school to set up an appointment after March 30th.

Farmland River Regional School District is also now accepting registrations for our nationally accredited full-day kindergarten for the 2012-2013 school year. Children who are residents of Otis or Sandisfield and will be five years old before September 1, 2012 are eligible to enter our full day kindergarten in the fall. Incoming kindergartners who are not currently enrolled in Farmington River’s Preschool Program may pick up registration packets at the school between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. beginning April 23rd. At that time, you will be given an appointment time for a screening.

Kindergarten screening will be held on Wednesday, May 2nd in the afternoon. A screening is required for all enrolling children. The screening will be conducted in the areas of learning and speech/language. Children currently enrolled in our preschool program will be screened during their preschool morning. No screening appointment is necessary. A registration packet will be sent home with each child for you to complete and return by the date indicated.

Farmington River is also accepting school choice students from surrounding towns to join our 2012-2013 kindergarten class. Call Lynette Gagnon at 269-4466 for more information about school choice.

If you have any questions about the screening or our kindergarten program, please call Mary Turo at 269-4466 or email mturo@frrsrd.org

Screen-Free Week will be from April 30 – May 6th this year. The PTO will help sponsor a variety of events this year. They will include, but are not limited to:

- Swimming at Berkshire South
- Ice-skating at Amelia Park
- Bingo
- Hiking
- And much more!

Information with dates and times of all events will be sent home with students, as well as e-mailed to parents. Keep your eyes open, there is a lot of fun in store for your children!

The 6th grade class is sponsoring an energy efficient light bulb sale/fundraiser again this year. Proceeds will benefit the 6th grade class directly for their end of year trip and graduation expenses. The fundraiser will kick off on April 4th with an assembly hosted Western MA Electric.

Mark your calendars:
4/3 Western MA Electric Assembly 10 am
4/5 Musical theater performance - How to Eat Like a Child
4/6 No School – Good Friday
4/12 Anti-Bullying Author Visit
4/16-4/20 PTO Meeting - Library 3:10
4/20 Screen-Free Week

If you have ordered your cookbook, you can pick it up at any of these events, including the 250th celebration at the end of July. If you have any questions, call Josephine Freedman at 413-258-4786.
Snapshots of Sandisfield
A Call for your Photos, Drawings, Paintings, Quilts

The Sandisfield Arts Center is holding a special exhibition of photographs and works of art describing the Town of Sandisfield. We want you to bring us those pictures, drawings, paintings, quilts, anything that tells a story of Sandisfield and we will display them in the downstairs gallery as part of the 250th Anniversary Celebration.

Grab your camera. Search in your attic and old files for photos and artworks which capture some aspect of Sandisfield that is dear to your heart: houses and barns; animals, wild and domestic; landscapes; people.

Bring your photos and artworks to us on Saturday, July 21, 2012 from 1 to 3pm and we will hang them in the gallery.

There are a few rules:

1. Your pictures or works of art should be ready to hang and should not be bigger than 30 inches in any direction (including frame or mat).
2. Please fill out the form below and bring it with you. Three entries per person.
3. You can offer your entry for sale, just indicate the price on the entry form. The Sandisfield Arts Center will take no commission.
4. A Special note: Every effort will be made to safeguard the artwork, but, by entering your work, you will exempt the Town of Sandisfield, The Sandisfield Arts Center and all individuals involved from liability regarding harm to or loss of the work.

ENTRY FORM • SNAPSHOTS OF SANDISFIELD

| Name__________________________ | Phone__________________________ |
| Address_________________________ | Email__________________________ |

Age, if under 18 _______________ Signature ___________________________

No. of Entries___________ Description of entries (Price if appropriate) __________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________
Audrey K. Riiska  
1936 - 2012

Audrey Kandler Riiska died on Friday, March 9 at the home of William and Barbara Riiska. Audrey was born on March 21, 1936 in Tivoli, New York to Karl and Helen (Quimby) Kandler. She was predeceased by her husband, Austin T. Riiska. She is survived by five children: Kathleen Riiska-Lovejoy, Jeanne M. MacBurnie, Brenda L. Riiska, Helene S. Riiska and A.J. Riiska. She is also survived by eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Audrey served as Tax Collector for the Town of Sandisfield and was also a member of the Planning Board and Ballot Clerk for many years. A funeral service for Audrey was held on March 15 at Montano-Shea Funeral Home in Winsted, CT followed by a graveside service on March 16 at Sandisfield Center Cemetery.

