

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume IX, Number 10

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“Here to Work for the People”

NEW DEPARTMENT HEAD TAKES TIME TO REFLECT

By Thomas Christopher

It's toward the end of a long day, and a bad one. A driving rain has combined with an extreme, unseasonable thaw to turn Sandisfield's 52 miles of dirt roads into axle-deep, sticky mud.

Brad Curry, just three days into his job as the Town's new Department of Public Works Superintendent, has spent the last eight hours dealing with emergencies. He's remarkably unfazed, though. In part, no doubt, because after fifteen years as a highway worker in western Massachusetts – including eleven as the highway superintendent in Blandford – he has dealt with similar situations before. Then, too, he already has his eye on the future.

“I'm here to work for the people,” he explains. “I don't have any businesses or anything like that. All I'm looking to do is do my job and be a public servant.”

Curry has some definite ideas about how to do that. Safety comes first: safety for the drivers of Sandisfield and for DPW personnel. Transparency is a priority as

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A New England Farm in Winter

By Brigitte Ruthman

The wind on your face can be kind or not.

A sweet brush on the cheek on a warm autumn day or an icy slap in whirling snow so soon after.

Like France's Le Mistral – born on alpine slopes to hurdle down through the Rhone Valley – the Berkshire's wind howls a forbidding chant as winter descends into its hill towns.

We behold the beauty of a cold cerulean sky amid shuffling clouds, sparkling snow reflecting stars in a winter moon, and every so often the spiritual sight of the Aurora Borealis ribboning the night sky. It's a season of unpredictability and harshness authors Mark Twain, E. B. White, Hal Borland, and Robert Frost so poetically claimed as New England's own.

The way to the lower pasture gate so recently lined with frogs and crickets in tall grasses is now a perilous journey on ice.

Careful steps.

In darkness, the wind rattles the windows trying to get in, curls up under the roof, and leaves the rafters groaning before crashing with a whoosh of rattling branches against the timber line. The hearth is warm.

The grey forbidding half-light is just nine hours.

There are cooped-up hens to feed and water and clean, sometimes after shoveling snow to get to the henhouse or crossing ice in spiked boots. Eggs to gather.

Snow collects in places to three or four feet when the wind wants to fill in the uneven ground. The drift is lying there in the morning, the corpse removed only to have it replaced by afternoon.

The gate to the cows feeding ring must be made accessible by tractor and a round bale delivered by spear, a perilous journey on ice.

There are waterers to pull in at night, ice to break through in the big trough, extension cords to run for a floating heater on the coldest days, and 50-pound bags of grain to unload.

Manure freezes on the cement pad outside the barn and can't be scraped on the coldest days. The ritual of chores stops when the drainpipe running from the milk room and the milking machine freeze up and the diesel engines are reluctant to start.

The cows hunker down inside, their ice-rimmed noses wanting the smell of grass. Now their tails are added to the list of things to clean, to keep the human milker from being swatted by their dirty, frozen summer flyswatters.



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No Personal Sticker? Prohibited Waste?

IT COULD COST YOU

FED-UP SELECT BOARD INSTITUTES
FINES AT TRANSFER STATION

By Ron Bernard



An outdated state regulation sign will be changed to better inform customers.

Question: What were "white goods," anyway?

Scofflaws have been put on notice that repeated failure to comply with Transfer Station rules will result in significant fines and possible loss of waste disposal privileges.

At its January 7 meeting, the Select Board voted 3-0 to adopt a policy change and a schedule of hefty fines for violations of long-standing rules about valid stickers and prohibited waste. Although the basic rules are the same, these fines are believed to be the first since the Transfer Station replaced the town dump at this location in the early 1980s.

"Seems to be the same people who just won't comply," said Selectman Brian O'Rourke. This has been going on for a quite a while and we have complaints. It is time to put teeth into this policy," he said.

The new teeth are intended to deal with two separate problems: lack of valid stickers, including use of other resident's stickers, and disposal of items prohibited by State law.

Inappropriate disposal, for example old paint cans disguised in a trash bag, which has happened, is an environmental problem and possible safety issue.

Moreover, Town Administrator Fred Ventresco told the Times that the state is taking a harder line with towns especially about trash thrown into recycle bins. It is the responsibility of the

town to control what goes into which bin and the town may be subject to citations. If you are unsure of what is acceptable, check with the station attendant.

The following is the new policy concerning fines:

Disposal of prohibited items, dumping without a current sticker, or using another household's sticker:

- **First offense: \$70. If for no sticker, will be waived if a current sticker is properly placed within 7 days of the offense.**
- **Second and subsequent offenses in same year: \$150, and revocation of Transfer Station Sticker if applicable.**

The DPW Superintendent or any police officer shall be responsible, as agents for the Board of Selectmen, for enforcing these rules and regulations.

Station attendants are authorized to inspect waste. They will notify town authorities of the license plates of violators. The Sandisfield police department may also monitor activity at the site.

The new rules can be found on the town web site at sandisfieldma.gov/transferstation or can be obtained from Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko at Town Hall. Rules will also be posted on the bulletin board at the Transfer Station. New comprehensive signage is being made and will be installed soon. Questions concerning residential requirements or status should be directed to the Town Clerk. 



Hands Off Those Green Ribbons

By Bill Price

Repair to State Highway 57, known locally as Sandisfield Road or Old Bumpy, will eventually be started. The green ribbons and tape here and there along the road are important first steps in that job.

But the job can't proceed until the culverts, stream crossings, and bridges are counted. That's the reason for the green ribbons and tape. They are markers that indicate what has already been counted by enumerators from the DPW and other official bodies.

So leave the ribbons and tape in place. They mark the beginning of the beginning. 

Got a VCR? A Broken AC?

ELECTRONICS COLLECTION
MOVES TO TRANSFER
STATION

By Bill Price

Adapted from Select Board Minutes: Don't take the electronic stuff you're getting rid of to Town Hall Annex anymore. The collection site has been moved to the Transfer Station.

But on your way there, you'll still have to stop at Town Hall.

Town Clerk Dolores Harasyko recommended at a December Select Board meeting that electronics collection be continued year-round but that fees be increased and the container relocated to the Transfer Station.

The Town can use a little more income from the fees charged for the items. In 2018, she reported, the Town collected \$334 for turned-in electronics, while the container cost \$1,325. And fees have been historically and ridiculously low. Currently a flat fee of \$5 is charged for any item and \$1 a cubic foot for refrigerators.

After checking with other towns, she recommended that fees be increased to:

- Florescent lightbulbs, \$1
- Refrigerators, \$25
- TV's: Console, \$20; Flat screen, \$10
- Air conditioners, \$20

All other small items such as computers, printers, laptops, telephones will remain at \$5 per item. Household batteries will continue to be collected for free.

