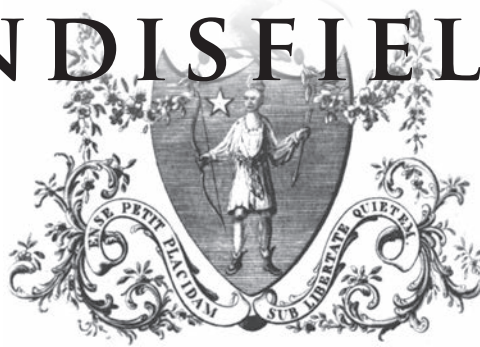


# THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

*Tribunus*



*Plebis*

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

*Volume XVI, Number 4*

*July 2025*

## Fire Chief Appointed

### SELECT BOARD AND FSDI TO “TALK”

*By Bill Price*

While awaiting negotiations between the Select Board and the Sandisfield Fire Department, Inc. (FSDI), the Select Board held interviews with two finalists for appointment to permanent Fire Chief of the Sandisfield Fire Department.

Their choice was Mike Grillo of Connecticut, who, at 31, became very likely the youngest fire chief in the Commonwealth.

The Board interviewed the two finalists in separate open meetings that were attended by only three or four town residents, this reporter among them. Of the two candidates, one clearly stood out as to enthusiasm, initiative, and a willingness to bring new ideas to the department.

Fire Department deputy chief Mike Morrison had said earlier that anyone hired as permanent chief should be already or a pending EMT, given the shortage of EMTs in Sandisfield. Seddon said he asked both candidates and one was already a licensed EMT in Connecticut and the other said he didn't feel it was necessary. Seddon said, “That helped us make a decision.”

#### THE NEW CHIEF

The day following his June 17 appointment, Grillo met with the Town's firefighters in a group meeting. He told The Times, “They were nearly all there, only two or three had to be someplace else.” At first, he felt his audience was “100 percent skeptical,” meeting yet another chief after a couple others had “cycled through” the job.

But, for the most part, nearly all the firefighters “seemed ready to move forward,” Grillo said, adding, “I thought they were all open minded. They seemed motivated.”

Grillo said he asked the firefighters to identify improvement possibilities. He also presented his own initiatives that might benefit the department, such as using part of Station #1 as a dormitory for firefighters and starting a Heart Healthy program in Town.

Subsequently, two senior firefighters—Eric Pachulski and Matt Pachulski – chose to retire rather than continue with the new chief. Both had served many years with distinction and their expertise and Town

*Cont'd on p.4*



*The 1930s house has been renovated and the kitchen updated to make homemade cider donuts.*

## A Growing Business Gets a New Name

### Introducing “Sandisfield Orchard”

*By Ron Bernard*

This fall will mark the fourth apple season for Calvin Rodman and Emily Melchior. They purchased the former Riiska Brook Orchard in 2022 with a goal of maintaining the 150-acre pre-Revolutionary War farm as an apple orchard and local gathering place.

Aware of the farm's local significance, Calvin and Emily have committed to upgrading the orchard's facilities to give the farm a viable future.

Emily told The Times, “We are grateful for the extraordinary support we've received as we've worked on this project. The

*Cont'd on p.3*


# FARMER'S MARKETS

**Sheffield Farmers Market** on Fridays from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the Old Parish Church. Vibrant marketplace featuring local farmers, food producers, artisans, and musicians.

**Otis Farmers Market** on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 200 East Otis Road. Produce, eggs, baked goods, meat, crafts, and more.

**Great Barrington Farmers Market** on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 18 Church Street. Locally grown and produced foods, including greens, fruit, cheese, meats, honey, maple syrup, baked goods, and more. Local musicians perform.

**New Marlborough Farmers Market** on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in front of the Old Inn on the Green, 134 Hartsville-New Marlborough Road. Handmade crafts, baked goods, jams and more.

**Berkshire Mobile Farmers Market** beginning on Friday, June 20 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Monterey Community Center. The market features fresh, local food with a focus on accessibility and choice for all. 



**CW NELSON LANDSCAPE  
DESIGN & NURSERY**

**413-258-3375**  
**cwnelson.com info@cwnelson.com**

Landscaping & Masonry  
Retaining Stone Walls  
Patios and Walkways

Grading & Drainage  
Septic Systems  
Excavation  
Driveways  
Garden Planning  
Landscape Planting

Waterfalls & Fountains  
Water Gardens & Koi Ponds  
Screened topsoil, compost and bark mulch

## Prayer for Peace, June 2025

*Karen Garfield*

Please,  
If there lies a greater good,  
A force above,  
A benevolent shield.

I pray to you for peace on Earth,  
A return to negotiation.  
Let leaders stall.


I pray to you for peace on Earth,  
A settling of differences.  
Let egos fall.

I pray to you for peace on Earth,  
A calm descending  
To unfurl.

I pray to you for peace on earth.  
A sweeping ceasefire,  
To all.


Please,  
Is there a greater good?  
A force above,  
A benevolent shield?

## Town Clerk's Office Closed July 1-8

The Town Clerk's office will be closed from July 1-July 3, 2025 and will re-open July 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. 

## Transfer Station Stickers now only sold at Town Hall or by mail

*Laurie McArthur,*  
*Town Administrative Assistant*

Transfer Station stickers are now only sold at Town Hall. To purchase stickers, please come to Town Hall Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursdays between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Or you may send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to 66 Sandisfield Rd. Suite 1, along with your completed Transfer Station application and payment of \$120, and I will mail your sticker to you. Applications may be printed from the Town website or picked up at Town Hall during the hours listed above. 



## Introducing “Sandisfield Orchard”

*Cont'd from p.1*

orchard is such a special place, and we want it to continue to be welcoming for friends and neighbors.”

Over the past three years, Calvin and Emily have renovated the 1930s house and updated the kitchen to make home-made cider donuts. They have also planted close to 500 new trees, including pears and peaches, Calvin said.

Their apple varieties include standards such as Galas and Golden Delicious, but also terrific antique varieties like Cox's Orange Pippin, Nova Spy, Otterson, Winesap, and Redfield.

Recently, as these changes have taken shape, it became clear that the name of the orchard should also change to reflect the new phase in its history.

