

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



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Volume XIII, Number 9

December 2022

The Reasoning Behind Article 1 at the Special Town Meeting

A SUMMARY

By Steve Seddon

The first and most important point to clarify is "This vote is NOT a vote to leave the district."

Rather, Sandisfield is looking for a level playing field regarding the decisions made by the School Committee (SC).

As it stands now from the Regional District Agreement (RDA) made 30 years ago between Otis and Sandisfield, a simple majority rules in all decision-making processes. What does that mean? There are four Otis school committee members and three Sandisfield school committee members. Therefore, as the agreement is currently written, Sandisfield does not even need to participate in a vote. If all four Otis members agree, that is how the vote stands. Even if all three Sandisfield members contested.

So Sandisfield is seeking to change this format.

Below are two recent examples of how the voting structure is failing us.

1. This summer the teachers union conducted a survey of the schools' teachers and staff asking for their perception of the climate of FRRSD environment. It concluded with the damning information of the toxic environment under Tom Naldony's administration. The Otis SC Chair proposed at a subsequent SC meeting that Tom should resign and Tom would be paid for the year plus benefits. Sandisfield SC members asked for an investigation and accountability. Sandisfield members also asked for an investigation and a suspension with pay until there were more details. They were outvoted and, well, you get it ...

Cont'd on p.4

What the School Proposal Means for You

WITHDRAWAL POSSIBLE, BUT NOT FOR NOW

By Bill Price

Last month Sandisfield residents voted to ask that the Regional District Agreement between Otis and Sandisfield be amended to spell out how Sandisfield could withdraw from the Farmington River Regional School District (FRRSD)

The vote at a Special Town Meeting caused some confusion among people in both towns, particularly those with children who attend the school or expect to in a few years.

In a phone call with The Times, Sandisfield Select Board Chairman Steve Seddon said, "The proposal does not change anything now. The goal is not to leave the district, but to set forth the terms of withdrawal should we chose to in the future."

Instead, the Select Board and the Sandisfield School Committee want their proposal to spur the Farmington River School Committee to reassess and renegotiate the Regional District Agreement – which hasn't been changed since the district was set up in 1992. They want to correct what they see as an outdated and unfair agreement between the towns.

Cont'd on p.5

THE PROPOSAL PASSED 35-10

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to request the Farmington River Regional School District (FRRSD) School Committee draw up an Amendment to the Regional School District Agreement between the Towns of Otis, MA and Sandisfield, MA, setting forth the terms by which the Town of Sandisfield, MA may withdraw from the FRRSD, or take any other action thereon.



Thank You

The Times is grateful to all donations that help keep us in print. The last couple years have been strained, with Covid, elections, controversies of one kind or another, inflation that affects The Times as well as grocery bills. Through it all, our readers have generously supported us and we appreciate it.

The Sandisfield Times Staff

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recreation COMMITTEE



Halloween Trail, Hot Cocoa Bar, and Letters to Santa

AND A LOT MORE THIS MONTH ...

By Laurie Seddon

The Sandisfield Recreation Committee closed out the month of October with the Halloween Trail. Over 40 homes participated (nearly double that of the prior year) to welcome Trick-Or-Treaters on Halloween night from 5:00 to 7:00. Residents reported more families stopped by than in years past.

There were even "Incentive Spots" on the map to entice Trick-Or-Treaters to visit those houses a little further out. We extend a special Thank You to the Farmington River PTA for hosting an "Incentive Spots" at Yanner Park. We hope you had the opportunity to say "Hi!" to Michelle O'Brien, Bobby Brockman, Trisha and Leo Tetreault, and Susan Ebitz (FRES PTA members and helpers). We welcomed the PTA's participation and appreciate their efforts to make Halloween a success.

In November we hosted a Hot Cocoa Bar with Crafting, Cupcake Decorating and Letters to Santa Event. Fire Chief Ralph Morrison graciously permitted us to host this free community event at Fire Station #1 on Rte. 8.

We were happy to see so many familiar faces as well as new ones. There were around 25 attendees in all. There was no shortage of options that day, from hot cocoa with all the fixings to hot spiced cider, coffee, cookies, cupcake decorating (and eating), two kinds of autumn crafts, and an opportunity to make and write your own postcard wish list to Santa Claus. A special thank you to Doug Rocco for donating the mailboxes for Letters to Santa and also for setting up our Recreation Communication Center in the yellow mailbox at the Transfer Station.



SANTA AT THE HOLIDAY FAIR

Speaking of Santa Claus ... He's coming to town!! That's right, be sure to visit the Sandisfield Historical Society's Holiday Fair on Saturday, December 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Fire Station #2 on Rt. 57. The Recreation Committee will host a crafting table all day and of course ... Santa Clause will be visiting around 1:00 p.m. Don't miss out!

The Sandisfield Recreation Committee, Berkshire Rehabilitation, and Sandisfield Historical Society invite the community to the Holiday Tree and Menorah Lighting on **Saturday, December 10 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at Berkshire Rehabilitation**. Join us for this free community event. Help decorate the tree, enjoy The Rosebuds, a special children's choir from Farmington River Elementary, directed by Michael Flowers with Robert Putnam on keyboard. Thank you to the Historical Society for coordinating this portion of the program, The Rosebuds will perform at approximately 3:00 p.m., don't miss them. Berkshire Rehabilitation will provide hot chocolate and cookies. The Holiday Tree and Menorah Lighting will occur at approximately 4:00 p.m.

If you'd like to attend, please RSVP by December 7 to (413) 269-7357.

Happy Holidays to all from the Sandisfield Recreation Committee! 🎄



Town children addressing letters to Santa at the Recreation Committee event held at Fire Station #1. Photo: Laurie Seddon



L to R: For Halloween, Fiona Seddon dressed as "Cindy Lou Who." Photo: Laurie Seddon



Mackenzie Boulais and her son, Ryan. Photo: Lynn Rubenstein



Bottom: Come and get it at the Hot Cocoa Bar, with Lynn Rubenstein and Laurie Seddon. Photo: Katie Murray

The Vote in Sandisfield



The turnout for the November 8 election in Sandisfield was something of a record. Fifty-four percent of registered voters made their choices known at the national mid-term election.

Normally only about a third of voters turn out for the midterms. Whatever the reason for the high turnout, 355 out of 658 registered voters voted either in person on election day, by absentee ballot, or at one of the early voting days. Town Clerk Doug Miner said that few Sandisfield voters took advantage of the early

voting days, while many voted by mail in early ballots. Most voted in person on Election Day.

As for the winners across the Commonwealth, if a candidate won in Sandisfield he or she won in the State. That rule went as well for the ballot questions: it seems Sandisfield is in synch with Commonwealth voters.

Governor	Treasurer	Sheriff
✓Healey . . . 208	✓Goldberg . . . 231	✓Bowler255
Diehl 133	Crawford 90	
Reed 11		
Attorney General	Senator in Court	Auditor
✓Campbell . . . 214	✓Mark 227	✓DiZoglio . . . 188
McMahon . . . 132	Phair 91	Amore119
		Caballero-Roca . 15
		Riek 12
		Giannone 8
Secretary of State	Representative in Court	Councillor
✓Galvin 210	✓Pignatelli . . . 265	✓Jacobs 237
Campbell . . . 127	Lavery 50	Comerford . . . 137
Sanchez. 15		
	District Attorney	
	✓Shagrue . . . 250	
	Blank. 99	



Question 1: Additional income tax on incomes over \$1 million
Yes 203
No 133

Question 2: Dental insurers to pay at least 83 percent of premiums on actual dental care
Yes 239
No 90

Question 3: Increase number of liquor licenses
Yes 159
No 179

Question 4: Undocumented residents to obtain drivers' licenses
Yes 193
No 146

At the Transfer Station

TEXTILES AND SHOES BANNED FROM THE COMPACTOR

By Ron Bernard

Earlier this year the Times reported about impending new state rules for disposal of a major category of waste, textiles. Now the other shoe has dropped.

