

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

Tribunus



Plebis

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

Volume XIV, Number 3

June 2023

The 2023 Memorial Day Parade



INSIDE

NEW BOSTON INN SUMMER	2
OUR TOWN: ANNUAL MEETING, RT. 57 DELAY.	3
A&M RECEIVES AWARD.	6
A GIFT FOR MEMORIAL DAY.	10-11
FAMILY FUN DAY COMING UP	19

SUMMER FUN AT THE NEW BOSTON INN

By Ron Bernard

If you ask people what's attractive about living in Sandisfield, responses might include, "clean environment," "peace and quiet," "affordable for families," "the great outdoors." Ask what's missing, you may hear, "There's nothing to do!"

It's true that Sandisfield has lost many social groups and bistros and the vitality they once provided to community life, but promising signs of rejuvenation exist, especially programs by our energized Recreation Committee.

And another venue with an exciting schedule of summertime events exists, in plain sight. The New Boston Inn.

Possibly the oldest continuously operating inn of its kind in the country, the establishment is in its 20th year under owner Barbara Colorio (who will be featured in an upcoming story).

She has added a new feature to complement the Inn's traditional lodging and dining: outdoor band music and more.

Barbara told The Times that several years ago she (and other B&B's) experienced a drop in business. "You have to attract customers and adapt to changing times," she said. "I decided to bring in bands on certain Sundays." She noticed that some guests who normally checked out in the morning instead began to hang around for BBQ lunch and free quality entertainment in the field in back.

Bands have loyal followings and the word spread in the Berkshires and beyond that there was a new place to enjoy an afternoon in a bucolic, historic setting. "New" and "different" are effective marketing messages. They are paying off in this case. "Typically our guests have been mostly older, 50s and 60s, for example," she said. "But now we are seeing more of the younger generation who appreciate events and our unique, welcoming setting."

Barbara mentioned another encouraging sign: weekend rock climbers from Hanging Mountain who drop in for a bite and refreshments.

Barbara is also receptive to hosting practically anything that can draw people to the Inn for example, community tag sales, a farmer's market and birthday parties. "I love it when town residents stop by. We have a great outdoor space and plenty of parking," she said.

BIG SEASONAL EVENTS, TOO

Soon after Barbara assumed proprietorship, she promoted Halloween parties for adults in the Inn's great old ballroom. It's become an annual affair that sells out quickly and for good reason – a first rate, hilarious costume competition.



The New Boston Inn Car Show, 2022
Photos: Sandisfield Times



The patio at the New Boston Inn.

We recall entering one year as "the Sheik and the Nun," certain that our concept and authentic outfits from Saudi Arabia and a convent would win first place. I mean, really, what could possibly top that? Incredibly, we came in second place to the "Road Kill" couple who were ingenious if ghostly. Great fun.

CAR SHOWS DRAW HUNDREDS

A few years ago Barbara had a notion to kick off the summer by hosting a really big event, a free car show. "It was an immediate success," she said. Dozens of antique and sports cars and trucks – all very fancy and gleaming – filled the fields behind the Inn. A few hundred enthusiasts, families, and locals marveled and enjoyed the ambiance, opportunity to chat and grilled offerings.

The event and attendance have grown every year. The word has spread and local and out-of-state clubs with amazing entries are eager to participate. Barbara does not charge for the spaces or concessions who support the show. "The only benefit for us is business in the restaurant and tap room," she said. "The idea is for people to have a good time and a memorable experience. Hopefully they'll come back." 🍷

COMING UP JULY AND AUGUST ...

The New Boston Car Show is June 10 (see New Boston Inn ad, p.4).

IN JULY:

July 7-10, Lobster Bake (call for reservations); Sunday's band, Jeanie & Ken Blue Yonder from 2 to 5 p.m. July 14-17, BBQ Smoke Weekend. Sunday band, Dakota, 2 to 5 p.m. July 15: Sandisfield Community Tag Sale. July 21-24, Motorcycle Appreciation & Steamer Weekend. Sunday band, Key-Bar, 2 to 5 p.m.

IN AUGUST:

August 4-7, BBQ Smoke Weekend and return of Key-Bar band, 2 to 5 p.m. August 11-14, Pet Week and doggie menu! Sunday band, Blue Yonder, 2 to 5 p.m. August 18-21 Lobster Bake (reservations please). August 27, band, Key-Bar, 2 to 5 p.m.

AND AUGUST 31

The Inn will host the Sandisfield Historical Society's benefit raffle. One very lucky person will win an All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) generously donated by New Boston Crane & Sleds. (see details, p.5). 🍷

OUR TOWN NEWS

By Bill Price

Smooth Sailing at Town Meeting

UNTIL STRS CREATED WAVES

The 45 registered voters who showed up on May 13 at Fire Station #2 for Sandisfield's Annual Town Meeting approved the Town's \$3,800,000 budget for Fiscal Year 2024.

The stalwart 45 represented only 7 percent of the 650 registered voters in Town, an unusually low turnout. It was surmised that a reason might be that most voters are satisfied with the way the Town is being run; still others surmised that many may have given up trying to influence decisions and simply didn't want to spend a sunny morning talking about it.

Also, the date happened to fall on Mother's Day weekend so possibly cards and flowers needed to be purchased.

A high percentage of our tax base, 87 percent, comes from our 594 residential properties. Our few businesses in Town contribute the rest.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

The Town warrant included 104 items of General Government Operating costs, including a \$5,000 decrease in Select Board expenses. A corresponding \$5,800 increase for the Administrative Assistant to the Town Manager and Select Board wiped that out. (This reporter once served as an Administrative Assistant. A good one, like Janey Beardsley and me when I was working, are worth our weight in gold.)

The Town Manager got an 8 percent raise, \$6,205, to an attractive \$85,000. After a year on the job.

The salary for the Solid Waste Disposal person was reduced by \$7,300, to \$15,700. By the time voters recognized the reduction, they were told the question was too late for debate.

Lumped into the 104 items was the school budget of \$1,578,000, which represented a 6 percent bump of \$93,000. No one seriously objected or asked a pointed question, just accepted their lumps as if they were overdue.

A few voters asked about the large spending for new equipment for the Highway Department, but no one objected. The highway warrants sailed through like the others, mostly unanimous.

Article 14 was approved, \$120,000 for capital projects for town properties, including a new roof and chimney at Old Town Hall. Does this mean a decision has been made to save the old building?

BYLAW FIX: JUNK CARS

You can no longer leave unregistered or dilapidated junked motor vehicle or discarded car parts in an open area. For this bylaw, an "open area" means "that if the vehicles and/or parts are plainly visible to abutters or from a public or private way." If you have such a vehicle or parts thereof, understand the new regulations or face a fine.

This issue was the most contentious of the meeting. Several voters stated that definitions seemed unclear, as was who would make a determination that a vehicle was abandoned. Some worried about repairing vehicles in their own yards. The issue passed, but only with a majority.

BYLAW FIX: SHORT-TERM RENTALS

Another contentious issue involved two proposed short-term rental (STR) bylaws. The first, Article 23, was tabled as superseded by the following Article 24. One provision in the first called for every STR to maintain a log and furnish the Town with names, addresses, and ages of all individuals staying there.

One requested draw from Free Cash was for \$2,500 to pay for the Recreation Committee's planned community pig roast this summer. Passed with one dissenting vote.

The second version of the bylaw, Article 24, did not have that provision but among two pages of amendments submitted by the Planning Board before the vote was a clause that included the same provision, that operators must keep a log of the number of renters with names, addresses, and phone numbers for inspection, if necessary, by Town officials with authority to regulate use of the STR.

The purposes and intent of the regulations was clearly written:

1. Enable residents to earn extra money from their properties to better afford to live here, maintain their properties, and contribute to the community.
2. Minimize potential public safety and health risks.

3. Deter commercial interests from buying housing to use primarily as short-term rental businesses.

Article 24 with amendments passed by a 2/3 majority. Regulations take effect July 1 this year.

Also, beginning July 1, the Town is imposing a 6 percent tax on all residential STRs. No distinction was made between owner-occupied homes and commercial properties, such as the New Boston Inn or Hillside Garden. One voter objected that this tax was short-sighted, especially for established businesses as well as attracting new business. The state will collect the tax and return it to the Town, The Times was unable to determine if the Town receives all of the 6 percent or a portion is withheld by the state.