The farm has had many names and identities over the past 250 years, beginning with the Joseph French family for about its first 50 years. Turner Fargo took over in 1828 for another fifty, followed by others. An early map found by Calvin and Emily

referred to the place as Pond Hill. In 1913 a branch of the Riiska family bought the property, joining it to existing family holdings. For a time, the Riiska family called the place Corn Hill Farm. In about 1990 the Riiskas transitioned the farm to operating as an orchard and named it Riiska Brook Orchard.

Calvin explained that at this point in the life of the venerable farm it seemed suitable to adopt yet a new name for the business, given the new ownership along with the upgrades accomplished so far and his and Emily's plans for more upgrades to come.

“Although we considered names based on customs such as family names, or local geography,” he said, “we decided that the new name should be both unique and practical, especially to help people from a wider area to find us.”

They chose “Sandisfield Orchard.”

Emily said, “It helps that there is only one Sandisfield, so we should be easy to find.”

In addition to practical reasons, the new name also recognizes the community which has been “kind and supportive” to



the couple since they first moved to Sandisfield in 2014.

“We love it when people share their memories of the orchard,” Emily added. “We hope that what we are doing, and the exciting new offerings, will ensure that the orchard continues as a place where new memories are made for years to come.”

# Otis Library and County Fair

The annual Otis Library and Country Fair will take place Saturday, July 5 from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., on the Town Hall Green in the center of Otis (Rtes 8/23). Multiple craft booths, Tony's Italian food, a bake sale, raffles, children's activities, Copsicle truck, book and puzzle sale, jewelry, and more! This event raises money for library programs and needs. For information on booth space or other questions or to sign up to volunteer, please call the library at 413-269-0109 or stop by during regular hours.



SANDISFIELD  
ORCHARD  
SANDISFIELD, MA

**Pick Your Own Blueberries Starting Mid-July**

Open Saturdays and Sundays from 9am – 4pm

101 New Hartford Road, Sandisfield

Check our Facebook page and website for more info

## Fire Chief Appointed

*Cont'd from p.1*

knowledge have been invaluable, Grillo said. "The department and the Town should recognize their significant contributions." Both Eric and Matt remain board members of SFDI. Eric did not return a phone call asking for comment.

### A NEW START

This is Mike Grillo's first hire as the chief of a department. By the end of his first two weeks on the job, he had hired four new firefighters for the Town, and Chris Colonair as deputy fire chief. Grillo said, "I may not know enough, but I know who to call. Chris is one of those."

Though his job will be mostly operational and administrative, Colonair ranks as Firefighter 3 level. With his hiring, Colonair became Sandisfield's first (and only) licensed Paramedic.

Grillo said a primary goal for the department is to rebuild trust with the Town through accountability and accessibility. "I want everyone in the department to be successful."

One example, he pointed out, was Fireman Shamus Gaherty having received notice June 30 that he had passed the written examination for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician-Basic level.

Grillo said, "This is Shamus's final step toward becoming a nationally certified EMT." The accomplishment, Grillo added, reflects "not only academic achievement but an unwavering commitment to service, excellence, and professionalism."

Grillo's firefighting experience is two years as a Firefighter/EMT in Waterford, Connecticut, and, most recently, as a Volunteer Firefighter with the Yantic Fire Company, No. 1, Norwich. In Connecticut, he has owned and operated a subcontracting firm in Norwich since 2014. He believes he will be able to conduct that business remotely.

He has found at least a temporary home, a rental on the border between Tolland and Blanchard, due east on Rt. 23 past Papa's Food & Fuel. He has moved there with his girlfriend of about four years, Bree Lassiter, who also has firefighter credentials and is a licensed EMT in Connecticut.

"Being a firefighter is a privilege," Mike said. "To be able to provide help when it's needed." He added, "It may also be the last noble profession."

### THE FIREHOUSE CONFLICT

To back up a bit, readers will recall the Annual Town Meeting in mid-May agreed that, yes, BOTH fire stations and properties should belong to the Town, but that, they should be gifted to the Town rather than bought or seized by eminent domain. One of the issues is that SFDI owns the two fire station properties and leases them to the Town for use by its firefighters and their equipment. SFDI is a nonprofit organization chartered to support the Sandisfield Fire Department.

After the Town Meeting, the Board wrote to SFDI, on May 27, 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 also asked that the meeting be open to the public and without legal representation, "in order to encourage open, respectful, and neighborly dialogue."

SFDI president, Ralph Morrison, received the letter May 30 and told The Times that their board of directors would meet soon to discuss their reply. Asked again in mid-June, Morrison said, "The corporation is working on the lease of the fire station."

The chairman of the Select Board, Steve Seddon, explained further. "SFDI did reply, and said they were going to review the lease for negotiations. They proposed having the negotiation meeting at Fire Station #1 on Rt. 8. Time and date not determined yet."



*Mike Grillo with Yantic Fire Engine Co. 1*

## Volunteer Firefighters and EMTs

*A Letter Forwarded by the President of FSDI, Ralph Morrison, on June 3.*

May 10, 2025

To Sandisfield Fire & Rescue,

I am the widow of Steve McCuin, he served this town in many ways and felt his duty was to keep our town safe. He was a fire fighter, police chief and EMT for many years, we missed several holidays and dinners to answer calls.

We need to support our brave departments.

As a Director of Nursing at the Nursing Home I depended on them for help in many ways, they always went above and beyond to help. As a wife of my husband and I do have grandchildren who now give to the town.

We have all made not so perfect decisions but everyone does try their best and gives their all. We are very lucky and blessed to have these volunteers.

*Dale McCuin  
Sandisfield Road*



# OUT ON A LIMB



## We Second Carl's Point of View

### FURTHER ON THE FIRE DEPARTMENT/EMS ISSUES

*By Jeff and Melissa Bye  
New Hartford Road*


In last month's Sandisfield Times, Dr. Carl Nett of Town Hill Road published an in-depth "Out on a Limb" article that we sincerely hope everyone in Sandisfield read. It outlined Carl's opinions on important issues facing our town.

Melissa had the privilege of working with Carl on the FRRSD School Committee and witnessed first-hand the thorough and fact-driven process he employs when problem solving. Indeed, while other members of the School Committee and Superintendent Tim Lee certainly made important contributions to the effort, in our opinion it was Carl's exhaustive research and data analysis that formed the foundation for the revised Regional District Agreement. This hard work resulted in an agreement between Otis and Sandisfield that ensures that Sandisfield, after decades of overpaying, will contribute a more equitable portion to the school budget.

