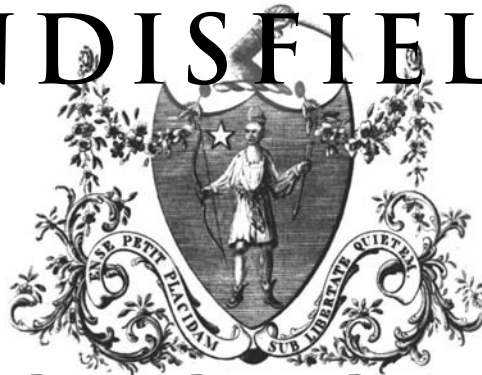


Our Town's Family Album is Printed!

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

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RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume III, Number 3

June 2012

RED FACES – TAXES TO RISE

CONCERN ABOUT FUTURE: COMMITTEES TO BE SET UP

By Simon Winchester

After an embarrassing technical hiccup in our election process we now know the salutary truth about the town's immediate budgetary future: we will not now have to dig into our savings to find money to keep the town running, as we did last year, but will instead raise taxes to pay our bills.

This was agreed on May 14th, at an otherwise unexciting town election, when voters decided by a majority of 110 to 75 to override the provisions of Massachusetts Proposition 2½ – which very basically limits the amount by which a town can raise its local taxes. This was a stunning reversal of last year's results, when townspeople voted overwhelmingly to reject the same override.

There were red faces all around, however, as the town struggled painfully to get out the news of this seemingly simple decision. Someone – and gallantly, no-one is saying who – thought that a decision of such importance had to be passed by a two-thirds majority of voters. Had that been the case, the override would have failed (110 to 75 not being a two-thirds majority).

Moments after the votes were counted, Town Hall passed the supposed result to the Berkshire Eagle and *(cont'd on P.2)*



The 15-Hour Campaign

By Bill Price

A Surprise Candidate Does Better Than Expected

As voters arrived at Old Town Hall to elect a slate of unopposed candidates on May 14, many were surprised to find a "stealth candidate" in the running for Selectman. Write-in, rather than stealth, but for sure last minute.

Ralph Leavenworth's run, organized "on the spot," turned out to be serious. He received 62 votes to 101 for popular 3rd-year Selectman Patrick Barrett, who until a few hours before had been running unopposed.

The candidacy was a surprise to Dolores Harasyko, Town Clerk. Dolores said, "I came to work and found out there was a contest after all."

Of his sudden candidacy, Ralph, 47, a resident of West New Boston for 36 years, said, "There should be people with different views running instead of just one person. It's nothing against Mr. Barrett, except that it shouldn't be that easy."

Why not come forward earlier and get on the ballot? "It was spur of the moment," he said. "A day before the election my wife, Lisa, said I should run. 'I'll write you in,' she said. I said, 'Sure,

go ahead.' She started making phone calls, and suddenly I was a candidate."

After a 15-hour campaign of alerting friends and people they thought would support him, Ralph's "team" was fairly successful. Ralph was surprised to garner as many votes as he did.

Does that mean he'll run again? "I'm not saying I'd run again for the same office, but I do believe more residents should be involved in town politics."

Regarding Proposition 2½, Ralph said he would have preferred that it be defeated, but he acknowledged its passing was inevitable. "It's something that had to happen. It's sad that we have to get more revenues from taxes, but if we depleted town funds we'd just have to bring the idea back again next year. Nobody wants to pay more taxes, but everything costs more, just like household expenses."

A union pipefitter with the local that covers all of Connecticut, Ralph expects to be called back to work soon. "It's getting harder and harder to get jobs," he said. "People are having it very tough."



BREAK-IN SPREE Update

The "person of interest" in the recent rash of Sandisfield break-ins did not show up in court as ordered on May 8. This individual, whose name has not as yet been released, will be summoned to appear in District Court in Great Barrington on July 10. Stay tuned. Stay alert.

RED FACES - TAXES TO RISE

(cont'd from p.1)

other media. For a few hours the perceived wisdom was that Sandisfield had rejected the override again, and would have to find its budget shortfall – of \$125,000 – either by cutting services or dipping once more into its back pocket.

But then, the morning after the election, the Department of Revenue in Boston called. Not for the last thirty years, officials said, had ballot issues in the state required a two-thirds majority. A simple majority was quite enough. Your 110 to 75 vote was clear enough: your vote had actually passed.

The relief felt at Town Hall – which had privately hoped for passage of the measure – may well have been palpable, but it was also obscured by acute feelings of self-lacerating foolishness. “Oops!” was the headline in the next morning’s Eagle, saying it all. Patrick Barrett, chairman of the Select Board, manned up and took the blame. As to who actually made the mistake: the Selectmen, at their meeting on May 21st, put a brave face on the debacle, saying only “we’ll not make that mistake again, that’s for sure.”

As to how much taxes will rise, that will be decided in October. Currently the tax rate stands at \$10.10 for every thousand dollars of assessed property value. Under normal circumstances it could rise in 2013 by 2 ½ percent to \$10.35. It will now presumably rise rather more than that, to satisfy new figures to be calculated this fall by the Department of Revenue. An average tax rise of about \$400 for the year is generally anticipated in order to keep the town in balance.

However, this all reflects very short term thinking. The same financial problems that afflict us today will surface next year, and the year after, and on and on. And certain harsh realities are beginning to stare us in the face.

Our economy is stagnant. Our town tax base is shrinking. The services that our population needs are becoming ever more costly, ever more urgent (the full and proper repair of New Hartford Road, for example, and for which we voted last month to borrow \$200,000 as an interim measure, will cost at least \$6 million. And that is one road, among many. And roads are one budget item, among many.)

To face up to these challenges, moves are currently underfoot to address the long-term issues faced by the town. (See Selectmen’s Letter, page 14.) The basic plan is that three committees are to be established:

1. Consider the question of whether Sandisfield needs an Open Space Plan (without

which it cannot apply for grant money).

2. Examine the overall administration of the town, and specifically whether we need a professional Town Manager.
3. Consider lumping together all town facilities – Town Garage to Town Clerk, Board of Health to Board of Assessors – in one new, purposely built Sandisfield Metroplex.

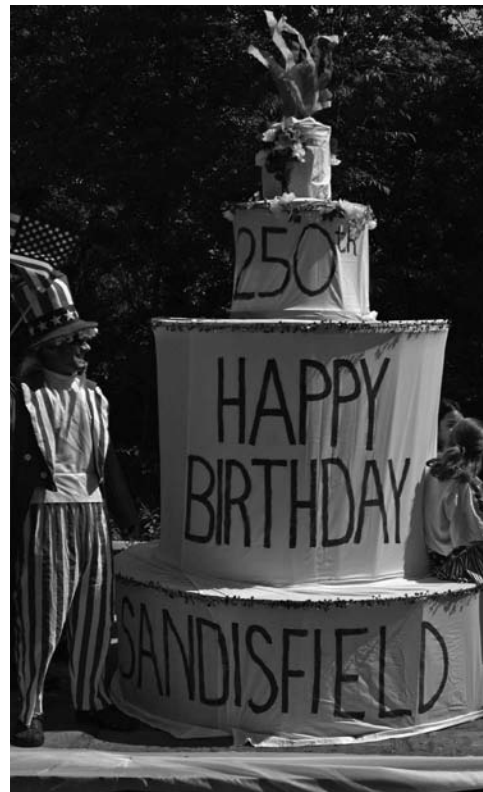
Selectmen will chair each of the three committees – with perhaps seven or nine members each, all of whom will be volunteers. So, please volunteer to sit on one of these three new bodies. A note expressing interest and asking for more information directed to our Town Clerk, Dolores Harasyko, by way of the Sandisfield website, would be most welcome. The address is <http://www.sandisfield.info/contact/>

The future is coming. How we deal with it is up to all of us. 🍷



This Is Not a Bird

Martin Bernstein of Silverbrook Road captured this bear on film on May 22, but only after the bear ruined two bird feeders. Be careful what you put out there. Bears are hungry.