There was grumbling at the Annual Meeting and afterward that speakers were not required to use a microphone. With simultaneous cross-talk among the attendees, several voters said they couldn't hear the proceedings and left in confusion.

Town Meeting minutes are available at sandisfieldma.gov.

That Last Stretch of 57

REPAIR WORK TO TAKE ITS TURN

Is the last 2½ miles of Sandisfield Road (Rt. 57) being held hostage because Mass DOT is mad at us?

Rumor has it that because DOT received what they perceived as a complaint letter from the Select Board rather than a "thank you" that, piqued, they've moved our last stretch of repair from the front of the pending roadwork line to the back of it.

Signed by Alex Bowman but from the entire Select Board, the letter suggested that the rumble strips installed last summer down the middle of the road during the repaving of 57 from New Hartford Road down past the Transfer Station could cause a problem. Pedestrians, and presumably bicyclists, could be at risk if drivers were paying more attention to avoiding the strips rather than people on the road. Said Select Board Chairman Steve Seddon, "The letter was rather benign."

The reply, he said, was that DOT "would consider our input. Ultimately it is at the state's discretion, they're paying for it. They have done many studies on the benefit of rumble strips, and in most cases, there is a strong benefit."

Cont'd on p.13

Transfer Station News

By Bill Price

Transfer Station hours will change July 1 when the new summer schedule begins. Wednesday, 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

At the end of June you'll have to renew your Transfer Station sticker. Remember the Town moved to fiscal year scheduling and the sticker you bought last December or January was good for only the first half of the year. The Town made the change in order to better budget for the Transfer Station.

So you'll need a sticker to cover your trash business for the coming fiscal year, July 1 through June 30, 2024. This new sticker will cost \$90, and add an extra \$10 if you need a second..

You can pay in person at Town Hall during business hours Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., or at the Transfer Station by check payable to Town of Sandisfield. Checks are preferred. Card payment is not available. Or by mail by obtain-ing a form to fill out and sending with a check and stamped self-addressed envelope to Town of Sandisfield, 66 Sandisfield Road, Suite 1, Sandisfield, MA 01255.

All the other Transfer Station rules apply. See www.sandisfieldma.gov-transfer-station if you need to review them. Household trash only. Bulky waste disposal offered year-round.

Your Neighbors Serving the Town

The appointments are for one-, three-, or five-year terms, beginning FY2024. These individuals are either reappointed or new to town services.

ONE-YEAR APPOINTMENTS

- Animal Inspector: Kim Spring
- Tree Warden: Vacant
- Wiring Inspector: Jay Reynolds
- Assistant Wiring Inspector: Jeffrey Aloisi
- Assistant Wiring Inspector: Robert Kimberly
- Fire Chief: Ralph Morrison
- Assistant Fire Chief: Mike Morrison
- Assistant Police Chief: Ralph Morrison
- Emergency Management Director: . . . Mike Morrison
- Building Inspector: Paul Greene
- Alternate Building Inspector: Don Torrico
- Plumbing Inspector: Charles Pease
- Veteran Service Director: Vacant

THREE-YEAR APPOINTMENTS

- Registrar: John Burrows
- COA: Shirley Spring
- Linda Riiska
- Barbara Cormier
- Cultural Council: Ellen Croibier
- Rosanne Hoekstra
- Historical Commission: Liana Toscanini
- Connie Canty
- Zoning Board of Appeals: Barbara Cormier

FIVE-YEAR APPOINTMENTS

- Conservation Committee: Mary Turek

Election Results, May 15, 2023

91 ballots cast. 14 percent out of 650 registered voters.

The only contested seat, for the Planning Board, was won by Jeff Bye.

- Moderator. Dominic Konstam . . 74
- Town Clerk Douglas T. Miner . . 75
- Board of Assessors . . Roger Brown 79
- Select Board, 3 yrs . . Steven Seddon 74
- Select Board, 1 yr . . Robert Fedell 58
- Board of Health . . . Brigitte Ruthman . . 15 (write-in)
- Other write-ins 4
- Planning Board. . . Paul Adams 17
- Jeff Bye. 65
- School Committee. . Melissa Bye 76
- Library Trustee. . . Clare English 73
- Constable Dana Beardsley 8 (write-in)
- Other write-ins 3
- Constable No candidate

Scholarship Winners



By Nina Carr

The Sandisfield Scholarship Committee is delighted to announce the recipients of this year's scholarships.

- Luke Hartshorn of Mountain Home Ln.
- Tyler Sermini of Sandy Brook Turnpike

Luke is a student at Monument Mountain High School in Great Barrington. Tyler attends Mt. Everett High School in Sheffield. Luke was an accomplished wrestler and Tyler a soccer player.

Both are honor roll students with ambitious plans. Luke will attend the University of Southern Maine in the fall, majoring in Criminal Justice. Tyler will be at Westfield State majoring in History.

We are very proud of both of them.

The Committee would like to continue the tradition of awarding scholarships to our hardworking students, but right now our future is somewhat shaky. We need a few interested residents to join the committee to keep this long tradition going. Please contact Anina Carr at 258-3314 if you would like to join us. 🗳️

The Historic
1737 New Boston Inn
 Restaurant, Tavern and B&B
 Six Guest Rooms, All Private Baths
 Restaurant open THURS 12-8, *Pets Welcome!*
 FRI & SAT 12-9, SUN 12-8, MONDAY HOLIDAYS 12 -6
AUGUST 31: RAFFLE for ATV TICKETS!
 (Tickets \$50 sold here.)
 101 North Main St., Sandisfield, MA (Corner of Routes 8 & 57)
 413-258-4477 • List of events at www.NewBostonInn.com

CAR SHOW!
JUNE 10 - 1-4PM
 reserve space: 413-258-4477
 Music
BLUE YONDER
OUTDOOR GRILL!
 Bring your own chairs

FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND
JUNE 16 - 18
BBQ!

Sandisfield High School Graduates



CONGRATULATIONS, SENIORS

- **Madison DellaGiustina**
Lee High School
- **Luke Hartshorn**
Monument Mountain Regional High School
- **Owen Ivas**
Lee High School
- **Emma Perry**
Monument Mountain Regional High School
- **Tyler Sermini**
Mt. Everett High School, Sheffield



OOOPS AND SORRY ABOUT THAT

By Bill Price

Careful readers alerted us to three errors in our May issue.

Page 4, we wrote that Paul Allen was running against Jeff Gray for the Planning Board seat. Wrong. Paul Adams ran against Jeff Bye for the seat. Lesson learned: old men should read what they type rather than assuming all is just fine. Also, we did not trick Jeff Gray into running for anything again.

Page 4, we proposed that Steve Seddon, Select Board candidate for re-election, had first been elected three years ago. Wrong. He was elected only 18 months earlier to finish Marc Newman's term when Marc resigned half-way through his term. Lesson learned: Work harder to get a fact rather than assuming ...

Page 18, we wrote that the Annual Town Meeting would be at the DPW Garage, like last year. Wrong. We apologize to all who were late at the Town Meeting because they first showed up at the Garage. The Town Meeting was held at Fire Station #2 on Sandisfield Road.

Lesson learned: none. We went with the information we had at the time from The Berkshire Eagle because information was not available at that time on the Town website. Actual lesson learned: We should have called Janey.

Driver Needed, Early Mornings

By Tom O'Gara

I have been laid up and am not allowed to drive, but I began work again June 1 in Great Barrington. Now I need to be there at 7 a.m., Monday through Friday. I should have transportation back to town in the afternoon, so only need a lift in the early mornings.

If you could provide me with transportation, I'd pay for gas. Or even for hire. Please contact me at 258-4537 or togara5@hotmail.com.



WIN AN ATV OR SOME CASH

SUPPORT THE SANDISFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society is raffling off a brand new 2023 Sportsman 450 HO at a drawing to be held at the New Boston Inn on Thursday, August 31. You don't have to be present to win.

- **1st Prize is the ATV**
- **2nd Prize is \$500**
- **3rd Prize is \$250**

Your chances of winning are very good when compared to almost any other raffle or lottery – NUMBER OF TICKETS IS CAPPED AT 500.