Like the FRRSD, public safety is an important service provided to Sandisfield citizens and constitutes a considerable portion of our town's annual budget.

One can see from Carl's article that, as he did with the school budget apportionment issue, he applied his research and problem-solving skills to the concerns surrounding our emergency services and arrived at conclusions based on that research. Carl repeatedly pointed out that the views he expressed were his "opinions." Knowing Carl as we do, we feel that a reader can be assured that those "opinions" came to fruition only after many hours of due diligence.

The fire department and EMS issues are thorny to be sure, because for many in our town, it's not just about facts, but rather takes into account personal feelings surrounding members of the Sandisfield Fire Department, Inc. (SFDI) and in particular, its founder and president, Ralph Morrison. Despite claims made by some, in our opinion, this is not a case of our Select Board harboring personal grievances towards SFDI, but rather a situation in which the town must move forward to provide all residents competent, reliable, and cost-effective fire and EMS services, all while doing so transparently. We have to let go of the past, put emotions aside, and look at the reality of our current public safety needs and give town leadership the latitude to make changes where and when they are warranted.

Our takeaway from Carl's piece is that his only aim is to share information and insight with Sandisfield's citizens and leadership about these complex and critical issues. We, and others with whom we've discussed this matter, agree that a fact-driven, transparent approach needs to be used when making necessary and difficult decisions regarding our public safety. 

## 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.*



**GEDNEY**  
KITCHEN

*Berkshires' Best-kept Secret*

**Serving Dinner**

**May: Thurs-Sat 5-9 pm**  
(excl'd 5/24 + 5/31)

**June: Wed-Fri 5-9 pm**

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL: 413.229.3131

[GEDNEYFARM.COM](http://GEDNEYFARM.COM)



# recreation COMMITTEE

## Family Fun Day

LOTS OF FUN, AND WE MET  
OUR NEW FIRE CHIEF

By Laurie Seddon

Finally, a warm, sunny Saturday just in time for this year's Family Fun Day!

We began our day at Looking Glass Gardens with an interactive performance by Laurel Lenski of Intrinsic Movement.

During our 3-hour event, the children could wander over to Sunny Rose Farm for \$5 pony rides, join us in the gazebo to build and paint birdhouses, get their faces painted by Elizabeth Torsay-Wilson and her daughter, Avelina, and have an al fresco lunch.

We closed out the day with a wonderful performance by Terry A La Berry and friends.

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**PIG ROAST,**  
**SAT., SEPT. 13,**  
**AT 5:00 P.M. AT THE**  
**AMERICAN LEGION**  
**PAVILION.**

There was one special surprise, even for us!

Our new Sandisfield Fire Chief, Mike Grillo, joined by Shamus Gaherty from the SFD, brought a real fire engine over for the children to explore. Besides providing a lot of fun, it was a great way for Mike to introduce himself to the community.

Thank you to Looking Glass Gardens for hosting this event and thank you to everyone who helped or participated. 🇺🇸



**Shire Forestry**

**Adam Brown**  
Consulting Forester  
MA License # 461

P.O. Box 171  
Sandisfield, MA 01255

[shireforestry@gmail.com](mailto:shireforestry@gmail.com)  
Cell: 413.854.7525

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



## SANDISFIELD Historical Society

### Tag Sale: Yes or No?

### AND CARD PLAYING ON JULY 10

By Ann Wald, President

At our recent meeting we discussed whether to do or not do a town-wide tag sale this year. We'd like to do it again because it's a popular event and a good fundraiser for us.

To help us decide, would someone volunteer to draw a map for us? We can use last year's as a model. If you're interested, please call me at 258 4415.

We are continuing to raise money to install an indoor bathroom at the Society building.

And something new: Seniors are going to begin playing cards on July 10 at 1:00 p.m. at Town Hall at the Senior Center. Let us know if you are interested in joining us. Call me at 258-4415. 🇺🇸





## Sandisfield Ladies Book Club

The Sandisfield Women's Book Group will discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. July 24, Thursday, at 6:00 p.m.

In this best-seller novel (The New York Times best seller list for over 62 weeks): After her husband died, Tova Sullivan began working the night-cleaner shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium. Ever since her 18-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat over thirty years ago, keeping busy has helped her cope. One night she meets Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium who sees everything, but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors – until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova.



## Interested in becoming a Building Inspector?

POSTED ON: JUNE 24, 2025

Are you interested in becoming a Building Inspector or learning about the process? Do you have five years or more of building construction or design supervision experience?

If so, please reach out to our current Building Commissioner Vinny Tirone at [building@sandisfieldma.gov](mailto:building@sandisfieldma.gov) or 413-272-9913 to learn about how to become credentialed.



## Too many cooks in the kitchen

Adding lawyers to the mix  
might get salty

**CONSOLATI INSURANCE**

71 Main Street, Lee MA 413-243-0105 [consolatiinsurance.com](http://consolatiinsurance.com)  
Business Liability Insurance Since 1942

## Chris Maccarini, PMP

Owner

617-816-6152

[info@crmhomewatch.com](mailto:info@crmhomewatch.com)  
[crmhomewatch.com](http://crmhomewatch.com)

PO Box 791  
Becket, MA 01223

Residential & Commercial  
Homes • Buildings • Property



LICENSED BONDED INSURED

## 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](http://www.domaney.com)

**KOHLER**  
ENGINES



**SNAPPER PRO**

**Kawasaki**  
ENGINES

**POLARIS**



**HONDA**  
ENGINES

**TRITON**  
TRAILERS

**GENERAC**

**STIHL**



**Husqvarna**



Call/Text 413-258-4653  
fax 413-258-2884  
[nbcssinfo@gmail.com](mailto:nbcssinfo@gmail.com)

Route 8 / P.O. Box 691  
Sandisfield, MA 01255  
[www.newbostoncrane.com](http://www.newbostoncrane.com)

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

# Comings and Goings



## THE BIG WILLOW

LATE 1800S-2025

*Adapted by Bill Price*

Upwards of a million trees of many types and all sizes stand throughout this town. It is easy to take them for granted and even overlook certain grand ones which have witnessed the sweep of time at their roots and helped shape the character of Sandisfield neighborhoods.

One of those was certainly The Big Willow that stood so long on Sandisfield Road in West New Boston, across the road from the several-times-thriving former Silverbrook Café, “The Best Little Honkytonk West of the Clam River.”