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) last month issued a ban on a wide range of personal and household items from trash compactors. The policy is part of the Commonwealth's solid waste master plan to dramatically reduce volume at landfills and combustion facilities.



The State means business because all five remaining landfills will be closed by 2030. Non-compliant municipalities will be in code violation and subject to penalties, so we have to take this seriously.

From now on, unstained/uncontaminated items of clothing, sheets, towels, curtains, blankets and the like should be bagged and deposited into the special blue recycling containers. Footwear, too. Mattresses and box springs are handled separately.

As soon as Sandisfield DPW head, Brad Curry heard about what was planned, he secured an agreement with a local hauler, CRMK which installed the blue disposal bins (see *The Sandisfield Times*, April 2022, page 2).

Based on a several month's experience, the program is already successful. Company representative Taylor Millspaugh told the Times, "We have collected 6,000 pounds since our partnership started." She said that the trend is growing fast and added, "We now have partnerships with 15 cities and towns in Western Mass. Sandisfield was our first in the (immediate) area!"

According to the agreement, the company will pick up and arrange for processing. Shares of proceeds will accrue to a non-profit like Big Brothers/Sisters and the Town. Aid agencies will distribute reusable clothing to appropriate countries. Otherwise as much as possible will be repurposed.

If you have a considerable amount to dispose, schedule a home pick up. Call CMRK at (508) 466-4590.

Sandisfield Transfer Station attendant Alex Psillas said that everything is working well so far and that the Town has already earned \$350.

The program is win-win so fill those blue bins with clean, reusable clothing, shoes and household textiles to the benefit of the Town, the environment, and people in need. Remember, everything should be deposited in bags and free of mold, oil or other chemical or insect contamination.

For detailed information on various rules and definitions, visit Mass DEP webpages.

WE AT THE SANDISFIELD TIMES WISH YOU SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

The Reasoning Behind Article 1 at the Special Town Meeting
Cont'd from p.1

2. With Tom out, it was time to find a replacement. Just prior to school starting there was an announcement in the student handbook that was distributed to all parents that Robert Putnam would be the new Interim Superintendent/Principal. This announcement was made without a School Committee meeting taking place to discuss it in public and without a vote. Later a vote was taken, and the outcome was unanimous due to Mr. Putnam's stellar credentials. The point here is that a 4-3 vote would have decided the outcome regardless of serious objection, with a very big decision on the line.

In Article 1 of the Special Town Meeting we asked residents to vote to ask the SC for the terms of withdrawal. This was NOT a vote to leave the district. The terms of withdrawal are another means of relief that can be sought through the RDA. We only asked the SC to develop the terms of withdrawal

should we decide to move forward. This was a strategic effort to pressure the Otis members to reconsider last year's amendment request and a renegotiation of the RDA which hasn't been amended in 30 years. As the controlling member of this district, Otis SC members are putting us in prime position to request a home rule petition from the legislature due to our lack of representation.

I hope it doesn't come to that.

I have had children attend FRRSD, some still are, and others will in the future. I decided to send my children to FRRSD because of the great teaching staff. It was very plain to me that the deficiencies lay with the administration. The school is improving and can be a shining star with proper guidance. However, with a budget the same as our towns and politics that are slighted against us having a voice in business matters, it will be difficult rationally to consider staying involved merely as spectators.

In closing, Sandisfield does NOT wish to withdraw from the FRRSD. It only wants a fair voice on the SC. Attempts to achieve this have been continually thwarted.

As such, Sandisfield has decided not to withdraw from the FRRSD at this point, but only that terms and conditions under which it could withdraw in the future, if it decided to do so, be provided. Note that had the proposed RDA amendment been passed in the Spring by both towns, Sandisfield would not have taken this action

If a compromise were desired by both sides, perhaps both sides could work together, as partners to find common ground. ♡



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What the School Proposal Means for You
Cont'd from p.1

As it stands, Sandisfield provides a little over 40 percent of students in the school and pays a corresponding amount of school expenses. Nevertheless, Otis has four members on the School Committee while Sandisfield has only three, giving Otis a built-in advantage on any substantial issue that comes before the board. As Seddon noted, "Collaboration has been impossible when Sandisfield has no leverage to initiate or influence school policy."

What exactly does the vote mean for parents of FRRSD children?

At this time, very little except that pressure is being brought to the FRRSD School Committee to open the terms of the District Agreement and discuss how representation could be fairer to Sandisfield. Even opponents of the proposal at the Special Town Meeting November 17 conceded that the agreement is unfair.

In any event, for a town in the Commonwealth to leave a school district is complex and expensive. The Town of Dennis, for example, had sought to withdraw from the Dennis-Yarmouth Region, but abandoned the effort due to cost. A second town, Warwick, is continuing its effort to withdraw from the Pioneer Valley Regional School District.

In the event the town were to go to the extreme of withdrawing from the District, Sandisfield students could opt to attend Farmington River or any other school within the region.

THOSE OPPOSED . . .

Opponents of the proposal pointed out that, with the forced retirement of the former district superintendent/principal in August, the district had new leadership and the school is reporting significantly improved test results. Even most proponents of the proposal generally agreed that the school had turned a corner and is improving.

Jennifer Hibbins, a parent and former School Committee member, said that student performance has risen from near the bottom to near the top of rankings of Berkshire public elementary schools including Williamsburg and Lenox, "towns that spend a lot more money per pupil."

Beech Plain resident Skip Newsome who has children at the school said that he was very pleased with the administrative changes. He

regarded infighting within the committee as a "power contest" and not in the best interest of students.

Others suggested that the new initiative could fuel an acrimonious relationship on the combined School Committee and be counter-productive.

A COMPLICATED PROCESS . . .

Newly appointed FRRSD Interim Superintendent/Principal Rob Putnam, who attended the meeting, expressed concerns that the state rules that regulate the exiting process could lead to the dissolution of a district like FRRSD, which has only two schools.

He explained that should Sandisfield ultimately choose to withdraw, each town would need to consult lawyers and accountants and pursue state approval at various steps along the way. Also, Sandisfield would have to present a detailed plan for the education of its PreK-12 students.

Putnam added that, according to the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools

(MARS), a withdrawal agreement would include a division of assets and assignment of debts, including retiree benefits and health insurance. MARS and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) would provide oversight to the process, which would be expected to take at least 18 months under favorable conditions.

Finally, the amendment would require a vote at town meetings in both Sandisfield and Otis. It would take effect only upon its acceptance by majority vote in both towns as well as further approval by state authorities.

For now, nothing has changed. "As a town we have not asked for withdrawal," Seddon said. "We only asked the School Committee to develop the terms of withdrawal should we decide to move forward." 🗳️

While voting was restricted to those in attendance, it seems communication would have been critical in helping to avoid potential misinformation. However, no functioning Zoom was available for residents who could not attend the meeting.