The Society is depending on a vigorous sale because money is badly needed to install a proper toilet facility which will make it possible to hold more programs, events, and speakers. The board feels that a new comfort facility is vital to the future of the Society at the historic meeting house on Sandy Brook Turnpike (Rt. 183), South Sandisfield.

For ticket information, contact Barbara Cormier at 860-307-1332 or Joanne Olson at 917-686-1985. Cash, check, Velmo, and Zelle accepted. (See ad, page 18 for more details.)

Thanks to New Boston Crane Service & Sleds for the very generous donation of the ATV for our cause.



PICASSO'S PAINTING

ENJOY SATISFACTION OF EXCELLENCE

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE

INTERIOR
EXTERIOR
RESIDENTIAL
COMMERCIAL
PRESSURE WASHING

PHONE: (413) 429-7571
EMAIL: HOUSEPAINT1@HOTMAIL.COM

A&M Auto a “Provider of Excellence”

LOCAL SHOP WINS AWARD FROM TRIPLE A

By Ron Bernard

A&M Auto Service of New Boston was recently commended by the American Automobile Association for providing its members with consistently excellent service.

AAA awards are presented annually to “automotive repair facilities that have met a stringent set of standards developed by AAA,” according to the company. Included among the criteria is “a customer satisfaction score of 95% or higher exhibit[ing] a commitment to their communities and the industry.”

AAA has agreements with some 7,000 repair facilities around the country. Every year in each state only a handful of shops like A&M are selected for recognition. The prestigious awards are testaments that the business meets high standards.



The AAA Award for Excellence

The Times congratulates A&M Auto owner Ralph Morrison and A&M employees Rodney Loring, Alec Morrison, and Maria Nardi. A&M has anchored a gateway to New Boston Village as long most of us can remember.

A MODEST BEGINNING IN A GARAGE ...

A brief report in The Berkshire Eagle, March 19, 1976, announced that the Select Board had granted a license for an auto repair shop to the New Boston residents Ralph Morrison and Ed Arnold. According to the Eagle: “[They will



A&M employees, right to left ; owner Ralph Morrison, Rodney Loring, and Alec Morrison.

do] business as A&M Auto Service. The shop is on Route 8 north of the village of New Boston. Mrs. Italia (Campetti) Henri, owner of the property, gave written permission to the men to use a garage behind the house occupied by the Milton Arnold family.”

Ralph and Ed’s vision, smart planning, and efficient business practices led their business to get off to a good start and half a century later it is going strong.

WE SAT DOWN WITH RALPH ...

Were you surprised to receive the 2022 award?

Yes, we were! We had no idea and Triple A does not reveal the criteria. I am sure our good safety record was taken into account. The company inspects us for cleanliness, proper tools, adequate technical training, and appropriate technician certifications. I know that they also ask around about our reputation and our financial condition.

I have been with AAA 40 years and although we did get a commendation about 25 years ago, this particular award is really satisfying. I’m proud of Rodney and Alec and the many others over the years like our part-time tow drivers, shop assistants, and office staff who deserve credit too.

Although A&M operates with a small but expert core of technicians, a sign above the door makes us wonder if there might be another otherworldly factor that helps promote excellence in the shop. It reads: "I do what the voices in my garage tell me to do."

What do you do for Triple A?

We are responsible, 24-7, 365, for calls from pretty much anywhere in South County. We get 30-40 calls a week, a lot in summer and even more in winter. Many are for flat tires, dead batteries, and lock outs but we frequently respond to accidents. About 60 percent of the calls involve a tow either to the shop or to a dealer or repair facility up to 100 miles away if the member has AAA-Plus service.

How did A&M grow from two guys in a garage into this established business?

By 1979, we needed a proper facility and this property was available from Gene Wells. Believe it or not, our main garage was once a chicken coop which we converted and expanded.

Besides Triple A, we were just made an authorized NAPA parts dealer, and we are an official Massachusetts inspection station.

I became sole proprietor in 1983. My nephew, Rodney Loring, has been with me for 30 years. He is an outstanding automotive technician. Another nephew, Alec Morrison, a graduate of Lincoln Tech, is now a full-time employee.


Who are A&M's customers?

We serve the general area year-round, of course, but we have many loyal customers among summer residents, including from communities like Otis Woodlands, Lake Garfield, and Wildwood in Tolland. We are convenient and much less expensive for service and repairs than auto shops in the city. We offer free rides to and from residences when a vehicle is in the shop for a length of time.

Also, may I mention that we are very price competitive on quality new tires which is a significant and growing line of business.

What about the trend to electric vehicles?

Yes, this is the coming thing but it will take quite a while. Right now we actually benefit from EVs because of calls for towing to charging stations. Another thing is that even gas vehicles have become very electronic. We are always training for that, and I have recently leased a sophisticated and expensive diagnostic computer system.

I would like to remind people that it is important to the community to support local businesses like ours and to not take them for granted. It is very appreciated, and we try very hard to earn customer satisfaction. 



How to Save \$10 Million Right Here at Home

By Times Staff

Two years ago you might have spent \$18 million on your dream property.

Following the deaths of Judi and Lou Friedman, long-time Sandisfield second-home owners from Canton, Connecticut, their 321-acre wooded property around Atwater Pond was listed with Sotheby's Real Estate at, well, yes, \$18 million. At the time it was the most expensive offering in the Berkshires, costing even more than a fully refurbished Lenox cottage from the Gilded Age.


There might have been some interest, maybe a Californian or Floridian or two with a pocketful

of internet money burning a hole in their portfolio. As far as we know, there was not a lot of drive-by interest in the place at the end of Sullivan Road, off Sage Road.

Now, nearly two years later, the property is for sale at only \$7.99 million. A savings, if you will, of slightly north of \$10 mill.

The property is now listed by The Agency, a high-end real estate firm with sales in ten countries. You can reach them at 866-371-6468.

The Times featured the property in its October 2021 issue. Heather Bellow, the excellent Berkshire Eagle reporter, wrote about the opportunity then and, more recently, on May 17: "The 14 Sullivan Road compound features a six-bedroom mid-century modern house, a guesthouse, bunkhouse and an Airstream trailer. There's a 4.5-mile private trail system and a boathouse, three docks and a sandy beach at Atwater Pond, according to the listing. There's also room for a helipad."


Think what you could do with the \$10 million you saved by being patient. 



BERKSHIRE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOSTS AUTHOR LORRAINE GERMAN

On Wednesday, June 7, the Berkshire County Historical Society will host author Lorraine German when she discusses her book *Soil and Shul in the Berkshires: The Untold Story of Sandisfield's Jewish Farm Colony*. This free

event will take place at Herman Melville's historic barn at Arrowhead, 780 Holmes Road, Pittsfield, beginning at 5:30 pm. Reservations are not required. Copies of the book will be available for sale and signing. This event is sponsored by MountainOne.

Soil and Shul in the Berkshires tells the story of the 1902 settlement in south Berkshire County and its final days when the congregation turned the synagogue building over to the Sandisfield Arts Center in 1995. 

RALPH E. MORRISON **413-258-3381**



A & M AUTO SERVICE

COMPLETE AUTO & TRUCK CARE
IMPORT AND DOMESTIC
24 HOUR HEAVY DUTY & LIGHT TOWING & RECOVERY
FLAT BED SERVICE

ROUTE 57/EAST SANDISFIELD, MA 413-258-3381



The Sandisfield Arts Center

June is for Art and Families

ARTS CENTER BUSTLING THIS MONTH

By *Hilde Weisert*

If you haven't seen the terrific Berkshire Artists Guild group show, it runs until Sunday June 4 (by appointment, email galleries@sandisfieldartscenter.org).

A One-Day Kids Art Show featuring work by Sandisfield and Otis artists 12 and under is on Saturday June 11, reception: 1:00-2:30 p.m.

We hope you'll stay for Zoë Lewis Returns (2:30-4:30 p.m.). Zoë's show is perfect for all ages, full of songs and stories of slow boats to China, Bollywood dreams, box-car jumping, elephant orchestras, and all the wonderful people she's met along the way. When Zoë performed at the Center in 2021, many people asked us to bring her back when a larger audience could enjoy her – and we have! Attendance is free for families of Kids Show artists.