Carmella L. Nardi  
1919 - 2012

Carmella L. Nardi died February 26 at home. She was 92. Carmella was born in New Jersey on November 1, 1919. She was predeceased by her husband, Paul A. Nardi Sr. She is survived by two sons, Paul A. Jr. and Domenick, and a daughter, Laura M. Sanchez of Sandisfield. She is also survived by three brothers, three sisters, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held on March 1 at St. Peter's Church, Great Barrington, where Carmella was a communicant and a member of its choir.

Rosemary Anne Platt  
1932 - 2012

Rosemary Anne Platt died on February 24 at the Laurel Hill Nursing Home in Winsted, CT. Rosemary was born December 30, 1932 in Westfield, MA to Victor and Mary George, and had been a long time resident of Sandisfield. She is survived by her husband, Willard R. Platt and nine children and seven grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter, Barbara. She is also survived by six siblings. While living in Sandisfield, Rosemary was chair of the Council on Aging, and she was also instrumental in re-establishing the Sandisfield Congregational Church. There was a gathering of friends and family on February 29 at the Villa Mia Restaurant in Sandisfield to celebrate Rosemary's life.

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal,  
Love leaves a memory no one can steal.  
~ from a tombstone in Ireland

Comings and Goings
Thank you, thank you, thank you. before but who love the CSA concept. The article beautiful person Tina Sotis is and what an in-farm. We just cannot express enough what a for the wonderful article that Tina did on our. Tina Stammeyer, Photographer Jody's Floor Sanding L&M Auto Otis Poultry Farm Berkshire Woods Realty Papa's Healthy Food & Fuel Farmington River Diner & Deli New Boston Store Hair in Otis FRRS Kitchen Staff Otis Ridge Knox Trail Inn Alice Berke, MSW Villa Mia Restaurant Meyer Well Drilling Fratelli's Restaurant SilverBrook Cafe The Bookloft Other Brother Daryll's Terranova's Market Anonymous donor Without their generous support, this year's wildly successful fundraiser would not have been possible. Please patronize our local businesses!

Kathy Ives Wilcox

To the Editor:

I would like to say a big thank you to the Sandisfield ambulance crew. On February 25th they had to come get me. I was in so much pain with spasms in my back I could hardly walk. They couldn't get up my driveway, it was all ice and snow. They put a backboard on a sled type object. They bundled me up and took me down the driveway like they would at a ski slope. Yes, it was snowing and sleeting. They did a great job getting me out of here and to the hospital. Thank you again, Sandisfield ambulance crew. You do a great job. You know who you are.

Kathy Ives Wilcox

To the Editor:

Just wanted to take a minute and thank you for the wonderful article that Tina did on our farm. We just cannot express enough what a beautiful person Tina Sotis is and what an incredible job she did on our behalf. The article has helped us in our new CSA endeavor. Since the article came out we have signed up several new people, people who had never heard of us before but who love the CSA concept.

Thank you, thank you, thank you.

Andy & Sandra Snyder

The Farmington River Elementary PTO would like to extend a heartfelt “Thank You” to the following local businesses who sponsored a day on the 2012 March Cash Calendar Raffle:

John Field Tree Service Ameriprise Financial Tonlino & Sons Tolland Mountain Builders A&M Auto Harvest Moon Realty Berkshire Bank Ski Butternut

Registered Voters: 594 Total Voting in this Primary: 90

By Party:.............................. Votes Cast

GREEN/RAINBOW PARTY:..... 0

REPUBLICAN PARTY:

For President

M. Romney............................... 15
R. Paul .................................... 9
N. Gingrich............................. 5
R. Santorum............................ 3
R. Perry .................................. 1
J. Huntsman............................ 1
S. Palin .................................. 1
No Preference/blank.............. 1

For State Offices

For State Committee Man

Michael Case ......................... 27
No Preference/blank................ 10
For State Committee Woman

Robin Alngreen........................ 22
No Preference/blank.............. 15

DEMOCRAT PARTY

For President

B. Obama.............................. 41
R. Paul................................. 1
P. Barrett.............................. 1
No preference/blank.............. 9

For State Offices

For State Committee Man

Michael Wilcox...................... 42
For State Committee Woman

Mary Palmer......................... 41
Now Hear This!
If you have an event that you would like to see listed here, please email calendar@sandisfieldtimes.org.

We reserve space for those events that involve Sandisfield residents or that take place in Sandisfield and neighboring communities.

April Events

Tuesday, April 3, 7 PM, Town caucus, Old Town Hall.

Wednesday, April 4, 9 AM to noon, Registration/screening for Preschool at Farmington River Regional School. For registration/screening appointment call beginning Friday, March 30. For more information contact Jill Lenny at 413-269-4466.

