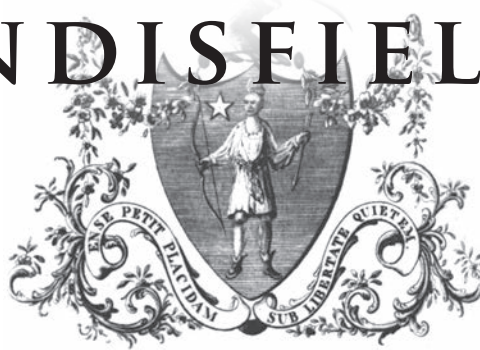


THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

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Volume XVI, Number 3

June 2025

Annual Town Meeting LET'S TALK FIRE HOUSES

By Bill Price

At another Annual Town Meeting, any year and in most towns, the news that the overall operating budget would be lower than last year's by almost \$180,000 would have been applauded.

Townfolk might still be applauding, two weeks later.

Not in Sandisfield this year. There was something on the warrant to distract voters from the good news.

ARTICLE 6

Dominating the May 17 Annual Town Meeting was Article 6, which asked that the Town take ownership of its two fire department properties, legally owned by the Sandisfield Fire Department, Inc., a nonprofit entity, by "gift, purchase, eminent domain, or otherwise." In the wording of the article, the Town reported the amount of \$765,000 (which was the valuation of the properties) and indicated that it had the money available in two Town accounts if that's what negotiations came to.

After Moderator Dominic Konstam read the proposed article, he invited voters to comment. More than a few were on their feet.

First up was Carl Nett of Town Hill Road who proposed an amendment to the article to

Cont'd on p.4

Rescue at Hanging Mountain

Editor's Note: Sandisfield Fire Department, along with Otis and Riverton, responded to a call about a seriously injured rock climber at Hanging Mountain in early May. Jane Kaufman reported the story for the Eagle, May 11. We've reprinted it here, with permission.

"I was very proud of the way the departments turned out for this emergency," said Sandisfield Fire Chief Dan Andrus. "A lot of people worked together to get the victim down the mountainside safely. We've been in touch with the president of the climbing group and will be issued copies of the trails, just in case."

Deputy Fire Chief Eric Pachulski, one of the first responders on the scene, told The Times that there had never been calls to the department for help on the climbing site in the four years it's been in operation. He added, "it's incredibly difficult to maneuver a stretcher down even the trails going to the climbing site. I was glad we got her down safely, but I hope we don't have any more."

Hanging Mountain, the second-highest climbing site in southern New England, features a 1,000-foot-long series of granite and gneiss cliffs ranging from 60 to 240 feet in height with over 80 planned climbing routes. It is owned entirely by climbing organizations.

From The Berkshire Eagle MAY 11, 2025

By Jane Kaufman

SANDISFIELD, May 11— A rock climber who was hit in the head by a dislodged rock was carried off Hanging Mountain by more than a dozen rescuers Saturday, then transported by ambulance to a waiting helicopter to Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

The woman, 31, was conscious and alert when Sandisfield Deputy Fire Chief Eric Pachulski arrived at the face of the climbing area. He was one of two firefighters first to respond to a 911 traumatic head injury call that came in at about 5:42 p.m.

When he and the other Sandisfield firefighters arrived about 15 minutes later, they did an initial medical assessment and then awaited further help before attempting

Cont'd on p.5



Photo: Otis Fire Department

SEE 10-11 FOR "WHAT DO WE DO NOW?" – AN ARTICLE AND AN OUT ON A LIMB REGARDING THE FIREHOUSES.

ELECTION RESULTS

From Douglas Miner, Town Clerk

Out of 704 registered voters, 27 cast a ballot at the election May 19. 3.8 percent turnout may be a new low.

OFFICE	NOMINEE	VOTES
Assessors (3 years)	Jeff Bye	24 votes
Board of Health (2 years)	Ralph Leavenworth	27
Board of Health (3 years)	Steve Rubenstein	25 (2nd term)
	Write-in	1
Moderator (1 year)	Dominic Konstam	25 (5th term)
Planning Board (5 years)	Calvin Rodman	25
School Committee (3 years)	Douglas Miner	24 (2nd term)
Select Board (3 years)	John Field	23 (2nd term)
	Write-in Ralph Morrison	1

NEW TRANSFER STATION STICKERS REQUIRED

This year's Transfer Station stickers are available for purchase at Town Hall and at the Transfer Station.

The price is \$120 for up to two stickers. License plate numbers need to be provided for each sticker purchased. Replacement stickers will be available for \$15. Applications and additional information are available on the Town website: sandisfieldma.gov.

Please be sure to purchase your orange sticker prior to July 1. Current stickers (purple) will no longer be accepted after that date. Any questions, please call Laurie McArthur at Town Hall at (413) 258-4711 ext. 3, or write to her at LMcArthur@sandisfieldma.gov.

NEW TOWN CLERK HOURS

The Town Clerk's Office will now be open the following days and times:

- Tuesday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m
- Wednesday 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
- Thursday 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m

At the Pavilion This Summer

By Maria Domato, Commander

On the last Sunday of June, July, and August, beginning June 29, come to the Pavilion for a Tractor Pull. The American Legion Post 456 will provide food and beverages for purchase. This event is FREE to enter and FREE to watch. Pulling begins at 10:00 a.m. and last until 2:00 in the afternoon.

Also, save Flag Day June 14, at 6:00 p.m.

Bring your old flags to the American Legion anytime for proper disposal. Put them in the receptacle by the fire pit. We will have a short ceremony at 6:00 in the evening, then proceed to burn the flags. Sal will make his famous kraut dogs and we'll provide soft drinks. Everyone is welcome to attend.



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Our Memorial Day Parade and BBQ

By Laurie Seddon, Recreation Committee

It was a beautiful day to honor and remember our soldiers who are no longer with us.

Our thanks to everyone who turned out to line the parade route during Sandisfield's Annual Memorial Day Parade, May 25.

It takes a lot of coordination to keep this tradition going. We are grateful to everyone who volunteered to help organize the parade and do the cooking and serving and clean-up at the very successful BBQ at the American Legion Pavilion.

We'd like to also thank the American Legion and their members, the Sandisfield Fire Department, the Cemetery Committee, and our newly formed Memorial Day Parade Committee. Thank you also to Tom O'Gara's Percussion Band which was resplendent in matching white uniforms.