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By Terry Spohnholz, Librarian

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- Christmas Deliverance by Anne Perry
- Christmas Hummingbird by Davis Bunn
- Home Sweet Christmas by Susan Mallery
- The Twelve Topsy-Turvy, Very Messy Days of Christmas by James Patterson

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- Llama, Llama Holiday Drama
- D is for Dreidel: A Hanukkah Alphabet by Greg Paprocki
- Green is for Christmas by Drew Daywalt
- The Donkey's Song: A Christmas Nativity Story by Jacki Kellum

The Children's section is replete with books, games, toys, Brio trains, and lots of arts and crafts supplies.

The Library also offers notary service, public computer and printer availability, free wifi, and access to ebooks from the Massachusetts libraries with your Sandisfield Library card.

If you have a particular author or book in mind and the Sandisfield Library does not have it, we can borrow it from other libraries. 



THE SNOW FAIRY

By Claude McKay

Throughout the afternoon I watched them there,
Snow-fairies falling, falling from the sky,
Whirling fantastic in the misty air,
Contending fierce for space supremacy.
And they flew down a mightier force at night,
As though in heaven there was revolt and riot,
And they, frail things, had taken panic flight
Down to the calm earth seeking peace and quiet.
I went to bed and rose at early dawn
To see them huddled together in a heap,
Each merged into the other upon the lawn,
Worn out by the sharp struggle, fast asleep.
The sun shone brightly on them half the day,
By night they stealthily had stol'n away.



sandisfield
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Kitchen at Berkshire Rehab Reopened

A TEMPORARY CLOSURE ORDER IS LIFTED

By Bill Price

A surprise inspection by the Sandisfield Board of Health at the Berkshire Rehabilitation and Skilled Care Center in late November turned up serious violations that forced the closure of the kitchen facilities. While the kitchen was closed, meals for residents were bought from an outside vendor and served on disposable dinnerware.


The inspection, by acting Health Agent Jayne Smith, found that the hot water boiler that feeds the kitchen had been out of service for about 45 days and staff had been boiling water in pots to wash dishes and do kitchen laundry.

Other kitchen violations that had been noted in an August state Department of Public Health inspection report by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid were found to be uncorrected. A feature article in The Berkshire Eagle November 23, by

reporter Heather Bellow, outlined the kitchen failures in detail.

Three days later Bellow reported, also in The Berkshire Eagle, that hot water had been restored and the kitchen professionally cleaned. Agent Smith “found that the facility completed the tasks in her correction orders. The hot water boiler to the kitchen was running and a contractor had scrubbed the kitchen ‘top to bottom’ and cleared the stove’s grease trap.”

Smith told The Eagle that she would inspect the facility “monthly to ensure compliance.”

The Times thanks our sister publication, The Berkshire Eagle, for their generous permission to use news and information gathered and reported by their journalists. The Eagle helps our staff keep our local readers up to date in our own community. 



Council on Aging


By Nina Carr

Here’s hoping everyone had a safe and fun-filled Thanksgiving holiday.

Looking ahead to the rest of the season, the Council on Aging will host a noon luncheon for Seniors on Wednesday, December 14 at Mario’s Tuscan Grill at 560 Main Street in Winsted. The food there has always been great, and we’re looking forward to seeing many of you there. Contact Nina at 258-3314 or Barbara Cormier for more information.

On Wednesday, Dec 21 at 10:00 a.m., our new nurse from the South Berkshire Health Collaborative will be at the COA downstairs at Town Hall for a Blood Pressure/Wellness clinic. She will be able to answer many of your health questions.

Of course, we are continuing Coffee Hours on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. at Town Hall and the free Chair Yoga classes at Old Town Hall on Wednesday afternoons at 2:00 p.m.

Right now, our COA Board is looking for input from all the seniors in town on what kind of activities would interest them and excite them enough to get them out of the house during the cold weather coming up. We welcome any and all ideas! 

Sandisfield Historical Society



Christmas Fair and Tree/Menorah Lighting

By Ann Wald, President

At our latest meeting we completed plans for our Annual Christmas Fair

The Fair will be held on Saturday, December 3, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at Firehouse #2 on Rt. 57. The vendors are our neighbors, please support them. There will be Christmas music. Ladies from the New Boston Congregational Church will provide refreshments. Santa will arrive around 1:00 p.m. to listen to children’s wishes. There will be a free crafting table, sponsored by the Sandisfield Recreation Committee. As usual the 50/50 will take place, also we will be selling raffle tickets for a Quad from New Boston Crane Service.

We have joined with the Recreation Committee to host a Christmas Tree and Menorah lighting at the Berkshire Rehabilitation Center on Thursday, December 10, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. You can help decorate the tree and listen to the Children’s Choir of the Farmington River Regional School. Hot chocolate and cookies will be available from the Rehab Center. You can park at the New Boston Inn lot across the street or behind the Center. Please RSVP by December 7 at 413-269-7357 or to .

Pease join us at both events. We look forward to seeing you and wish everyone happy holidays. 



2022 HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CHRISTMAS FAIR



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3
10 AM - 2 PM
FIREHOUSE #2 (ROUTE 57)

SANTA CLAUS ARRIVES 1 PM!
LOTS OF VENDORS! LOTS OF ITEMS FOR SALE!
JOIN US AND SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORS!

Want to Rent That Extra Room?

CHECK THE ADU BYLAW FIRST

By Times Reporters

Article 1 – the school issue – seemed to draw most of the nearly 50 town residents who attended the Special Town Meeting on November 17.

But Article 3 – dealing with Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) – attracted its own supporters and opponents and drew a lot of questions and several amendments. The article passed with a majority vote, but residents felt that more clarity would be necessary in the future.

Sandisfield voters had agreed at a recent public meeting that the Planning Board should refine its originally proposed bylaw about auxiliary or attached structures that home owners could use as rentals so that the owners and the Town could earn new revenue. The worry was that there was nothing on the books to prevent developers from building multiple small structures for short-term rentals, upsetting the residential character of Sandisfield.

It was clear that the board had put great effort into what is a thorny and complex area. Voters were presented with a laundry list of definitions, requirements, and proposed regulations.

Immediately there were concerns from the floor about what in fact constituted an ADU. Is it an addition on an existing building or five feet from a main dwelling unit? Could a modified chicken coop potentially qualify as an ADU? What about a portion of a barn? How far from the main house must the ADU be?

The term “pre-existing” in several places was bothersome. As written, the bylaw seemed to restrict new construction which

some found illogical. It was agreed that the terminology would be struck.

Size restriction was questioned as well. The proposed 900 sq. ft. limit was seen as impractical even though that number had been agreed at the previous public meeting. And there was confusion about State rules on ADU size.

Another proposed requirement would require property owners to live in town full-time in order to rent an ADU and only one ADU would be allowed.

Chapin Fish, a Viets Road resident and well-known realtor in South County, posed a number of thoughtful hypotheticals not addressed by the proposed bylaw. “I have lived here for twenty years,” he said, “and this is the first time I have spoken at a town meeting.” He said that the rules as written were too vague and restrictive and will produce opposite than intended outcomes.

At this point, tabling the article for another meeting was suggested. Officials explained that the Town was too exposed and that *something* was needed right now.


A frustrated planning board member questioned why after so many advertised open meetings on this subject that no realtors had chimed in. It is not clear if the planning board was able to contact experts in the field for input.