Memorial Day Parade, 2012. Credit for Our Birthday Cake goes to Lisa Leavenworth, Gary Pease, Ralph Leavenworth, and many good friends. Photo: Richard Migot

Missing Tina

You see the daring
Right away
In this musketeer of a woman.

A life of shadows,
A coral sea,
Loaves of color
And her fancy... free.

Skylark, skylark!
Shake my hand.
We can't grasp the ocean
But you can.

Val Coleman

In honor of Tina Sotis' move to the island of Utila off the coast of Honduras this summer, where she will begin a career as a scuba instructor. Tina is the designer for The Sandisfield Times and was designer for the just published Sandisfield Then & Now.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Can a long-time part-time resident serve as a responsible editor of a local, full-time paper?

If it's a daily, not a chance. A weekly, probably no.

The Sandisfield Times, though, is a monthly. Maybe I can do this trick without driving everyone into anger, frustration, mild irritation, or so bored they take another stab at finishing *War and Peace*.


Some really dedicated neighbors serve this paper. They're not only writers or photographers or proofreaders or distribution folks. They're people who walk around seeing things, people who pick up the phone and ask: "Did you know that" People who see you around town and tell you something, ending up with: "We ought to put that in the paper."

One of those neighbors, Tina Sotis, is responsible for how the paper looks. If you already don't like the paper when you pick it up, that's the designer's fault. If you like the spread of the photos, the space around the words, the headlines, thank Tina. She's been doing graphic design for a couple years and is very good at it. She also designed

the layouts for *Sandisfield Then and Now*. If you haven't seen that book yet, you will soon, and for sure you're going to like the look of it.

Val Coleman's poem on page 2 happens to be dedicated to Tina. She's moving the end of June to an island off Honduras to begin a new life as a scuba instructor. Don't ask. Lucky for us she will continue designing the paper from her little island, thanks to the marvels of the Internet. Yet one more reason for getting our town hooked up via Wired West.

For me, I'd like to contribute to the town. I've had a place on River Road for 27 years, full-time now during the summer. I'm not a speaker, a teacher, or a person who could with sanity run for public office. I can write some. And I can edit others, sometimes to their distraction. I can bellyache. So maybe this job will work for awhile.

I like this newspaper. Any newspaper that prints an obituary of Dixie, the dumpyard dog, is a paper I'm glad to work for. 

Bill Price
West New Boston
Editor

Miss Our Columnists?


We do, too. We gave them the month off, and they took it: Sue digging in the garden, Margaret feeding the birds, Adam stirring edibles, Larry walking in the woods. They'll be back.

-- Editor



Tina Sotis, diving somewhere in the Caribbean

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BRIDGE WATCH - IT BEGINS

Sandy Parisky and his wife Flora live a stone's throw from the bridge. The Times invited Sandy to be our on-site reporter. Who better to keep an eye on things than somebody who will be there as the old bridge comes down and traffic is at a standstill. Sandy and next-door neighbors in the stone house, Peter Levine and Ellen Croibier, along with Barbara Colorio of the New Boston Inn across the road and Pete and Sue Murray at the New Boston Store will all be impacted more than the most of us by the construction. One good thing so far: Pete reports that some of the workers from Gordon's Tree Service bought grinders for lunch.

By Sandy Parisky

Survey stakes are up, trees have come down, and the layout for the New Boston Bridge is taking shape. Like it or not, sometime this summer traffic over the bridge will be reduced to a single lane with traffic on Routes 8 and 57 controlled by timed stop signals. This will be the case over the two years that MassDOT projects it will take to finish the bridge.

Vern Palen, spokesperson for J.H. Maxymillian of Pittsfield, the engineering firm managing the



project, speculated to me that MassDOT and Maxymillian may consider delaying the full implementation of the traffic diversion until after the town's 250th Anniversary Celebration the



Photo Bill Price

last weekend of July. That sure would be nice.

But work has started. A series of bright day-glow orange and white wooden stakes appeared last month in our front yard and neighboring properties and symbols were painted on the road, reference points relating to site engineering and survey work. A dense row of arborvitae came down in front of the Stone House as did trees across the Farmington River on May 21. Electric power lines and telephone service poles are to be relocated in June.

Ron Monette, Project Supervisor, will utilize space leased from Southern Berkshire Fuel and Supply for MassDOT's Resident Field Office to be used for onsite meetings and storage of construction signs and equipment.

Additional details of what is going on now and what's to come:

Polatin Environmental has been removing invasive species of plants in designated areas as required in the bid documents.

Maxymillian has installed construction signs to warn vehicles of the bridge work and they are currently working on submittals of materials and procedures required by MassDOT to demolish the old and reconstruct the new bridge.

Gordon Tree Service will clear and trim trees as necessary for the bridge work and utility relocations.

Tentatively CSL Inc. will install compost filter tubes as shown on Mass Dot drawings. The filter tubes are for erosion control during the bridge and road work.


The power company is currently working to secure the purchase of the utility poles for the job.

Once the erosion controls are in place and submittals are approved, drainage work on the east side of the bridge and prep work for demolition can begin. Tannery Road work could begin by the end of May.

Survey stakes represent horizontal control for the work. The orange marks in the road and offset hubs perpendicular to the road are controls for road layout, which does not change much from the existing road except near the bridge. The white marks laid out in the road and with offset hubs are the control for the bridge itself.

The bridge will be realigned to the south, with the SE corner being moved more than the SW corner, resulting in a slight shift to the south and skewing of the bridge to the southeast.

On the east side of the job, near the intersection of Tolland Road, drainage structures are laid out. Offset stakes help locate the structures during installation.

The proposed permanent and temporary utility poles are also staked out for the power company. 

SANDISFIELD'S FAMILY ALBUM

Photographs, stories of past and present, an anniversary present to ourselves.

By Bill Price

At over 500 pages, *Sandisfield Then and Now: 1762-2012* is a giant of a book. But this just-published story of our town is accessible, thorough, and engaging.

Like a family album, the book deserves a place in every Sandisfield home.

Sandisfield asks to be dipped into, set down, picked up again. It's too heavy and long to read in a sitting. Open it at random and take a walk through your neighborhood for an hour or so. Life-long residents will find something they didn't know, while newcomers will understand that they're not in just any small town, but *this one*.

How can one small town generate such a hefty book about itself, even with 250 years of stories?

It can if, like Sandisfield: (1) the town has enjoyed a succession of amateur historians who passed those stories to following generations; (2) the town's photographs reach back to the daguerreotype era; (3) descendants of early settlers still raise their kids here and drive our roads – in pickups now rather than buggies – providing an extraordinary sense of continuity; and (4) town residents are willing to take on a tremendous job.