She proposed that residents disposing of electronic items purchase a coupon at Town Hall Annex from either the Town Clerk or her assistant. The resident would then take the coupon to the transfer station where the attendant would unlock the container. No money would be collected at the Transfer Station.

The Select Board agreed to the fee increase and the new process. Both are in effect now. 

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

STARTING A NEW YEAR

Like several other local newspapers, The Times produces a combined issue during January and February. This gives our small staff a much-deserved break as well as allows us to save a few of your donated dollars on printing and other costs. As you know, The Times is largely the work of volunteers, neighbors who work hard every month to provide our town with an up-to-date and (hopefully, sometimes) entertaining source of news and information.

We have a little more help with pulling all that together now. Tim Brooks of New Boston recently joined The Times family.

In June, Tim and his partner, Ed Swiech, became full-time Sandisfield residents after 16 years of week-end travel back and forth from their home and careers in Boston. Retired after 33 years in higher education, Tim brings to the Times considerable

experience writing and editing newsletters. He has some background in fund-raising as well. Tim has written a few articles for us recently and this month brings us up-to-date regarding our long slog toward Broadband (see page 5).

Welcome, Tim.

Last year had more than its fair share of major news stories: from the major midwinter fire that destroyed the Town Garage to the major staffing issue late in the year that further roiled the Department of Public Works. A few of these stories were reported by The Berkshire Eagle and its knowledgeable hill country reporter, Heather Bellow.

But The Times produced its own brand of reporting, covering these events and a lot more of what was going on in Sandisfield. Not every town in the Berkshires has a paper like The Times. Those of us who produce it are proud of it. We hope you are, too.

Seth Kershner
Sandisfield Center

Bill Price
West New Boston

Police and Fire Chiefs Ask for Full-Time Help

A NEW PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER?

By Seth Kershner and Bill Price

Leading the New Year's wish list for Sandisfield's Police and Fire Chiefs is funding for a new, full-time position of Public Safety Officer.

The chiefs appeared before the Select Board in early December to make their case. The Public Safety Officer would be so named because of its hybrid role: whoever would be hired for this new, full-time position would serve as police officer, fireman, and EMT.

"The reason we need this position," said Police Chief Mike Morrison told the Board, "is because of the increase in calls, the hours needed to service those calls, and the increased paperwork needed to comply with State regulations and ambulance billing company requirements."

"These jobs have gone beyond a volunteer basis," he added. "And in any case, no one is stepping up to volunteer. The State training for these jobs and the ongoing recertification requirements have turned away a lot of residents who might have wanted to help, but simply don't have the time."

Chief Morrison and his brother, Fire Chief Ralph

Morrison, according to Select Board minutes, cited a few statistics to bolster their request. According to Pittsfield 911 dispatch records, in 2017 there were 303 police calls, 73 fire, and 71 ambulance calls in town; in 2018, 294 police, 88 fire, and 121 ambulance calls. "Our population is aging," said Ralph Morrison, "and the number of ambulance calls will continue to increase."

Reading from a draft job description, the Police Chief said that the Public Safety Officer would work 12-hour shifts: manning the police desk Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and serving on-call for the remaining four hours of each shift. He or she would also be expected to help with the departments' paperwork requirements.

The Fire Chief pointed out, "The paperwork required to recently renew the town's ambulance license required about 80 hours. We were lucky we had someone who could devote that kind of time to it. The Town's license states that we will provide ambulance service to the Town and to Tolland 24/7. If we can't, the State will no longer allow us to have a local ambulance service."

Selectman George Riley told the Sandisfield Times that the board was impressed by the Morrisons' presentation. "We are open to the idea," Riley said.

Police Chief Morrison said that the base yearly pay for the Public Safety Officer would be around \$51,200, including 100 hours of overtime. But rather than adding to the Town's budget, he claimed that creating the new position would somehow shave about \$19,000 from the current police salary budget.

At the conclusion of the December 10 presentation, the Board asked that the brothers "sharpen their pencils" and "come up with a solid figure" of "savings and efficiencies" associated with the proposed position.

The Select Board had until January 15 to consider both the proposed budget increase and the new position. They will then turn their recommendations over to the Finance Committee which will determine if the changes can proceed to a March vote on getting the proposals added to the Town Meeting warrant in May. 

A Poem for Val

He's here every month
In this spot in The Times,
In verse,
Amusing us or
Charming us
Or making us think.
He's been ill for a bit
But is home again
And OK now.
He asks to take a
Hiatus from Us
This month.
Okay, we say,
But be back in the saddle
Next month,
Old friend.

Bill Price
West New Boston

Select Board Taken to the Woodshed ...

... BUT THE EAGLE GETS THE PADDLING

By Bill Price

A recent editorial in The Berkshire Eagle scolded our Select Board over not having pursued criminal charges as a result of its allegations toward Sandisfield's former Highway Superintendent and his firing from the position.

The editorial admonished the town for not having "decided whether or not to file criminal charges against its former superintendent, but given the Select Board's foot-dragging and secrecy, residents would be better served if the investigation was turned over to a neutral body, perhaps the State Police."

The editorial drew a blistering response from the Board.

Since the facts of the incident have been adequately and correctly reported in both The Sandisfield Times and The Eagle, it would be redundant to repeat the allegations here. The Board's exchange with The Eagle is briefly mentioned in the Select Board report on this page.

Not unexpectedly, the Eagle editorial raised the ire of not only The Sandisfield Times but all three members of the Town's Select Board.

The same day the editorial was published, Selectman George Riley wrote a thoughtful but irritated response. Riley's letter to the editor was duly printed – after a delay of a few days – by The Eagle (which judiciously removed the words "misleading," "careless," and "libelous.>").

George's letter to the editor is reprinted below for readers who may have missed it in The Eagle and in an attempt to write *finis* to this saga. The words missing in George's letter to the editor have been reinserted.

"I was shocked," George wrote, "to see the misleading editorial of 12/6 in the Eagle entitled 'Secrecy in Sandisfield.'

"... As to the question of filing criminal charges against the former superintendent, I quote from the minutes of the Sandisfield Select Board Dec. 3 meeting:

"... In order for the town to seek further legal recourse we might have had to keep the former road superintendent on the payroll [on paid 'administrative leave'] for 8 to 12 months until the claim was settled. The actual cost of theft that could be proven was a misdemeanor amount of about \$5,000. We would also not have been able to hire a new road superintendent until the claim was settled. The selectmen agreed it was in the best interest of the town to end this problem as soon as possible and without more cost to the town."