And a big thank you to our neighbors, the Lee Marching High School Band for the great cacophony of sound and the New Marlborough, Tolland, and Monterey Fire Departments for sending your equipment and members to be there alongside our own Fire Department. 🇺🇸



*A Parade of Fire Trucks, led by Sandisfield.
Photo: Tara Beardsley*



*The Sandisfield Drum Corps, led by Tom O'Gara, began marching in the Memorial Day Parade in 2018. In matching uniforms, they look as terrific as they sound.
Photo: Richard Migot*



The Bicycle Contingent. Photo: Tara Beardsley



A few of our firemen. From right, Alec Morrison, Tegan Abear, Eric Pachulski, Chief Dan Andrus, Matt Pachulski, Emma Pachulski (Matt's daughter), Bill McEwan, Shamus Gaberty, and Logan Burdick.

Photo: Mary Bredenfoerder



The Lee High School Band marching past the New Boston Congregational Church.

Photo: Ron Bernard

Annual Town Meeting

Cont'd from p.1

eliminate the “purchase” and “eminent domain” scenarios, as well as all of the references to money. What remained would change the property transfer to a “gift” only.

George Riley, a former Select Board chairman, stated that “the Town should not pay for what it has already paid for and which is morally, if not legally, rightfully already the Town’s buildings and land.”

He pointed out that Firehouse #2, the large firehouse facing Rt. 57, had been built in 1987 primarily by taxpayer donations and by local workers and volunteers whose money, time, and skills had been given with the assumption that the building would revert to the Town.

“Gifting is the appropriate venue,” Riley added, supporting Nett’s amendment.

He continued, as quoted in The Berkshire Eagle, “from a psychological perspective,” appropriating this full amount [the \$765,000] will remove any incentive for the nonprofit’s directors to donate the buildings. ‘Now that the money is there,’ he said, ‘they’re going to want that money.’”

Another resident, Planning Board member Bill Taylor of New Hartford Road, said, “If you’re bargaining, you don’t offer the highest price first.”

The Eagle quoted Select Board member John Field that including a money amount in the article gave the Board the ability to negotiate and that the amendment to acquire the properties by gift “really hobbles us. What I’m asking is for the townspeople to trust us to do the right thing.”

Before the vote on his amendment, Carl Nett took the mic again to point out that not including the \$765,000 did not “preclude the Select Board’s attempt to negotiate.” (For Nett’s rationale for his opposition to the SFDI, see his “Out on a Limb” column on pages 10-11.)

When Moderator Konstam called the vote, Nett’s amendment passed.

Earlier in the meeting, residents had agreed that the vote on the contentious Article 6 itself should be by secret ballot. Memories can be long in a small town.

Town Clerk Douglas Miner explained an elaborate but clear plan for casting ballots and asked that voters line up in groups of the three seating sections. He offered a prize for the most decorous section but there was no clear winner. Everyone followed the rules.

Article 6 passed, as amended, 86-17, that the properties be acquired by gift. Back to the drawing board for the Select Board and SFDI.

OTHER BUSINESS THAT DAY

An article for an appropriation of \$5,000 for an electric vehicle charging station was tabled at the suggestion of Green



The Sandisfield Town Meeting, Firehouse #2.

Photo: Heather Bellow, The Berkshire Eagle. Used with permission.

Communities Team Chairman Paul Adams who felt that more clarity was needed around the actual cost of the station and additional information on state incentives.


A part-time assessor consultant will be hired for \$30,000. The Town has been without a principal assessor for four years.

A long-time goal of the Council on Aging was reached, following a plea by Linda Riiska and others, that a shuttle bus be purchased for about \$64,000, with an additional \$14,600 to hire a driver. She said that more than half of Sandisfield’s 850 residents were over 55 and many needed help getting to or from anywhere. The bus would be used to drive seniors to shopping or appointments. The article, which Linda reminded voters had been on the burner for five years, passed unanimously.

As if in answer to last year’s no vote on a request to purchase a new or used ambulance, voters this year agreed without discussion to purchase such a vehicle for up to \$300,000.

BUT WHY DID THE BUDGET GO DOWN?

The School Committee should have received most of the applause, had there been any. The Town’s operations budget at Farmington River Regional School was reduced for FY2026 by over \$300,000. The recent redrafting of the Regional District Agreement between Sandisfield and Otis did that trick, after several years of hard, focused work to get the two towns to agree to the change.

The redrafted RDA agreement reduced the Education Budget by about 17 percent, which made up a large part of the Town’s budget saving of nearly \$180,000. Applause to the School Committee. 

With additional reporting by Larry Dwyer

Rescue at Hanging Mountain

Cont'd from p.1

to move the patient, explaining there's a protocol for any movement. The patient also complained of arm pain, he said.

"The patient was wearing a helmet, but regardless, she had a head trauma, so [she] needed to be extricated," Pachulski said. "She wasn't able to walk out on her own."

Pachulski estimated that rescuers, including the Riverton Rope Rescue Team based in Litchfield County, Conn., transported the woman about 200 feet down the mountain. She was placed in a stokes basket stretcher. The initial rescue took about a half hour, he said.

"I would say the whole entire journey was challenging," Pachulski said. "They're going over wet, slippery boulders and muddy areas and natural grade. So, there are trails there, but they're not really meant for that type of thing. They're meant for just a hiking trail to get up to the face of the mountain. So a lot of places are not really wide enough for that type of movement."

While typically three people are positioned on each side of the basket for transporting it with an additional person at the head and foot, Pachulski said it wasn't always possible for that arrangement to be used.

"Due to the terrain, you kind of have to hand it off as you go sometimes," he said.

Riverton Fire Chief Norman Bird responded for the Riverton Rope Rescue Team. He was one of four or five members of the team to respond.



Photo: Sandisfield Fire Department


His team provided a wheel to attach to the bottom of the stretcher that made the rescue smoother and safer than a purely hand-held carry might have been. In addition, the team set up a lowering system, which provides a braking system for those performing the rescue, which was used during one steep stretch of the trail.

"I think the extrication went really smoothly based on our experiences of many extrications in the past [that] were in rocky steep situations," Bird said. "It was done safely. I don't think any of the rescuers were injured. And given the circumstances, I think the patient got the very best of care."

He said rescuers talked with the patient continuously. He also credited rock climbers for their efforts in the rescue and praised the command of Sandisfield Fire Chief Dan Andrus.