Ron Bernard, the principal author, lives in Beech Plain on the northern edge of Sandisfield. He assembled a team of local researcher/authors who together under-



took a massive planning and writing job which required, in fact, thousands of hours to get done. Bernard Drew of Great Barrington, the author of many Berkshire histories, served as guiding editor; Simon Winchester, author and resident of Sandisfield Center, contributed a lyrical preface; and Tina Sotis of Town Hill/Northwest designed the book and its cover.

Sandisfield includes sections on everything from agriculture and cemeteries to schools and Suicide Hill. Dip into it and you'll learn what happened to the Fuller girls, where and

what Sandisfield Center is and how a corner of Otis Woodlands will be forever Sandisfield. You'll meet town founder Daniel Brown and his family who are responsible for the Sandisfield we know today, mourn the death of Lt. Burton Deming at Port Hudson in the Civil War and spend a Depression winter in Montville. You'll meet Wesley Clark who stood for nearly 50 years behind the counter of his general store in New Boston. You'll read about the failed railroad hopes of the 1870s and the river feud of the 1990s. There's much more.

Brief biographies of friends and neighbors – most now gone – honor the lives and contributions of Flora Rhodes, Hen Manley, the Goat Man, Elizur Yale Smith, George Sokolsky, and others.

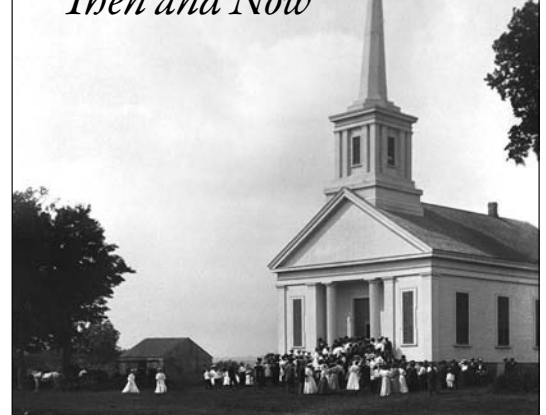
And there are histories of houses. Many houses. Sandisfield has an unusually high number of surviving 18th century structures, even for a New England village. Over the last two years, Ron Bernard researched the title transfers of over a hundred of them and walked the land they stand (or stood) on. He traced the births, marriages and deaths of original owners and their children and sometimes their children's children. He knocked on doors, examined beams, climbed narrow stairways and admired King's boards wherever he found them. He rued the loss of more than a few of our old houses to fire, weather, neglect.

The houses are grouped by village – South Sandisfield, New Boston, West New Boston, Sandisfield Center, Montville, Town Hill/Northwest, and Beech Plain. You'll know the geography of Sandisfield when you're finished, that's for sure. Pick your favorite old house, read its story, move to another. Read about the house next door, then the one you've always wondered about down by Pete's store. Read about Pete's store, the east half of which might be a stolen church.

The photographs alone are worth the price of admission. One, taken by Jasper Sage in South Sandisfield possibly in 1843, is among the earliest daguerreotypes of a house in North America. You'll find that photograph and the story of its discovery and the history of its still-standing house on page 408.

Pick up a copy. Look. Read. Enjoy. 

Sandisfield *Then and Now*



1762-2012

by Ronald M. Bernard

Sandisfield Then and Now Available for pick-up or purchase

Your copy will be available for pick-up (pre-paid advance orders) or purchase (personal checks, please) at the following times and places:

Saturday June 2nd

- 11 am-2 pm at the Pub Room, New Boston Inn

Saturday, June 9th

- 11 am-2 pm at the Pub Room, New Boston Inn

- 11 am-1 pm at the Sandisfield Historical Society, 115 Sandy Brook Tpke (Rte 183), South Sandisfield, in conjunction with the Society's monthly meeting (refreshments available)

Saturday, June 16th

- 11-2 pm at the Sandisfield Arts Center, 5 Hammertown Road.

Saturday, June 23rd

- 11 am-2 pm at the Pub Room, New Boston Inn

Saturday, June 30th

- 11 am to 2 pm at the Pub Room, New Boston Inn

For further information or questions contact Ron Bernard at 413 269-0012 or Ronbernard@aol.com

SEASON OPENER AT SARC A SMASHING SUCCESS!

The Sandisfield Arts Center opened its 2012 season on May 19th with an evening of impressive local and not-so-local talent.

The always popular Family Cabaret, produced this year by Anni Crofut, Sasha Nader, Susie Crofut, Ben Luxon and Amber Chand, featured folk and classical music, improvisational theater, poetry, martial arts, dance and a heavy dose of stand-up and vaudeville-style comedy. The full house roared with laughter and applauded enthusiastically every act and performer. The diverse evening was woven together by MC Anni Crofut's brilliant and hilarious cast of characters. Performers included the charming and very musical Winsor family, improvisational artists Donna Raione & Megan Reisel, operatic soprano Laura Danehower Whyte with our own Ben Luxon and Herb Burtis, martial artist Bruce McCarter, Slam poet Taylor Mali, actress and writer Alison Larkin and an energetic group of young dancers (Chelsea Anderson, Melissa Cada, Emily Flaherty, Sarah Franklin, Kristen Klein), who made the trip from Long Island. The upbeat evening was a treat for all! *Photos by Richard Migot.*



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your word, and your friend."
Henry David Thoreau*

Image: Tina Sotis ©2011



Selectmen's meeting – April 2, 2012

Attending: Patrick Barrett, Richard Campetti, Jeff Gray, Dolores Harasyko

Treasurer Teresa DellaGuistina and bank representatives Sue Kelly and Clark Rowell came in to discuss the financing of the work on New Hartford Road. Discussed reasons for financing and a long-term plan for road repairs throughout town.

Reviewed Lane Construction's letter offering a five-year warranty for Route 183 work. Selectmen authorized payment to Lane.

Finance Committee in to ask Selectmen about a date to review the FY13 budget. Budgets have been approved and are ready to be presented to voters at the Town Meeting on May 12. Kathy Jacobs questioned the \$10,000 increase in the Police Budget and the Selectmen suggested she talk to the Police Chief. The DOR will be sending out two representatives to do a presentation at an open meeting on our budget and Prop 2½.

The Finance Committee expressed that they would like to see better breakdowns of the department budgets and discussed the lack of All Boards meetings this year. Patrick explained that the Selectmen have reached out to the public, the boards and the committees. The Finance Committee feels that the Selectmen have not done so adequately. Jeff responded that in the past, when the Selectmen and the Finance Committee have agreed to be on the same page prior to the town meetings, they seem not always to agree when the Annual Town Meeting takes place. Richard responded that we have had a lot of meetings and a lot of discussions on the budget. All the meetings are posted with agendas and are open to the public.

Discussed Prop 2½ Override. The Finance Committee agreed there are no real options – the town must go for the override. Talked about using Free Cash and Patrick asked if the Selectmen and the Finance Committee are in agreement that if, at the Annual Town Meeting, a motion is made to increase the amount to be taken from Free Cash in order to avoid Prop 2½ override, we reject the idea. Not all were in agreement.

Barbara Cormier suggested that all boards be

asked to present a budget cut and reduced services (in the event Prop 2½ override does not pass), suggesting a 20% cut right off the top. Dolores responded that it would not be possible for her to do that with her Town Clerk's budget as it is, in part based on how many elections she has to fund. Dolores commented that this discussion should have taken place in January, not April, since budgets are due in her office by March 15. A letter will be sent to all boards to come to the May 7 meeting with reduced budget proposals. The Selectmen will discuss this once more at their next meeting.