George concluded: "Our lawyer commented to us that he had never seen this kind of Town issue settled so quickly. The Eagle's editorial is careless at best, and libelous at worst. The Select Board's course of action does not, in my view, constitute 'foot-dragging and secrecy,' but rather the Board's best attempts to follow the law and to act in the best interests of the Town which we serve." 🍷

Select Board Report

In addition to regular Monday business, the Select Board has been meeting weekly for departmental budget reviews. We will finish this process by January 15, at which point the budgets will be turned over to the Finance Committee for their own further review.

As you no doubt know, we hired a new DPW Superintendent, Brad Curry, who entered the fray on December 19, and so far has done commendable work. The DPW team is functioning well, and we are grateful for all their efforts as our ever more unpredictable and volatile winter gets underway.

The Town joins the Board in giving our deepest thanks to Mark Newman, who jumped in wholeheartedly for three months as Interim DPW Superintendent and not only kept the ship valiantly afloat, but dealt successfully with some extremely challenging weather during that time. We know that Mark, despite his dedication, is quite happy to turn the reins over to Brad. Thank you, Mark!

The new DPW garage still needs a number of finishing touches, but by the time you read this the crew and the equipment should be indoors, and an Open House is in the works.

A somewhat misleading article followed by a defamatory editorial in The Berkshire Eagle about the former DPW situation prompted a corrective letter to the editor by Selectman Riley. We expect this puts an end to the matter.

Two selectmen attended a meeting in Springfield of the Sandisfield Broadband Committee, Crocker Communications, and representatives of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute. The goal was to clarify the respective responsibilities of these three entities with the intention to move forward. The bad news is that the entire process from start to finish will take two-and-a-half to three years. The good news is that we are making progress. Residents can read the details from the Broadband Committee on the Town website. (And the related report in this issue of The Times on page 5.)

Progress is also being made slowly on Route 57. Another five-town meeting has brought us a step further on our multi-year plan. Counting culverts and stream crossings has begun.

Good news on our grant applications: we received a grant of \$20,000 to research making our town more resilient to climate change; we also received grants for a cardboard compactor and a swap shop at the transfer station. And we have been notified that our Green Communities application was approved, making us eligible for \$129,000 in energy-saving projects each year. Congratulations to the Green Team for this success!

Happy New Year to all! 🍷

Mark Newman
Brian O'Rourke
George Riley

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Where Are We Re Broadband?

RUNNING IN PLACE, BUT MAYBE LEANING FORWARD

By Tim Brooks

At this point in our daily lives, living without broadband Internet service seems like an impossible situation. According to some realtors, telling a prospective home-buyer that broadband is not yet available in Sandisfield is like telling them there is no "indoor plumbing."

So, what is the status of the Town's efforts to bring broadband to the residents of Sandisfield? According to Town Selectman George Riley, "Progress is being made, but patience is still needed, as the town navigates a path through some important next steps. The entire process, including the pole survey by Verizon, is likely to take 2½ years."

The latest news began four months ago:

In mid-October, the Board of Selectmen approved and signed an action plan developed by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) for the project proposed by Crocker Communications, which is based in Springfield. MBI will provide the town with a \$25,000 Professional Services Grant to procure technical and legal support services as necessary. In early November, the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative signed on to the plan. Then, in early December, representatives from the town, MBI, and Crocker Communications met to review the action plan and discuss next steps.

Crocker Communications is to lead a due diligence process to identify, address, and resolve a full range of technical, business, and legal issues with the proposed plan. Upon successful completion of that step, the town will enter into a comprehensive broadband Internet services agreement with Crocker Communications to provide broadband Internet services for a period of at least 10 years to 96 percent of Sandisfield residents.

At this point, Crocker is the only company offering to bring broadband services to Sandisfield.

But a few companies that are building broadband systems for other small towns in Berkshire County may still offer options for the Town. The Select Board has reserved the right to select a more advantageous option for the Town, should

another company make a similarly comprehensive proposal. In the meantime, Crocker will be moving this process along, by determining a coverage percentage (in cooperation with Verizon), a roll-out timeline, and the sources and amounts of funding still required to deliver the proposed services.

The resolution of important funding issues still lies ahead as Crocker Communications attempts to secure all the funding necessary for the project from both the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). In the event that Crocker is unsuccessful in securing *all* the funds needed, the Select Board has agreed to contribute town funds as necessary.

According to a December 10 broadband update posted on the Town website, www.sandisfieldma.gov by the Sandisfield Broadband Committee, "Crocker expects to understand the project funding picture much better by the end of the first quarter of 2019." ❧

A NEW ENGLAND FARM IN WINTER CONT'D FROM P.1

A tractor pin will work for now until the broken hook to the calf pen can be replaced. The trap that needs setting to catch the opossum lurking near the chickens needs rewiring.



The dirt road this year has posed an obstacle course of mud three months before mud season's usual start. The mire seemed enough to swallow a small car and its driver. Even the hunters have fled the unkempt forest road, rather than argue with it.

Global warming, maybe. A record of one sort of another for the weather books. It's home in New England after all. ❧

Brigitte Ruthman owns and operates Joshua's Farm in Sandisfield.



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“HERE TO WORK FOR THE PEOPLE”**CONT'D FROM P.1**

well. “A well-informed public is better than one that is kept in the dark,” he asserts, suggesting that perhaps a page of the Town website could be devoted to updating residents on his department’s activities and scheduled work. “I’ve learned a lot over the years,” he

for that answer. I don’t care if I have to call a senator, a representative, the A.G.’s office, I’m going to find that answer. Because they asked.”

Maintaining the roads, Curry is quite definite, is a cooperative job. He’s looking forward to working with the Select Board, the Fire and Police Departments, the Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission. “You’ve really got to work together as a team in a small town.”

There will be limitations, however, Curry acknowledges. He has to work within the confines of the DPW’s budget and equipment, which he is sure will be frustrating at times. Curry believes the Highway Department can manage those constraints through careful planning. He wants to assemble a three- to five-year plan for upgrading the roads and to work with the Finance Committee to create a capital plan so that when the time comes to replace a grader or a loader or other major piece of equipment there won’t be a sudden spike in the budget.

What is the greatest challenge facing him? Curry acknowledges the challenge of Sandisfield’s dirt roads, and Route 57’s need for repair, which will involve partnering with neighboring towns.

“In any small town,” he says, “one of the challenges is to meet the expectations of the public. Probably the greatest challenge.

