

THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

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Volume XVI, Number 6

September 2025

READY FOR APPLES? AND MORE?

Sandisfield Orchard Widens its Offerings

A COFFEE SHOP IN SANDISFIELD!!

*By Joe Pappas, Orchard Manager
at Sandisfield Orchard*

Harvest will be here soon.

We may not have quite as large of a crop as last year, but there is still plenty of fruit to be picked for the upcoming pick-your-own season. As the end of summer nears and the fruit grows larger, more apples are appearing on trees that we had previously thought might be bare. Recent cool nights and warm sunny days have resulted in significant color development, and we are now seeing plenty of apples turning red all over the orchard.

This season has been unique in that our weather during the May blossom time was exceptionally cool, wet, and windy. Our rented honeybees had very few windows of optimal weather for good flight activity and pollination. We even kept the hives at the orchard longer than normal to give the bees more time to work.

Luckily, some of our native pollinator species, including bumblebees, were able to fly in poorer conditions. We observed more of them flying around on cool cloudy days, carrying out their work when the honeybees refused to leave their hives.

We were also challenged with the issue of biennial bearing this season.

Most apple varieties naturally want to slip into a cycle that causes them to crop every other year, called biennial bearing, which is onset by hormonal changes in

Cont'd on p.2



Ready for More Apples? And More?
Cont'd from p.1

the tree at active fruit bud sites. This year, we are in what's considered an "off" year, meaning an average or slightly below average amount of fruit compared to the bumper crop we had last year. There were less flowers available to be pollinated than on average, compounding the challenging weather during bloom. Like anything else, there were some positive aspects of this cool wet spring.

Sufficient rain created optimal conditions to plant almost 500 new trees, adding ten new apple varieties to the farm. We did not have to worry about keeping these watered, and are proud to say that all the young trees have put on plenty of growth and are thriving in their new home.

Most of these new plantings are centered around dual-purpose heirloom varieties which can be used for fresh eating, baking, and/or cider making. The new varieties include Golden Russet, Cox's Orange Pippin, Nova Spy, Redfield, Rhode Island Greening, and Golden Delicious, among others.

Unfortunately, it will be at least a few years until these trees have an appreciable crop. The patience will be worth it.

We are also excited that our young peach orchard is doing well. We added more trees to that block this past spring, with more on the way for next year. We hope to have a decent peach crop in two years, barring unforeseen circumstances.

We will also add more apple varieties over the next two years, oriented more towards pick-your-own varieties. While these new plantings will take time, we are excited to expand the variety of fruit over the next few years.

Swing by Sandisfield Orchard this fall to check out the new plantings and everything else the farm has to offer this year. On Friday-Sunday, until 5:00 p.m., stop at the farm store for coffee and pastries.




The farm store features coffee and pastries and is open Friday-Sunday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. A favorite place for customers is the new porch addition overlooking the orchard.

Sandisfield Orchard was featured in a major article in The Berkshire Eagle, August 18. You can access the article at berkshireeagle.com-sandisfieldorchard.



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A Busy Month at the Old Firehouse

PROGRESS, RESISTANCE GO HAND-IN-HAND

By Bill Price

Editor's note: Most of our readers are familiar with the issues between our Town's Select Board and the Sandisfield Fire Department, Inc. (SFDI). The issues have been detailed in articles in The Berkshire Eagle, an Eagle editorial, and in the last two months of The Times. The latter can be found online at sandisfieldtimes.org/library or paper copies at the Sandisfield Library. What follows here are events of the last month: the beginning negotiations between the two parties, changes at the fire stations and in emergency responses, the Town's letter disassociating itself from the SFDI, and accusations and lawsuits.

Negotiation Meeting #1

Papers changed hands at the meeting between the Select Board and SFDI (Sandisfield Fire Department, Inc.) on August 27, but little negotiation.

The meeting was proposed by the Select Board May 27 soon after the Annual Town Meeting. Both sides have blamed the other for the delay. About 30 residents attended in person, with another dozen or more on Zoom.