The article was passed by a majority vote but the sense of the meeting was that all the open questions would be reevaluated

for amending at the next Town meeting.

The other articles at the Special Town Meeting did not spur contention. Article 2, which outlined the makeup of the Select Board and detailed the duties of the Town Manager, passed with a majority vote.

Articles 4 through 9 passed after a minimum of questions. One article imposed regulations dealing with shared driveways. In another, the residents voted to buy an \$85,000 a Ford F-550 truck for the Highway Department. A couple articles were “housekeeping” items, moving money from one fund to another.

All of these articles can be seen in full by visiting Town Hall to read them in hard copy or online at sandisfieldma.gov. Go to Town News, Special Town Meeting Minutes. 



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What Has the Town Clerk Been Doing Lately?

By Christine Nadelman

Recently I had the opportunity to speak to Douglas Miner, our Town Clerk, to gain insight into the job and talk about his progress while holding this position.

Douglas has been “proudly” serving our town and residents as Town Clerk since he was elected to the position last May after working as assistant to Town Clerk Mary Kronholm and learning the job from her. He was elected for one year to fill the unexpired term of former clerk Dolores Harasyko. The position will be up for election in May 2023, for a three-year term.

Douglas’s duties as Town Clerk require him to maintain public records of Town residents and, in general, keep track of most things going on in town government, all in conformance with state statutes and Town bylaws.

Douglas also serves as our chief officer for town, state and federal elections. He recently spent a lot of time, along with other dedicated town employees and election staff getting the election processes rolling. Many hours of time and effort rests upon all these individuals to ensure an accurate, true, and fair election.

From how we conduct our town meetings to our old-fashioned crank ballot machine we use at elections, Douglas is proud of our “bare bones government” and to be a part of it, because, he says, “it works.”

Douglas recently attended a Massachusetts Town Clerk’s Association conference in Plymouth where town clerks from all across the state meet and attend classes. He saw a demonstration of an I-pad type device, called a Poll Pad, that can swiftly check-in voters, ensure no duplicate voting or check-ins, and securely save and send all voter information to a town or state-wide site which helps to eliminate fraudulent voting. Douglas immediately sought the town’s approval and purchased two Poll Pads for the town’s use. You may have noticed their use when you checked in during the primaries, the state election, and most recently at the Special Town Meeting.

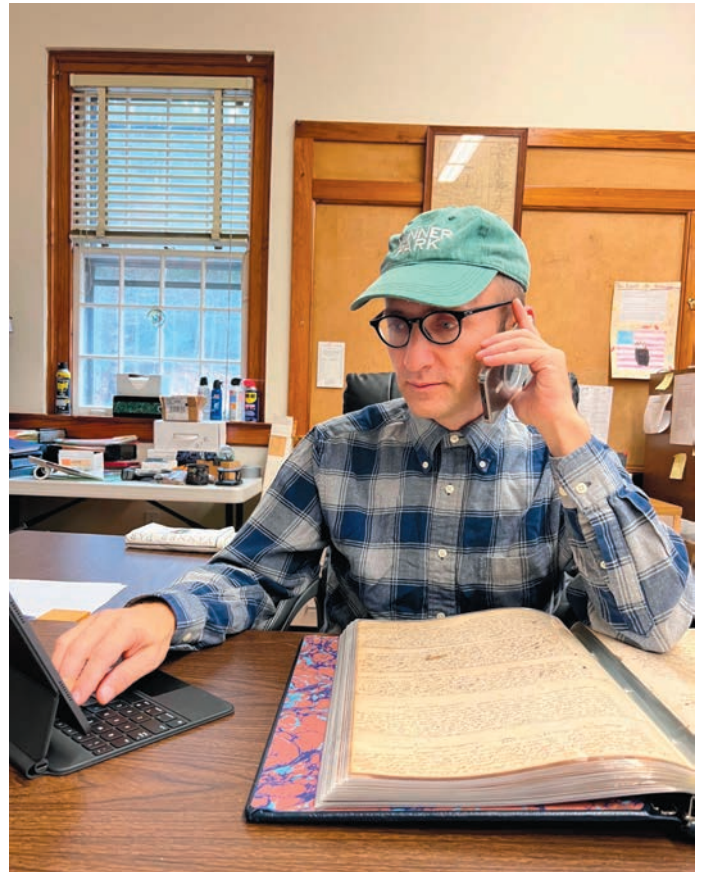
Technology changes are for the best, Douglas said, but he also keeps in mind procedures that have been successful and what town residents have been accustomed to. That we run our town meetings and elections with utmost respect, trust, and integrity are the forefront of the town’s foundation which Douglas is honored to be a part of. He appreciates his role in that process and happy to serve in a position that he truly loves.

He has also spent time sorting through and organizing various types of town records. These include State-mandated records retained for a certain number of years; minutes, notes, and files for new and old select board meetings.

He is also maintaining original records of the town, properties, and residents, some which go as far back as 1762. Some of these records are boxed and being stored and preserved in a metal storage container located as of now on town hall property. Other older records on the founding of the town and its history are preserved in fire-proof cabinets in the Town Hall building.

Interestingly, included within these historical records are roughly 2,000 pages transcribed from original handwritten records that were painstakingly read, typed (yes ... on an old ribbon typewriter) and transcribed by Flora Rhodes, who held the position of Town Clerk for 23 years. These pages are bound in 16 three-ring binders. Douglas hopes to eventually have the records digitized and made available and searchable. He is passionate about working to accomplish this. 🇺🇸

Douglas and Josie Miner have lived in the northwest section of Sandisfield since 2016. They have dedicated a portion of their property to growing American Chestnut trees with the American Chestnut Foundation (.)



Town Clerk Douglas Miner at his desk in Town Hall. On the phone, on the computer, wearing a thinking cap from Yanmer Park. It isn't always this busy, but sometimes

Photo: Josie Miner

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

Was Charlotte Brown Whitney the First Ordained Congregational Minister 100 Years Ago?

By Ron Bernard

Reports of American women achieving leadership firsts in government, military, industry, boards of directors, sports – you name it – are no longer surprising. Such accomplishments are commonplace even though each time is “about time.”

But a century ago, one of Sandisfield’s own made history by breaching perhaps the most restricted male clubhouse of all, the ministry.



Charlotte Brown Whitney with a buddy.

Undated photo, Ancestry.com.

Charlotte Brown was ordained as a Congregational minister in 1919 and installed as pastor of the New Boston Congregational Church. (There would not be another woman appointed to the pastorate there for eighty more years).

While there are isolated examples of women preachers in Christian denominations in the 19th century, Rev. Brown was the first ordained in Berkshire County if not in the state of Massachusetts or beyond.

At the time this was shocking to some. It should have been real news but the local press, not sure how to cover the story, played it down with matter-of-fact-type mentions buried inside. Sensational? Absolutely. Fashionable? Definitely not.