“I don’t want to be one of those guys who sits here and says, ‘I’m going to do this and I’m going to do that,’ but I’m going to try. I’m going to try to fix your roads. I’m going to try to get you more money. I’m going to try to get you grants. I’m going to try to get a bridge grant. I’m going to try to get a STRAP grant.” In fact, he’s worked successfully with Blandford’s town government on such ventures in the past. “I’m trying,” Brad Curry says, “to give he people of Sandisfield a safe road.”



New DPW Chief Brad Curry.

Photo: Tom Christopher

said, “and I learn every day.” Not just from the insights of the people he works with, he adds, but also because “I’m not afraid to go ask a question. Not afraid to go find an answer. If a resident comes to me with a question and says ‘hey, why can’t we do this?’ Well, if I don’t have the answer, I’m going to find out. I’m going to go look

Letter to the Editor

BRAD, WELCOME TO SANDISFIELD

The spring-like temperatures and abundant rain have recently wreaked havoc on the town’s dirt roads. I live on one of them.

On Sunday, December 23, returning from church, I had to once again brace myself before heading up Rood Hill Road where I live. It was a terrifying experience. The road resembled a mosh pit. The mud caused my car to slide, and the deep ruts pulled me in directions I did not want to go. Once home I called the new road superintendent and politely asked if there was anything that could be done. I had family coming for Christmas, and I was concerned that they would not make it up the road. The next day, Christmas Eve, the road was raked. Best Christmas gift I could have received.

A week later, after several additional days of mild temperatures, I encountered the same situation. I again called the new superintendent to relay the sheer anxiety I feel every time having to use the road. He said that he would see what he could do. The following day, New Year’s Eve, I set out to walk down the road to get the mail. I was actually startled to see that the road had once again been raked, eliminating all ruts and restoring some semblance of a road.

As I write this letter, the temperature is around 45 degrees, far warmer than normal, and I am sure that the road has suffered once again, but I am so incredibly impressed by the reaction our new Superintendent. He not only listened to me, but he heard. Thank you to all those in the that helped with the road work, and thank you, Brad. Welcome to Sandisfield!

*Susan Van Sickle
Rood Hill Road*

The Bridge and the Garage

By Seth Kershner

Mark Newman had good news to report about the Town’s Department of Public Works in a recent phone conversation with The Times.

The Select Board Chairman and until recently Interim DPW Superintendent, Newman said that the recent and long-in-completion renovation of the Rugg Bridge was “so far holding up quite well” under the assault of snow plows. He had said early last winter that the test of the bridge decking, repaired in October, would occur “the first time a snow plow goes over it.”

Not that there has been an abundance of snow yet to really test the bridge surface.

In response to a rainy December that left many dirt roads a muddy mess (see Susan Van Sickle’s letter this page), the Town’s highway crew did an exceptional job, according to Newman. “I really have to give the guys credit,” he said, “for keeping on top of this crazy winter weather we’ve been having.”



Our new garage nearly completed.

Photo: Ron Bernard

Meanwhile, work on the new Town garage is nearly complete. By the time this issue is in your hands, the crew and equipment may be working and parked inside and under the roof. Newman said that the only project they are waiting on is wiring for the new fuel tank – part of a sophisticated system that will keep track of how much fuel is being used by Town vehicles.

The Select Board and the DPW are planning to hold a community open house when the new garage is ready for business. Newman reports that they should be ready soon to announce a date and time.



The Librarian's Corner

By Terry Spohnholz

Library Hours:

Monday and Tuesday, 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.;

Wednesday, 2:00-5:00 p.m.; Thursday, 5:00-7:00 p.m.;

Saturday, 10:00 a.m.-1 p.m.

More White, More Cold

The Snow

By Emily Dickinson

It sifts from leaden sieves,
It powders all the wood,
It fills with alabaster wool
The wrinkles of the road.

It makes an even face
Of mountain and of plain, —
Unbroken forehead from the east
Unto the east again.

It reaches to the fence,
It wraps it, rail by rail,
Till it is lost in fleeces;
It flings a crystal veil

On stump and stack and stem, —
The summer's empty room,
Acres of seams where harvests were,
Recordless, but for them.

It ruffles wrists of posts,
As ankles of a queen, —
Then stills its artisans like ghosts,
Denying they have been.

Winter rattles my door, spreading icy tentacles across window panes, chilling the air, and cloaking all the outside world in endless white. Even the deck boards shriek at the relentless cold as I scurry from warm car to warmer home.

I would like to say I hate these dark, cold New England days, but I must confess I do not. I find being curled up in my comfy chair, with the pellet stove roaring, and hot chocolate steaming to be quite restful. I am not required to chide myself for not raking or planting or weeding.

For the winter months excuse me from those chores. I can simply abide in my warmth with thick books stacked beside me like presents to be opened, admired and indulged in while winter stays tethered outside.

NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

Of Blood and Bone by Nora Roberts. The sequel to *Year One*, this is a tale of terror and magic in a post-apocalyptic landscape. *The Chronicles of the One* becomes both darker and more intense. As Fallon begins training for leadership and battle, she evolves into a powerful young woman who knows what must be done to save the people she loves.

Pandemic by Robin Cook. When an unidentified woman shows up on his autopsy table, Medical Examiner Jack Stapleton fears the circumstances of her death might point to a new pandemic in this latest thriller by the NY Times bestselling author.

The Fox by Frederick Forsyth. The master of international intrigue takes readers into the world of technological espionage in a thriller that feels chillingly real. Former Deputy Chief of the British Secret Intelligence Service Adrian Weston must stay one step ahead of multiple invisible enemies while finding a way to utilize the most powerful and unpredictable weapon of all.

The Enemy of My Enemy by W.E.B. Griffin. This latest of Griffin's clandestine operations novels is another riveting story of the period between WWII and the Cold War, filled with crackling realism,

adventure, and rich characters with a flair for the military heart and mind.

AND OTHER THINGS . . .

Not sure how to entertain the children and/or grandchildren after the Christmas gifts have been unwrapped, played with, and now lay discarded in a corner? **The library has family passes for several fairly local museums.** These include five museums in Springfield (Dr. Suess is one of them!) as well as the Clark Art Museum in Williamstown and the Children's Science Center in Hartford, Connecticut. Stop by the library and inquire.

Our wonderful craft person, **Lynn Rubenstein**, is back for more creative **Kids Arts and Crafts at the Library.** Join us for cutting, pasting, imagining, and a fun- filled time. Check with the Librarian for the date, but the time is 10 a.m. until noon and late comers are welcome.

Community Play group in the Sandisfield Community Center. Join this weekly play group for families with children from birth to five years old. Free play, table-top activities, and story time in the library. The program is free. No registration is required. Every Monday morning from 9:30 until 11:00 a.m. at the Community Center (below the library).