Reviewed a bylaw request received on March 15, 2012 from the Board of Health allowing all boards to set their own fees. Currently the Selectmen set fees. Since bylaw requests need time for review, the request will be addressed next year.

Council on Aging members Linda Riiska and Barbara Cormier said they would like to use half of their transportation budget for their volunteer driver program. Barbara said they will keep the Formula Grant and use it for volunteers. Patrick will follow up with the town's insurance company regarding liability. Linda and Barbara also talked about the Senior Tax Workoff Program.



Selectmen's meeting – April 12, 2012

Attending: Patrick Barrett, Richard Campetti, Jeff Gray, Steve Harasyko, Dolores Harasyko

Road Superintendent Steve Harasyko reported that holes in Route 57 culverts will be worked on next week. His team has been spreading millings from the Route 8 reclamation project onto some of our dirt roads.

Steve received a quote of approximately \$993,000 from Lane Construction on repairing and blacktopping work for four town roads, excluding culverts and ditch and drainage work. WMECO will be in Sandisfield in January 2013 for tree removal and power-line cutbacks and estimate the project will take a year to finish.

Discussed the reprogramming of the gas meter to give more information on vehicles, departments and mileage. Due to a mild winter, Steve has stockpiled salt and sand for next winter. He has also purchased a new plow while saving the

old one as a spare.

Reviewed solar farms. The circuit for our area, which includes Tolland, Sandisfield, Otis and Blandford, is allowed only two sites and Tolland and Blandford have been selected. There will no be solar farm in Sandisfield.

Rhee Kasky asked about progress at Yanner Park. Richard responded that he has spoken with Alan Annecharico about the required bulldozing, and Patrick reported that people who had previously been involved in developing Yanner Park would still like to have hiking and snow-shoeing trails and cross-country skiing.

A notice will be sent to all boards requesting that at least one member of each board, committee or department be present at the All Boards meeting to be held May 7, prepared to explain the impact of cutting their budgets by 6% to 10%. Discussed the Prop 2½ override – we are \$125,000 over our levy limit. Simon Winchester asked if not passing the override would cause a crisis as he would like to write an article for The Sandisfield Times entitled "How to avoid a crisis." The response from the Selectmen was if we continue to spend Free Cash we will run out in three years.

Patrick talked with the town's insurance carrier, MIIA, regarding requirements for the Council on Aging's volunteer driving program.

Discussed the fly-over for the 250th celebration.



Selectmen's meeting – April 17, 2012

Attending: Patrick Barrett, Jeff Gray, Dolores Harasyko
Absent: Richard Campetti, Steve Harasyko

The public hearing on the Goossens' property was postponed until next week due to the death of a family member of one of the Selectmen. The law requires that in a three-member Select Board all three must be present for a public hearing.

Emily Stockman in to request Special Municipal Employee Status for the position of Conservation Wetland Consultant. Passed unanimously to allow the position.

Reviewed and signed Chapter 90 project reimbursements; reviewed and accepted a statement from Patrick (on behalf of the Selectmen) for the Sandisfield Times; and discussed budgets and upcoming All Boards meeting. *(cont'd on p.13)*

REGIONAL SELECT BOARD MEETING

The Sandisfield Times continues to report on the meetings of the Select Boards from six surrounding towns as they meet monthly to discuss shared experiences and issues.

April 18, Otis Town Hall. Selectmen, in attendance:

Otis: Don Hawley, Brian Crandall, Roberta Sarnacki

Sandisfield: Patrick Barrett, Jeff Gray

Tolland: Eric Munson, Tom Paine

Tyringham: Peter Curtin, Christopher Johnson, Alan Wilcox

New Marlborough: Tara White, Nat Yobalem

Monterey: Wayne Burkhart

*Others: Otis: Therese Gould, Larry Gould;
Sandisfield: Rhee Kasky, William Cohn,
Steve Harasyko*

Patrick Barrett, coordinator of the group, called the meeting to order.

Don Hawley shared information on the Senior Tax Credit Program.

A discussion ensued about sharing resources between the six towns, primarily (but not exclusively) in the areas of highways and maintenance resources as well as "beaver trappers."

Discussed how to compensate workers who help towns that are not their own as they would need to operate loaned equipment.

Don Hawley talked about a grant that provided some of the funding for Otis Town Hall renovations. This raised the possibility of towns hiring and sharing a grant writer. Rhee Kasky mentioned that she had been told a town needs a master plan before applying for state grants and wondered if anyone else had been given this information – none had. A suggestion was made to prepare a list, by town, of the types of grants that could be shared. Tara White spoke about bridge concerns on the Southfield Bridge in New Marlborough and Patrick cited Route 57 in at least three towns needing serious repairs. Alan Wilcox expressed that these six towns will have more of a "voice" if they go forth as a group for grants

as well as bringing things before the Southern Berkshire Regional Planning Commission.

Patrick expressed sympathy to Senator Ben Downing on the recent death of his brother. Senator Downing and Representative Pignatelli had planned to attend the meeting but were unable to. Both offices have expressed interest in the regional meetings and Representative Pignatelli's office has requested copies of minutes. They will be forwarded to him.

Don Hawley and Larry Gould discussed the Otis wind project, including funding. Don talked about the grant pursued for the feasibility study. Initially the project will cost about \$6 million and Selectmen will be seeking a 20-year bond to be paid off within 9.5 years. The idea is that the wind energy should produce funds while paying back the bond. Larry explained new regulations regarding how and to whom the town can sell electricity, and if any other towns are interested Otis may be able to "lock in" rates with these other municipalities.

Wayne Burkhart from Monterey asked if other towns had considered the Electricity Aggregation Plan. Monterey is currently considering a plan with Dominion that will offer them a savings on the generation charge portion of their electricity bills. The town of Lanesborough recently opted to go this route. Tara from New Marlborough said that there will be a relevant warrant article at their Annual Town Meeting.

The group discussed problems regarding cell coverage. New Marlborough still has no cell phone coverage while Monterey has only two approved sites. It is believed that AT&T will be installing equipment at those sites and, while this may help New Marlborough, the Selectmen will continue to make phone calls regarding this issue.

Also under discussion were solar farm representatives who have visited several towns. No one has heard back from those companies, and Patrick explained that WMECO will allow only two solar farms, with Tolland and Blandford selected as the sites.

The group set plans for its next meeting. Patrick will see if Alice Boyd (a professional municipal grant writer and resident of Sandisfield) will be available to attend. The group will ask her advice on the next steps in the grant solicitation process. It was agreed that each town will list areas most in need of funding (i.e. worst roads, bridges, etc). In order that Senator Downing and Representative Pignatelli might be able to attend the next meeting, the Selectmen will leave Wednesday nights in June open for a potential meeting and try to identify a date when the senator and representative could attend. ♡



Memorial Day Parade, 2012: From left, Shelby Bailey, Nicole Hryckvich, and Katrina Campetti. In front, Moonshine Beagle

Photo: Richard Migot

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250th Celebration 1 Month to Go!

By Laura Rogers-Castro

SCULPTURE, FIREWORKS, PIE CONTEST AND MORE!

One month and counting! Next month the town of Sandisfield celebrates its 250th birthday with a calendar of events sure to please residents and lucky visitors "in the know!"

The Carr family has generously allowed us to use their field on Route 57 between the cemetery and the large red "factory barn" for the fireworks display on Friday night, July 27 and the Country Fair on Saturday and Sunday, July 28-29. Route 57 will likely be closed to through traffic along the field with cars directed down Old River Road. On Sunday much of the field will be covered with many shiny, carefully maintained and restored classic cars owned by members of Yankee Street Rods from Great Barrington. The mood will be festive with oldies music broadcast by the club. Members will proudly display special features "under the hood" and share stories behind the miles of their historic cars.