The willow may have been planted in the late-1800s by legendary local blacksmith, Levi King, whose long-time smithy at this spot was one of the last of its kind to operate in Sandisfield.

Its surviving stubs of limbs and branches succumbed to the Mighty Wind that we write about on facing page 9. No one saw it fall or attended its last stand but all who saw it flat on its side the morning of June 16 felt a personal loss.

Generations appreciated the natural beauty of this “witness tree.” And how many have taken advantage of its protective shade on a hot sunny day or stopped to rest or chat with neighbors? In our photo of the Big Willow in its glory in September 1981, an unidentified couple pose on a circular bench that circled the tree. Do you know who they might be?

*Source: “Memory Lane,” by Ron Bernard, Sandisfield Times, November 2017.*



# A Mighty Wind

By Ron Bernard

Residents of some South County towns awoke on Monday June 16, to roaring wind, wildly swaying trees, and branches, twigs, and leaves swirling all about. Mother Nature's show kept on this way for the rest of the day. There was a report of a 62-mph gust in another town.

"It was terrifying" one Beech Plain resident recalled thinking just before her household heard a startling crack! and one or two seconds later a serious thud! Across the street about half of a massive 235- year-old sugar maple, one of several survivors in a once-impressive maple row planted by original settlers, peeled away like a banana skin despite being cabled.

The homeowners wondered, not for the first time, "How many storms – wind, ice, deluges, thunder & lightning, micro-bursts and even twisters – had this tree witnessed in all that time?" No doubt countless storms. But like the fate of all living things, its day had come.

It was not the only one.

The Times asked Sandisfield Town Manager Janey Snyder to sum up what had happened. "Numerous tree casualties," she said, "resulted from (that) windstorm, including what was left of that giant willow across from the former Silverbrook Café. There were numerous road closures due to fallen trees and trees on wires, including Town Hill, Cronk, Fox, Lower West, Beech Plain, and part of Route 8. The Fire Department also responded to a call about a tree-on-house on Sandisfield Road in Montville.

Thanks to the diligence (and bravery) of the Sandisfield Highway Department, inconvenience was minimized and possible accidents were averted. Thank you, team Sandisfield. 🙏



*Beech Plain. Ancient sugar maple on Cold Spring Road cleaved*

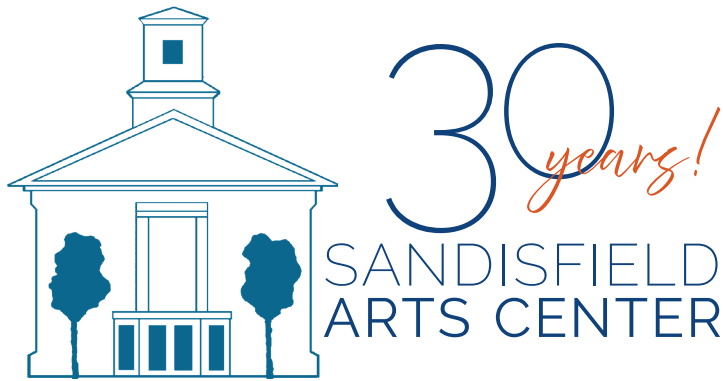
*Montville. Old maple closed Town Hill Road at its junction with Sandisfield Road.*

*West New Boston. Sugar maple on the property of the former Sarnoff residence at the foot of South Beech Plain Road fell in the right direction, away from the house.*

*West New Boston. The Big Willow, on its side at last, across the road from the former Silverbrook Café.*

*Photos: Ron Bernard and Bill Price*





## Last Month/This Month at SArC

### POSSIBLY OUR FINEST LINE-UP

By Suzanne OConnell, Co-President

The Sandisfield Arts Center began its 30th year since incorporation with a weekend focused on Sandisfield.

The newly renovated gallery featured Sandisfield artists with a large opening reception of "The Landscape We Live In," with their works looking at our own countryside. We dedicated the gallery as the Garfield Family Gallery, honoring Leslie and Johanna Garfield, formerly of Fox Road, whose children's generosity contributed significantly to the funding of SArC's renovations.

Saturday morning, Ron Bernard presented a slide show about the long and changing history of the building that now houses the Sandisfield Arts Center, from its 19th century Baptist roots, evolution as an Orthodox rural synagogue, and now a flourishing arts center. That afternoon, Hannah Fries and Hilde Weisert, two local poets, read original poems about the plants and landscapes that surrounds us.

The finale of the weekend, "Unsung Heros," honored six Sandisfield residents who contribute in myriad ways to making Sandisfield a special place. The event was described in the June issue of The Sandisfield Times, with a photo of the honorees, our neighbors.

The momentum of the first weekend continued into the second with three horse-themed events. Saturday morning Kari Weil, a professor at Wesleyan University and part-time resident of Monterey, spoke to a packed audience at the newly renamed "Susie Crofut and Ben Luxon Theater" about the emotional connection between horses and people.

That connection was eloquently described in the afternoon when three award-winning local writers, Courtney Maum, Donaldson Brown, and Barbara Newman, read from their books about horses. Sandisfield's Rose Nelson of Sunny Rose Farm contributed to the event discussing her journey to create and sustain her stable on Dodd Road.

Sunday, poetry was again the theme with participants reading horse-related poetry written by the readers and such well-known poets as Mary Oliver and Maxine Kumin.



*The Horsey Set. From left, Donaldson Brown, Barbara Newman, and Courtney Maum.*

June 20 began our Open Mic Fabulous Friday's Series. On the third Friday of the next three months (four months in total), everyone is invited to participate at the Sandisfield Arts Center. This is the perfect opportunity to test your performing ability as a singer, songwriter, actor, and reader before a welcoming audience. All ages are encouraged to participate, test their theatrical acumen in our newly air-conditioned building.



The thespian theme continued Saturday morning when 91-year old Sally-Jane Heit read from her new book, "Not Yet," an outgrowth of a serious hospital experience in 2022. Possibly dying, Sally-Jane understood that she wasn't ready to kick the bucket when she realized she hadn't completed her bucket list. The top of that list had yet to be discovered. With her humor, warmth, and openness, she has now been re-discovered right here in Sandisfield. (see photo above.)

### LOOKING FORWARD

That kind of rich programming continues throughout the summer.