The Otis Rescue Squad staged at the parking lot of Hanging Mountain, where Medic 3 out of Winsted Health Center provided paramedic level care. The patient was transported about a mile by ambulance to Roosterville Road and Route 8, where a Life Star helicopter picked her up.

"Due to the extreme extrication circumstances, a coordinated effort by Fire, EMS and bystander personnel was necessary to evacuate the patient to the parking lot safely and efficiently," the Sandisfield Fire Department said in a statement.

During the extraction, it received a second medical call in town, which the New Marlborough Fire Department handled. 



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Rediscovering the American Legion Pavilion

A GREAT TIME AT MEMORIAL DAY BBQ

Story and photos: Ron Bernard

Nothing deterred attendance or enthusiasm at the traditional Memorial Day honor ceremony and cookout at the American Legion Pavilion in New Boston. The parking lot was full and indoor seating at a premium.

What better way is there than to kick off summertime in Sandisfield than with a throng of friends and neighbors? And this year's event was extra special. Everyone got to see the improvements that have been made to the Pavilion and its grounds.

Post 456 Commander and US Navy veteran, Maria Domato, in splendid uniform has presided since 2006. She was gratified at the turnout and delighted to reveal a rejuvenated facility.

The grounds, sandwiched between the Farmington River and a lovely fishpond located behind Fire Station #1, has always look good in springtime.

But in recent years the 50-year-old pavilion has shown its age and the need of a TLC/ updating which has been done.

One of the projects was to clear heavy brush and tree cover away from the river. Someone was overheard delightedly saying, "Well, what do you know, there is a river here!"

THE LEGION IN SANDISFIELD

Post 456 was formed by and for veterans following World War II. The organization's mission is to promote civic pride, patriotism, and public service in Sandisfield.

Many other Sandisfield social clubs, service organizations, and like venues are mere memories now. But thanks to the leadership of Maria and the resolve of long-time members, the tradition of the Legion has carried on and home of Post 456 is an important, if under-utilized, asset for the Town.


In an interview with The Times, Maria highlighted all the repairs, upgrades, and improvements, especially to the kitchen. She wants to raise awareness about the "new" facility and urges the community to take advantage of everything offered here. Few towns in the southern Berkshires are fortunate to have an equivalent facility.

It may be the best kept secret in town. Maria wants to change that.

She suggested a litany of possibilities, including a venue for birthdays, anniversaries, and reunions. The building is a perfect setting for events like auctions, large tag sales, dances, and a lot more.

The BBQ shed and an improved fire pit are now well suited for clam bakes, games, and large outdoor events; riverside picnics, a fishing pond, children's events, and just about anything that comes to mind.

Maria also invites all military veterans to consider joining the Post. She would appreciate volunteers from the community to help now and then in keeping the place beautiful and inviting, and a special asset for Sandisfield.

For more information about the Legion or to book functions, contact Maria at 413-258-4578; November thru April, 941-624-2459 or at yankeefruitloop@gmail.com. 

AMERICAN LEGION PAVILION AVAILABLE FOR GROUPS

Contact: Post 456 Commander Maria Domato
 May-October (413) 258-4578; November-April (941) 624-2459
 Email: yankeefruitloop@gmail.com



- ★ Daily rental \$350 (adjusted for local non-profits)
- ★ Renovated 800 sq. ft hall with band / DJ stage
- ★ Fully equipped commercial kitchen includes cook & dishware
- ★ Beautiful riverside field with pond and covered fire pit
- ★ Season May-October (Off season, field and covered fire pit available)





POST 456 COMMANDER MARIA DOMATO

Photo: Ron Bernard

Recent Pavilion Improvements

The building has been stabilized with metal footers and cables where needed. Deteriorated siding was repaired, and the building and metal roof were painted. New windows and a side door with awning were installed. Bathrooms were remodeled with paneling and new sinks and lighting, and the entrances were relocated to the inside.

Kitchen improvements include two new propane stoves, three microwaves, and a Blackstone grill. Electric service was upgraded. A new ceiling was installed in the kitchen. An area for an office was carved out. More smoke detectors were installed.

The main hall is now accessible from the interior. The cookout shed and fire pit were upgraded including electric service and more safety measures. The pond was stocked with fish. Heavy brush and tree cover was removed for a panoramic view of the beautiful Farmington River. A picnic table waits by the riverside. 🇺🇸



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Photo: Katie Murray

Claire Murray Awarded Scholarships

By Ally Marks

The Sandisfield Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that Claire Murray of Town Hill Road has won its 2025 scholarship award of \$1,000.

The daughter of Michael and Katie Murray of Town Hill Road, Claire will graduate from Monument Mountain Regional High School with honors. She participated in her school's Healthcare Pathway, the girls' soccer and swim teams, and visited the Dominican Republic volunteering at an orphanage and a school. She will attend Westfield State University with an undecided area of study but an interest in healthcare.

Clair was also awarded our new Ruth J. and Robert D. Freeman Scholarship of \$2,500.

The Freeman award is a new scholarship fund that we will be awarding for the next three years to an exceptional graduating senior and Sandisfield resident who will attend an institution of higher learning. This fund is in memory of Ruth and Robert Freeman whose values included conservation of nature, preservation of Sandisfield history, and Sandisfield public service. The fund has been provided by an anonymous donor and has been pledged for at least four years. Seniors for 2026 and beyond are eligible.

Congratulations to Claire and best of luck in the Fall! 🍷

REMAIN CALM

AN ART EXHIBITION BY JAYE ALLISON

By Gallerie 271, Monterey

In a world that often feels fractured and uncertain, remain calm is both a personal journey and an invitation. This exhibition is the result of Alison's exploration of how we process turbulence, hold on to meaning, and find moments of clarity through creative expression. Each work reflects an emotional rhythm: sometimes frenetic, sometimes meditative, always seeking equilibrium.

Drawing from personal memories, dreams, and the layered textures of daily life, the pieces, selective works from several series, trace a path through disorientation toward reconnection.

At its core, remain calm is about presence - about choosing to engage, reflect, and transform rather than retreat. These works are a visual journal of that process: playful yet grounded, vulnerable yet composed. In sharing them, Jaye hopes to create space for collective pause, where viewers might sense their own stories in the textures and tensions of the work—and, perhaps, leave with a renewed sense of calm.

Remain Calm, a show of works by Jaye Alison

Gallerie 271, 271 Main Road, Monterey, MA 01245

Opening Reception: Saturday, July 5, 2025, 4-7 pm

Show runs from June 27 - July 19. Gallery hours: Friday & Saturday 11 am - 5 pm and by appointment. (310) 97-4517.