One recent addition to the celebration and Country Fair is a pie contest organized by Barbara Riiska (413-258-4761). The contest calls for a 9" fruit pie with a homemade pie crust. Anyone can enter and the pie can be classically prepared with basic ingredients or bakers can be creative and use unconventional recipes. A special prize will go to the maker of the most delicious pie. The Sandisfield 250th Celebration Committee has had no trouble filling the position of pie contest judge! Contact Barbara for specific contest rules and an entry form.

Another added feature to the town celebration is a beautiful granite sculpture by Binney Meigs. Titled "Flow", the sculpture will stand on the grounds of the town library as part of the Sandisfield 250th "beautification project."

As Binney explains, the sculpture represents aquatic energies, such as inland rivers, streams, and ponds. Binney, who has been involved with stone carving and landscaping for many years, studied at several art schools but his current sculpture evolved from the instruction and guidance of Ray Pisano at the Montserrat College of Art in Beverly, Massachusetts. Binney feels that it is a great adventure to sculpt

with granite and is particularly pleased that the granite for this piece is from a local quarry, Chester Granite, one of the last remaining granite works in our region.

Collaborating with Chuck Nelson, of C.W. Nelson Landscape Design and Nursery, Binney produced several outdoor exhibitions during the late 1990s. Binney says it has been a wonderful opportunity to work with Chuck because the placement and character of the sculptural work and how it interfaces with its natural environment is very important.

Along with "Flow" on the library grounds, several of Sandisfield's local growers and nurseries are participating in the beautification project. C.W. Nelson, When Pigs Fly Farm and Snow Farm will enhance the town with colorful blooms and ornamental plantings. The 250th Committee is looking for additional local nurseries, landscapers or individuals to participate in this informal but important effort. Please call Liana (413-441-9542) if you would like to be involved and to choose a location.

Another special feature for the anniversary weekend is the Sandisfield Local Farms Open House on Sunday, July 29, tentatively scheduled for noon until 4:00 p.m. At press time, seven farms were on board to welcome visitors and provide opportunities to purchase fresh produce and goods. Andy and Sandra Snyder will provide a map of participating farms at Carr Field during the Country Fair to assist visitors in locating each farm. There may even be an added incentive to visit several farms during that afternoon!

The next scheduled Sandisfield 250th Committee meetings are on June 6 and June 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Annex. All are welcome. For more information and to verify the meeting schedule, contact Laura at 258-4688. ♡

COMMUNITY ART PROJECT!

The 250th Birthday Committee needs 250 residents to participate in an art project to be installed in Sandisfield Center. Find a sturdy piece of a tree or scrap wood, about 4 feet long and up to 2 inches in diameter, paint it a bright color or pattern, and drop it off in specially marked bins at the town dump by June 29. These "candles" will be installed along the old road that diagonally traverses the field where the Town Green once stood. Please do not use reflective, neon or sparkly paint as we don't want to distract drivers at night! If you have any questions, please call Liana Toscanini at (413) 441-9542 or email liana@communityaccesstothearts.org.

JUNE JULY- EVENTS

THE SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER

5 HAMMERTOWN RD, SANDISFIELD, MA
413-258-4100
WWW.SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

Saturday, June 23rd 3-5pm
(Note date change)

Artists' Reception
- Gallery Show #2 -
Shadows and Light

(On display thru July 16)



Saturday, June 30 8 PM \$15

Bobby Sweet



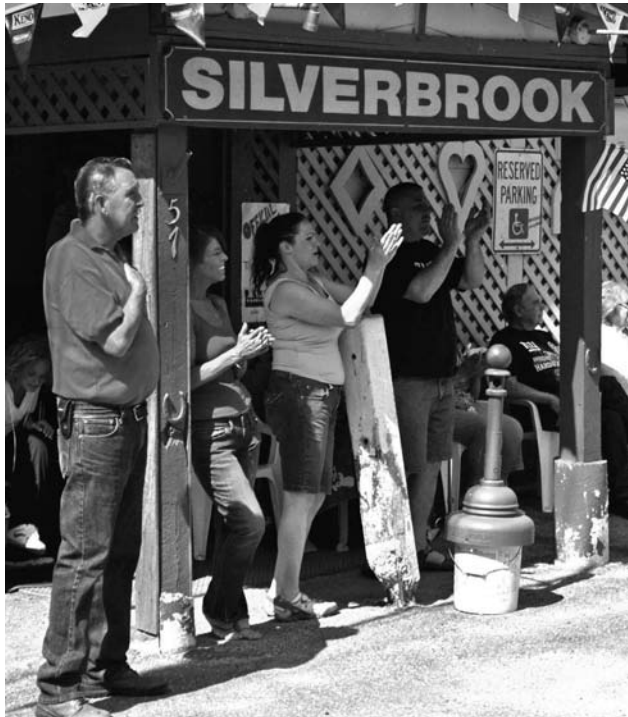
Beginning Thursday, July 5 8 AM

(Tuesdays, Thursdays & Sundays 8-9 am from 7/5 through 8/15 (6 weeks) S-T-R-E-T-C-H into a Perfect Day

Saturday, July 14 8 PM \$20

Laura Danehower Whyte,
soprano
with
Benjamin Luxon,
Baritone-at-the-piano

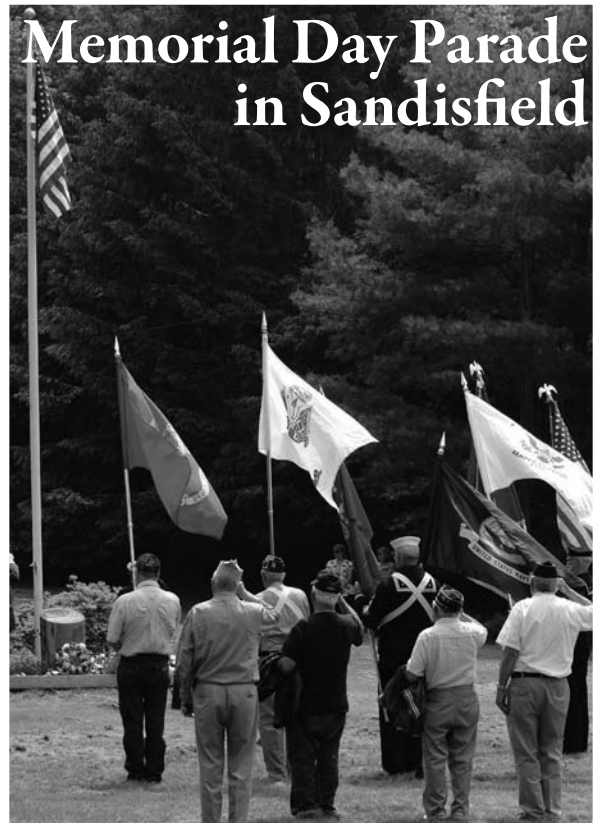




Our Memorial Day Parade, Sunday, May 27, honored of all of our armed forces veterans. This year's float, acknowledging American working people, was created, designed, and acted out by Sandisfield's working people. A crowd gathered in front of the Silverbrook Cafe to cheer on the parade.

(Watch for other photos of the parade sprinkled throughout this issue.)

Photos above and below, Richard Migot. Right, Charles House.