On the cusp of July, June 30, from 4:00-6:00 p.m., two award-winning pianists, residents of Otis Wood Lands, Paul Posnak and Anita Castiglione, provide an opportunity to see and hear four-hand playing on the Art Center's Steinway piano. Posnak



and Castiglione, husband and wife, are internationally famous pianists who have performed concerts throughout the world. Their recent recording, "Gershwin for Two," featured, among other performances, Gershwin's own two-piano arrangement of "An American in Paris."

This concert will celebrate the intertwined relationship of the United States and France, central allies and influences upon each other at the historical moments that shaped their destinies. The concert features musical figures of the early and mid-Twentieth Century: Aaron Copland, George Gerhshwin and William Bolcom; and Claude Debussy, Maurice Ravel, and Francis Poulenc.

At the end of July, Saturday, July 26 at 8:00 p.m., a "Night of Comedy" will feature Seth Herzog and company, a popular New York comedian and actor who is currently a regular sketch performer and resident comedian for NBC's "Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon." Seth is the producer and host of the much-beloved, long-running downtown NYC comedy showcase "Sweet," which was performed at The Stand, one of Manhattan's premier comedy clubs.

In the middle of July, closer to home and of direct local interest are two Saturday morning talks at 10:00 a.m. On July 12, Tom Ryan of Monterey and South Berkshire District Management Forester will discuss forest management strategies. Even if you aren't a landowner, with new insect pests and climate change, Berkshire forests are changing rapidly and everyone is encouraged to learn more about the future of our woodlands. On July 26, local historian Ron Bernard will present a slide show and talk about Sandisfield's ancient ceremonial landscapes.

In the gallery, there is still time to see the current exhibit between 11-3:00 p.m., on weekends through July 6.

Our next exhibit, "International Art Show: Beyond our Boundaries," has a new twist for Sandisfield. Following the 3-5:00 p.m. opening reception on Saturday, July 19 there will be a two-day international film festival upstairs in the Susie Crofut and Ben Luxon Theater. Part One follows immediately after the opening reception, from 5:15-7:30, with Part Two shown the next day from 2-5:00 p.m.

The film festival celebrates the creative minds of international artists who are students, faculty, and advisors from around the world. All are part of a unique, international low-residency MFA and PhD program accredited by Liverpool John Moores University (UK). There are 77 video shorts by 72 artists from around the world produced over a period of 16 years. 🎬



*The Sandisfield Arts Center was awarded a \$116,000 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Mass Development at an event in Boston on June 27. From L-R Navjeet Bal, President and CEO of Mass Development, Jean Atwater-Williams, Treasurer, Sandisfield Arts Center, and Michael Bobbitt, Executive Director of Massachusetts Cultural Council.*



*The Sandisfield Arts Center (SArC) was recognized on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of its incorporation by Robin Helfand of the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce. From L-R, Jaye Moscariello, Jean Atwater-Williams and Robin Helfand.*



5 HAMMERTOWN ROAD, SANDISFIELD, MA

**SAT, JULY 12 10 AM \$10**  
**Sandisfield's Public and Private Forests**  
 Talk by Forester **Tom Ryan**, on understanding forest stressors to help develop the right forest management strategy.

**FRI, JULY 18 7 PM DONATION**  
**Open Mic**

**SAT, JULY 19 - SUN, JULY 20 FREE**

**International Art Show and Film Festival: Beyond Our Boundaries**

A two-day art and film festival celebrating innovation and risk-taking in art and film with boundary-breaking artists from around the world.

**Opening reception 3-5 pm.**  
**Exhibition closes August 31.**

**Sat, July 19 5:15 - 7:30 pm**  
**"Not So Short Film Festival, Part One"**

**Sun, July 20 2 - 5 pm**  
**"Not So Short Film Festival, Part Two"**

**SAT, JULY 26 10 AM \$10**

**Sandisfield's Ceremonial Stone Landscapes**

Slide show and talk by local historian **Ron Bernard**. Learn to tell the difference between stone walls and Ceremonial Stone Landscapes.

**SAT, JULY 26 8 PM \$40**

**Seth Herzog and Company, a Night of Comedy**

**Seth Herzog** is a New York City comedian who is a regular sketch performer and the resident comedian for NBC's "Tonight Show" starring Jimmy Fallon.

FOR DETAILS, RESERVATIONS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS, PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE. [SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG](http://SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG)



# KWIK<sup>Color</sup> 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](mailto:typesetting@kwikprintinc.com)  
[www.kwikprintinc.com](http://www.kwikprintinc.com)



Shire Forestry

**Adam Brown**  
Consulting Forester  
MA License # 461

P.O. Box 171  
Sandisfield, MA 01255

[shireforestry@gmail.com](mailto: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

## High-Stepping Bambi

*This new fawn and mother were caught grazing and prancing through the woods on Carl Nett's trail cameras, set up in the forest behind his home on Town Hill Road in June.*



### 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](mailto:sunnyrosefarm@yahoo.com)

Phone: (413) 446-4944



# critter corner . . .



## Today's the Day!

*Ten minutes before this picture was taken of a nest of phoebes above a doorway on June 30, the first of four chicks fledged followed a few minutes later by three siblings. Good luck to them.*

*Photo: Jean Atwater-Williams*



### NEW MARLBOROUGH MEETING HOUSE 2025 SEASON EVENTS

154 Hartsville New Marlborough Road  
Rte 57 on the Village Green  
[nmmeetinghouse.org](http://nmmeetinghouse.org) | 413-229-5045



#### One Town, One Read

July 26, 4:30 pm Saturday

Read a handful of great Herman Melville Berkshire-based short stories and join us for a discussion moderated by a Melville expert.



#### Terra String Quartet

August 2, 4:30 pm Saturday

A thrilling afternoon of great chamber music from this dynamic young quartet.



#### Ruth Reichl and Kevin West

August 23, 4:30 pm Saturday

Two food superstars lead a lively discussion of their new books and answer our questions about the culinary arts!



#### Simone Dinnerstein

August 24, 4:30 pm SUNDAY

An audience favorite, this internationally renowned pianist will present an exciting afternoon of great music. Note the Saturday date. Harold Lewin Memorial Concert.



#### Paul Krugman and Ellen Pollock

August 30, 4:30 pm Saturday

The former *New York Times* columnist and Nobel Prize-winning economist will discuss current affairs with *New York Times* business editor Ellen Pollock.



#### Heard World Jazz

September 6, 4:30 pm Saturday

A family friendly performance by the seven member Afro-Caribbean jazz band. Back by popular demand!