Visit gallerie271.com. 🍷



Andrew, left, explains his creation to a Lego fan.

Another Sandisfield Winner

By Bill Price

A young resident of North Beech Plain Road won the best Star Wars creation at the Lego exhibition held May 23-24 in Springfield.

Andrew Adams, 13, began building his Star Wars MOCs last year. MOC stands for "My Own Creation" and exhibitors do just that, build without preplanning or instruction books. He was accepted to show his creations in

the Brick convention and won by simply gathering pieces and starting to work based on his imagination and experience.

His polished and sophisticated creations are the result of ten-years' experience building and deconstructing his own Lego creations. A 7th grader at Lee Middle School, Andrew is a graduate of Farmington River Elementary School. 🍷



Arts Center Opens the Season

SIX LOCAL HEROES HONORED

By Hilde Weisert

Sandisfield is blessed with many local heroes.

On Saturday, May 31, six of them were recognized for their contributions to the Town, individuals who make a significant and positive impact on the community through their actions, dedication, or volunteer work, often without seeking recognition.

We'd like to make this an annual event. This year we honored Mary Bredenfoerder, Public Safety Officer; Zoe Marinelli Nelson, co-owner of Looking Glass Gardens and former EMT; Bill Price, editor of The Sandisfield Times; Linda Riiska, COA leader and supporter; and two unsuspecting recipients, Nina Carr, who knows everyone in Town, and Jean Atwater-Williams, who is supervising the Art Center's renovation. Each received a framed award and a gift certificate to the Farmington River Store.

Jean made sure the "unsung heroes" were not unsung by singing "The Wind Beneath My Wings," accompanying herself on her ukulele.

The event was part of the Sandisfield-themed 30th anniversary weekend which includes a show of Sandisfield artists that is open weekends from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. until July 6.



Local Heroes: From left, Mary Bredenfoerder, Bill Price, Linda Riiska, Nina Carr, Jean Atwater-Williams, Zoe Nelson.



The reception in honor of the refurbished, shining downstairs gallery.

Photos: The Sandisfield Times



5 HAMMERTOWN ROAD, SANDISFIELD, MA

SAT, JUNE 7 10 AM \$10

Making Horse Sense

Connecting horse sense to our own senses. Talk by **Kari Weil**, Professor, Wesleyan University

SAT, JUNE 7 4-6 PM FREE

Horses in Words - And in Sandisfield

Discussion with award-winning local authors **Courtney Maum, Donaldson Brown and Barbara Newman** followed by slide show and talk on Sunny Rose Farm by **Rose Nelson**. Book signing and tea and coffee reception

SUN, JUNE 8 2 PM FREE

The Poetry of Horses: A community read

FRI, JUNE 20 7 PM DONATION

Open Mic: Seasoned performer or just starting out — bring your music, poetry, comedy, dance or whatever creative talent you have to share! Or just come to enjoy some live entertainment!

SAT, JUNE 21 10 AM \$10

A Conversation and Book Signing with Sally-Jane Heit

I'll Tell You My Story, You Tell Me Yours
Book signing for her new book, "Not Yet"

SAT, JUNE 21 7 PM (STUDENTS FREE) \$25

Screening/discussion of "Charm City"

Documentary about the complex world of community-police relations in Baltimore. **Andre Lambertson**, Photographer and Filmmaker

SUN, JUNE 29 4 PM \$25

Pas de Deux — America and France: a Musical Celebration

A collaborative piano performance by **Paul Posnak and Anita Castiglione**

FOR DETAILS, RESERVATIONS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS, PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE. SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

Where Do We Go From Here?

Editor's Note: Voters at the Annual Town Meeting sent a message to the Select Board and the Sandisfield Fire Department, Inc., that yes, the fire stations and properties should belong to the Town but that, another yes, they should be gifted to the Town rather than bought or seized by eminent domain.

So where do we go now?

Following the first Select Board meeting after the ATM – during which Steve Seddon was re-elected chairman – the Select Board wrote to the Board of Directors of the SFDI asking to meet to discuss (1) the possible acquisition of the fire stations by gift, (2) a renegotiation of the Town's lease agreement of the fire stations with SFDI, and (3) the current governance structure of SFDI in response to residents' concerns regarding its compliance with IRS nonprofit requirements.

The Select Board asked that the meeting be open to the public and without legal representation "in order to encourage open, respectful, and neighborly dialogue."

As this issue of The Times was going to press on June 2, Ralph Morrison, president of SFDI, said that SFDI had received the letter on Friday, May 30, and that their Board of Directors would meet soon to discuss their reply.

What follows is an "Out on a Limb" opinion column by Carl Nett, an outspoken critic of the way SFDI has conducted its relations with the Town and who made the amendment at the Annual Town Meeting that the properties be "gifted" rather than purchased. It is presented here in slightly different form than its original publication on the "ConnectSandisfield-Facebook" page.

– Bill Price, Editor

OUT ON A LIMB Thoughts on Our Fire Stations



ONE RESIDENT'S OPINIONS

By Carl Nett

Below are my thoughts on the warrant article related to the fire stations that was voted on at the annual town meeting. ALL THAT FOLLOWS ARE MY OPINIONS, having very closely followed this issue and having done a lot of independent research on it.

I want to underscore that ABSOLUTELY NOTHING I have written here should be taken as criticism of our fire department volunteers. We have exceptional, very hard working and committed volunteers. Many of them, particularly Shamus and Alec, are very highly regarded as exceptional firefighters throughout the surrounding

towns. Both Shamus and Alex are also members of the Monterey Fire Department. My criticisms here are only of Sandisfield Fire Department, Inc. (SFDI), its Board of Directors (BOD), and how the BOD has been and is currently running SFDI...and they have not a thing to do with our fine volunteers.

GREAT BARRINGTON FIREMAN'S ASSOCIATION

The first point I would like to make is that there CAN be SIGNIFICANT advantages to having a public non-profit in support of the town fire department. The best example of this is the Great Barrington Fireman's Association (GBFA). GBFA is focused entirely on fundraising to provide financial support to the Great Barrington Fire Department (GBFD). They receive ZERO funds from the town and provide significant financial support to the GBFD (\$50,000 on their last annual tax return).