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Memorial Day, 2012. The Lee High School Band marched in our parade, and a few Sandisfielders became characters from Sandisfield Then and Now: 1762-2012.



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Explore the Clam River on our free guided hikes. See March and April at www.bnrc.net/events or call Amanda or Doug at 413.499.0596 for more info.



ORDER FORM

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1762-2012**

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- Mail my book to the name & address below (I've added \$6 per book for shipping)
- I'll save the shipping charge and pick up my book(s) in Sandisfield.

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and mail to:
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Otis, MA 01253**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Please note that this is a limited edition. Order while supplies last.

Info: www.sandisfieldthenandnow.org
or 413-441-9542



Sandisfield Historical Society News

By Josephine Freedman

The members of the Historical Society are looking forward to the June 9 meeting at 11 am at the meeting house, Sandy Brook Turnpike (Route 183 south of New Marlborough).

Ron Bernard will present a donated antique Elizur Spencer apple peeler to the society. He will also give a short talk about Elizur, the famous woodworker. (See Ron's article this page about how Elizur's peeler came home.)


We hope that you will attend this interesting talk and then join us for lunch. Everyone is welcome to the free event. Of course, we are always happy to receive donations. The funds we receive are used to maintain our wonderful meeting house.

We will also distribute/sell the Memoir/Cookbook at the meeting. If you have paid for a book, you can pick it up then, and if you haven't yet bought a copy, you can purchase one (\$15) at the meeting, at Villa Mia (258-4236) or at Pete's New Boston Store (258-4522). If you want a copy mailed to you, send a check for \$18.50 (\$15 + \$3.50 for shipping) to The Sandisfield Historical Society, PO Box 513, Sandisfield, MA. 01255.

Ron will also have copies of *Sandisfield Then and Now: 1762-2012* at the meeting for sale or distribution to those who pre-paid.

The Historical Society will host its summer fair on July 7th from 10 am to 2 pm. A number of vendors will participate, and we will have our usual tag sale featuring delicious homemade baked goods. Lunch will be available. Mark your calendar with this date.

The Historical Society will participate in the 250th Anniversary Event on July 28-29 where we will also sell our Memoir/Cookbook. Coffee and pastries will be available both mornings. Be sure to attend this great town event – it occurs only once every 250 years – and stop by our booth to say hello.

Any questions call Norton Fletcher at 413-258-4520 or e-mail Josephine Freedman at freedmjl@aol.com. 

Note to All Subscribers

In the past few months, we have received 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.

Welcome Home, Little Apple Peeler

By Ron Bernard

Last year George and Cindy Short of Compton, NH, seeking information about one Elizur Spencer of Sandisfield, were referred to me. They had recently found an apple peeler made by Spencer at an antiques show in Concord. The dealer knew nothing about the piece, "including the fact that it retained its original paper label," Mr. Short said.

When I told the Shorts that Elizur Spencer was very likely the most skilled artisan ever to live in Sandisfield and that 2012 was Sandisfield's 250th anniversary, they decided to gift the peeler back to the town. They wrote, "Considering everything, it seems that Elizur's apple peeler didn't venture too far from home. We wish we could tell you more about its history and travels before we found it. At least we know that it has grand roots and we are very glad to see it returned home."


The peeler, at least 190 years old, is in superb condition, label and all. We do wonder, though, where it went and what it's been doing.

Considering the dizzying array of gizmos and labor-saving devices in our homes these days, it is hard to imagine how farming families in early Sandisfield got along without all the stuff. Actually, 200 years ago most homes here possessed a mechanical device that made life a little easier and increased farm output: the humble apple peeler.

The apple was a staple of life not only because of cider – apples could be preserved and were the basis for numerous foods. But all that peeling, coring and slicing was tedious and time consuming.

Enter the ingenious apple parer or peeler in about 1800. About 250 designs were patented in the 19th century. At least one of the earliest was the handiwork of Sandisfield's master woodworker, Elizur Spencer.

Spencer arrived from New Hartford, CT in 1803 with a wife and infant daughter. They purchased a house and working farm on New Hartford Road, today the home of Pat and Anthony Creem. Spencer "made spinning wheels, quill wheels, reels, swifts and paring machines" (and much more), according to town historian George Shepard writing in 1885. His magnificent spinning wheels are highly prized by antiquarians and several are still in town.

We are grateful to the Shorts for their thoughtfulness and generosity in donating the peeler to the Sandisfield Historical Society. There it will join its bigger "cousin," a Spencer spinning wheel, already in the society's collection. The peeler will be presented at this month's meeting (see Historical Society report on this page). There will be a discussion about the peeler and its creator. The public is invited and refreshments will be available. 



c.1810 Spencer apple peeler.

photo credit George Short

Selectmen's meeting – April 23, 2012

(cont'd from p.7)

Attending: Patrick Barrett, Richard Campetti, Jeff Gray, Steve Harasyko, Dolores Harasyko

Held public hearing for the Goossens property. Ads announcing the hearing had been placed in the Berkshire Record as required and abutters notified by registered mail. No abutters or members of the public were present. Mike Kulig and Charlie Peterson represented the Goossens. The addition to their home will not extend further than the pre-existing non-conforming structure. Special permit authorization was approved unanimously and the Town Clerk will hold the decision for the 20-day appeal period.

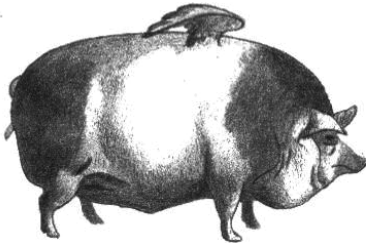
Steve presented Highway Department updates. MassDOT will hold a pre-construction meeting next Tuesday concerning the bridge at Routes 8 & 57. Richard, Steve and Jeff will try to attend.

Steve received a call from Barbara Cormier requesting that the Highway Department place a pole for electricity at Carr's field for the 250th celebration. Permission granted.

Patrick would like Steve to do a short inventory of all paved roads and the problems with those roads for the Annual Town Meeting. Steve is looking into a computer program for this.

Reviewed and signed contract for FEMA Storm Irene; reviewed and signed Chapter 90 paperwork. Town Clerk presented the Annual Town Warrant for review and signatures – signed by all.

Discussed a request from Maxene Kupperman-Guinal regarding Sandiswall 2012. She needs a large work area for putting the wall panels together and permission was given for her to use Old Town Hall on days that the building is not in use. 🐷



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 COME SEE WHAT'S GROWING, THE ROOSTER'S CROWING...OH-DE-DOO...