Father's Day weekend, we honor fathers with Dad Stories, Saturday, June 17, at 9:30 a.m. In the morning's storytelling workshop, you can get expert guidance from experienced storyteller

Linda Storms on how to tell your "dad story," whether humorous or touching or both – from having a father to being one (stepfather, grandfather, big brother or uncle or family friend who filled in). Afterward, everyone is invited to the free 2:00 p.m. Dad Performance where the workshop participants will entertain and touch you with their dad stories.

Sunday June 18 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. come to the free opening reception for local artist Josie Miner. Miner's show runs to July 8 with a closing reception 4:00-6:00 p.m.



On June 24 at 10:00 a.m. we present another free event and another art form, Introduction to Handmade Rugs, an overview of the art and history of oriental rugs by expert John Balayan. See a demonstration of knotting on a loom. You can even bring photos of the front and back of your rug (not the rug, please) for an appraisal.


We have two Calls for Artists in June (please see our website for submission details).

For the Second Annual Daniel Manacher Young Artists Award, artists aged 17-26 living or



Zoë Lewis

attending school in Berkshire County can submit their work in any of the following media: painting, drawing, mixed media, sculpture, digital paintings, and digital drawings. Three artists will be selected as finalists and each will receive \$350 in support of their art practice, as well as participation in a group show of their work at the Arts Center with an opening reception on August 19. The prize was created by Adam Manacher and Carol Birnbaum in memory of their son Daniel Manacher and his passion for art.

Submissions for the Second Bi-Annual Outdoor Sculpture Show (opening July 2 and running to July 30) are also invited in June. Check our website for more information. 



sandisfield
ARTS CENTER

★ 5 HAMMERTOWN ROAD, SANDISFIELD, MA ★

SUN., JUNE 11 FREE

Gallery: ONE-DAY KIDS ART SHOW

Opening reception 1-2:30 pm

SUN., JUNE 11, 2:30PM \$15/\$5 KIDS
ZOË LEWIS RETURNS!**

A fun show for all ages in a wide variety of styles on instruments ranging from traditional to funky. **FREE for families of artists participating in the One-Day Kids Art Show.

**SAT., JUNE 17, 9:30 AM WORKSHOP | 2 PM PERFORMANCE \$10
TELLING DAD STORIES**

Learn how to tell your dad stories – from having a father to being one. After a bag lunch, share in a performance.

JUNE 17 – JULY 9 FREE

Gallery: JOSIE MINER PHOTOGRAPHY

Opening reception 4-6 pm

**SAT., JUNE 24, 10 AM FREE
INTRODUCTION TO HANDMADE RUGS**

An overview of the art and history of oriental rugs by **John Balayan**. See a demonstration of knotting on a loom. Bring photos of the front and back of your rug for an appraisal.

FOR DETAILS VISIT SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

Fundraiser a Success for the Arts Center

At least seventy people attended the Arts Center's annual fundraising event on Mother's Day evening to enjoy Prosecco and dessert along with An Evening of Song. Linda Mironti and Brian De Lorenzo performed musical selections from the Great American Songbook and jazz to Broadway, along with Anni Crofut, Kathy Lawrence, and Ben Luxon.


Luxon, a singer of world-wide renown, the director of the local Sandisfield Players, and a long-time enthusiastic supporter of the Arts Center, sang and spoke lyrics from "My Fair Lady." He brought down the house. 

Photo: Peter Baiamonte



Ben Luxon performing at the 2023 Sandisfield Arts Center fundraiser.

The Doctor at the Dump

A NEW MAN BACK IN TOWN

By Bill Price



Most seasoned Sandisfielders believe our highest claim to fame is that we are hometown to The Best Little Honkytonk West of the Clam River.

Not anymore.

Now we can claim, as well, that we are the only Berkshire County town with a future doctor in charge of our Transfer Station, aka the Town Dump.

Mitch Birkett, of Rood Hill Road, who just graduated from Texas A&M (College Station) with a B.S. in Biology, a minor in Psychology, has accepted a "fill-in" role until a fulltime part-time person can be hired as the Town's Transfer Station attendant.

Mitch is temporarily replacing Alex Psillas, our friendly attendant since September. Alex stepped back from the job at the end of May to spend more time on his home candle- and soap-making business at Cackleberries Farm in Sandisfield. You can buy Alex's candles and soaps at the Farmington River General Store in New Boston, at Spice 320 on Rt. 8 just north of Winsted, and at other Berkshire and Connecticut locations. Buy Cackleberry Candles and Soaps. Support a local growing business.

Meanwhile, Transfer Station attendant isn't Mitch's only summer job.

If for some reason you get hauled by the Sandisfield EMT squad to Fairview Hospital in Great Barrington, Mitch will probably be there to make sure you get accurately checked into the ER. This would be his second year as a medical scribe at Fairview Emergency Room. His first year was just about all learning, he said, and he hopes to use everything he learned this second time around. If he can, he will continue there until he starts med school in 2025.

Mitch was accepted at Boston University after graduation from Monument Mountain High School in 2019, but a well-timed visit to a Texas uncle sent him on a tour of Texas A&M. The potential \$80,000 a year tuition (etc.) at Boston made him look twice at the A&M campus and he decided he really liked it. Still, after Sandisfield, the 75,000-person campus was daunting, but Mitch makes friends easily and found his way through and now, after gaining a Bachelor of Science degree intends to begin work on a Masters in either biology or biomedical sciences. Then, if all stays even, med school.

Mitch is also a future pilot. Since 2021, he's been training with Peggy Loeffler at Berkshire Aviation Enterprises at Great Barrington Airport. He expects to solo this summer. He recited the pilot's mantra guide to safety in the air: "Aviate, navigate, communicate." He's serious about safety in the air and in the ER.

For the time being, Mitch is living on Rood Hill Road with his mother, Tara Birkett, who teaches English at Monument Mountain High, and his stepfather, John Field, owner/operator of John W. Field Tree Service of Sandisfield and New Marlborough.

When you meet Mitch at the Transfer Station, you might call him "Doc." He'd better get used to it. 

A GIFT FOR ME

By Brigitte Ruthman

I am privileged to live in a small New England town, a place that fostered and still nurtures patriots.

I was also privileged to be in the audience Memorial Day Sunday, on a rise at the historic Tyringham Cemetery off Church Road in Tyringham, when 100 year-old World War II veteran First Lt. Robert C. Alsop reminisced about his time in the war.

Tyringham is the next town over from Sandisfield. Both are small places that have not changed much in 250 years.

Lt. Alsop never mentioned his own warfare accomplishments. He stood with the help of a cane for a little while, then didn't seem to need it – or want it. An oxygen tube connected to a small satchel was slung around his right arm. He was unbothered by the sun.

In a half hour intended to be “brief comments,” the lieutenant mentioned at least four times that “I or we” got lucky to survive.

Like so many young men after 1941, he set out not to save the world but to be part of the effort asked of him. Ultimately, he became part of a greater effort that did just that, collectively known as the Greatest Generation.

He had wanted to be a pilot, but with so many in line before him at Scollay Square in Boston in 1942 he was denied entry to the Air Corps. Volunteering as an aviation cadet in the civilian air corps, he settled on learning to fly a Piper cub and then a 240 hp Waco fitted with skis.

When he reapplied to the Air Force in 1943, because of his slice of higher education as a sophomore at Harvard he was accepted but assigned to the navigator's important desk job aboard a B-24 bomber.

His first group formation was at the Westover Field near Westfield, not far from Tyringham's ancient barns and valley hayfields where he spent his childhood on his grandparents' farm.

Then, based in Cerignola, Italy, he flew 31 missions with the 746th Bomber Squadron, U.S. Air Corps.

He still has the maps he used, with circles drawn to designate high FLAK anti-aircraft areas. His memories are still as exact as his navigational and sometimes celestial duties required then.

Except for that time that he mistook the reflection of the rear taillight for the star Antares and was off 12 degrees.

There were narrow misses during the war, and humor, points of reference that Lt. Alsop buried for a time, then embraced with all the passion of a young aviator.

There was the time his crew went on rest leave in Rome, eating plenty of good food. At the end of the week, when they went back to their plane they were short one parachute and were grounded. Lt. Alsop was told he would be picked up at the Rome airport from a building fronted by big glass windows, a very fancy place Benito Mussolini had built.

Lt. Alsop recalled being the lowest-ranking officer – and the youngest – in a building filled with top brass and divisional English and American commanders waiting for flights back to the war.