GBFA is run by a completely independent BOD, with independence meaning there are no relationships between members of the BOD either by blood, marriage or

current/former business relationships. They are focused on and skilled at fundraising, and in no way undermine the authority of the GBFD or the town Select Board (SB) that the GBFD reports to. They work in close partnership with the GBFD to fund items that the GBFD decides it needs. They proceed with complete transparency, telling folks exactly what they are soliciting donations for and delineating exactly what they contribute to the GBFD, providing all details in their annual tax returns in a completely transparent fashion.

SANDISFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT, INC.

The current situation in our case with the SFDI is completely different. SFDI currently does very limited fund raising (typically a single steak roast and boot drive each year). They extract and receive significant funds from the town, functioning more as a sink for town funds rather than a source of funds for the Sandisfield Fire Department (SFD).

Its BOD has nearly zero independence and is almost entirely related by blood, marriage or current/former business relationships (in violation of the IRS requirement of 51% or more independence to maintain tax exempt status). The BOD members do not appear to be either focused on or particularly skilled at fund raising, and the BOD often attempts to undermine the authority of the SFD and the Sandisfield SB it reports to.

And transparency is very severely lacking. In fact, in the past SFDI didn't file tax returns for several years in a row (2016-2019), leading to the IRS retracting its tax-exempt status (it was subsequently re-instated after submitting the missing tax returns many years after the fact). Details are scant on the tax returns, and they have been non-responsive to requests for additional information.

I find it very odd that a public charity would be non-responsive to such requests for additional information. I do not believe that SFDI has ever undertaken an independent financial audit, nor that their current tax preparer is a CPA. I also believe numerous significant issues would be uncovered in an independent financial audit and/or an IRS tax audit.

THE UNDERLYING PROBLEM AND ITS SOLUTION

In summary, the problem is not that of having a public charity in support of the SFD, or even that the public charity owns the buildings and land.

Indeed, the latter CAN be an advantage for the town. For example, suppose one of the fire stations needed a new roof. If the town owned the building, it would have to pay the prevailing union wage for the job. The public charity would not be subject to this requirement, lowering significantly the costs for a new roof.

What then is the underlying problem? The problem is the way SFDI is currently being run by its BOD. The easiest, cleanest, most complete solution to the issues we face after the annual town meeting is for the current BOD to be replaced by a completely independent BOD skilled at and focused on fund raising and maintaining the highest standards of financial oversight and transparency, working in support of the SFD, with no undermining of the authority of either the SFD or the Sandisfield SB it reports to. The latter is especially crucial.

Sandisfield residents vote for a Select Board member each year and hence have a strong say in the composition of the Select Board. Sandisfield residents have ZERO say in the composition of the SFDI BOD. SFDI undermining the authority of the SFD and/or the Sandisfield SB it reports in turn undermines the town's democratic process, disenfranchising its residents.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE 6

Which brings me to Warrant Article 6 that was amended at the ATM by vote at my suggestion to delete all references to money payments and change the property transfer to a "gift." I did not support the Town paying SFDI to acquire the buildings and land, as I believe that infusing SFDI with significant funds would make the current issues far worse, leading to more undermining of the authority of the SFD and Sandisfield SB by SFDI.

Make no mistake about it. Money is power, influence and ultimately control. While I support the town acquiring the buildings

and land by gift, even in this case I don't believe the underlying issues would be completely resolved. The SFDI BOD would still need to be overhauled to ensure that the authority of the SFD and Sandisfield SB is no longer undermined. If this step is not taken, I do not believe that any new Fire Chief that Sandisfield hires will be successful, unless that person is blindly loyal to the current SFDI President, Ralph Morrison.

OVERHAULING THE SFDI BOD

I have taken steps aimed at "facilitating" an overhaul of the SFDI BOD in the form of filing complaints against SFDI with both the MA Attorney General's Office as well as with the IRS. While I am guardedly optimistic that these steps will eventually lead to change, it's impossible to know when it might occur, or to be certain that it will eventually occur. Hence, it is prudent to ask, "what other options might we have"?

ANOTHER OPTION TO CONSIDER

I firmly believe we should seriously consider outsourcing our fire protection services to another town (or possibly multiple towns for different regions of our town). We have not explored this in earnest, and I believe we should. Especially in light of neighboring towns moving to 24/7 on call fire protection crews.

I believe this could possibly result in higher reliability of service at an attractive cost. Though transit time would be increased, the time spent in rounding up a crew would be reduced to zero, and there would be no question as to whether a crew would be available. And remember, many of our calls today are already handled by mutual aid from other towns. Were we to outsource fire protection to another town(s), I would hope all our volunteers would join the fire department(s) of the partner town(s).

I want to be clear that I am speaking only about fire protection services here. I feel very different about EMS/EMT/ambulance services. For the latter, I feel strongly we need work towards 24/7 on call EMS/EMT/ambulances services located in our town, and do NOT support outsourcing or regionalization of these services. We have hundreds of EMS/EMT/ambulance calls a year, and only tens of fire protection calls a

year. I think EMS/EMT/ambulance should be our highest focus/priority. Outsourcing/regionalization of this is likely to lead to unattractive response times and prohibitive costs. In contrast, I think outsourcing of fire protection could lead to improved responsiveness at attractive costs.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

In summary, I think we should begin exploring in earnest outsourcing fire protection to another town(s). Meanwhile, and in parallel, we can entertain any specific concrete proposal that SFDI makes to the town. And then we can entertain and vote on a specific, concrete proposal at the Fall special town meeting.

Which path Sandisfield takes in this saga will largely depend on the SFDI BOD. If they insist on continuing to function as a "shadow" fire department to undermine the SFD and Sandisfield SB, I feel we will have no alternative other than to outsource fire protection to another town(s). This of course would solve our current SFDI problem completely. The fate of SFDI is entirely up to the SFDI BOD. As I see it, SFDI can either change or become completely non-relevant to the town. The choice is up to their BOD.

History is filled with examples—some of which are very recent and very public—of leaders clinging to power past their time, instead of stepping aside, resulting in significant damage to the legacy of the contributions they made earlier in their career. I feel this is happening in Sandisfield today, and hope it is corrected before it can no longer be corrected, and the legacy is tarnished beyond repair, and effectively erased. 🍷

Out on a Limb: Op-Ed:

Subjects should be of interest to most of us and have a strong link to Sandisfield, written by and for Town residents. Address either PO Box 584, Sandisfield, or email. Opinions in Out on a Limb articles are those of the authors and do not represent The Sandisfield Times.