#### Bill McKibben

September 13, 4:30 pm Saturday

This acclaimed author, educator and environmentalist will discuss the climate crisis and his new book, *Here Comes the Sun*, a call to harness solar power.



#### The Laura Anglade Quartet

September 20, 4:30 pm Saturday

Drawing inspiration from Sarah Vaughan, Dinah Washington, Shirley Horn, and Barbra Streisand among others, this wonderful singer who has appeared internationally will deliver an afternoon of the Great American Songbook.

Tickets available Online! [nmmeetinghouse.org](http://nmmeetinghouse.org)

# Comings and Goings

## VALERIE PINSKY, PhD 1953-2024



Valerie Pinsky, PhD, died in New York City November 21, 2024, of complications from Multiple Sclerosis and cancer.

Her family wrote that Valerie and her sisters “had the great fortune to spend summers in Sandisfield with their grandmother, Franziska Boas, and relatives on her father's

side. For Valerie, time there included going to Camp Bonnie Brae in Otis where she excelled in outdoor activities and became a counselor because she loved the place so much. She made lifelong friends during her many years there.”

Valerie was born in Baltimore, Maryland, September 19, 1953. She grew up with her family in New York City and attended schools there. After graduating from Barnard College, she pursued her PhD in Archeology at Wolfson College at Cambridge University in England.

Her studies were interrupted by a diagnosis of Multiple Sclerosis at age 28. However, Valerie persevered, achieving her PhD, co-editing a book, and, according to a colleague, made a lasting impact on the Archeology Department at Cambridge. Another colleague wrote that her dissertation was the “first in the history of Anthropology from a broad, social point of view.” It seems likely the works and perspectives of her great-grandfather, Franz Boas, a world-famous anthropologist, influenced Valerie's own work.

Multiple Sclerosis interrupted what was heading to be a significant career in academia for Valerie and one that had promise to have a lasting impact on Archaeology and Anthropology.

When Valerie returned to the U.S., she worked at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C., and later at the Museum of Natural History in New York City. Unfortunately, as the disease progressed she had to stop working. Other creative pursuits like playing the cello were also relinquished.

Her family wrote: “Despite the Multiple Sclerosis diagnosis, Valerie persevered valiantly throughout her life. She found enjoyment and meaning in her relationships, despite the trials of this devastating disease. She kept her sense of humor, was loving and kind to all she knew and met. A dear friend wrote, ‘...she was super sweet, sparky, dedicated and funny. She will be deeply missed.’

‘She was a great older sister who introduced us to the music of Pete Seeger and Joni Mitchell and taught us all the camp songs that we would sing in the car on our way to Sandisfield.’

Valerie was predeceased by her parents, Daniel Pinsky and Gertrud Michelson. She is survived by her partner Anastacio Ojeda, her sisters Carol Pinsky and Cynthia Pinsky Jennings (Bill), her niece Zoe Jennings, her aunt Dina (Michael), uncle Ernst, and scores of friends and cousins.

Her family concluded: “Valerie has had many friends and people in her life who loved her and who helped her and us through the years and final days. Thank you to all of you.”

A memorial was held for Valerie at the Sandisfield Arts Center on June 28. If desired, donations can be made to Multiple Sclerosis research.

### 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)

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

Contact  
Scott Stone at  
413 258-4505.

Thank You!







## VALERIE RINN MARIE MARTIN

2022-2025

Valerie Rinn Marie Martin, "Little Miss Priss," age 2, passed away on June 3. Valerie was born December 20, 2022, in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, to Corrine and Matt Martin.

She is survived by her loving parents and her sister, Matty-Jo, and brothers, Charlie and Mikey, at home. Grandparents Jennifer and Denny Martin of Willow Springs, Missouri, and Valerie Morrison of Sandisfield. Uncles Wilbur (Kristin) Martin of Eminence; Micah (Rachael) of Willow Springs, Missouri; and Jay (Daphne) Martin of Louisburg, Missouri. Aunts Rachel Burdick of Sandisfield; Jennifer (George) Trippe of Eminence; Kim (Darryl) Cole of Eminence; and many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her grandpa, Ronald Morrison, and Michael "Rooster" Tune.



## NEW BOSTON CHURCH SERVICES

**Sunday Worship Service**  
Sunday, July 13 at 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday Worship Service**  
Sunday, July 27 at 10:00 a.m.

All welcome.

**4 Sandisfield Road**  
**Sandisfield, MA 01255**

[newbostoncongregationalchurch.org](http://newbostoncongregationalchurch.org)



## KNOX TRAIL INN

### New Menu Items!

COCONUT SHRIMP  
KNOX STUFFIES  
HOT LOBSTER ROLL  
NY STRIP STEAK  
SHRIMP BOWL  
FISH & CHIPS  
  
LOTS OF SALADS  
GREAT BURGERS  
  
PIZZAS & CALZONES  
WINGS, WINGS, WINGS!

★  
**KNOX FAVORITE  
PRIME RIB**  
*Served every Thurs-Sat*

★  
**Weekly Specials**  
*Many Gluten Free  
& Vegetarian  
choices*



**SPINDLE!**  
MUSIC BINGO  
JULY 9TH & 23RD

**BTE TRIVIA**  
*Every Thursday 7PM*

**CAR&BIKE**  
Meet, Greet & Eat!  
*Every Monday 6PM*

SUN, MON, WED, THUR 12-9PM | FRI & SAT 12-10PM | CLOSED TUES  
413-269-4400 | 1898 EAST OTIS RD (RT 23) EAST OTIS, MA  
**OPEN EVERY DAY FOR LUNCH EXCEPT TUESDAYS**

★  
*Book a party  
with us!*  
Birthdays  
Showers  
Bereavement  
Meetings

★  
*Takeout  
or Dine In!*

### Upcoming Events!

JULY 2ND KELLIOKE KARAOKE 7PM  
JULY 4TH B. JOSEPH KORONA DUO 7PM  
JULY 5TH ROCK 201 8PM  
JULY 11TH BRASS ATTACK 8PM  
JULY 12TH SMILE LIKE JACK WALK/RUN 9AM  
JULY 12TH OTIS RESERVOIR FIREWORKS  
*Call ahead for takeout on Fireworks Night!*  
JULY 18TH HOTSHOT HILLBILLIES 8PM  
JULY 20TH HILLTOWN BLUES JAM 2PM  
JULY 25TH BRETT & STEVE'S ACOUSTIC 7PM  
JULY 26TH COBBLESTONE ROAD 8PM



# once upon a time

## The Sandisfield Grange 425


By Ron Bernard

The Sandisfield Grange No. 425 was established in June 1947 as a community service organization with about 60 energetic and committed charter members under "master" Stanley Koloski. Sandisfield had many farms at the time, and a local Grange organization made sense.