Enjoy the warmth of a good book during these cold months. I shall. 📖

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Police/Fire/EMS Logs



POLICE

November 911 Incidents

November 1 Medical call, Sandisfield Road
 November 2 Medical call, New Marlborough
 November 4 Medical call, New Hartford Road
 November 2 Burglar alarm activation, Tolland Road
 November 5 Motor vehicle accident, North Main Street
 November 5 Suspicious activity, North Main Street
 November 7 Motor vehicle accident, North Main Street
 November 10 Burglar Alarm activation, Sandisfield Road
 November 11 Well-being check, Sandisfield Road
 November 17 Motor vehicle accident, Tolland Road
 November 17 Erratic motor vehicle operation,
 Sandisfield Road

November 19 Medical call, South Beech Plain Road
 November 19 Well-being check, Sandisfield Road
 November 21 Medical call, Sears Road
 November 21 Medical call, Sandisfield Road
 November 25 Medical call, Sandisfield Road
 November 25 Medical call, Sandisfield Road
 November 26 Tree on wires, Hubbard Road
 November 26 Medical call, Sandisfield Road
 November 29 Medical call, South Beech Plain Road
 November 29 Medical call, Sandisfield Road
 November 30 Medical call, Sandisfield Road
 November 30 Well-being check, Shade Road

December 911 Incidents

December 3 Medical call, Roberts Road
 December 4 Citizen complaint, Sandisfield Road
 December 4 Medical call, West Street
 December 4 Burglar alarm activation (two),
 South Beech Plain Road

December 4 Investigation follow-up, Sandisfield Road
 December 5 Medical call, Sandisfield Road
 December 5 Fire alarm, Silverbrook Road
 December 8 911 Hang up, Sandisfield Road
 December 9 Disabled motor vehicle, Tolland Road
 December 11 911 Hang up, South Beech Plain Road
 December 16 Medical call, Sandisfield Road
 December 16 Medical call, Sandisfield Road
 December 16 Erratic motor vehicle operation,
 Town Hill Road
 December 18 Tree on wires, North Main Street
 December 19 Suspicious person, South Main Street
 December 21 Medical call, South Beech Plain Road
 December 22 Medical call, South Beech Plain Road
 December 22 Mutual aid, fire, Tolland
 December 23 Burglar alarm activation,
 East Hubbard Road
 December 31 Fire alarm, South Beech Plain Road



FIRE

November 911 Incidents

November 14 Trees on wires, stand-by for Eversource

December 911 Incidents

December 5 Fire alarm activation, investigate cause,
 no fire
 December 9 Illegal outside burn, homeowner
 extinguished fire
 December 22 Standby at station while Otis FD is at
 structure fire
 December 22 Mutual aid to Tolland structure fires,
 two engines and on tanker
 December 21 Standby for Tolland FD while Tolland
 provides mutual aid to Granville
 December 31 Smoke detector activation, investigate,
 no fire



EMS

November 911 Incidents

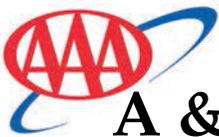
November 1 Medical call, Otis Ambulance responded
 November 1 Standby for South County, multiple calls
 November 7 Medical call to Otis,
 Becket Ambulance responded
 November 7 Medical call, transport to
 Fairview Hospital, Great Barrington
 November 17 Medical call, Tolland motor vehicle accident,
 no transport
 November 21 Medical call, transport to
 Fairview Hospital
 November 21 Medical call, Otis Ambulance responded,
 Sandisfield on prior call
 November 25 Medical call, transport to Fairview Hospital
 November 25 Medical call, no transport
 November 29 Medical call, Otis Ambulance responded
 November 29 Medical call, transport to Fairview Hospital
 November 30 Medical call, Otis Ambulance responded

December 911 Incidents

December 3 Medical call, no transport
 December 4 Medical call, Otis Ambulance,
 SBVAC responded, no transport
 December 16 Medical call, transport to Fairview Hospital
 December 16 Medical call, transport to Fairview Hospital
 December 17 Medical call, Tolland, Sandisfield had no crew,
 Otis Ambulance transported to Fairview Hospital
 December 21 Medical call, transported to
 Fairview Hospital
 December 22 Medical call, transported to
 Fairview Hospital
 December 22 Mutual aid to Tolland, standby at
 structure fire
 December 25 Medical call, Tolland, transport to
 Baystate-Noble Hospital in Westfield

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Council on Aging



Come to Lunch on Wednesdays!

By Nina Carr

The Sandisfield Council on Aging ended 2018 with two well attended and enjoyable events.

On December 10 we made wreaths and swags and had some good laughs with our mentor and teacher from Wild Flowers in Great Barrington.

We also enjoyed a very nice holiday lunch at the Knox Trail Inn. Sadly, we missed the companionship of two of our long-time members, Norton Fletcher and Marty Love. We raised a glass in remembrance to them.

The council concluded a six-week trial Yoga class led by town resident Alex Tinari, which was enjoyed by everyone who attended. The board is currently working on new classes for the winter and spring. We welcome any and all suggestions for health and wellness classes, as well as craft activities. Look for announcements in our newsletter, "Connect Sandisfield," and in The Times.

Remember that the Council will continue to meet at the Town Hall Annex on Wednesdays at around 11:30 for lunch and activities. On the third Wednesday of each month we play cards; on the fourth Wednesday we offer a blood pressure clinic and consultation with the nurse from Porchlight VNA.

If you need transportation for doctor visits or shopping we offer rides at no charge from local volunteer drivers on Tuesdays. Call Linda Riiska at 258-4816 or me at 258-3314. The volunteer driver is reimbursed for mileage out of our state grant. On Thursdays, rides are available from Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation at a cost of \$10. Phone 413-528-4773. We also have a "loaner closet" with walkers and other items when needed.

Don't sit home and mope this winter, come out and join us on Wednesdays! We'll come by and pick you up if you need a ride to Town Hall Annex. 

Sandisfield Historical Society



Thanks for a Good Year and A Wonderful Christmas Fair

By Ann Wald, President

Our Christmas Fair is over and what a wonderful day it was. We want to thank all the vendors, also everyone who supported us with your purchases.

There was a large hole in our festivities this year with the loss of Norton. More than once his name was mentioned, and I know he would have been proud of our endeavors and that we're continuing on with the Society.

For the Fair, I wish to thank Gary Bottum, Sr., Andy Snyder, and Zak Stone for taking the fire-trucks out of the building and setting up all the tables, then taking everything down and returning the trucks back into the building at the end of the day. It was a big job. We also thank the fire department for allowing us to use their building.