He said that every now and then a small plane would pull up and an announcement made for General So-and-So to please report to Gate One.

Lt. Alsop pulled off into a corner to gracefully await Major Richards, who had been assigned to retrieve him. Then a roar overtook the place as a four-engine bomber pulled up to the window and practically blew everyone out of the building.

It was Major Richards in a B-24. The announcement was for Lt. Alsop to please report to his aircraft at Gate One.

“I had to walk across that building floor in front of all those generals,” he said. “They weren't looking at me though, but at the airplane which had a picture of a beautiful girl on the nose of the plane, Baby Boots.”

There were sad things that happened too. Friends died. Over the Brenner Pass, an 80 mm German gun blew up the plane flying alongside their B-24. Lt. Alsop knew and mourned all those “fellas.”

During bombing runs, he said, “We tried to bomb just oil refineries and marshaling yards which were military targets.” There was that concern for collateral, civilian damage.

On their way home in Marrakesh, they lost an engine from their war-battered plane and landed in Algiers. They slept under the plane



First Lt. Robert C. Alsop, US Air Force
Photos: Brigitte Ruthman

that night and found by morning that their clothes had been stolen. The Arabs had apparently seen a golden opportunity and run off with them.

“We had ten naked B-24 crew members running around in the African dessert,” he said. Finally, they found a bag of clothes.

Following the war and a career spent as a corporate lawyer, the now many-times-over great-grandfather returned to Tyringham, the place he had wandered as a child, a place where he just last year lost his wife of nearly eight decades.

After receiving a trunk of memorabilia recovered by one of his four children four years ago, he broke from his pattern of not talking much about the war and wrote a memoir called 34 Kensington Square.

Standing in the Tyringham Cemetery, he said he doesn't expect future generations to give much thought to World War II veterans, of which there are now about 390,000 living of the 16 million who served, one of whom was my father.

Oh, Lieutenant, how wrong you are.

As a nation we love you and your patriotism, humility and courage that will not be forgotten and will always mourn those lost in the name of freedom. It brought tears to the eyes of a largely older audience when the flag was honored and you raised your right hand in salute- the way you did it in the 1940s, slowly in front then horizontally to your brow, and held it there.

Hats off to you on this Memorial Day, to the fellas left behind so we can enjoy freedoms, and to another Robert who was another first lieutenant, my dear old dad, 272nd Infantry, 69th Division, U.S. Army. 🇺🇸

MORIAL DAY



The ceremony at the Tyringham Cemetery.

And this, from the May 30, 1973 Berkshire Eagle

Sandisfield installs veterans memorial, but it names only those of WWII

SANDISFIELD — The veterans monument, to honor those who served in World War II, 1941-45, from the Town of Sandisfield, was erected last Friday in front of the Town Hall on Silver Brook Road, more than three years after the purchase of a stone memorial was approved at the 1970 town meeting.

There are 67 names inscribed on the Monument of Barre granite, designed by Kennerson Design of Vermont and worked by Lester Williams of Chester Granite Co. in East Otis.

The stone is 6 feet high, 4 feet wide and 10 inches thick. Mrs. Williams, who assisted her husband, said the two-ton stone was the heaviest monument they had ever handled.


Difficulties arose in trying to stand the monument upright on the slab. It was finally accomplished by Richard A. Hamilton employing a cherry picker used in the family lumber business. Also assisting Williams were Stanley W. Linkovich and Homer M. Spring Jr.

The unveiling two hours after work began, was witnessed by only the workers and Arthur F. Church. Linkovich and Church, both veterans, have their names on the monument.

Cost of the memorial was \$1,450 according to Williams. The town voted to pay \$1,200 and the Legion is expected to absorb the \$250 balance. The Town Hall site for the memorial was approved at the town meeting in 1972 after considerable argument. Some wanted it on the

green at the junction of Routes 57 and 8. Others favored Sandisfield Center.

A number of residents have expressed surprise that names of World War II veterans only are on the honor roll. Harold W. Smith, moderator when the original vote passed, said he understood the vote of the town was "to purchase a stone memorial monument to honor those residents of the town who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States." He assumed this included men who had served in all wars. Gustin R. Hamilton, 1970 Legion commander, said his understanding was the World War II veterans only would be inscribed at this time, with the names of other veterans to be added to the reverse side of the monument later.

Williams said further inscriptions can be added without difficulty. 



Daydreamz owner Phillip Blume checking plants before transplanting them to the outside windrows.

Sandisfield Success Story

DAYDREAMZ CANNABIS ON SALE AT FARNSWORTH

Story and photos by Bill Price

Of the four cannabis projects proposed for Sandisfield during the early days of the cannabis rush in the mid-20teens, only one, Daydreamz Estates, is in business and selling its product.

Pre-rolled cigarettes (aka joints) from Daydreamz went on sale May 25 at Farnsworth Fine Cannabis Company at 126 Main Street, Great Barrington. “Loose flour,” cannabis in 1/8 oz. bags, is also available at Farnsworth under the Daydreamz label. The product was grown last fall at the Sandisfield property.

Phillip Blume’s cannabis farm, out of sight on 24 acres of steep hillside above Town Hall, has been nurturing 800 plants in three long growing trailers. The first week in June Phillip and his staff began moving the plants outside onto what he describes as the one of the few outdoor organic cannabis farms in Massachusetts.

He has cleared and graded some 50,000 square feet of farmland out of the Sandisfield forest of pine and plenty of rocks. This summer he expects to have 1,000-1,200 plants outdoors in the raised beds and windrows he’s created by hauling topsoil and mixing it with Sandisfield earth.

“It’s hard to grow cannabis outdoors,” Phillip said, “but we did it last summer so I know we can do it even more. We have great air flow on this mountainside. There’s a steady breeze here and no moisture like there is on the river bottoms.” The land is about 1,200 feet from Sandisfield Road (Rt. 57) but is a steep 230 feet higher. That is some incline.

Phillip likes the isolation. He lives in a house overlooking the cannabis rows. The plants are protected by a high chain-link fence that is solidly locked. No keys are involved. Access is by finger-print ID. When this reporter was present, Phillip had to ask his partner Paul Jones for access because a recent cut on his thumb prevented the lock from recognizing his print.

MEANWHILE, THE OTHER THREE . . .

SAMA Productions, LLC, had hoped they would soon be producing cannabis in 22 commercial greenhouses on its 15-acre property on Rt. 8 south of the Farmington River bridge below New Boston. The company has removed trees, levelled ground, and repositioned some very large boulders along the highway.

Work had been expected to proceed at a fast clip after mud season was finished, but according to John Heck, a SAMA partner, unexpected delays have been caused by the unavailability of Eversource electrical equipment. Contractors are in place and ready to go, but Heck said that “delivery of connection equipment is projected as much as 12 months in the future.” He’s been told the delays are due to post-Covid backlogs.

Construction crews are erecting the frames for the greenhouses and in early June will begin constructing the 5,000-square-foot drying warehouse. But the delay in equipment delivery has been frustrating.

“We’re construction-oriented people,” Heck added. “We don’t do well sitting around waiting. We don’t even talk about timelines anymore.”

A third cannabis operation, a retail store proposed for the vacant Villa Mia Restaurant in New Boston, seems to have been abandoned. Berkshire Mountain Cannabis, which began the approval process in late 2021, seems to have no online presence or contact information. An Instagram site for the company states that “No cannabis is for sale. All cannabis is for personal use.” Meanwhile, Villa Mia stands forlornly empty, with its For Sale sign still standing along Rt. 8.

The fourth cannabis project, which was in fact the first proposal for a cannabis farm in Town, has never struck as much as a match. Jennifer Pilbin first approached residents along Town Hill Road near Yanner Park with a cannabis farm plan in the summer of 2019. The possibility of neighborhood resistance caused her to move her site to 74 acres on West Hubbard Road in north Sandisfield but neighbors there also complained and, in effect, stopped the project from having any chance to proceed.

THE 3% DISAPPEARS, TOO

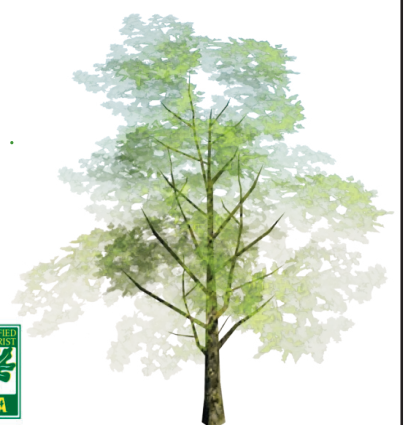
In many cases, towns that hosted cannabis producers and retail stores received a 3 percent excise tax windfall. That income is now lost due to a recent state ruling that the “tax” is arbitrary and unfair.