The first item of business was to "Discuss SFDI's Option to Gift the Fire Stations to the Town of Sandisfield," which was the preferred choice at the ATM.

The reply from former Fire Chief, Ralph Morrison, the president of SFDI, was, "Not at this time." Asked for a time frame, Morrison said, "Our board has talked about it and made no decision yet."

The second agenda item was the lease agreement for the fire stations between the Town and SFDI. The lease terminates at the end of June 2026.

On request, the Select Board read aloud a few of the lease changes proposed by SFDI.

One change was for a 5-year lease, beginning now, at \$20,000 per year with a 10 percent increase per year. Asked why the rent request had doubled from \$10,000, the reply was "the money the Town is paying now doesn't cover the building insurance we have to pay." The Select Board asked to see the documents. "We might be able to provide them," said Morrison. Asked to explain SFDI's overhead expenses for the buildings, he said, "I didn't bring the list with me."

Moving on to SFDI's inclusion of an office for the Fire Chief at Station #1, the Select Board replied, "Why can't the Chief use the room upstairs at Station #2? It is currently locked and unused and is designated as an office. The Fire Chief needs an office that is more than a cubbyhole in the back of Station #1." There was no clear reply.

The Board was asked if they had a counter-proposal. The answer was yes but in an oversight the Board had not provided copies for SFDI. Selectman John Field gave Morrison his own copy of the short list. The oversight drew criticism from an audience member who felt it was unprofessional behavior not to have printed copies.

The Board's counter-proposal accepted the 5-year lease and the \$20,000 rent but without the yearly increases. It also included a provision that at the end of the lease the buildings revert to the Town.

Morrison said, "Write the counter-proposal up and send it to me."

Agreeing that a future meeting was necessary, the Board suggested setting a date since it had taken three months for this meeting to be held. The SFDI president said, "We can't set a date now, I don't have my calendar."

Asked why it took so long for this meeting to happen, SFDI's reply was "It took a while to get people together."

Let's Talk About Thinking Ahead

PLANNING BOARD TO HOST A PIZZA PARTY

By Bill Price

The Town Planning Board is ready to report on the results of the Town Planning Survey it conducted this spring.

You and/or your neighbors had a lot to say. The Board received 126 responses to its paper and on-line survey, representing about 100 two-person households and 26 or so singles.

But the Board wants to hear a lot more from everyone.

So much so that it's throwing a Townwide Pizza Party to find out what you think.

Old Town Hall, Friday evening, 6:00 p.m., September 12.

Yes. A Pizza Party.

"We want people to come out and tell us more about what they'd like to see for Sandisfield," said Planning Board chairman Jeff Bye. "We have some good ideas thanks to the survey, but we're still open to ideas. We want everyone who filled out the survey to have pizza with us and talk about it, and we want to hear from everyone who didn't fill out the survey."

The Board is working with the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC), which has run the numbers and percentages that will be shared at the September 12 meeting. A revised Sandisfield Master Plan will be published in 2026.

The Board acknowledges the Town's earlier Master Plan, which was developed after a lot of hard work by a different team of residents in 2015-16. (That original Master Plan can be accessed at Sandisfieldma.gov. MasterPlan.)

Of the 33 survey questions, one question was: "Would you like to see village centers returned to Sandisfield?" Sixty-three percent of responders said "YES." 🍕

Cont'd on p.4

A Busy Month at the Old Firehouse

Cont'd from p.3

Better News: Progress at the Fire House

"We are here," said Fire Chief Mike Grillo. "When the sun's out, we keep the doors open. Stop by. We'd like people to see what we've done with the place. Come in and see what's going on."

Grillo added, "The firehouse is staffed full time. There is someone at the station every day, every hour."

Having been in charge only about 100 days, Grillo and his small team per diem firefighters and EMTs have made a welcoming venue out of Fire Station #2. Town residents have stopped by with groceries, snacks, water, cold drinks.

Grillo hopes that his community-based approach to running a firehouse will resonate with Sandisfield. "The Council on Aging made up a basket of stuff," he said. "Because of their generosity, we have snacks we can hand out. Last weekend, one couple came by with a cooked chicken and potato salad. We've had kids visiting the firehouse, playing around the trucks."