Our Neighbors, the Moose

THEY'RE HERE,
JUST WAIT.
YOU'LL SEE ONE.

By Tom Christopher

A couple of weeks ago I had an experience that was exciting for me and thrilling for my dog Finn, although not terribly uncommon in Sandisfield.

Finn and I stepped outside after lunch, he to resume nagging me to throw a ball for him to retrieve and me to return to my labors in the vegetable garden. First, though, we were confronted by a cow moose, standing about forty feet away on the lawn as she checked out our landscape.

Finn was gobsmacked.

He barks ferociously when he smells or sees the bear which occasionally cuts through our yard, but at the sight of the moose, he just barked once or twice and then stood transfixed. He'd never seen an animal so large.

The moose gave Finn a look and then, without hurrying, turned around and trotted back down the path to our beaver pond. Finn wanted to follow, but fortunately he listened to my recall. My thought was that the moose, though she had behaved

remarkably patiently so far, might react badly to harassment.

I'm old enough (71 as of this past May) to remember when moose sightings were limited to the very northern portions of New England, so they still make my heart beat faster when they visit our Sandisfield property. They should excite you too because they signify some important changes in the local landscape.



A bull moose captured on Wayne Keller's trail cam near Roberts Road, 2022.

THEY WERE HERE FIRST

Moose aren't exactly newcomers – they had roamed throughout Massachusetts until the early 1700s when clearing of the forests combined with unrestricted hunting extirpated them from our state. It wasn't until the 1980s that moose returned to southern Berkshire County.

In pre-colonial times, Sandisfield had been toward the southern limit of moose's

range and they were not plentiful here. They evolved as creatures of the northern forests; their long legs help them not only in wading through swamps but also in walking through deep snow. Yet they now find our region more hospitable in some respects than their northern heartland. That's because the warming of the climate up north has favored the spread of winter ticks and fatal diseases such as brain worm, particularly in areas densely populated by moose.

According to John F. Organ, adjunct associate professor at the University of Massachusetts School of Natural Sciences, such pests and diseases are less likely to spread in regions sparsely populated by moose such as ours.

Plus, the return of wolves to the moose's more northerly habitats together with hunting by human hunters has further reduced their numbers there. Without predators or a moose hunting season, Massachusetts is more favorable to moose survival, as is our patchier landscape.

We don't have broad stretches of ideal moose habitat, but we do have intermittent areas of closely mingled patches of wetlands and densely canopied mature forest for them to retreat to during hot weather, as well as, thanks to timber harvesting, lots of young forest to provide them with browse. Moose will probably never be abundant in Sandisfield, but they seem likely to thrive here in modest numbers.

Is there any downside to this? Potentially.

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JUNE 7TH D-ROD & THE UPRISING 8PM
JUNE 11TH & 25TH SPINDLE 7PM
JUNE 13TH NATE MARTEL 6PM
JUNE 14TH FULL BURN 8PM
JUNE 15TH HILLTOWN BLUES JAM 2PM
JUNE 20TH SCOTT SILVIA 6PM
JUNE 21ST EVEN IT UP! 8PM
JUNE 27TH BRAD LICHT DUO 7PM
JUNE 28TH THE BERKSHIRE BAND 8PM
JUNE 29TH BOONDOCKS & BLOSSOMS
PAINT & SIP 1PM

Moose can be aggressive when disturbed, especially during the males' fall rutting season (sound familiar?), or when females are protecting their calves. They are best viewed from what Mass Wildlife describes as a "respectful distance." If encountered up close, you should back off, trying not to startle them, and keep your dog under control.

The more serious threat, though, is to motorists. Adult moose are tall enough that when struck by a car or pickup, the mass of their bodies is likely to come through the windshield or crush the vehicle's roof, with predictable results.

I learned about this hazard during a long ago visit to Newfoundland, a place that had never had an indigenous population of moose until 1904, when the Canadian government released four individuals in the hope that they would reproduce and attract big game hunters. This was just seven years before a longstanding campaign of trapping, poisoning, and shooting succeeded in killing the last known wolf on the island.

Today, there are an estimated 150,000 moose roaming that small province and far too few hunters, so the main brake on further moose population growth is collisions with cars. These number on average 1.5 per day in that very thinly populated region and locals insist that statistic doesn't reflect the real toll as such accidents often go unreported.

A common sight on the Newfoundland highways is trucks with tubular steel "moose bumpers" mounted on the front. Other motorists commonly avoid driving at night and especially during the hours around dawn and sunset when these crepuscular animals are typically on the move. The upside of such a collision, according to my wife Suzanne who pursued research for a graduate geology degree in Newfoundland, is that such encounters commonly become the occasion for a festive communal dinner of moose stew.

The hours of darkness, dawn and twilight would also be a good time for motorists in Sandisfield to slow their speed and stay extra alert, especially when passing through areas that moose are known to inhabit.

True, there's a lot of meat on a moose. Even the most festive pot of stew, however, can come at too high a price. 🍷



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A Pair of Pink Lady Slippers

This pair of lady slippers was spotted and photographed in the Sandisfield woods in mid-May by Wayne Keller of Cronk Road.

A few years ago, Wayne caught the moose photo that you saw on page 12.

Sandisfield Ladies Book Club

Thursday, June 26, at 6:00 p.m., the **Sandisfield Women's Book Group** will meet to discuss *Treasure Island* by Robert Lewis Stevenson.

The novel, one of many by the famed Scottish author, is structured around the hunt for a fortune of massive proportions. The existence of this fortune tempts nearly all the characters in the novel – few are exempt from such a dream, from Long John Silver and Captain Smollett to Jim Hawkins himself – the young hero.



NEW BOSTON CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday Worship Service
Sunday, June 8 - 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service
Sunday, June 29 - 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Church Council Meeting will follow the service from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

All welcome.

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A Rare Glimpse of Spring

SEEN ONCE, NEVER AGAIN

By Wayne Keller

I don't remember what drew my eye to that little rivulet at my feet. Maybe it was the sharp contrast between unusually dark water and lingering snow. Maybe it was the unnatural look of the flow, murky, opaque, oddly alive. I crouched down and looked closer.

It was early spring, some thirty years ago, in the woods north of my home in Oswego County, New York. The past season's heavy lake-effect snow pack was losing its tenacious grip and giving way, patches melting beneath a warm sun, and I was out walking, just one of those spontaneous, reacquainting walks we take when the land is waking up.