The Grange is the oldest surviving agricultural fraternal organization in America. Founded in 1867, its mission is to promote economic, political, and social wellbeing for farming communities. At its height, national membership was about a million individuals.

The New Boston Congregational Church parish hall served as the group's home for nearly forty years until the branch closed in 1985. At the time, Edna Leavenworth of River Road was "master."

Recently discovered in the church files were several photos of the organization's original members, possibly posing for a first anniversary ceremony photo in 1948. Many of the names are familiar to longtime residents as friends, neighbors, or family members who were active in post-war Sandisfield.

The Times is introducing a new column, "Once Upon A Time," to celebrate and remember persons, families, and community groups who over the years worked for the betterment of Sandisfield. Submit old photos electronically to [editor@SandisfieldTimes.org](mailto:editor@SandisfieldTimes.org) or by mail to The Sandisfield Times, P.O. Box 594, Sandisfield, MA 01255. If you send the photos, please don't send your only copy by mail, but get in touch with Ron Bernard at [Ronbernard@aol.com](mailto:Ronbernard@aol.com). 



*Standing: Rupert King, Flora Sturk, Stanley Linkovich, Deputy Colloch, Robert Bartow, Charles Brown, Stanley J. Koloski, Harold Svenson, Alfred Carter, William Sawtell, Samuel Wilber Sr.*

*Seated: Monica Rowley, Bessy Rowley, Lulu King, Helmi Wuori, Alice Riiska Holden, Olga G. Koloski, Mary E. Wilber Jr., Gertrud Carter*



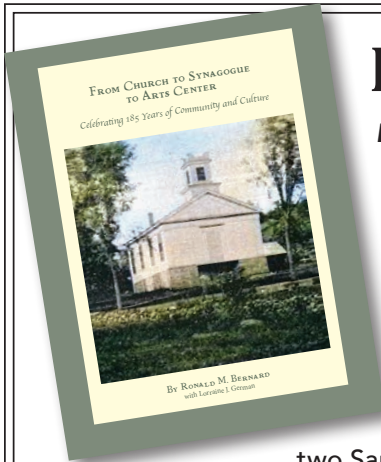
*Standing: Lulu King, Frances Platt, Ann Pottinger, Bert Laise, Gert Klingler, Freda Rroman, Helmi Wuori, Hazel Slater Plant*

*Seated: Mary Campetti Lundgren, Alice Fox, Helen Fargo, Theresa Campetti Kazalka, Zoa Campetti, Monica Rowley, Flora Sturk*

*Group of 3 at right, ? Cagney (Umpachine Grange), Stanley J. Koloski, Anna Farlinis ?*







## 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***

- ☐ Please reserve \_\_\_\_ copy(s) at \$45 each (sales tax included) plus \$7 each for shipping if necessary.\*
- ☐ I'll save the shipping charge and pick up my book(s) in Sandisfield.\*

Make check payable and mail to:  
Sandisfield Arts Center, PO Box 31, Sandisfield, MA 01255

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check No. \_\_\_\_\_ for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Required for all orders.

For more information go to [SandisfieldArtsCenter.org](http://SandisfieldArtsCenter.org)  
or contact [Ronbernard@aol.com](mailto:Ronbernard@aol.com)

SAC 7/25

## Transparency. Integrity. Results.

**23 years of proven success.**

**Over 300 homes sold and a quarter-billion in sales.**

**A top 1% agent in the Berkshires over the last 2 decades,  
Chapin's market expertise and client-first dedication  
ensures optimal value for your property.**

THE  
**BROCKMAN**  
GROUP

### THE BROCKMAN TEAM

of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty

Thinking of selling or buying?

Call, text, or visit [brockmanrealestate.com](http://brockmanrealestate.com)

Chapin Fish

917.723.1074

[williampitt.com](http://williampitt.com)

Local offices in Great Barrington, Lenox & Chatham

Each office is independently owned and operated

source: Berkshire County MLS based on dollar volume 2002-2025



William  
Pitt

**Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



## The Librarian's Corner

Monday, 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 2:00 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Closed Tuesday, Friday and Sunday

Phone: 258-4966

sandisfieldlibrary@gmail.com

www.sandisfieldlibrary.org

### EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY THIS MONTH.

The Sandisfield Women's Book Group will discuss *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. **July 24, Thursday, at 6:00 p.m.**

In this best-seller novel (The New York Times best seller list for over 62 weeks): After her husband died, Tova Sullivan began working the night-cleaner shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium. Ever since her 18-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat over thirty years ago, keeping busy has helped her cope. One night she meets Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium who sees everything, but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors – until he forms a remarkable friendship with Tova.

All month long during July: It is never too late to participate in the Massachusetts Center for the Book 2025 Reading Challenge. July's book is one you were drawn to by its cover. 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

*Hidden Nature* by Nora Roberts: The novel begins like a thriller, but eventually becomes a slice of life, a romance, and then back to a suspense novel. Corporal Cooper is shot when she walks in on a convenience-store robbery. After being shocked back to life on the operating table, with a second chance at life, Cooper must return home to recuperate. As well as draw on all her strength to bring down a pair of twisted killers.

*Going Home in the Dark* by Dean Koontz. For Rebecca, Bobby, and Spence, time is running out to remember the terrors of the past in a perfect town where nothing is what it seems. For Maple Grove, it's a chance to have the "four amigos," as they once called themselves, back in its grasp.

*Never Flinch* by Stephen King. From the master storyteller comes an extraordinary new novel with intertwining storylines—one about a killer on a diabolical revenge mission and another about a vigilante targeting a feminist celebrity speaker—featuring the beloved Holly Gibney and a dynamic new cast of characters.

*The River is Waiting* by Wally Lamb. "An ambitious, affecting novel that's not afraid to look directly at human

suffering and to map out the pain we inflict on others, and on ourselves. With an unflinching eye and an unsentimental compassion for his characters, Wally Lamb finds glimmers of hope and healing and decency in the darkest places." Tom Perrotta, NYT bestselling author.