He has a team of about ten per diem firefighters and EMTs, with a couple paramedics on board. He hopes to have about twenty-five to be fully staffed. With per diem staff, Grillo said, the Fire Department can guarantee coverage 24 hours a day. "We've answered 100 percent of our calls. Response time is usually less than six minutes. We've had as low as two minutes."

During their shifts, when not on a call, the firefighters work at maintaining the firehouse, getting vehicle inspections up to date, keeping the trucks in order, and conducting training sessions with a new class of local volunteer firefighters.

"At least nine people have expressed interest," Grillo said, "and three are really serious." One of the new volunteers, Town Clerk Douglas Miner, is currently a student at the Litchfield Fire Academy in Torrington. He will finish his training in December and become a fully licensed Massachusetts firefighter.

Emergency calls are mostly automobile accidents, chimney fires, smoke problems. "We've had discussions with other fire departments about the opportunities for Sandisfield to offer mutual aid. We did provide mutual aid for Monterey on an emergency this month. We want to be there for them much as they are here for us."

Grillo said that Deputy Chief Chris Colonair worked with 911 response people to significantly decrease paramedic response time. "Before," Chris said, "a paramedic was not dispatched until we were on the site of the emergency and could assess that one was needed. Now we assess on the phone and a para can be dispatched sooner. Sometimes the para can arrive even before we do."

Town Disassociates from SFDI

In the following letter of August 4, the Town disassociated from the Sandisfield Fire Department, Inc. The letter reads in part:

"Re: Notification of Disassociation and Cease & Desist

"Dear Sirs:

"For years, the Town of Sandisfield's Fire Department has enjoyed a collaborative relationship with the Sandisfield Fire Department, Inc. ("the Corporation") whereby the Corporation has provided assistance to the Town to provide emergency fire and medical services and disaster relief to residents of the Town of Sandisfield and neighboring communities.

"In recent months, however, it has become increasingly apparent that the Corporation's mission has changed from one of assisting the Town in providing fire and medical services to Sandisfield, to that of conspiring to undermine the Fire Department; most recently exhibited by the objectionable comments offered by the Corporation's President, Mr. Ralph Morrison, where Mr. Morrison encouraged a member of the Department and an employee of the Town to withhold emergency fire and medical services and where Mr. Morrison and the member conspired to coordinate Mr. Morrison's unauthorized access to software used by the Department. Mr. Morrison's conduct follows the Town's hiring of the new Fire Chief, Mr. Michael Grillo, who now serves in the position that Mr. Morrison resigned from after his misconduct came to light.

"Given the pattern of conduct of members of the Corporation, especially those of Mr. Morrison, all of which runs counter to the mission of public safety to the residents of the Town, the Town is sending this letter to advise that, effective immediately, other than the leased use of the fire stations, the relationship between the Town and the Corporation is hereby terminated."

...

The letter, which continued for another page, was signed by the Select Board, the Fire Chief, and the Town Manager.

Accusations and Lawsuits

The following reprint from The Berkshire Eagle provides a summary of the accusations and lawsuits. It can be accessed in full at www.theberkshireeagle.org/buttdial.

'Butt Dial' At Center Of Lawsuit Between Former Sandisfield Fire Chief Ralph Morrison And Town Officials

By Jane Kaufman, The Berkshire Eagle, August 13, 2025.
(Excerpt with permission.)

SANDISFIELD — A dispute over a secretly recorded — and possibly accidental — phone call has erupted into a

Letter cont'd next page

Letter cont'd from previous page

lawsuit pitting the town's former fire chief and town officials against each other in a battle over privacy, reputation and control of the local fire department.

Ralph Morrison and Ricardo "Rico" Sanchez have filed a lawsuit against the town's newest fire chief, Michael Grillo, along with each of the Select Board members, and resident Carl Nett, who is one of two moderators appointed by the administrator of ConnectSandisfield, a Facebook group.