One who has studied the history of religion in America said about Charlotte, “She was a trailblazer, extremely rare in her day. Even now women are still barred in the Catholic Church and by some



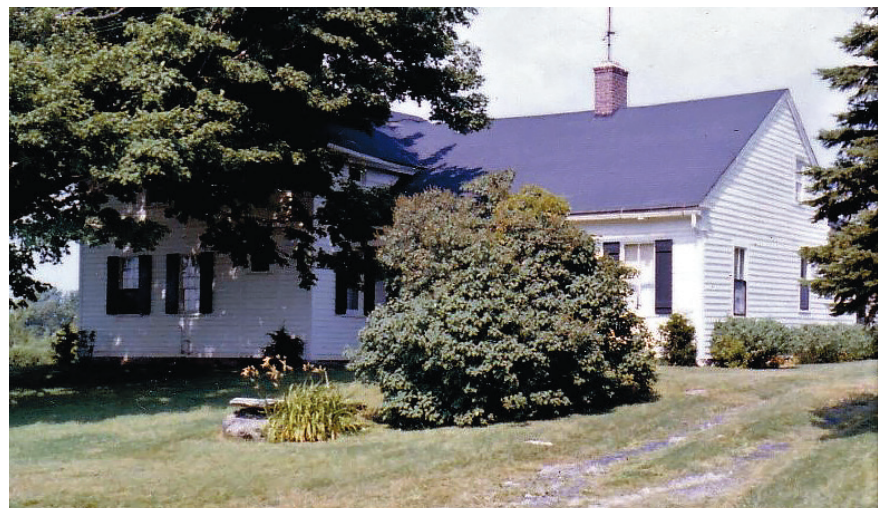
The former New Boston Congregational church parsonage on No. Main St./Route 8, as it appeared in 1961. Rev. Whitney lived there 1919-23 and owned it for five years, selling in May 1944. The house was demolished in 2009.

Protestant churches, so to think that she was doing this 100 years ago is amazing. She had no national support. It is unlikely that she had any friends among other pastors; in fact, she was probably shunned.”

Charlotte Belle Brown was born in Blandford in March 1879, the only child of Orrin Brown Jr. and Lucy Ann Claflin. The Browns moved in 1880 to another farm in nearby East Otis where “Lottie Belle,” spent her childhood.

She attended the Hartford (Conn.) School of Religious Pedagogy (today Hartford Seminary) for three years, graduating in 1909. From there Charlotte went to Rochester, NY, as a Sunday School teacher at the prominent Lake Avenue Baptist Church. ‘Sunday School’ at Lake was far from a one-day affair. It was a full-time department that held functions day and night, all week. She spent nine years at Lake rising to director of religious education, valuable experience that well prepared her to be a pastor.

She presided at “The Little Brown Church” until 1923 when she married Frederick P. Whitney, widowed, of South Sandisfield. He was one of her parishioners. Twenty years older than Charlotte, Fred was also raised in Otis and would have known her family.



Frederick and Florence Pierce Whitney bought the c.1784 & 1850 Samuel Sage house at 125 New Hartford Road, South Sandisfield in 1891. Fred remarried to Rev. Brown in 1923. They sold in 1937.

1961 house photos, Sandisfield Historical Society/Sandisfield Then and Now, 2012



Fond of pets and animals, Charlotte had cats and dogs as companions as confirmed by the above article about “Rastus” in the Eagle, December 4, 1929.

Their wedding was the Sandisfield society event of 1923. The Eagle reported that 300 people attended, which is amazing, especially since the church sat a maximum of 90. Was there a miracle?

She left the New Boston parsonage and moved to Fred’s place on New Hartford Road, the c.1784 Samuel Sage house. Whitney was well known in Sandisfield as roads superintendent and selectman among other roles.

Now as “Rev. Whitney,” she assisted other preachers, especially in New Boston. She was in demand to perform christenings and weddings and to attend at funerals. Between 1924 and 1947 local newspapers carried upwards of a hundred mentions of marriages performed by her, many at New Boston.

In 1932, she challenged her friend, stalwart, long-time (29 years) town clerk, Jason Sears for the job but lost, 57 to 29 votes. Nevertheless, she was a reliable volunteer for community events. In 1937, Charlotte was Library trustee and also headed the town’s 175th anniversary celebrations committee, a serious responsibility.

After Fred died in 1939, she purchased the parsonage from the church society and lived there until May 1944. It appears she then went to reside with friends, Willard and Frances Platt in the Roosterville section of New Boston. Charlotte passed away there on March 22, 1954. She rests with Fred and besides her parents in West New Boston cemetery.



Rev. Charlotte Brown Whitney was a valued and highly respected resident of Sandisfield, the town she loved. She was also one of the most instrumental figures in the 150-year history of the Little Brown Church. Her thirty years of involvement in the congregation is a legacy that may have ensured the survival of this venerable building and its tradition for the next generation. ♡

Monument for Charlotte Brown Whitney, West New Boston Cemetery.



Honoring the CCC

A CEREMONY DECEMBER 16

By Times Reporters

A wreath-laying ceremony honoring members of the Civilian Conservation Corps will be held Friday, December 16 at 2:30 p.m. by Department of Conservation & Recreation State Park staff.



At last year's ceremony.

While the ceremony honors all members of the CCC, it will take place at the memorial for the five young men, enrollees with the 196 Company, Civilian Conservation Corps at Sandisfield State Forest, were tragically killed in a truck accident on Three Mile Hill in Great Barrington while travelling to a church service. A lone marble memorial stone inscribed with their names remains today in the state forest.

On this 88th anniversary of that event join historian and CCC re-enactor, Kevin Titus, DCR staff, friends and neighbors, to honor the memory of these men, and the service of the CCC in the creation of our State Forests and Parks.

The ceremony will be at the site of a former CCC camp on Rt. 183 in New Marlborough, just south of the intersection of East Hill/York Lake Road.

The 45-minute ceremony is held weather permitting. Recommended for ages 13 and up. Roadside parking is available. For more information or updates call (413) 426-7890. ♡

BERKSHIRE EVENING EAGLE T

CENTRAL AND SOUTH

DETECTIVES POSED AS AGENTS FOR SALE OF ALUMINUM WARE

Testified to Having Bought Liquor in Many Places in New Boston and Sandisfield While Securing Evidence There for Subsequent Raids

After an all day hearing in the district court in Great Barrington yesterday, the cases of nine defendants from New Boston and Sandisfield were continued until 10 o'clock Tuesday morning, October 19, for argument. The defendants were arrested by officers of the state police after men from the Crawford Detective agency in Springfield spent a month in the vicinity of New Boston and Sandisfield gathering evidence. The detectives, it is understood, were hired by the selectmen of the two towns, although William F. Cahill, manager of the Springfield agency, would not confirm the information when questioned by an Eagle reporter yesterday.

The defendants in the cases are Henry Strickland, whose house and store were raided by the officers, accompanied by the detectives; Peter Fourlin who lives on the Montville and New Boston road; Pacel Kavalau, Dominic Campetti of the Winsted road, Mrs. Richie Veronesi; Lena Marchi who lives at what is known as the Twining place on the Sandisfield road; August Bartulicci of the South Sandisfield road, Josephine Telepotti who lives in what is known as the Pollock house on the New Boston road, and Charles Strickland who conducts the New Boston Inn, where according to the search warrant return, nothing was found.

The Charges

The warrants in the cases charge that sales of intoxicating liquor were made by the various defendants. Henry Strickland is charged with having sold liquor on September 6 to Joseph Gray of the detective agency; Peter Fourlin, to have sold to Harry Wright, also of the detective agency, on August 21; Kavalau to Detective Wright on September 1; Campi or Campetti to Gray on September 1; Bartulicci to Gray on August 23; Charles Strickland to Detective Gray August 22; Mrs. Veronesi to Wright on August 30; Mrs. Marchi to Gray on September 7, and Telepotti to Gray on September 8.