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8 - 10 am PANCAKE BREAKFAST

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 featuring Petting Zoo and Inflatable Park

11 am DOG SHOW 
 Community Dog Walk to follow

11:30 - 2 pm BURGERS & HOT DOGS
 provided by Boy Scout Troop 45 of Otis

**12:30 - 2 pm 3RD ANNUAL
 TALENT SHOW**

 **12:30 ZUMBATHON**

**2 - 4 pm CLIFF BRODEUR &
 THE HOUSATONIC PHILHARMONIC**

**4 - 10 pm TASTE OF OTIS &
 BEER GARDEN**

4 - 6:30 pm BERKSHIRE BATERIA

6:30 am - 9:30 pm DOOLEY AUSTIN

**7 - 9:30 pm PAJAMA PARTY &
 BABYSITTING**
 featuring the movie "WALL•E"
 (children 3–11 yrs)

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CelebrateOtis@yahoo.com

Selectmen's Letter

By Patrick Barrett


I would like to thank the voters of Sandisfield for re-electing me to serve another three-year term as your Selectman. I look forward to working with our Board to help put the town in the best possible position to earn grant monies. I want to continue improving communications in town by adding agendas and minutes to the Sandisfield Town Website. Our Board will also forge ahead with creating essential long-term planning for town buildings and fixing the deteriorating highway infrastructure

The Sandisfield Board of Selectmen is organizing a committee to look into the managerial structure of the town. This group will analyze our current structure, look at what other towns are doing, explore the concept of a town manager and make recommendations to the Selectmen. We are also forming a committee to look at our town buildings/facilities to put in place long-term plans for fixing our current structures or working towards a new municipal building. Any residents interested in actively participating on one of these committees please send a letter of interest or e-mail to Sandisfield Administrative Assistant, Dolores Harasyko.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Annual Town Meeting. There are a lot of important issues

facing Sandisfield and we sincerely appreciate people's willingness to get out and debate the future of our town. We would also like to thank Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko and town election workers for once again manning the polls during the annual May election. During this year's budget process residents were told that in order to pass the Proposition 2½ override a two-third majority of those voting was needed. Most people are now aware that in fact only a majority of votes was needed in order to raise our levy limit. As Chairman of the Sandisfield Board of Selectmen I take full responsibility for this error and apologize to town residents for the mistake.

The Sandisfield Fire Department and Emergency Medical Technicians recently completed a vehicle extrication class. Members of the Fire Department also completed training to become re-certified as first responders. Our community is a safer place to live thanks to the tireless efforts of our volunteer emergency members.

Preparations are continuing on Sandisfield's 250th celebration. We appreciate the hard-working volunteers for the work they have done on the 250th Committee as well as the numerous people in town who have helped prepare for this special day. This should be a wonderful community gathering that we will all be able to enjoy and take pride in. 



THE SANDISFIELD LIBRARY NEWS

By Laurie Foulke-Green, Librarian

Our "Summer Reading Dare" ("Sink your hooks into a good book! - W.V.G) program will start on Saturday, June 23rd. Children of all ages must sign up so please come to the library for your packet and details! The program will run through Saturday, August 11 when there will be a closing party, special prizes and a chance to create your own ice cream sundae!

Our Genealogy Assistance Classes have been extended! Our next classes are on June 27th, July 27th, August 29th and September 26th (all Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm).

And don't forget the Spring Book Sale! Paperbacks are 50 cents and hardcovers a dollar.

New books for June!

River of Time by local author Melissa Hamm

The Explorer's Code by Kitty Pilgrim

Beautiful Sacrifice by Elizabeth Lowell

A Conspiracy of Friends by Alexander McCall Smith

Spring Fever by Mary Kay Andrews

Beneath the Shadows by Sara Foster

Bonfire of the Vanities by Sara Booth Delaney

Gone Missing by Kate Burkholder

Wicked Business by Janet Evanovich

The Third Gate by Lincoln Child

Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooks

Heading Out to Wonderful by Robert Goolrick



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TOUR DE... SANDISFIELD??

By Jean Atwater-Williams

All photos (except where indicated) by Setsuko Winchester.

It was a peaceful Sunday morning. As I was cradling my coffee cup and savoring the sweet green springtime, a strange whirring sound broke through my sleepy idleness. And it was rapidly getting louder. All of a sudden, dozens of cyclists clad in colorful costumes perched atop sleek machines tore through town. After a quick web search, I discovered this seemingly endless parade of red-faced riders was actually the First Annual Berkshire Cycling Classic which took place on May 6th. The event is one of fifteen races on the UCI World Cycling Tour and the only one in the United States. Starting in Lenox, the 130 kilometer course wound through southern Berkshire County in a classic format known internationally as a Cyclosporitif or Gran Fondo. It traversed a very challenging route and according to John Eustice, a former US Pro Cycling champion, was reminiscent of a Tour de France stage in the Vosges Mountains of Eastern France. The ride featured several former professional cyclists including cycling legend Erik Zabel who has won more than 200 pro races. Cale Reeder of Cameron Park, California, won the race, finishing in 2 hours, 39 minutes. Mr. Zabel came in seventh. 🏆



Photo: Jean Atwater-Williams



ALL IN A DAY'S WORK *Article and Photos by Larry Dwyer*



Your life can change instantly if you're in a car accident and, if it happens to you, the first person you're most likely come in contact with will be the emergency rescue person. His or her training greatly affects your survival as well as their own safety.

The Sandisfield Fire Department recently held a rescue training day in early May on motor vehicle stabilization and rescue. Although cars are

now made safer for drivers, they have become more dangerous for rescue workers. One potential hazard is non-deployed air-bags. If they inadvertently deploy during a rescue, they can cause serious harm to rescuers or vehicle occupants. Another new hazard is the hybrid vehicle; with voltages as high as 360 volts, a hybrid vehicle has enough power to electrocute rescue personnel and electric vehicles can also suddenly move when they appear to be shut off.


"No accident is the same," said Fire Chief Ralph Morrison, who led the exercise. To keep rescuers and accident victims safe, a considerable amount of automotive technical expertise is required to know how to free victims in an automobile accident safely. Chief Morrison's 30 years of Firematic experience plus his background as an auto mechanic give him a distinct advantage as an instructor. 

PHOTO CAPTIONS:

Fire Chief Ralph Morrison (right) leads the rescue training. (bottom left hand photo)

Our women in the force: Zoe Nelson (EMT), Sandy Snyder (FD) and June Strickland (EMT). (bottom right hand photo)

SANDISFIELD 250TH ANNIVERSARY



June

Bird Walk with Doug Bruce, Berkshire Natural Resources Council-June 10 at 8:30 AM
Meet at Lower Spectacle Pond to walk along Cold Spring Road.
Bob's Way Dog Hike with the Berkshire Natural Resources Council-June 18 at 9:00 AM
This dog hike is for well-behaved, socialized dogs under voice control.

July

Sandisfield Historical Society Summer Fair, July 7
Butterfly Walk with Laura Rogers-Castro-July 14 at 10:00 AM
Meet at Snow Farm, 16 South Beech Plain Road.
Bob's Way Hike with Amanda L'Etoile, the Berkshire Natural Resources Council
-July 18 at 10:00 AM Bring snacks and water. Wear appropriate footwear.
Knox Trail Hike with Tom Ragusa and Ron Bernard-July 21 (raindate, July 22) at 10:00 AM
Learn about Knox's famous trek with captured British canons through Sandisfield in 1776.

Sandisfield 250th Celebration Weekend, July 27-29

Historical Encampment, featuring musket firings, woodworking demos, candlemaking, and weaving with Ye Olde Lebanon Towne Militia-July 27-29, Carr Field
Fireworks-Friday, July 27 at 9:15/9:30 PM, Carr Field

"Rascals & Others" at the Sandisfield Arts Center-Friday, July 27 at 7:30- 9:00 PM
The show features a dramatized collection of stories, songs, legends, and images.

Clam River Ramble with the Berkshire Natural Resources Council-July 28 at 10:00 AM
Meet at the Sandisfield Town Hall Annex. Moderate to strenuous hike.