The lawsuit, filed Aug. 4 in Berkshire Superior Court, seeks compensatory, statutory and punitive damages "against both town officials and private citizens who either secretly recorded or knowingly disseminated a recording of a private conversation." But new information about how the recording was made and later shared with the plaintiffs may call into question the legality of the claim, according to a legal expert.

At a July 14 Sandisfield Select Board meeting, a recording of a conversation between Ralph Morrison and Ricardo "Rico" Sanchez was played. Morrison and Sanchez have filed a lawsuit against town officials over the recording, which they say was obtained illegally.

The lawsuit stems from the playing of an audio recording of a conversation between Morrison and Sanchez. Grillo played the recording at a Sandisfield Select Board meeting on July 14. Neither Morrison nor Sanchez knew the recording was being made of their conversation at Morrison's business on July 7, according to the lawsuit. The conversation revolved around Grillo and the Sandisfield Fire Department.

Nett published the transcript of the audio recording on ConnectSandisfield, where it garnered more than 140 comments and was subsequently shared seven times, according to the lawsuit.

Michael Grillo said he and the Sandisfield Fire Department were being undermined at the July 14 Select Board meeting. On Tuesday, Grillo told The Eagle how the recording was made.

It was a "butt dial," or accidental call, according to Grillo.

"Ralph recorded himself and sent a voicemail to somebody, and when that voicemail was heard, that's when the individual came forward," Grillo said. "If anything, Rico [Sanchez] has a claim against Ralph [Morrison] for recording him without his permission."

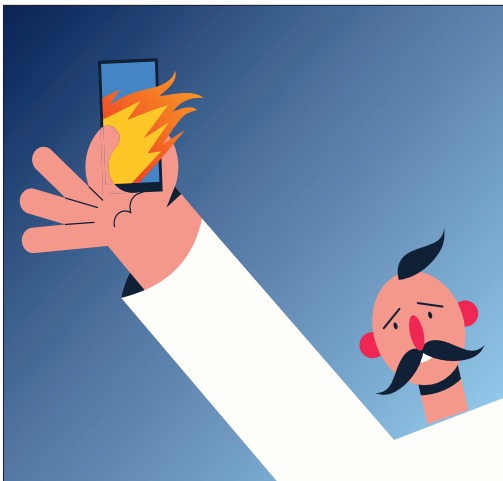
When Grillo introduced the recording at the public meeting on July 14, he accused Ralph Morrison and his brother, Michael Morrison, the town's police chief, of attempting to sabotage the Sandisfield Fire Department.

...

Massachusetts has two-party consent for recordings, which Sanchez pointed out just before Grillo played the recording on July 14.

But a "butt dial," or accidental call, that went directly to voicemail may not count as an intercepting device, according to Jeff Pyle, a media lawyer at Prince Lobel Tye, and therefore may not fall under the Massachusetts wiretap statute.

"If it was a butt dial to another person who happens to subscribe to a phone service and went to voicemail, then that person didn't use an intercepting device, as defined by the statute," Pyle said. "They just had their phone. That would mean that the recording was not illegally intercepted in violation of the wiretap statute, so it wouldn't be a crime to use the recording." 📞



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Too many cooks in the kitchen

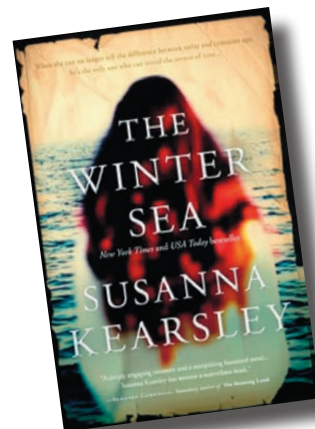
Adding lawyers to the mix
might get salty

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Sandisfield Ladies Book Club

Thursday, September 26 at 6:00 p.m.,
the Sandisfield Women's Book Group
will meet to discuss "The Winter Sea"
by Susanna Kearsley, a wonderful
blend of historical fiction, women's
fiction, and magical realism. Winter
in Scotland, past and present.