For a while we were lucky to have music provided by a brass ensemble consisting of Tom O'Gara, Jim Stolberg, Joseph Veronezi, and Rick Klinger. What a lovely sound as they played Christmas songs.

The ladies from the New Boston Congregational Church served wonderful chili, soup, and hot dogs.

John Kuzmech squeezed apples for our Apple Fest in October and at the Christmas Fair became a very jolly Santa Claus.

Our thanks to the Recreation Committee for providing gifts for the children at the Christmas Fair, to officer Mike Johnson for directing traffic, and to Rose Nelson for staying outside, in the cold, with her horses. The children loved being up close with the horses.

Thank you to the Council on Aging for their donation of a cheese platter at our November meeting honoring Norton Fletcher and our veterans, also to Norton's family, Stephen and Beverly, for their donation of food platters. We thank Riiska's Orchard for the donation of apples for our apple festival in October and Bill Carr for the stakes

that hold up our signs.

Thank you Steve and Lynn Rubenstein for providing a Port-a-Potty at the Society for the last two years.

A special thanks to our members for their unconditional support. I personally would like to thank everyone for all the help and contributions this past year. None of this works without the help of everyone. If I have missed someone in my list of thank you's, please forgive me.

Last but not least, I'd personally like to thank Vicky, Pauline, Ray, and Bill Bakunis. Their help and support goes above and beyond. I do not know what I would do without them.

This Spring will bring us into a major fund-raising effort. We will need someone with a machine to dig a ditch on either side of the building in order to connect the septic and well. Both have been installed but have yet to be brought into the building. We will need to have the septic and the well inspected. At this time we have a bathroom, kitchen sink, and a toilet, ready to be installed. You can expect to hear from us for our fund raising to help us to fix the roof and get water into and out of the building. In 2019 we may have a bathroom in the building. 

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The Good Old Days



COORDINATED POLICE RAID RESULTS IN SANDISFIELD DRUG BUST

As reported May 30, 1981, in The Record, a bi-weekly newspaper covering Sandisfield, Otis, and Tolland. Written by Phil Blampied, The Record's editor.

A dramatic police operation involving four different police agencies results in the arrest of alleged marijuana sellers in Sandisfield around midnight, Wednesday, May 20, arousing the startled curiosity of several town residents.

Arrested were Sandisfield resident Jonathan B. Shapiro, 24, of Beech Plain Road; Mark S. Calderone, 25, of Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington; and Jerry Lisk, 34, of Paramus, N.J. They were arraigned in Lee on May 21. Calderone and Shapiro are being held at the Pittsfield Correctional Center on \$1,000 cash bond, while Lisk has been taken to Boston on \$100,000 bond.

According to police 25 pounds of marijuana

were confiscated in the arrest.

The arrest occurred in the parking lot of the Silver Brook Grille, on Rt. 57, about 11:25 pm on May 20. Police followed the arrest several hours later with a search of Shapiro's residence on Beech Plain Road.

The Sandisfield arrest involved Sandisfield Police Chief Stephen McGuin, Connecticut and Massachusetts state police, and agents of the federal Drug Enforcement Agency. The arrest was a culmination of an investigation triggered, in part, by inquiries made by Sandisfield chief McGuin about three months ago. McGuin worked with Connecticut state police in starting the investigation which is

why, he explains, Connecticut officers finally participated in the May 20 arrest. Federal agents, in turn, were involved because the suspects apparently crossed state lines in their activities.

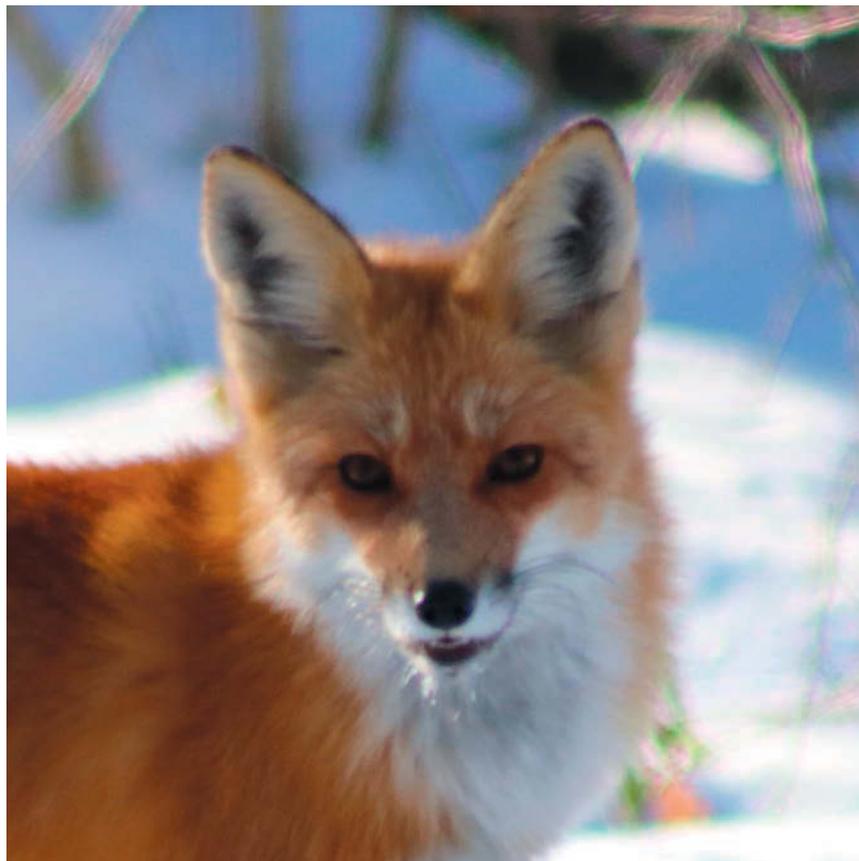
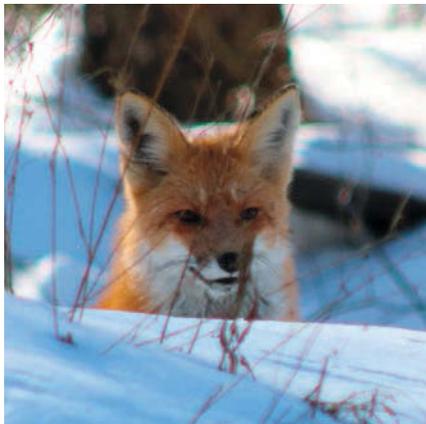
The arrest itself was a dramatic scene, as McGuin describes it, "of seven or eight cars appearing out of nowhere and people running around like you wouldn't believe." Some residents near the scene thought, at first, that a fight was going on. "I almost called the police," says one neighbor.