Monday, April 9, Last day to object or withdraw nomination papers.

Monday, April 23, 2:00 – 4:00 and 7:00 – 8:00 p.m., Town Hall Annex - Last day to register to vote for the Annual Town Meeting and the Annual Town Election.

Annual Town Meeting & Election

Saturday, May 12, 10:00 a.m. Annual Town Meeting at the Old Town Hall

Monday, May 14, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Annual Town Election at the Old Town Hall

*Please note that the following offices are up for election this year: Moderator, Selectman, Treasurer, Auditor, Board of Assessors, School Committee, Board of Health, Planning Board and Library Trustee.

Ongoing Events

Town Meetings (Info call 258-4711)

Selectmen, every Monday at 7 PM, Town Hall Annex.

The Children's Health Program Play Group, every Monday when school in session, 9:30 AM - 11 AM, Farmington River Elementary School music room. Led by Laura Mesina. For more information call 413-644-0104 X 1159.

Farmington River Regional School District, first Monday of the month, 7 PM, Farmington River Regional School, Rte 8, JoAnn Austin, Superintendent. Public Welcome.

Planning Board, second Monday of the month, 6 PM, Old Town Hall.

Senior Lunch Program, every Tuesday when school in session, 12:15 PM, Farmington River Elementary School. For more information or reservations call Lynette 413-269-4466. Cost $2.

Board of Assessors, second Tuesday of the month, 5 PM, Town Hall Annex.

Conservation Commission, third Tuesday of the month at 7 PM, Town Hall Annex.

Otis/Sandisfield Kiwanis, every Wednesday, 6:30 PM, Otis Town Hall. For more information call Andy Pyenson, President at 413-269-6060.

Board of Health, first Wednesday of the month, 6 PM, Old Town Hall.

Boy Scouts, every Wednesday, 6:30 PM, Otis Town Hall, Elizabeth Kuzmech, Scoutmaster 258-4906 kuzmech5@verizon.net.

Council on Aging, every Wednesday, 11 AM - 2 PM, Senior Center – Town Hall Annex. Free lunch at noon, Bingo at 1 PM. Free blood pressure screening every fourth Wednesday.

Finance Committee, second Wednesday of the month, 7 PM, Sandisfield Library. Public welcome.

PTO, second Thursday of the month, 3:15 P.M., Farmington River Regional School. Child Care provided.

Sandisfield Public Library Hours: Monday and Tuesday 9 AM-12:30 PM, Wednesday, 6:30-8:30 PM, Thursday, 2:30-5:30 PM, Sat: 9 AM-12 noon 258-4966.

Of Interest

Friday, April 6 and Saturday, April 7, 9:00 a.m. Clam River Ramble, Meet at the end of Hammertown Road, off Route 57. Led by Berkshire Natural Resources Council. Wear appropriate footwear, bring water. Participants will have the choice of a gentle or moderate hike based on abilities.

Saturday, April 21, at 7 p.m., Jay Mankita, guitarist, singer and songwriter will perform at The Knox Trail Inn for their free concert series. For more information call 269-4400.

Wednesday-April 25, 6:30 - 8:30pm: “Climbing Your Family Tree” Genealogy assistance with Laurie Foulke-Green at the Sandisfield Library Please join us. The library now has a subscription to Ancestry.com, which is available to library patrons.

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The Sandisfield Times is an independent 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.

The Sandisfield Times does not yet have a 501(c)(3) designation, therefore donations are NOT tax-deductible at this time but donations of all sizes are needed to ensure the continuation of this newspaper. Please send checks to: The Sandisfield Times, P.O. Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255. For more information visit our website www.sandisfieldtimes.org.

Copies of The Sandisfield Times are available in Sandisfield at A&M Auto, the Dump, Post Office, Town Hall, the New Boston Store, the New Boston Inn, the Silver Brook Café and Villa Mia. Copies are also available in Otis at Katie’s Market, Papa’s Fuel, Southern Berkshire Realty, Otis Library, the Farmington Elementary School (during the school year) and Terranova’s. Other locations include (in Monterey) the The Roadstore Cafe, the Monterey General Store (There is a box affixed to the front of the building containing The Sandisfield Times.) and the Southfield Store.

The Times can be mailed to your home by paid subscription (see form below) or you can read it (free) online as a PDF document at www.sandisfieldtimes.org.

We welcome submissions, comments and suggestions, including letters to the editor by the 15th of the month prior. 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 Sandisfield Times may be reproduced without permission.

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