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SANDISFIELD Historical Society

Town-Wide Tag Sale OCTOBER 11, A SATURDAY

By Ann Wald, President

The Historical Society's Town-wide Tag Sale will be held this year on October 11, a Saturday.

You can take part in a neighborhood tag sale that will attract a lot of traffic.


The last day for signing up is October 1. The cost per household is \$20. The Historical Society will take care of advertising and will provide a marker for your home or the end of your driveway.

We will distribute maps for driver/shoppers.

If you want to participate, please call me at 258-4415.

Remember this is a fund raiser for the Society. We need your help. We cannot continue to conduct programs without a bathroom in the building. People, especially women, do not like attending events unless they know there is a bathroom available.

Are there any historians in Sandisfield? Please call us. We'd like to talk to you.

Next month we will be conducting a membership drive. Remember our meetings are held on the second Saturday of the month. Please join us. 

Tag Sale and Tractor Pulls

SEPTEMBER 28,
SUNDAY
AMERICAN
LEGION POST 456

Tag Sale, 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.


Tractor Pulls, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.



Tag sale on the front lawn at the Pavilion. Tractor Pulls at the back lawn.

Sellers: rent unlimited space on the lawn for \$15.00. Bring your own table. Plenty of room on the lawn for big items.

Or rent space inside the pavilion for \$20.00, one table included.

Hamburgers and hot dogs available for purchase. Call 413-258-4578 for reservation and information. Profits to go toward a new roof on the Pavilion. 



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Vaccinations: Sandisfield

From Brigitte Ruthman, Chairman,
Sandisfield Board of Health

Jayne Smith of TriTown Health provided us with these dates and locations for this year's two Sandisfield vaccine clinics. These were organized through the Fall 2025 Mobile Vaccine Clinic series offered by the Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative (SBPHC).

Tues, Oct 21st

- 1:30 - 3:30 PM
- Sandisfield Old Town Hall
- 3 Silverbrook Rd, Sandisfield

Thurs, Nov 20th

- 2:30 - 5:30 PM
- Farmington River School
- 555 N Main Rd, Otis



The following vaccines will be offered at these clinics:

- Regular-dose Flu for individuals aged 6 months and older;
- High-dose (Senior) Flu for individuals aged 65 and older;
- Updated COVID-19 for individuals aged 65 or older; and
- Updated COVID-19 for individuals with underlying medical conditions that make them high risk for illness.

SBPHC encourages anyone who believes they may be eligible to register. Adjustments can be made once final eligibility criteria becomes clear.

Register for one of the Sandisfield clinics by clicking the SBPHC site by:

- Visiting <https://home.color.com/vaccine/register/tritown>, select your preferred clinic location and register.
- Calling SBPHC at (413) 243-5540 x109 for assistance with registration. Please leave a message with your name, number and desired location.

While flu and COVID-19 vaccines are provided at no cost, individuals are asked to bring their insurance card to both registration and the clinic appointment. If you experience difficulty entering insurance information online, you may select "No Insurance" and bring your card to the clinic.

Need help or an in-home vaccination?

SBPHC offers in-home vaccination services for individuals who are unable to easily leave their house and also can provide vaccines in our office in the Stockbridge Town Hall, by appointment. Please call (413) 243-5540 x109 or email Jill Sweet, Public Health Nurse, at jill@tritownhealth.org to schedule. 📞



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Science with a Mission

By Karlene Blass & Christine Nadelman

Recently the New Boston Congregational Church welcomed a very interesting and compelling guest speaker: Dr. Alynne MacLean, founder of Science with a Mission, Inc. (SMI), based in Sharon, Massachusetts, who spoke about the need for inexpensive, rapid diagnostic tools in developing countries.

Dr. MacLean talked about the importance of testing to detect the presence of malaria, HIV, hepatitis B&C, typhoid fever, STDs, tuberculosis, and dengue fever. These tests can be administered by non-professionals and do not require refrigeration or electricity, making them accessible for even the most remote areas. People can be tested with a few drops of blood with results within minutes and medicine administered at once. She said that these technologies have saved and improved thousands of lives that could have been lost to preventable diseases, particularly malaria.