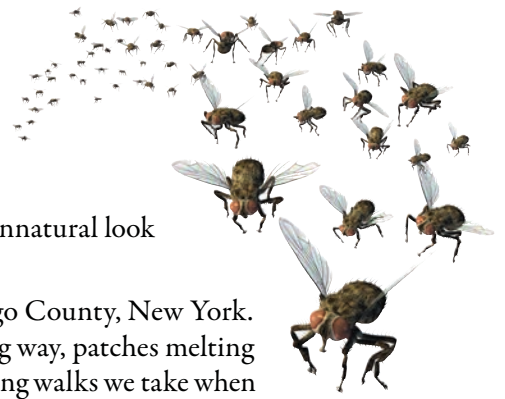
I'm reminded of that day each year when new leaves and black flies compete for attention.

The stream was no more than a hand's width wide, meandering through the forest floor, but it was not water. It was a living current, a ribbon of insects flowing like water itself. Tens, maybe hundreds of thousands of black flies over the course of the minutes I observed, moving past me in a narrow corridor between snow patches. Not emerging from a streambed or pooling from some obvious source, but appearing as though the forest floor itself were exhaling them.

There was no permanent stream uphill, no brook feeding that channel. Just meltwater, flowing down from higher ground, gathering briefly before slipping away under the duff. I watched them, in silent awe. This was emergence. A hatching. A release.

In all my years outdoors, stalking native brook trout and ephemeral wildflowers, walking familiar paths through decades of changing seasons, I have never again witnessed anything like it. A moment as fleeting as the season that birthed it, a glimpse into the hidden rhythms of the forest that most of us, most of the time, pass right by.

We think of black flies as pests, and they certainly are, but that day, they were more than that. They were spring itself: ancient, inevitable, and flowing out of winter's last breath. 🍷



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My Earth Day Walk

A WHOLE LOT OF DEEP EDDY

Photos and text by Julie Johnston

During a three-day "Earth Day" clean-up project between Monterey and Sandisfield, I found, besides two vintage B&W TV's thrown in our woods along with 200-300 feet of cable wire, a rather frightening number of bottles of "Deep Eddy" Lemon Vodka.



Two large glass bottles of Deep Eddy were on the Monterey side of Sandisfield Road along with ten nips. On the Sandisfield side and including the upper half of West Street, there were well over 50 nips of Deep Eddy Lemon Vodka along with just a few beer cans and plastic water bottles still containing water.

I collected two large bags of trash across from Buck's Pond that had originally been dumped last fall and had been torn into by our wildlife. That trash had made it into the streams running across from this pond and spread into our wetlands.


I live on the Monterey side of Cronk Road but feel this distance is still in my backyard. My picking up this trash doesn't change any bad habits of the selfish people who commit such crime, but picking it up is my way of not giving-in to these trashy people (who lack good taste, class, or decency).

I refer also to those who toss out potted plants such as mums once they become unsightly, thus disposing of not only the dying mum but the plastic pot as well across the street on someone else's property that is vacant of a house. This is also littering and if you think not, why not dispose these pots on your own lawn's edge? Is it more pleasing to your eye to see it across the street rather than your own front lawn? I picked up seven plastic pots w/plant name tags still attached from one vacant lot across from a single house.

Unfortunately, the people who litter aren't reading this. Maybe pass the word to those you know who do litter.



Keeping our own backyard picked up and by helping others who can't do it alone is a great start for a better feeling about yourself, by giving back to your community, for a cleaner, safer environment for all and for generations still to come.

Thank you for your time. 



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EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY THIS MONTH.

Thursday, June 26, at 6:00 p.m., the **Sandisfield Women's Book Group** will meet to discuss *Treasure Island* by Robert Lewis Stevenson. The novel, one of many by the famed Scottish author, is structured around the hunt for a fortune of massive proportions. The existence of this fortune tempts nearly all the characters in the novel – few are exempt from such a dream, from Long John Silver and Captain Smollett to Jim Hawkins himself – the young hero.

All month long: It is never too late to participate in the **Massachusetts Center for the Book 2025 Reading Challenge**. June's book is one that spans multiple generations. Suggestions include *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck, *Homecoming* by Yaa Gyasi or *The House of Spirits* by Isabel Allende. Stop by the Library for a postcard of each month's reading challenge and, of course, to search for the right book.

LATEST ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY SHELVES

Murder the Truth by David Enrich (Non-Fiction) Fear, the First Amendment, and a secret campaign to protect the powerful. "...is a timely an essential study of how these favored legal tools of repressive regimes are being regularly deployed in the United States to conceal the truth, discredit the press, and benefit anti-democratic forces" Ruth Ben-Ghiat, author of *Strongmen*

Marble Hall Murders by Anthony Horowitz (Fiction). "Murder links past and present once again in this mind-boggling metafictional mystery.

All the Other Mothers Hate Me by Sarah Harman (Fiction). A potent mix of mystery, laugh out-loud humor with brilliant twists and turns. A woman pushed to extremes to protect her only son.

The Tainted Cup by Robert Jackson Bennett (Fiction). A Holmes-Watson style detective duo take the stage in this fantasy with a mystery twist. In part Sherlock Holmes and part *Through the Looking Glass*.

Stone Yard Devotional by Charlotte Wood (Fiction). The 2024 Booker Prize shortlist. One woman's inward journey to make sense of the world and her life when conflicts and chaos are abundant in both realms. A fierce and philosophical interrogation of history, memory, nature and human existence. – Booker Prize Judges' Remarks

Black Woods Blue Sky by Eowyn Ivey (Fiction) "...a fable about what it is to love, a tale of longing, a call to renew our deepest bonds with the living world. It will draw you along like a fast-moving stream. And you will find yourself in places you have never been." – Louise Erdrich, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *The Night Watchman*.

IN THE CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT SECTION, LATEST ADDITIONS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

Cavie's Magic Wish by Julie Huetsch
Need a Notary? The Library can do that too! Give us a call for an appointment or stop by when the Library is open.

Museum Passes. The Library has passes to the following:

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recreation COMMITTEE

FAMILY FUN DAY COMING UP

By the Recreation Committee

Family Fun Day! Once again, this now annual event will be at Looking Glass Gardens.

This year we are excited to start the morning with an interactive performance by Laurel Lenski of Intrinsic Movement at 10:00 a.m. There will be craft activities for kids, \$5 pony rides at Sunny Rose Farm, and face painting.