*Nightshade* by Michael Connelly. Idyllic Catalina Island turns out to be just a crime infested as the rest of Los Angeles County in the latest series launch by the creator of Harry Bosch, Renee Ballard, and the Lincoln Lawyer. Here Connelly launches a new series, this one starring LA County Detective Sergeant "Stil" Stilwell.

*Sirens* by Emilia Hart. A novel about female empowerment and injustice. Once again, Hart explores how women throughout history have been silenced, mistreated, and underestimated. Family and sisterhood: The relationships between the sisters, though fractured, serve as a grounding force in a novel otherwise brimming with uncertainty.

**Need a Notary?** The Library can do that to! Give us a call for an appointment.

**Museum Passes.** The Library has passes to the following:

- The Clark
- The Springfield Museums (all Five!)
- Hancock Shaker Village
- Mass Moca
- Herman Melville Museum and Home
- Bidwell House
- Ventfort Hall



## 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





# NOW HEAR THIS!

*Edited by Laura Rogers-Castro. Please send notices for Now Hear This! to [editor@sandisfieldtimes.org](mailto:editor@sandisfieldtimes.org)*

## JULY 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](http://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 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. 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.

**Live Music with the Meanies** on Sunday, July 6 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the New Boston Inn. Live band. Outdoor grill. For information, call 258-4477.

**Sandisfield's Public and Private Forests** on Saturday, July 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center located at 5 Hammertown Road. South Berkshire District Management Forester Tom Ryan will speak on understanding forest stressors to help develop the right forest management strategy. Visit [sandisfieldartscenter.org](http://sandisfieldartscenter.org) for tickets or pay at the door. \$10.

**New Boston Church Worship Service** on Sunday, July 13 at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome. The New Boston Congregational Church is located on Route 57. For more information and to view the calendar, visit [newbostoncongregationalchurch.org](http://newbostoncongregationalchurch.org).

**Open Mic** on Friday, July 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center at 5 Hammer-town Road. Bring your music, poetry, comedy, dance or other creative talent you

have to share! Come to enjoy some live entertainment. Free.

**International Art Show and Film Festival: Beyond Our Boundaries** on Saturday, July 19 (from 5:15 to 7:30 p.m.) and Sunday, July 20 (from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.) at the Sandisfield Arts Center. A two-day art and film festival celebrating innovation and risk-taking in art and film with boundary-breaking artists from around the world. Opening reception from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. Free.

**Sandisfield's Ceremonial Landscapes** on Saturday, July 26 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Slide show and talk by local historian Ron Bernard. Learn to tell the difference between farmers' stone walls and CSLs. \$10.

**Seth Herzog and Company, A Night of Comedy on Saturday**, July 26 at 8:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Seth is a New York City comedian who is a regular sketch performer and the resident comedian for NBC's "Tonight Show" starring Jimmy Fallon.: or tickets, visit [sandisfield-artscenter.org](http://sandisfield-artscenter.org). \$40.

**New Boston Church Worship Service** on Sunday, July 27 at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome. The New Boston Congregational Church is located on Route 57. For more information and to view the calendar, visit [newbostoncongregationalchurch.org](http://newbostoncongregationalchurch.org).

### ONLINE EVENTS

**A Farm and Garden Show** with Sandisfield Residents Bill Taylor and Jaye Alison Moscarello streamed every Monday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at [berkshireradio.org](http://berkshireradio.org).

### EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

**Chair Yoga** on Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:45 a.m. at the Tolland Public Safety Complex. To reserve a spot, please email MaryAnn ([mademing67@gmail.com](mailto:mademing67@gmail.com)) or Bonnie ([bonniescrivener@msn.com](mailto:bonniescrivener@msn.com)). Free.

**Great Barrington Farmers Market** on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 18 Church Street. Featuring locally grown and produced foods, including greens, fruit, cheese, meats, honey, maple syrup, baked goods, and more. Local musicians perform.

**New Marlborough Farmers Market** on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in front of the Old Inn on the Green, 134 Hartsville New Marlborough Road. Jams, handmade crafts, baked goods, and more.

**Christmas in July** on Saturday, July 12 in historic Riverton, Connecticut. Vendors, food, Santa, cardboard sled race, craft beers, wagon rides, music, book fest, live animals, tea cup auction, carolers and more.

**Fishing Derby** on Saturday, July 12 from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. at the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery on Hatchery Road in Monterey. Open to children ages 13 and under. Learn to fish and compete for prizes. No child goes away empty handed! Free.

**Live Music in the Hills** on Saturday, July 19 at 6:30 p.m. on the Tolland Town Green (or in the church in case of rain). Free coffeehouse style with light refreshments.

**Plan, Form, and Construction: The Bidwell House Museum** on Saturday, July 26 at 11:00 a.m. at the Bidwell House Museum on 100 Art School Road in Monterey. Visit [bidwellhousemuseum.org](http://bidwellhousemuseum.org) for tickets. Free-\$25.

**Ice Cream Social** on Sunday, July 26 from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Chesterwood in Stockbridge. An old-fashioned ice cream social with free ice cream and games in the Studio Garden. Free for all children under 18. Chesterwood is the summer home, studio, and gardens of sculptor Daniel Chester French.



**Pig Roast.** Saturday, September 13, at 5:00 p.m. at the American Legion Pavilion on Rt. 8.

# THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



P.O. Box 584  
Sandisfield, MA 01255

*The Times appreciates donations  
received last month.*

*Jeff Gonyeau & Jack Dennerlein*



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: [www.sandisfieldtimes.org](http://www.sandisfieldtimes.org). 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, 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, the library, and Paige's Place; in East Otis at Katie's, Pappas, and the Knox Trail Inn. Also at the Monterey Library (outside box) and the Roadside Cafe, in Colebrook at the post office, and in New Marlborough at 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 at left) or you can read it (free) online as a PDF document at [www.sandisfieldtimes.org](http://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](mailto:editor@sandisfieldtimes.org)

Advertising/Subscriptions: Ron Bernard

Graphic Design: Tina Sotis

Webmaster: Jean Atwater-Williams

Web Editor: Larry Dwyer

Now Hear This!: Laura Rogers-Castro

Founding Editor: Simon Winchester

## 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) \_\_\_\_\_

## 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](mailto:editor@sandisfieldtimes.org)