All of the cases were taken up yesterday in the Great Barrington court. Judge Walter B. Sanford presiding. Attorney N. Seeley Hitchcock, county commissioner of Hampshire county, who recently was defeated for the republican nomination for district attorney in that county, appeared for the commonwealth. He conducted the cases very efficiently and had presented the evidence of the state shortly

after the afternoon session of the court opened at 2 o'clock.

Attorney Frank Wright and Attorney Frank Brothers represented the defendants in the cases. Mr. Wright and Mr. Brothers were active throughout the trial and judging from their questioning of witnesses the attorneys put in considerable work on the cases.

Sold Aluminum Ware

During the morning session which lasted from 9 o'clock to 1 o'clock, Detectives Gray and Wright were on the stand. Detective Gray had a bulky pad of typewritten pages containing an account of his activities in the raided section. Detective Wright and Detective Gray answered questions readily and told of their visits at the various places where they alleged they bought liquor. While in Sandisfield and New Boston, the detectives posed as salesmen of aluminum ware and other utensils. They made sales of their articles in a number of the places visited.

State Trooper Latham of Cheshire testified that he visited the Henry Strickland place and seized 99 bottles of home brew, 13 empty bottles and a bottle capping machine. State Trooper O'Brien of Cheshire told the court he found 10 cases of beer, eight gallons of wine and destroyed 130 gallons of liquor at Fourlin's. The liquor was destroyed in the presence of the defendant, he stated.

Officer McDonald of the state police barracks at Shelburne Falls, stated that he seized, on a search warrant, at the Kavalau place, eight gallons of wine. Trooper Dineen of the East Lee barracks testified that he seized two and one-half gallons of wine, a quart of cider and seven gallons of liquor in a keg at Campetti's. Trooper O'Connell of Shelburne Falls, according to the return on his warrant, seized a gallon of wine and six bottles of beer at the Veronesi house. O'Connell was not in court, as he is doing duty at superior court in Brockton. Trooper Joyce of Northampton testified that he found five cases of beer at the Marchi home. Officer Maejck stated he searched the Bartulicci house and that he found 214 bottles of beer, seven quarts of wine and other smaller quantities of liquor. Trooper Boakes of the East Lee barracks testified to seizing 29 gallons of wine, three cans of beer and 21 bottles of beer at the Telepotti house. The warrant used by Trooper White of Shelburne Falls contained the statement that nothing was found at the New

Boston Inn conducted by Charles Strickland.

Sergeant George L. Maione of Northampton testified that he was in supervision of the raids.

Defendants on Stand.

Some of the defendants were called to the stand to testify. Kavalau testified that he gave the two detectives, Gray and Wright, some drink and that Wright placed a dollar in the defendant's pocket. He stated he attempted to give it back and finally threw it on the table, saying that he did not sell liquor and did not want the money. His testimony was corroborated by William Bryant, another witness. Mrs. Veronesi testified that the two detectives asked for beer at her house when they were there to sell kitchen utensils and she refused to give it to them. William C. Granger stated that he had never seen any sign of liquor in the New Boston inn. Detective Gray had stated that he drank at the inn and the bottle of liquor was secured from behind the bar. Upon question, Granger stated that he once tended bar for Mr. Strickland. Hiram C Sage testified that one day he picked up Wright in a lot. He was under the influence of intoxicating liquor. Campetti told the court that the two detectives woke him up one night and said that they would break in the door if he did not let them in. He came downstairs, opened the door and let the men in. They said that they wanted some wine for Charles Strickland as Mr. Strickland was ill. The defendant said that he gave them the wine after a time, but did not take any money for it. Mrs. Telepotti stated that she gave the men a glass of beer at her home when they asked for it. She took no money, she testified.

During the progress of the hearing the detectives told of numerous parties in that section where liquor was served liberally. They told of playing cards. One of them told of throwing dice to see who would pay for the liquor at one place. Neither was ever under the influence of liquor they drank, the detective testified. Wright told of drinking 13 glasses of wine at one time and said that it did not make him drunk.

The court room was crowded throughout the day. The families of the defendants were all present, it appeared. Mothers were there, with babies and an occasional squall of an infant was heard.

WANTED



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Prohibition Blues

For thirteen long, dry years Prohibition was a constitutional law that prohibited the sale of alcoholic beverages across the United States. The 18th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution passed in 1920. It was repealed by the 21st in 1933, the only amendment to be repealed.

In 1926, nine Sandisfield residents ran afoul of the law when they were "nabbed" by two undercover agents from a Springfield detective agency over a two-month long investigation crisscrossing Sandisfield and New Boston. One of the defendants was the then owner of the New Boston Inn.

This article from The Berkshire Evening Eagle, October 12, 1926, is rich with period detail, including the sale of aluminum cookware, the manner of soliciting a beer, and the fact that most of the defendants' families attended the court hearing, including crying babies. The article was located in newspaper archives by Sandisfield's unofficial historian Ron Bernard.

School Issues an Old Story

As you'll see from this 87-year-old news clipping, school battles have raged for a long time. Sandisfield's one-room schoolhouses closed in 1950 when a consolidated school opened on Rt. 57. That building closed in 1999 when schools were further consolidated. The building became Town Hall, and Sandisfield children have since attended FRRSD in Otis or at other south county towns.



Letters to the Editor

When we moved here two years ago, it was such a pleasure to find The Sandisfield Times in our mailbox! We've been enjoying it ever since. Thank you.

*Beth & Phil Sortin
Stump Road*



THE BOSTON GLOBE March 2, 1935

Politics Cause School Strike

Sandisfield Parents Keep Children at Home

Sandisfield, March 1 – Political sentiment entered the schoolhouse today in

South Sandisfield when all but six pupils in the school literally went out on strike because of their parents' dislike for the new School Committeeman.

Charles Allen was elected to the School Board over Paul Knapp at the town meeting the first of the week. Feeling ran high on his election and today all but six of the pupils in the school were restrained by their parents and not allowed to attend.

Miss Helen Clark, teacher at the little rural schoolhouse, refused to comment on the loss of her class, but said that the parents would probably have a change of heart before the first of the week.

The parents of the school children, however, declared that they would allow their children to return to school "under the conditions."

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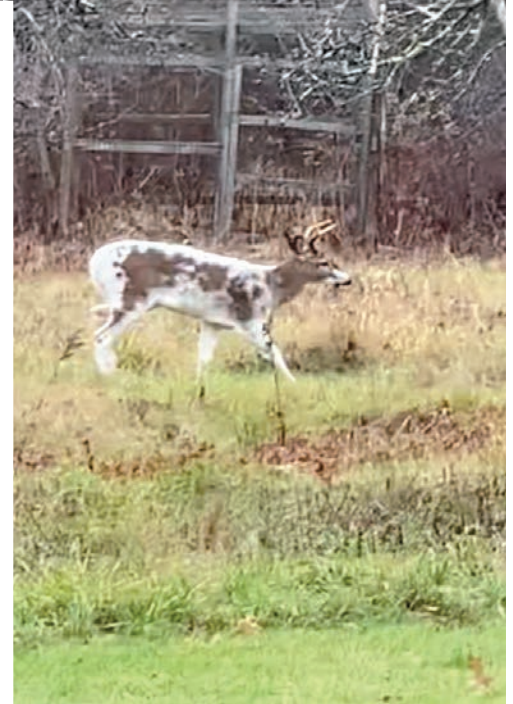
CRITTER CORNER

Setsuko's Piebald Deer

Setsuko Winchester writes from Silverbrook Road: "I first spotted this deer grazing with its head down behind the house by the chicken fence and thought it was a big dog. Then it stood straight and started walking and I saw it was a white-tailed deer. I didn't know what to make of it. It had the same coloring as our former dog, Bailey."