Phillip Blume of the successful Daydreamz said that he advised Sandisfield’s Planning Board that if it received any money from the windfall tax to be very careful with it and if possible not to spend it. He believed early on that the tax could be reversed and the towns, in some cases, could have to return the funds to the cannabis firms. That is happening in several places across Massachusetts and some towns are having a hard time returning the money. ♡

JOHN FIELD
TREE SERVICE, INC.

QUALITY TREE CARE...SAFELY DELIVERED

fieldtreeservice.com 413-329-6519



Our Town News:
That Last Stretch of 57
Cont'd from p.3


It's true that Sandisfield will have to wait its turn for the last stretch of 57 to get rehabbed, but Steve believes it's not because DOT moved us to the back of the line.

In this reporter's opinion, the rehabbing of that stretch should wait anyway until the bridge beside the former Silverbrook Café is replaced. That likely won't happen until 2024.

Besides, as Steve Seddon pointed out, "Sandisfield has already received plenty of its share of road money. A few examples in the last two years are the joint repaving of 57 with New Marlborough, the paving of 183, Cold Spring Road, the lower portion of Town Hill Road where it joins 57, and the strip of 57 going up Tolland Mountain."

Steve added, "Plus, we ran into an issue with the culvert over the nameless brook just west of Town Hall. Due to the time that had passed due to Covid and the inflation that followed, the culvert construction was going way over budget and our grant allowance. After some encouragement from our Town Manager, Mass DOT agreed to pay the extra construction costs. Maybe DOT thinks it's time to spread it around."

The New/Old Select Board

Following the May election, the three-member Select Board reorganized, in a way. Steve Seddon remained chairman. John Field remained in place, joined by Robert Fedell, the candidate nominated at the Town Caucus. Fedell, of Town Hill Road, won the seat uncontested with 58 votes. See next month's Times for information on the new Select Board member. 

BEER ★ WINE ★ LIQUOR

Domaney's



Fine Wine ★ Unique Beer ★ Discount Liquors
Temperature Controlled Wine Room ★ Cigar Humidor

66 Main St. Great Barrington, MA 01230
p. (413) 528-0024 ★ f. (413) 528-6093
www.domaney.com



You're insured *but*
what about the car coming at you?

FRANK CONSOLATI INSURANCE

71 Main Street, Lee MA 413-243-0105 consolatiinsurance.com
Home Auto Life Umbrella Insurance Since 1942



Santiago and Son Housepainters

Quality Residential Painting Service by Santiago and Antonio In Berkshire County And Surrounding Areas.
SPECIALIZING IN OLD HOUSES
(413) 854-7438 • santiago51@msn.com

See our gallery of work at:
professional-home-painters.com

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS



COOK BUILDERS

Superb Craftsmanship

All Phases of Building & Remodeling
New Home Construction, Additions & Renovations

CALL TODAY: (413) 229-2793

Serving the Tri-State area for over 45 years



The Librarian's Corner

By Terry Spohnholz

Library hours - **NEW HOURS:**

Mon., Tues., and Wed. 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Wed. evening 5:00–7:00 p.m.

Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Closed Thursday, Friday and Sunday

Phone: 258-4966

Email: sandisfieldlibrary@gmail.com

SUMMER EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY JUNE 1-AUGUST 31.

BINGO SUMMER READING BLITZ

Cards will be available at the Library beginning Monday, June 5. New cards for each month: June, July, and August. Prizes for all. Special prizes for Bingo Blackouts. Super special prize for blacking out all 3 months. Read to me, early reader, 3rd to 6th grade and young adult reading cards.

“LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING,” JUNE 17 FROM 1:00-2:00 P.M.

A celebration of song and life with Mary Jo. All ages welcome. FREE ice cream after the performance.

Our thanks to the Sandisfield Cultural Council for sponsoring Mary Jo and “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

STORY TIME IN THE GAZEBO

Every Wednesday beginning June 14 at noon. Treats too!

ARTS AND CRAFTS

June 13 and 27: Crafting Time at the library from 10 until noon.

CHILDREN'S SECTION

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

AT THE LIBRARY

We also offer notary service, public computer and printer availability, free wifi and access to e-books 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.

NEW BOOK ARRIVALS

Adult Fiction and Non-Fiction

- *Killing Moon* by Jo Nesbo
- *The 23rd Midnight* by James Patterson
- *Identity* by Nora Roberts
- *The Wedding Planner* by Danielle Steel
- *House of Cotton* by Monica Brashears
- *The Golden Doves* by Martha Hall Kelly
- *Trespasses* by Lousie Kennedy
- *We Don't Know Ourselves* by Fintan O'Toole
- *Things I Wish I Told My Mother* by Susan Patterson
- *The Books of Jacob* by Olga Tokarczuk
- *Rough Justice* by Stacey Abrams
- *The Ferryman* by Justin Cronin
- *Good Night, Irene* by Luis Alberto Urrea
- *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese

New to the Older Children and Young Adult Section

- *The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown
- *The Wild Robot Escapes* by Peter Brown
- *The Lonely Ghost* by Mike Ford
- *Dark Room* by K.R. Alexander

New Books in the Children's Section

- *Pete the Cat Saves Up* by Kimberly Dean

BOOKS FOR SALE

Check out our Gently Used Books!!! Curl up this summer season with some old favorites or discover a new author. \$1 a book (hard cover) or six for \$5. Fiction, non-fiction, and biography. 📖

FIREFLIES IN THE GARDEN

By Robert Frost

Here come real stars to fill the upper skies,
And here on earth come emulating flies,
That though they never equal stars in size,
(And they were never really stars at heart)
Achieve at times a very star-like start.
Only, of course, they can't sustain the part.



THE WORLD IS ALWAYS WITH US

By Karen Garfield,
New Hartford Road

The world is always with us,
The internet boon,
Liking and disliking,
Our vocabulary, dour.

Little we see in Facebook
that is ours.
We have given our freedoms,
a species doomed.

The teen that bares her body to the tune.
The mom who will be posting
at all hours.

And is up texting and blogging about
kids and flowers.
For social media, no one is immune.

It strikes me odd how quickly we've
changed,
From thoughtful to impulsive, self
outworn.

Scroll down, swipe left, friends estranged.
Have made us robotic,
so forlorn.

And sights of ChatGPT rising from the
grange.

Hear new websites wrestling to be born.



KOHLER
ENGINES



SNAPPER PRO

Kawasaki
ENGINES

POLARIS



HONDA
ENGINES

TRITON
TRAILERS

GENERAC

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



Simplicity

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

NEW BOSTON
CRANE SERVICE
&
SLEDS

STIHL



Husqvarna

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

Sandisfield Resident Scores Trifecta of Awards


By Bill Price

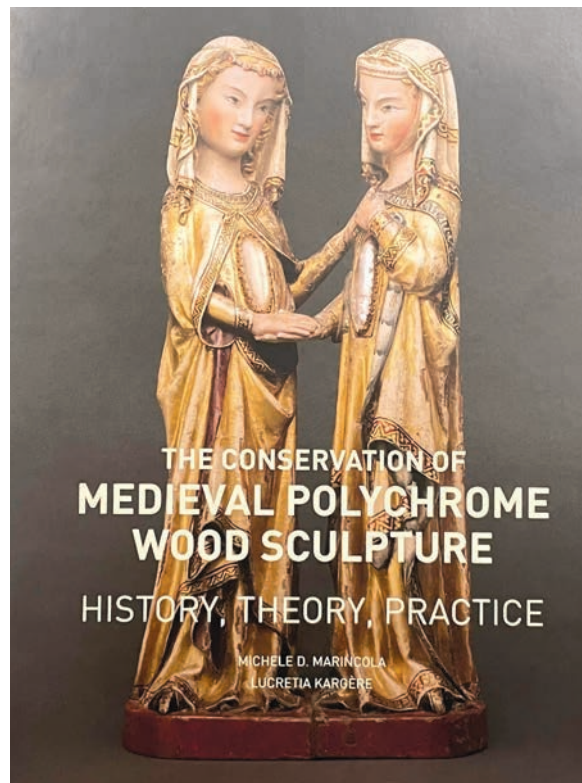
Sandisfield resident Michele Marincola was recently named the recipient of an award for her book, *The Conservation of Medieval Polychrome Wood Sculpture: History, Theory and Practice*, published by The Getty Museum, 2021.