The suspects were charged with conspiracy, possession, and intent to distribute marijuana.

A Winter Hunter

November 22 last year, 12:54 p.m., a nice sunny day. Through our sliding door, Tom saw a fox walking fast. He said, "Fox went by the back of the house." Downstairs, I grabbed my camera and went outside. I looked to my left, and there he was, not far away, trying to catch one of the squirrels. His head popped up over the snowbank and he looked at me. Then he walked around it and past me. He stopped and looked at me again. He walked away. We see him around here a lot, an amazing, beautiful red fox.

Photo and text: Cindy Ragusa





WINTER SNOWFALL AND EXTREMES

2018-2019 to date, as measured/
estimated at a Beech Plain back-
yard weather station.

Extreme Events	Nov 26	2
Nov 22, T'Day 2 degrees F	Nov 28	1.5
Nov 23 -1 degree F	November Total	11.5 inches
Dec 20-22 2.71 inches rain	Dec 6	1
	Dec 13	1.5
	Dec 16	1
	Dec 18	0.5
	December Total	4 inches
	January 2019 to date	

SNOWFALL

November-December 2018	Jan 9	1.5 inches
Nov 15-16 8 inches	Season to date	17 inches

Town Going Green

AN AWARD OF \$128K WILL HELP

By Bill Price

The Town, through hard work by the Green Community Committee and others, has been awarded a large cash grant that will require even more work by the committee.

A letter dated December 27 from the Commonwealth's Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs announced that Sandisfield has been designated a "Green Community" by the Department of Energy Resources. With that designation, the Town is eligible for a grant totaling \$128,805.

To receive the grant, the Town is required to submit a project application proposing how the award money will be spent toward reducing its energy costs, improving the local environment, and implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Facing a February 8 deadline for submitting the application, the committee is already at work. The project's regional coordinator, Jim Barry, will work with the Town and the committee to identify potential energy projects and coordinate with vendors and utility companies.

Committee members include Anina Carr, Larry Dwyer, and George Riley with assistance from Town Administrator Fred Ventresco and Dawn Lemon. Nina Carr added, "We also had a lot of help from Berkshire Regional Planning." 

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Villa Mia's Winter Hours

Dia and Tommy Klenja would like readers to know that their restaurant – well-known for delicious pizza, pasta, and off-menu ethnic specialties like baklava – will be open reduced hours during the winter.

Each week Villa Mia, located at 90 South Main Street (Route 8), will be open Thursday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

April 1, they will return to normal hours of operation, Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

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MEMORY LANE

SANDISFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

Memory Lane Quiz

Photos: Don Victor/Sandisfield Times Archives

Can you name these happy kids who celebrated Valentine's Day, 1982, at the former "New School" (now Town Hall Annex)? Identify as many as you can from left to right and send your answers by email to: editor@SandisfieldTimes.org or by postal to Sandisfield Times, PO Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255. We hope you have as much fun as these kids seemed to be having 37 years ago!



Comings & Goings



VALERIE LEBRUN SMITH

1934-2018

Valerie LeBrun Smith, 84, died peacefully at home with family by her side on December 4. A 14-year resident of Sandisfield, Valerie had lived in Great Barrington since 2001.

Born to Thomas Walter LeBrun and Vera Nordenberg LeBrun on October 2, 1934 in Rockville Centre, New York, Valerie grew up with brothers Thomas and Russell in Pine Plains, New York. There, her family lived on a farm named Sky Acres, a defining experience in her life. Valerie graduated from the Oak Grove School for Girls in East Vassalboro, Maine, and then Wellesley College in 1956 with a major in Bible Studies.

While working as a social worker for the Boston Missionary Society, Valerie met her husband, Howard William Smith, a Harvard Divinity School student. From the first moment she saw Howard to his passing some 50 years later, he was the love of her life. Married in 1957, they started their family in Hanover, New Hampshire and Saxton's River, Vermont where Howard was a Congregational minister.

Valerie dedicated her passion and skills to raising children and being of invaluable service to parishioners. During the sixties the Civil Rights Movement led them to Silver Spring, Maryland and the South Side of Chicago where they became involved in programs working to establish racial integration and fair housing.

Next the family settled in the Hartford, Connecticut area where Valerie helped Howard create an executive search practice. In addition, she served on the boards of the Interval House (home for battered women) and Loaves & Fishes (community food pantry). In the last chapter of her professional career, Valerie worked as the Assistant to the Executive Director of Catholic Family Services in Hartford.

Valerie and Howard retired to Sandisfield in 1987 where in their home on Silverbrook Road they enjoyed some of the happiest and most festive years of their union. In many ways it was, for Valerie, a return to her roots, as she could once again enjoy the pleasures of living in a farmhouse among a

community of neighbors where each stood ready and willing to help another. In 2001, Valerie and Howard made their final home in Great Barrington.

They sold their Sandisfield home to the writer Simon Winchester, who remarked that he would never forget the Smith's kindness during and after the process of house purchase. "Valerie hosted a party for me, inviting everyone she and Howard thought I ought to know. She said that Sandisfield's unique nature meant that one could be as gregarious or as solitary as one chose. Based on her own experience, she knew the townsfolk would respect privacy or be always ready to help." She visited the Winchesters frequently, saying each time she left how she missed Sandisfield more than anywhere else she had ever lived.

Valerie's Christian faith was the bedrock of her personal and family values and provided an enduring ethic by which she chose to lead her life, and one which she passed on to her children and grandchildren. In every community in which she lived, she was an active member of a church, most notably Asylum Hill Church of Hartford and St. James Episcopal Church in Great Barrington. She made fast friends wherever she went; many relationships would last a lifetime. As she often pointed out, she was a bridesmaid 13 times but only once a bride.

Valerie leaves her three children: Ann Smith and partner Tommy Sutton of Austin, Texas; Michael Smith and wife Lauren Smith of Great Barrington; Julie Smith and husband Tim Oakes of Lyons, Colorado; seven grandchildren; a brother, Russell LeBrun, and a niece, Michelle LeBrun.

A memorial service was held in Great Barrington on December 23. Donations in Valerie's memory may be made to Fairview Hospital (Great Barrington) or Catholic Charities (Hartford) through Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington 01230.

A slightly different version of this obituary appeared in The Hartford Courant and The Berkshire Eagle in December.

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Photo courtesy of The Berkshire Edge



What Happens to That Bottle?

DOES IT FLOAT OVER HERE?

By Bill Price

When we're finished with a piece of plastic, particularly single-use water bottles and other containers, we need to throw it into the recycling bin at the Sandisfield Transfer Station. Otherwise, as hard as it is to believe, that plastic can eventually wind up in the famous Island of Plastic in the Pacific Ocean between California and Hawaii.