She photographed the buck November 11. A wildlife website reports piebald deer are very rare and only one in 1,000 are born with the condition with blotches of white coloration on portions of their hide. They are not albinos, which have a completely white hide and pink eyes, nose, and hooves.

It turned out that Suzy Crofut and Ben Luxon have seen the same deer roaming through their property, which isn't far from Silverbrook Road. Has anyone else seen him?



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 Each office is independently owned and operated.

AT THE TRACTOR PULL

Early November, tractor lovers and drivers, parents, and many children came to the American Legion Post #456 behind the Farmington River General Store and enjoyed looking all the equipment and, in some cases, driving the machines. Food and beverages were available in a fundraiser for the American Legion. It was their last event for 2022 and everyone had a good time.

In the photos, lower left, D.J. Desrosier at the wheel.

Lower right, Parker and Taylor Chaffee, with an experienced driver. Parker and Taylor are grandchildren of Sara Davis.

Right, Parker Chaffee, at the wheel, on his own.



RSV Update

FROM THE SANDISFIELD BOARD OF HEALTH

Posters outlining current information concerning Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) in older adults, infants, and young children are posted on the bulletin boards inside and outside at Town Hall, at the Transfer Station, and in the Post Office.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), RSV is “a common respiratory virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms. Most people recover in a week or two, but RSV can be serious, especially for infants and older adults.”

You can also find additional information about RSV online at www.cdc.gov/rsv.

The School Bus Winter Drill

From Rob Putnam's Farmington River Elementary School Weekly Family Newsletter, November 18

Tuesday [Nov. 15] brought us our first taste of Winter. This is a good time to review the procedure for snow days.

I have already met with DPW Superintendents from Otis and Sandisfield to share maps of bus routes and discuss procedures. When snow or ice is forecast the principal will place a call to Brad Curry from Sandisfield DPW and Derek Poirier from Otis DPW between 4:30-5:00 am to ascertain the conditions of the roads.

The principal will cancel school if the Superintendents report that the roads are in poor condition and they are unable to keep the roads open and safe. The principal will delay the opening of school for two hours if the superintendents report that the roads can be made safe with extra time.

The Dufour Bus Company has requested that a decision should be made by 5:15 a.m. A decision to cancel or delay school will be followed by an automated call to all FRRSD families and staff at 5:45 a.m. The information will be posted on the school website and sent to local radio television stations.

FARMINGTON RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT HELP WANTED: TWO POSITIONS

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS AND PARAPROFESSIONALS

DUTIES/DESCRIPTION:

Fill in for FRRSD teachers. Assume all duties of the regular classroom teacher or paraprofessional promptly and in accordance with school rules. This may include lunch, recess/playground, or any other duties assigned by the building principal.

- Substitute teachers or paraprofessionals with licensure from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary & Education receive \$110 per day with the completion of time sheets.
- Substitute teachers or paraprofessionals without a license receive \$90 per day with the completion of time sheets.
- The school tries to give advance notice, but calls often happen between 6-7 am.

REQUIRED:

- Minimum of a High School Diploma. Associates or Bachelor Degree preferred.

SUBSTITUTE VAN DRIVERS

DUTIES/DESCRIPTION:

Be prepared to fill in for drivers during one of both shifts: 6:15-8:45 or 2:15-4:00

REQUIRED:

- Ability to operate a 10-passenger van
- Safely transport students
- 21 years or older
- Valid MA Drivers License
- 7D License or CDL Preferred
- CORI and drug Test
- Knowledge of Sandisfield and Otis roads are a plus.
- Minimum high school diploma
- \$18 per hour without benefits

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Send a letter of interest/intent, three current, work-related references, a copy of diploma, transcripts, degrees, etc., and any other materials that will strengthen your candidacy to:

ROBERT PUTNAM
Interim Principal/Superintendent
Farmington River Regional School District
555 North Main Road, Otis, MA, 01253
or rputnam@frrsd.org

Please visit www.frrsd.org for additional information.

FRRSD is an equal opportunity education institution and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, gender, gender-identity, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy, visibility, or any other status protected by law in its activities, programs, or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title IX and Section 504.

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NOW HEAR THIS!

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

DECEMBER EVENTS

Sandisfield Select Board Meetings are currently through Zoom and in-person. Usually on Monday, 7:00 p.m. Please visit or call 258-4711 for agenda and information.

Playgroup on Tuesdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Otis Town Hall. Sponsored by South Berkshire Kids. Weather permitting. No pre-registration is necessary. Led by Nina Carr. Meet outside behind the Otis Town Hall in the gazebo for stories and songs followed by creative crafts. For confirmation, please call Nina at 258-3314. Free!

Coffee Hour on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. at the Council on Aging, Town Hall. Snacks and conversation! For more information, contact Nina Carr at 258-3314. Free.

Chair Yoga with Wendy Larsen on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall on Silverbrook Road, sponsored by the Council on Aging. For more information, contact Nina Carr at 258-3314. Free.

Christmas Fair, hosted by the Sandisfield Historical Society on Saturday, December 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Firehouse #2 on Route 57. Participants can enjoy a free crafting table, sponsored by the Sandisfield Recreation Committee. Santa will arrive about 1:00 p.m. There will be many goods.

Christmas Tree and Menorah Lighting on Saturday, December 10 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. at the Berkshire Rehabilitation Center, 7 Sandisfield Road. Help decorate the Sandisfield Christmas Tree and listen to the Children's Choir of the Farmington River Regional School District, The Rosebuds, led by Michael Flowers with Robert Putnam on keyboard. The Rosebuds will perform about 3:00 p.m. There will also be hot chocolate and cookies! Please park at the New Boston Inn lot across the street or behind the Rehabilitation Center. Free, but please RSVP by December 7 at 413-269-7357. Sponsored by the Sandisfield Recreation Committee, Berkshire Rehabilitation Center, and the Historical Society.

New Boston Church Christmas Service on Sunday, December 11 at 10:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church, Route 57. All are welcome for this special Christmas service.

Christmas Poetry for the Family on Sunday, December 11 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Come together with your neighbors to hear wonderful Christmas and seasonal poetry read by Benjamin Luxon and to join in singing some of your favorite carols! Ben will accompany the singing on the keyboard. Masks are optional but recommended. Free.

Noon Luncheon for Seniors hosted by the Council on Aging Wednesday, December 14 at Mario's in Winsted. The food at Mario's has always been great, and we're looking forward to seeing many of you there. Contact Nina at 258-3314 or Barbara Cormier for more information.

CCC Memorial Ceremony on Friday, December 16, at 2:30 p.m. at the Sandisfield State Forest, in New Marlborough near York Lake. Honoring the five Civilian Conservation Corps members killed in a truck accident in Great Barrington in 1934. A 45-minute service, wreath laying, taps. Ceremony at the site of the former CCC camp on Rt. 183 just south of the intersection of East Hill/York Lake Road. Weather permitting. Park along Rt. 183. For more information, call 413-426-7890.

Berkshire Public Health Alliance Public Health Nurse on Wednesday, December 21 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sandisfield Council on Aging, basement level of Town Hall. The nurse will provide an assessment, including a blood pressure check and wellness update. All are welcome. Free.

EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

Playgroup on Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Monterey Library. Sponsored by South Berkshire Kids. Weather permitting. No pre-registration necessary. Meet for stories and songs followed by creative crafts. For information, call Nina Carr at 258-3314. Free!

Wreath Making with Catherine Hurst on Sunday, December 4 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Monterey Community Center at 468 Main Road. Visit for more information.

Family Self-Guided Story Walk from Saturday, December 10 through Sunday, January 2 (dawn to dusk) at Housatonic Flats in Great Barrington, sponsored by the Berkshire Natural Resources Council. As you walk, enjoy a story about a father that takes his child on an adventure to find owls on a cold winter night.

Sheffield Winter Farmers' Market on Saturday, December 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Dewey Hall on 91 Main Street in Sheffield. Local produce, meats, baked goods, crafts, gifts, live music.

Great Barrington Winter Farmers Market on Saturday, December 17 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Housie Dome on 1064 Main Street in Housatonic. Featuring locally grown and produced foods, including fruits and vegetables, cheese, meats, breads, and more. Masks not mandatory, but encouraged.

Nature Journaling with Nanci Worthington on Saturday, December 31 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Bartholomew's Cobble on 105 Weatogue Road in Ashley Falls. This program is for everyone, including naturalists, birdwatchers, kids, adults, teens, advanced artists and beginners. No experience necessary, just a love of the outdoors. Materials are provided. Space is limited. For more information, email at the trustees.org/event/74147. Free, but registration is required.

First Day Birding Hike on Sunday, January 1, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at Bartholomew's Cobble on 105 Weatogue Road in Ashley Falls. \$5 members of the Trustees of the Reservation; \$10 non-members.



SANDISFIELD TOWN DIRECTORY

DECEMBER, 2022

TOWN HALL: Janey Beardsley, Assistant Secretary,
413-258-4711, x 3, jbeardsley@sandisfieldma.gov

TOWN WEBSITE: www.sandisfieldma.gov.
Webmaster: Larry Dwyer. To report town news or events,
write to webmaster@sandisfieldma.gov

AMBULANCE: 911. Non-Emergency: 258-4742

AMERICAN LEGION Post 456: Maria Domato, Commander
258-4578 (April-October) or rainbow2498@embarqmail.com

ASSESSORS OFFICE: 258-4711 x 6
Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Thurs. 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

BOARD OF HEALTH: Meets 2nd Tues: 7 p.m., Old Town Hall.

BUILDING INSPECTORS:
- Fire: Eric Munson, Jr., 258-4590
- Plumbing: Brice Middleton, 413-269-7269
- Wiring: Jay Reynolds, 860-798-2578
- Building: Paul Greene, 413-446-0964

CEMETERY COMMITTEE:
Kathie Burrows: 258-4943. Meets as needed.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: Meets 3rd Tues: 7 p.m.
Email: concom@sandisfieldma.gov.

CONSTABLES:
Nazario Sanchez: 258-4705, Temporary: Michael Morrison, 258-4742

COUNCIL ON AGING: Linda Riiska, Nina Carr: 258-4711 x 8
Wed: 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Senior Center/Town Hall
Business Meeting 1st and 3rd Wed: 10 a.m.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT: Brad Curry
Emergency, 717-7627 cell. Office 258-4711 x 7
DPW Email: highways@sandisfieldma.gov

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR:
Mike Morrison, 413-441-2129

FARMINGTON RIVER GENERAL STORE
Nick and Megan Smigel, Proprietors
83 South Main Street (Rt. 8), 413-462-1104
Hours: Mon-Tues, 6-8; Wed-Fri, 6-6; Sat-Sun, 7-6

FARMINGTON RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOL:
Robert Putnam, Interim Superintendent/Principal
North Main Street, Otis, 413 269-4466
School Committee: Meets every first Monday at 7 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Meets as needed. Check for schedule.

FIRE: CALL 911
Fire Chief: Ralph Morrison, 258-4742

HISTORICAL COMMISSION: Ron Bernard, 413-269-0012;
ronbernard@aol.com. Meets 2nd Tuesday or as posted, 7 p.m.,
New Boston Firehouse training room.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Ann Wald, President
258-4415 or annaw2@verizon.net.
Meets 2nd Saturday, Apr-Nov. Sandy Brook Turnpike/Rt. 183.

LIBRARY: Librarian: Theresa Spohnholz: 258-4966;
sandisfieldlibrary@gmail.com
HOURS: Mon, Tues, Wed: 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Wed eve: 5:00-7:00 p.m.,
Sat: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Closed Th, Fr and Sun.

NOTARY: Joanne D. Olson, 258-4465 or 917-686-1985
Theresa Spohnholz: 258-4966 or 258-4711 x 4 at the Town Library

PLANNING BOARD: Meets 2nd Tues: 6 p.m., Old Town Hall

POLICE-LOCAL: Emergency 911, Non-emergency: 413-258-4724
Chief Michael Morrison: cell 413-441-2129
Email: chief@sandisfieldma.gov

POLICE-STATE: Lee Barracks: 413 243-0600

POST OFFICE: Amy Rintoul, Clerk, 258-4940
Window Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 a.m.-noon & 1-4 p.m. Sat: 8-11:30 a.m.
Delivery boxes in both lobbies accessible 24 hours.

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER: Mary Bredenfoerder: Emergency, 911;
non-emergency, 258-4742

RECREATION COMMITTEE: Lynn Rubenstein
kowgirlruby@aol.com

SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER: (May-December)
5 Hammertown Road, PO Box 31
258-4100; www.sandisfieldartscenter.org

SANDISFIELD TIMES: Bill Price, editor
editor@sandisfieldtimes.org
U.S. Mail: PO Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255

SELECT BOARD: 258-4711 x 2
Meets Monday, regular meeting, 7 p.m. Town Hall.
See posted agendas for changes in meeting times
Select Board Assistant: Janey Beardsley, 258-4711, x 3

STATE OFFICIALS:
Smitty Pignatelli, State Representative
413 637-0631; rep.smitty@mahouse.gov
Adam Hinds, State Senator; 413 344-4561; adam.hinds@masenate.gov

TAX COLLECTOR: Gina Campbell
258-4711 x 4; Mon/Tues, 11:30-4 p.m.; Wed/Thurs, 9-2 p.m.

TOWN ACCOUNTANT: Margaret McClellan
by appointment; 258-4711 x 5 or accountant@sandisfieldma.gov

TOWN CLERK: Douglas Miner, 258-4711 x 2
PO Box 163, Sandisfield, MA 01255 or townclerk@sandisfieldma.gov
Mon - Wed., 10:00 a.m.-2 p.m.

TOWN HALL:
66 Sandisfield Road, PO Box 90, 01255
Open Mon-Thurs: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Mon: 6-7 p.m. or by appt.

INTERIM TOWN MANAGER: Jonathan Sylbert, 258-4711, x 1

TOWN TREASURER: Gina Campbell, 258-4711 x 4
treasurer@sandisfieldma.gov
Mon/Tues, 11:30 - 4 p.m.; Wed/Thurs, 9-2

TRANSFER STATION: Alex Psillas
Wed: 12 noon - 5 p.m., Sat/Sun: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

VETERANS SERVICES: Laurie Hills
413-528-1580, Great Barrington Town Hall

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



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P.O. Box 584
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