Co-written with Lucretia Kargere who shared in the award, the book garnered the top award for publication in the fields of art history and art conservation from both the College Art Association (CAA) and the American Institute for Conservation (AIC).

The AIC also designated Michele as the 2021 recipient of the Sheldon and Caroline Keck Award for Outstanding Teaching. Michele is Chair and Sherman Fairchild Distinguished Professor at the Conservation Center of New

York University's Institute of Fine Arts located at 78th Street and Fifth Avenue in Manhattan.

For the last ten years, she and her husband, George Wheeler, have happily resided – when they can – at Stone Bridge Farm (34 Sandisfield Road), nestled on the opposite side of the road between the Post Office and the Silverbrook Café, where they garden and otherwise commune with birds, bears, foxes, bobcats, coyotes, mink, and a host of other smaller mammals. 



CW NELSON LANDSCAPE DESIGN & NURSERY

- Landscaping & Masonry
- Retaining Stone Walls
- Patios and Walkways
- Grading & Drainage
- Septic Systems
- Excavation
- Driveways
- Garden Planning
- Landscape Planting
- Waterfalls & Fountains
- Water Gardens & Koi Ponds

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

KWIK^{Color} PRINT INCORPORATED

EXPERIENCE • SPEED • QUALITY

- Full Color Digital Printing
- Full Color Envelope Printing
- Large Format Printing
- High Speed Copying
- Laminating
- Inline Bookletmaking
- Perfect Binding
- Folding
- Perforating
- Mailing Services
- Graphic Design Services


35 Bridge Street
 Great Barrington, MA 01230
 Ph: 413.528.2885 Fx: 413.528.9220
 typesetting@kwikprintinc.com
 www.kwikprintinc.com

Detour on 57

By Bill Price

Drivers need to plan for the detour around the culvert repair work on Rt. 57 near Town Hall. The repair started June 1 and will last as long as it takes. Be prepared for a couple weeks, at least.

A detour has been set up for commercial through-traffic from Route 8 to Route 23 to Town Hill Road. For cars and light trucks (5-ton and under), the detour is Route 8 to Cold Spring Road to Route 23 to Town Hill Road. And vice versa for those heading in the opposite direction.

Later in the summer repairs will be made on Town Hill Road above and below the Yanner Park entrance. Superintendent Brad Curry said that at last that stubborn section of road is going to stay fixed. He is working with Adam Brown, chairman of the Yanner Park Committee, to plan two entrances to the park. Read more about the Town Hill Road repair and the development of the park in next month's Times. 



The site of the culvert repair.



Shire Forestry

Adam Brown
Consulting Forester
MA License # 461

P.O. Box 171
Sandisfield, MA 01255

shireforestry@gmail.com
Cell: 413.854.7525

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



Now accepting new students!
Group or private riding lessons available at your home or on our Sandisfield farm
Boarding and Leasing Horses Available
Specializing in Eventing, Dressage, and Hunter-Jumper lessons
Lessons available for all ages
Rose Nelson, Instructor and Owner
•
Massachusetts certified,
Pony club eventing participant and USEA eventer
Email: sunnyrosefarm@yahoo.com
Phone: (413) 446-4944



**NOW! HIKING TRAILS
INSTALLED & MAINTAINED**

TIM DEMING
**Field and Brush
Mowing**
•
413.537.6681
1403 New Boston Rd.
Tolland, MA
tdeming1@hotmail.com

NOW HEAR THIS!

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

JUNE EVENTS

Sandisfield Select Board Meetings are currently through Zoom and in-person at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays unless otherwise posted. Please visit sandisfieldma.gov or call 258-4711 for information.

Playgroup on Tuesdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Otis Town Hall. Sponsored by South Berkshire Kids. No pre-registration is necessary. Led by Nina Carr. This fun program includes free play, crafts, stories, and songs! A great time to meet up with friends and meet new friends! For confirmation, please call Nina Carr (258-3314). Free!

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

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

Farmer's Market on Fridays from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Farmington River General Store on Route 8.

Summer Reading Bingo Blitz returns at the Library. Cards available beginning June 5. New card each month June-August. Prizes all around.

Car Show on Saturday, June 10 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the New Boston Inn. Blue Yonder will play from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Bring a chair or blanket. Outdoor grill offering hamburgers, hotdogs, popcorn, chips, and desserts.

New Boston Church Service on Sunday, June 11 at 10:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church, Route 57. All are welcome.

Second Annual Family Fun Day! on Sunday, June 11 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. At Looking Glass Gardens, 19 Dodd Road. Featuring Berkcirque, the Circus School of the Berkshires! Pony rides by Sunny Rose Farm. Bouncy House, inflatable lawn darts, yard-size Connect Four and Jenga, cotton candy, popcorn, beverages. All ages are welcome. Event is co-sponsored by Looking Glass Gardens, The Sandisfield Cultural Council, and The Sandisfield Recreation Committee. Please pre-register and RSVP by June 2 (413-269-7357) or sandisfield-events@recreationcommittee.info.

One-Day Kids Art Show on Sunday, June 11, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammertown Road. Come see the work of talented local young artists at this one-day show, then stay for Zoe Lewis Returns. Free reception from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. and meet the artists, discuss

their inspirations, and encourage their budding careers. Free.

Zoë Lewis Returns on Sunday, June 11, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammertown Road. Fun, heartwarming, thoroughly entertaining show for all ages. Multi-talented Zoë Lewis performs in a wide variety of styles on instruments, ranging from traditional to funky. \$15 adults, \$5 kids under 12. Free for the families of artists in the One-Day Kids Art Show.

Arts and Crafts at the Library on Saturday, June 13, and again Saturday, June 27 from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Crafting Time.

Story Time in the Gazebo at the Library beginning Wednesday, June 14 at noon, and each Wednesday through August. Treats.

Workshop: Telling (Your) Dad Stories on Saturday, June 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammertown Road. Storyteller Linda Storms explains how to tell your "dad", "grandfather", "stepdad", "big brother who filled in" story. A light lunch provided afterwards and at 2:00 p.m. a free performance, "Telling Dad Stories." You will have an opportunity to present your stories. Limited to 8 participants. \$10.

Josey Miner Photography: Opening Reception on Saturday, June 17, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammertown Road. The show will run to July 9, 2023. Free.

Lift Every Voice and Sing on Saturday, June 17, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Library. Free celebration of song and life with Mary Jo. Free ice cream after the performance.

Monthly Wellness, Blood Pressure Clinic, and Coffee Hour on Wednesday, June 21 at 10:00 a.m. at the Council on Aging, Town Hall Annex. Snacks and conversation, too! For more information, contact Nina Carr (258-3314). Free.

Introduction to Handmade Rugs on Saturday, June 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammertown Road. An overview of the art and history of oriental rugs by expert John Balayan. See a demonstration of knotting on a loom. Bring photos of the front and back of your rug for an appraisal. Free.

SAVE THE DATE

ATV Drawing, on Thursday, August 31 at 7:00 p.m. at the New Boston Inn. Historical Society fundraiser. You don't have to be present to win, but it would be nice if you were.

ONLINE EVENTS

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

EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

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

Transformational Breathwork with Sandisfield residents Antonia and Roger Vanoro on the last Friday of every month from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. at the Monterey Community Center. A combination of deep rhythmic breathing, vocalization, self massage, and energetic movement. The suggested fee is \$30. For more information, visit ccmonterey.org.

New Marlborough Farmers Market, Saturdays through Labor Day weekend 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Produce, meat, plants, baked goods, jams. In front of the Old Inn on the Green on Rt. 57.

Sheffield Farmers Market on Fridays from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. in downtown Sheffield at the First Congregational Church parking lot on 125 Main Street. Local farmers, food producers, artists, and educators to promote local business, healthy eating, and social gathering.