Country Fair with Crafts, Food, Music, & Children's Activities-July 28 & 29 9:00 AM- 4 PM
at Carr Field, Route 57

Opening Ceremony at 9:00 AM-July 28
Children's Activities, including sack races, pie-eating contest, 3-leg race
Silent Auction, Sandisfield Scholarship Committee-Saturday, July 28
Cemetery Walking Tour-July 28
Housatonic Philharmonics (bluegrass)-July 28 at 2:30 PM

Fire Department BBQ (5 PM) & Dance with Harm's Way Band (7 PM)-July 28
at the American Legion Pavilion, Route 8

Classic Car Show, Yankee Street Rods-Sunday July 29 at Carr Field, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Local Farms Open House-Sunday, July 29. Pick up a map at the Country Fair, Carr Field.



For more information, visit www.sandisfield.info or Facebook (Sandisfield 250).
For information on hikes, visit www.BNRC.net or call Laura (413-258-4688).

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Comings and Goings



REMEMBERING WALTER WINK, GIANT THEOLOGIAN

1935-2012

Reconciliation (FOR), has been studied extensively at many institutions and church groups and tens of thousands of copies have been distributed.

After his first visit to South Africa in 1986 with his wife, June Keener Wink, he wrote *Jesus' Third Way: Violence and Nonviolence in South Africa*. The book was banned in apartheid South Africa so Wink and FOR printed another version and named it simply *Jesus' Third Way*, printing it with a plain brown cover. The addresses of 3,200 English-speaking clergy and church workers in South Africa were collected and, with the help of committees from several New England churches (many from Berkshire County), envelopes were hand-addressed and the book mailed to each of the 3,200 clergy, an inventive way to nonviolently deal with the apartheid government.

Wink's breakthrough insights about the contemporary meaning of the principalities and powers, and Jesus' third way of dealing with the enemy/oppressor – neither fight nor flight but nonviolent resistance – spoke powerfully to the struggle. He found eager audiences at retreat centers, churches and peace and justice groups in East and West Germany, Northern Ireland, Scotland, England, South Korea, Palestine, Aotearoa (New Zealand), Chile, Mexico and throughout the Americas. His presentations were in partnership with June, who made creative movement and art activities an essential part of the workshops, integrating mind, body and spirit into the experience of the participants. In 2006, both were honored with FOR's Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Award.

Walter Wink is survived by his wife, June, his brother Richard in Missouri, a daughter Rebecca in California, sons Steve and Chris in New York City, stepsons Kim in Blandford, MA and Kurt in North Carolina and eight grandchildren. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, June 16 at 12 noon at Union Seminary, 3041 Broadway (at 121st Street), New York City. All are welcome. Parking is available at Riverside Church between Riverside Drive and Claremont Ave., and between 120th-122nd Streets. 🇺🇸

Walter Wink, 76, one of the most creative and influential scholars of our day, died peacefully at his home in Sandisfield on May 10, 2012, surrounded by loving friends and family. His health had declined following a diagnosis of Lewy body dementia.

Born in Dallas, Texas and a graduate of Southern Methodist University, Wink received his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Theology degrees at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He became pastor of the First Methodist Church in Hitchcock, Texas for five years after which he served for nine years at Union Seminary as professor of New Testament. Later he became professor of biblical interpretation at Auburn Theological Seminary, also in New York City, retiring in 2005 as professor emeritus. Outspoken against the Vietnam War, Wink served on the national steering committee of Clergy and Laity Concerned About Vietnam from 1967 to 1976.

Wink was a prolific author of 16 prize-winning and widely studied books and hundreds of articles in the fields of biblical interpretation, war and peace and nonviolence. His acclaimed trilogy on "the principalities and powers," *The Powers – Naming the Powers, Unmasking the Powers, Engaging the Powers*, has been of continuing influence. *Engaging the Powers* was written during a sabbatical when Wink received a coveted Fellowship from the U.S. Institute of Peace.

His booklet *Homosexuality and the Bible*, reprinted numerous times by the Fellowship of



Walter.

On the afternoon that he died
The three flowers
On my kitchen window sill
Ever so slightly bowed their heads as if
to pray,
Then snapped right up again,
Reminding me that both faith
And candor would be around that
day.

You see it was upside down.
Jesus, he said, was a man
And the engines of war
Should rust among the honeybees
Of Innisfree
And we should walk in Africa
And Alabama
Until we're done.

Make no mistake,
He won't be back.
Walters' are markers...milestones
That we must polish
Every morning we're adrift,
And trace our acts of kindness
To his missionary gift.

Val Coleman
Sandisfield

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.

JUNE EVENTS

Saturday, June 2 - 10:00am -2:00pm - Community tag sale at the American Legion Hall for the benefit of the Council on Aging and the American Legion.

Saturday, June 9 - 5:00pm -7:00pm - Ham and potato dinner, Sandisfield Fire Station, Route 57. For the benefit of the New Boston Church.

NEARBY EVENTS

Saturday and Sunday, June 2-3, 11:00am-5:00pm An exhibition of historical images from the F. H. DeMars collection at The Shops and Artists at Whiting Mills, 10 Whiting Street, Winsted, CT. Free admission and refreshments.

Saturday, June 2, 7:00pm "Rock Stars of the Neolithic Era", a talk by photographer Lee Backer at the Meeting House Gallery, Route 57, New Marlborough.

Sundays, June 3, 10, 17, 2:00pm Open House at YMCA Camp Wa Wa Segowea in the Berkshires, 408 Foley Hill Rd., Southfield.

DEADLINE June 15th: New Marlborough Village Association Music & More's 2012 Murder Mystery Writers Contest - Death by Organic Food and Killer Clichés

This year's contest, titled "Slice 'em & Dice 'em or I think I need to Lie Down Now," culminates on Aug. 4 at 4:30 p.m. with a free public reading at the Meeting House at the village green on Route 57. Judges will select the top three winners.

Guidelines call for the victim or victims to be killed off with organic edibles that are ingested, absorbed or otherwise introduced into the body with lethal intent. In addition, this year each story must include at least one cliché relating to the story (i.e. "blood is thicker than water"). A humorous approach is welcome but not required.

After the readings, the winners will be announced and awarded prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100. Submission rules:

- Deadline for submissions is midnight, June 15, 2012.
- The contest is limited to full- or part-time Berkshire County residents.

- Manuscripts must be emailed to mystery-writerscontest2@gmail.com or sent on a CD to John Manikowski, P.O. Box 149, Mill River, MA, 01244. The first submission will be the only manuscript sent to judges so please do not send more than one manuscript
- The writer's name may not appear on the manuscript; submit name and contact information on a separate cover page.
- No hard copies will be accepted
- Writers may submit more than one story.

More about this year's contest and last year's winning stories can be found at <http://www.newmarlborough.org/Writers.htm>

Friday, June 22, "Sculpture on the Green", opening reception 5-7pm., Meeting House Gallery, Route 57, New Marlborough. Featured artists: Peter Barrett, Toby Frank, Ann Jon, Joe Wheaton, Robin Tost, Eric Callahan, Merrill Joseph, Ellen Murtaugh, River Kelly, Irving Wolbrom. Show runs June 23 - July 8.

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 is 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 is 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 Kuzmecz, Scoutmaster 258-4906 kuzmecz5@verizon.net.

Council on Aging, every Wednesday, 11 AM -2 PM, Senior Center - Town Hall Annex. Pot Luck 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.



Memorial Day, 2012

Ralph Leavenworth, Pipefitter

Photo: Richard Migot

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



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Elementary School (during the school year), the Farmington River Deli and Terranova's. Other locations include (in Monterey) the The Roadstore Cafe, the Monterey General Store and the Southfield Store.

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