The island, covering more than 600,000 square miles, is larger than many vacation spots that draw us far from a Berkshire winter. But there's no fun to be found there.

The plastics, discarded from landfills and who knows where else, float seemingly forever into and across the ocean, drifting into the same area of the sea thanks to ocean currents and wind patterns, some very likely from the Atlantic. Many of the world's newspapers and websites, as far different as The Irish Times and The Berkshire Edge, have printed photos and articles about the increasing problem.

The Irish Times last year reported that a "giant island of plastic floating in the Pacific Ocean holds as much as 16 times more debris than was previously thought."

The "garbage patch" is not all bottles, but contains other kinds of plastic containers, packaging, fishing nets, and ropes. A petroleum-based product, plastic "disintegrates slowly and one item pulled from the patch was about 40 years old." The Times added that the plastic can pose "a significant threat to the food chain." The plastic can harm marine life by killing turtles and dolphins and whales that ingest it and "it harms humans by entering the food chain in the form of microplastics."

Nearly 200 nations have passed "a United Nations resolution to eliminate plastic pollution in the sea." Several communities and state agencies in the U.S. and Europe have banned the use of single-use plastic.

As a participant in local efforts to help win World War II, I recall as a small kid stomping on empty tin cans to flatten them so they could be turned in to recycling stations to be made into metal for trucks and tanks and airplanes that would help our soldiers. It was true then and is still true, every little bit helps. Anyone buying water in a plastic bottle should wonder, when the water is gone, where does the bottle go? ♻️

OUT ON A LIMB: AN OP-ED

Subjects should be interesting to most of us and have a strong link to Sandisfield, written by and for Town residents.

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The Times is grateful to all donors who responded so generously to our 2018 appeal.

Previous donors to this year's appeal were listed in our December issue.

*If you haven't yet, please send your donations to
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Or on our website: www.sandisfieldtimes.org*

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Letters to the Editor

THANKS, FROM THE VETS AT BERKSHIRE REHAB

The holidays are a very special time of year for our residents. As many of you know, our facility consists mostly of veterans. We are always amazed how caring and generous people are this time of year to make sure that our veterans have a wonderful Christmas.

We have seen such an outpour of love, kindness, and generosity that we would like to say thank you especially to the Veteran's Center of Torrington, AMVETS of Otis, American Legion of Sandisfield, American Legion of Bantam, residents of Wildwood in Tolland, and from Torrington: First Resistance, DAR, and the Navy Seabee Veterans of America. A very large thank you to all our volunteers, religious groups, the Farmington River School, and also our staff for their generosity now and throughout the year! We hope we've included everyone. Please excuse us if we haven't.

*Barbara Morrison, Admissions Director
Berkshire Rehabilitation and Skilled Care
Sandisfield Road*



Favorite photos from previous Jan/Feb issues:

Clockwise, starting top left:

*Jan/Feb 2018 - Silverbrook Road
Photo by Setsuko Winchester*

*Jan/Feb 2011 - Cedar Waxwings
Photo by Setsuko Winchester*

*Jan/Feb 2016 - Scene from Hansel & Gretel at the Sandisfield Arts Center
Photo by Richard Migot*

Jan/Feb 2016 - "Subzero Nero" (Nero the rooster) Photo by Brigitte Ruthman

*Jan/Feb 20 2017
At the Christmas Fair
Photo by Jean Atwater-Williams*



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Now Hear This!

Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro.

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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY EVENTS

Playgroup on Mondays from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. at the Sandisfield Library Community Room (below the library). Pre-registration not necessary. Ages: birth to 5 years. The playgroup features a story time in the library. Led by Nina Carr. Free!

Wednesday Weekly Gatherings beginning for the new year on January 9 at the Council on Aging, basement level at the Sandisfield Town Hall Annex on Route 57.

New Boston Church Service on Sunday, January 27 at 10:00 a.m., at the New Boston Congregational Church, Route 57. All are welcome.

Valentine's Day on Thursday, February 14. Eat local! Take your sweetheart to the New Boston Inn, Tucker's, or Villa Mia. They serve delicious food and drinks.

Sunset Hike on Thursday, February 21, from 4:45 to 6:00 p.m. at the Clam River Preserve. This 2-mile hike winds through cathedral pines with great views of the Clam River. Please bring water and a snack and wear sturdy footwear. Snowshoes or micro-spikes may be needed weather dependent. The trailhead is located at the Sandisfield Town Hall Annex. Email Mariah (mauman@bnrc.org) or call 413-499-0596 (Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) for additional information. Cancelled in case of severe weather.

Free Community Open House for all South County Communities on Sunday, February 24, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Berkshire South Community Center on Crissey Street (off Stockbridge Road) in Great Barrington. With proof of residency, residents can try the Center for free. Go for a swim, break a sweat on the cardio machines, hike a trail, or bring the kids and enjoy the play equipment in the courtyard. For more information, call 413-528-2810.

OTHER EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

Free Community Suppers on Mondays from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Berkshire South

Community Center in Great Barrington. Beat Cabin Fever and enjoy a delicious free meal prepared by some of the finest chefs in the Berkshires. Greet your neighbors and meet new friends. Donations are gratefully accepted. Call 413-528-2810, ext. 32, for more details.

Grown-up Game Night on Thursdays in January from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Lee Library, 100 Main Street. Get together with a group of friendly board game enthusiasts every Thursday evening. For adults 18 and older. Free. Registration not required. For more information, call 413-243-0385.

Winter Lecture, "The Planted Garden," on February 2, 2 p.m., at Berkshire Botanical Garden's 22nd annual event. Lenox Memorial Middle/High School, Duffin Theatre, 197 East Street, Lenox. "The Planted Garden" is an illustrated talk by acclaimed garden designer Arne Maynard. Tickets \$45/\$35 for Garden members. Discounted tickets available to groups of six or more. 413-320-4794 or online: berkshire-botanical.org. Snowdate: February 3.

Pre-Superbowl Hike on Sunday, February 3 from 1:30 to 3:45 p.m. at Peoples State Forest in Pleasant Valley, Connecticut (25 minutes driving from Route 8/Route 57 in New Boston). Meet at the Matthies Grove Picnic Area on East River Road in Pleasant Valley. The loop is approximately 2.5 miles. Reception at Squire's Tavern following the hike.

Birds in Our Backyard Talk on Saturday, February 16 at 10:30 a.m., at the Stockbridge Library, Main Street in Stockbridge.

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Please see page 17 for our acknowledgement to donors who responded in December to our annual appeal.

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