Great Barrington Farmers Market on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on 18 Church Street in Great Barrington. Featuring locally grown and produced foods, including fruits and vegetables, cheese, meats, breads, and more.

Sandisfield Book Discussed. Wednesday, June 7, 5:30 p.m., at Herman Melville house, Arrowhead, 780 Holmes Road, Pittsfield. Berkshire County Historical Society hosts Sandisfield's Lorraine German discussing her book, *Soil and Shul: The Untold Story of Sandisfield's Jewish Farm Colony*. Books available for signing, reservations not necessary.

Dewey Drop-In Use Your Words Poetry on Wednesday, June 7 at 7:00 p.m. at Dewey Hall on 91 Main Street in Sheffield. An evening of original poetry on nature, humor, whimsy, fantasy, joy, loss, and grief. Use Your Words brings writers, readers, and listeners together for an evening of sharing and conversation. \$10.

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization staffed by volunteers from the Sandisfield community and funded by individual and business sponsors. Its mission is to connect the community through reliable, regular, and relevant information. The paper is published 11 times each year, with a joint January-February issue and monthly issues thereafter.

Donations of any amount are needed to ensure the continuation of this newspaper. Please send checks to: The Sandisfield Times, P.O. Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255 or donate online at our website: Donations to The Sandisfield Times are deductible under section 170 of the Federal Income Tax Code. Donations do not include subscriptions. Subscriptions do not qualify as donations.

The Times is distributed free of charge to all Sandisfield postal address and boxes. Free copies are available at the following town locations: The transfer station (Wed/Sat/Sun), the Library, When Pigs Fly Farm, and in New Boston at A&M Auto, the Farmington River General Store, and the New Boston Inn. The Times is also available in West Otis at the laundromat, library, and the Farmington River Diner; in East Otis at Katies, Pappas, and the Knox Trail Inn. Also at the Monterey Library (outside box), in Colebrook at the post office and the general store, and at the New Marlborough General Store and the Mill River General Store. Back copies are available for purchase.

The Times can be mailed to your home (non-Sandisfield addresses only) by paid subscription (see form below) or you can read it (free) online as a PDF document at www.sandisfieldtimes.org. Classified ads, 30 words or less, are free.

We welcome submissions, comments and suggestions, including letters to the editor by the 15th of the month prior. Maximum 300 words. We may edit for space, style or clarity. We will try to publish Public Service Announcements when we have room, with priority given to Sandisfield organizations. No portion of the The Sandisfield Times may be reproduced without permission.

Editorial Staff

- Editor: *Bill Price*
- email: editor@sandisfieldtimes.org
- Advertising/Subscriptions: *Ron Bernard*
- Graphic Design: *Tina Sotis*
- Website: *Jean Atwater-Williams*
- Now Hear This!: *Laura Rogers-Castro*
- Founding Editor: *Simon Winchester*

How to Contact Us

Mail can be directed to
 The Sandisfield Times, PO Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255.
 If internet accessible, all letters, news events and tips, ideas, obituary and family announcements, photos (600 dpi if possible) and advertisement queries to editor@sandisfieldtimes.org

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

To have the *The Times* mailed to your home, please complete the information below and send a check for \$25 (annual subscription fee for 11 issues) made out to *The Sandisfield Times* to:

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES
 PO BOX 584, SANDISFIELD, MA 01255

Name _____
 Out of town address: _____

 City, State, Zip _____
 Email address: _____
 Phone (only used if paper is returned by USPS) _____



Letters to the Editor

WORD FROM OLD FRIENDS

It is now more than five years ago that we left our home in Sandisfield. We always look forward to each new issue [of the Times]. It helps us keep our old memories alive and keep abreast of new happenings. Thanks for all your good work.

Don & Charlene Peet
 Charlestown, Rhode Island

SUBSCRIBE TO E-ALERTS AT
WWW.SANDISFIELDMA.GOV

ATV DRAWING
\$50.00 PER TICKET

NUMBER OF TICKETS IS CAPPED AT 500

(color may vary)

1st Prize: 2023 Sportsman 450 HO
2nd Prize: \$500
3rd Prize: \$250

Drawing to be held at the
NEW BOSTON INN, SANDISFIELD, MA
THURSDAY, AUGUST 31ST, 2023 AT 7:00 PM
 (Ticket holder need not be present to win.)
 Proceeds Benefit: **SANDISFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY.**

Winner will be responsible for taxes and pick-up.
 Any questions regarding pick-up, contact
 New Boston Crane & Sled
 For ticket info contact Barbara Cormier (860) 307-1332
 or Joanne Olsen (917) 686-1985
 (accepting Cash, Check, Zelle, or Venmo)

recreation
COMMITTEE



2nd Annual Family Fun Day

Join Us Again This Year – Or For the First Time

By Laurie Seddon

June 11, Sunday. We're holding our second Family Fun Day, hosted once again by Looking Glass Gardens. From 10:00 a.m. until noon.

Sunny Rose Farm is offering pony rides again, and we're having special guest performers, Berkcirque Circus School of the Berkshires. We'll also have a Bouncy House, inflatable lawn darts, yard-size games, cotton candy, popcorn, and beverages.

The event is co-sponsored by The Sandisfield Cultural Council. Please RSVP by ASAP to 413- 269-7357 or to sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info.

LAST MONTH, THE BUNNIES

The Recreation Committee hopped into Spring with both feet. We sure had fun with those cuddly bunnies.

The bunnies would have been fun enough, but we also got to play with dirt and plant seedlings, we paint our own flowerpots, and even create a butterfly crafted from multi-colored beads.

Oh yeah ... and let's not forget that we got to eat "dirt" too!

Lynn made delicious "dirt cups" from chocolate pudding, crushed Oreos, whipped cream, and the pièce de résistance, gummy worms!

Thank you so much to everyone who joined us. Of course, we couldn't have done this without Elizabeth Torsay-Wilson of Berkshire Bunnies and her family of helpers; her husband Ned Wilson and daughters Rose and Avelina.



Planting seeds.



Petting rabbits: Evie, Mila, and Levi Antoriazzi from Otis.

Photos: Lynn Rubenstein



★ DINE IN OR TAKEOUT

New Summer Menu!

*HOUSE SPECIAL PRIME RIB
(thursday-saturday)

FISH & CHIPS

FIRE-GRILLED SALMON

GREAT SALADS

THE BEST BURGERS

SPECIALTY PIZZAS

PRIME TOP SIRLOIN STEAK

CHICKEN & BROCCOLI ALFREDO

Great appetizers & more!

*Weekly
Specials*

*Book a
private
party
with us!*

from the kitchen of...
Chef Jess Gannon



Check out our full menu & event info @ knoxtrailinn.com
Like us on Facebook Follow us on Instagram @theknoxtrailinn

★ UPCOMING EVENTS ★

Country Line Dancing with Tina
June 4th @ 2pm

Musical Bingo
June 11 & 25 @ 2pm

Sign Painting & Sip Party
June 14 @ 6:30 pm

Tequila Tasting Dinner
June 16 @ 6:30 pm

Father's Day Hilltown Blues Jam
June 18th @ 2pm

Knox 6th Anniversary Party June 24th
All day party with food & entertainment!

Bands every Saturday!

OPEN MON WED & THUR 5-9PM ★ FRI & SAT 12-9PM ★ SUN 12-8PM ★ 413-269-4400 ★ 1898 EAST OTIS RD (RT 23) EAST OTIS, MA

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

P.O. Box 584
Sandisfield, MA 01255



*The Times appreciates donations received
last month.*

Susan Diamond

Peter Ebstein

*Clare Garfield, in memory of
Johanna and Leslie Garfield*

Jim & Marilee Higgins

Hal Holt & Pam Kitteredge

Margaret Riiska Menatti

Jill Reiter



Just out of curiosity...

**If I could sell my house for
\$_____, I would list my
home this spring.**

Text your answer to, or call 413.528.4859

**THE MARKET IS CHANGING
THE TIME TO LIST IS
NOW**

The Brockman Group

Jared Kelly
413.854.1504

Chapin Fish
413.528.4859

448 Main Road, Monterey
413.528.4859
brockmanrealestate.com



William
Pitt

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

williampitt.com

Great Barrington Brokerage | 306 & 308 Main Street | 413.528.4192

Lenox Brokerage | 34 Church Street | 413.637.4402

Each office is independently owned and operated