At noon there will be a performance from Terry A La Berry & Friends!

Light lunch and refreshments will be available. Please RSVP by June 14 to sandisfeldevents@recreationcommittee.info.

Family Fun Day is co-Sponsored by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

And don't forget, this fall. Save the Date! Pig Roast at the American Legion, Saturday, September 13 at 5:00 p.m.

Sandisfield Recreation Committee Presents:

Family Fun Day!

**Saturday, June 21st
10AM-1PM**

Looking Glass Gardens
19 Dodd Rd.
Sandisfield, MA

Co-Sponsored by:  Mass Cultural Council

RSVP By 6/14/25 to
sandisfeldevents@recreationcommittee.info



Terry A La Berry & Friends

- 10AM Interactive performance with Laurel Lenski from Intrinsic Movement
- \$5 Pony Rides at Sunny Rose Farm
- Light lunch available
- Face Painting
- Craft Activity
- 12PM Terry A La Berry & Friends perform live!



NEW Sandisfield History Book!

From Church to Synagogue to Arts Center: Celebrating 185 Years of Community and Culture is the story of a special Sandisfield building home to three different communities and their leaders who cherished and preserved it for posterity.

The origin of Montville Baptist Church (1839), now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, traces to

two Sandisfield Baptist societies that formed in 1779 and 1788 in northwest Sandisfield. This uniquely American history narrative is based on years of research by local historian Ronald Bernard. It is told through the lens of family biographies of the 35 ministers who presided until 1918. Fellow author Lorraine German picks up the story in 1921 when the building was saved and (improbably) converted to an orthodox Jewish synagogue for seven more decades. Community groups in the 1990s again saved the building as the Sandisfield Arts Center which is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

This 425-page commemorative edition in hard cover is a keepsake to be passed down to generations. Only 125 copies have been printed. Don't miss out – order today!

Commemorative History Book To Benefit the Sandisfield Arts Center

From Church to Synagogue to Arts Center Celebrating 185 Years of Community and Culture

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For more information go to SandisfieldArtsCenter.org
or contact Ronbernard@aol.com

SAC 6/25

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 of dates, 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 3 Silverbrook Road, sponsored by the Council on Aging. For more information, contact Nina Carr (258-3314). Free.

Making Horse Sense on Saturday, June 7 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammertown Road. Connecting horse sense to our own senses with animal communication researcher Kari Weil, Wesleyan University Professor. Visit sandisfieldartscenter.org for tickets or pay at the door. \$10.

Horses in Words and in a Sandisfield Panel Discussion on Saturday, June 7 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center with award-winning local authors Courtney Maum, Donnaldson Brown, and Barbara Newman, followed by a Slide Show and Talk on Sunny Rose Farm by Rose Nelson. Followed by book signing and tea/coffee reception. Free.

New Boston Church Worship Service on Sunday, June 8 and Sunday, June 29 at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome. The New Boston Congregational Church on Route 57. For more information and to view the calendar, visit newbostoncongregationalchurch.org.

Car Show on Sunday, June 8 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the New Boston Inn. Live band. Outdoor grill. For information, call 258-4477.

The Poetry of Horses: A Community Read on Sunday, June 8 from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. An opportunity

for community members to come and read (out loud) their favorite horse-related poems or read from the poems provided. Or just listen. Free.

Open Mic on Friday, June 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammertown Road. Bring your music, poetry, comedy, dance or other creative talent to share! Come to enjoy some live entertainment. Free.

Family Fun Day on Saturday, June 21 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at Looking Glass Gardens, 19 Dodd Road. Fun for the whole family. RSVP by June 14 to sandisfeldevents@recreationcommittee.info. See ad on previous page.

A Conversation and Book Signing with Sally-Jane Heit on Saturday, June 21 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center featuring I'll Tell You My Story, You Tell Me Yours. Sally-Jane will share excerpts from her inspiring memoir and reveal how she tackled the "sand mountain" of creating a book. For tickets, visit sandisfieldartscenter.org. \$10.

Screening and Discussion of "Charm City" on Saturday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammertown Road. Photographer and Filmmaker Andre Lambertson will lead the discussion. "Charm City" is a documentary about the complex world of community-police relations in Baltimore. \$25. Students free.

Memorial service for Dr. Valerie Pinsky, June 28 at 1:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center, 5 Hammertown Road. The daughter of Gertrud Michelson and David Pinsky of Montville and New York, Valerie died November 21. An obituary will be published in The Times next month.

Tractor Pull at The American Legion Post 456 on Sunday, June 29. Food and beverages available for purchase. This event is FREE to enter and FREE to watch. Pulling begins at 10:00 a.m. and continues to 2:00 p.m.

Pas de Deux – America and France: a Musical Celebration on Sunday, June 29 at 4:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. A collaborative piano performance by Paul Posnak and Anita Castiglione. For more information, please visit sandisfieldartscenter.org. \$25.

ONLINE EVENTS

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

EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

Free Pancake Breakfast, Fishing Derby, and Trail Walk on Saturday, June 14 from 7:30 a.m. to Noon at the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery on Hatchery Road in Monterey. Fishing Derby starts at 9:00 a.m. Open to children ages 13 and under. Free.

Acoustic Bandwidth on Saturday, June 14 at 6:30 p.m. on the Tolland Town Green (or in the church in case of rain). Playing your favorite classic rock and acoustic treasures. Free coffeehouse style with light refreshments. Free.

A Mason's Tool Chest: 18th and 19th Century Stone Work on Saturday, June 28 from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Tyringham Union Church on 128 Main Road in Tyringham. Visit bidwellhousemuseum.org for tickets. Free-\$25.



The Annual Otis Library and Country Fair on Saturday, July 5 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at the Town Hall Green in the center of Otis. Craft booths, Tony's Italian food, bake sale, raffles, children's activities, Copsicle truck, book and puzzle sale, jewelry. Fundraiser for library programs and needs. For information on booth space or to sign up as a volunteer, call the Library at 413-269-0109 or stop by during regular hours.

The New Boston Congregational Church is seeking donation of a serviceable vacuum cleaner.

**Contact
Scott Stone at
413 258-4505.**

Thank You!



THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



P.O. Box 584
Sandisfield, MA 01255

*The Times appreciates donations
received last month.*

Susan Diamond

Geoffrey Enfield

Gary Leveille

Bonner McAllester



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,

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