Alynne grew up in eastern Massachusetts and attended Gordon College. It was the summer before her junior year that she went on her first mission trip which eventually led her to pursue a PhD in bioanalytical chemistry and to found SMI. SMI manufactures rapid diagnostics for diseases like HIV, malaria, typhoid and partners with mission agencies and individuals around the globe to bring physical and spiritual healing.

The congregation that day was so impressed and inspired by Dr. MacLean and her dedication and selflessness, that our Outreach Committee has organized a fundraiser next month to support Science with a Mission.

The church service on Sunday, October 5, is named as the NBCC "day of giving" with a special appeal to support this amazing mission and its important work.

For more information about this worthy cause and how you can help, go to www.sciencewithamission.org. Also, donation checks made out to "Science with a Mission," can be mailed to: The New Boston Congregational Church, P.O. Box 81, Sandisfield, MA 01255.

The Sandisfield Library is Sponsoring a Food Pantry

The Library will be accepting non-perishable food donations during regular business hours (Mon 9-12:30; Wed 1-7; Thurs 2-6; Sat 10-1). The food pantry will be open on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month on the lower level of the library.

For additional information or reach out to Terry at Sandisfieldlibrary@gmail.com.



We Can Help: Town Offices

A reminder of what services can be taken care of at different Town Offices

Administrative Assistant

Monday-Wednesday,
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

- Transfer Station Stickers
- Permit questions
- Set up appointments/meetings for Select Board

Assessor's Office:

Tuesday-Thursday,
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

- Motor Vehicle/Real Estate/Personal Property Abatements
- Tax Exemptions
- Over 70 tax discounts

Town Clerk's Office:

Tuesday-Thursday,
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

- Dog Licenses
- Census
- Voting
- Marriage/Birth/Death Certificates
- Oath of Office for all boards/committees/town officials

Tax Collector:

Tuesday and Thursday,
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

- Motor Vehicle/Real Estate/Personal Property Tax payments
- Demand Bills (Warranted Bills must pay through the Deputy Collector)
- Address Changes



HEARD WORLD JAZZ

Sept. 6 - 4:30 pm

Heard World Jazz thrills with their vibrant sound incorporating influences from West Africa, Brazil, the Caribbean and beyond. A four-time Eddy Music Awards nominee in the World Music category. This is a family-friendly event you won't want to miss!

A FAMILY EVENT WITH SPECIAL PRICING AND CHILDREN ARE FREE!



BILL McKIBBEN

Sept. 13 - 4:30 pm

Here Comes the Sun:
A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization.
Acclaimed author, educator and environmentalist Bill McKibben will discuss the climate crisis and his new book, a call to harness solar power and rewrite our scientific, economic and political future.



LAURA ANGLADE

Sept. 20 - 4:30 pm

Drawing inspiration from Sarah Vaughan, Dinah Washington, Shirley Horn, Carmen McRae, and Barbra Streisand, among others, this wonderful internationally acclaimed singer and her ensemble have been charming audiences by bringing a fresh face to the vintage sound of classic jazz numbers in both French and English.

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Are Our Forests Dying?

NOT DYING AS MUCH AS CHANGING

By Tom Christopher

If you've stepped into the Sandisfield woods recently, you have noticed that another of its foundational tree species is struggling.



The leaves on our native American beeches (*Fagus grandifolia*) emerged this spring striped with dark bands, and as the season progressed they have curled, grown leathery, and in many cases fallen from the trees. These are all symptoms of a new parasite, a microscopic round worm or "nematode" that feeds inside the buds before they open. The resulting damage reduces the trees' ability to photosynthesize and use sunlight to power the production of food. In the case of small specimens, the infestation commonly leads to the trees' death within a year or two; larger, mature trees may hang on longer, struggling on for as much as a decade before dying.

Like most of our recent tree epidemics, this one seems to have been introduced from abroad. The nematode, *Litylenchus crenatae mccannii*, was first observed in Japan, where it is just a minor pest as it does not seriously affect the health of Japanese

species of beeches. How it traveled to North America is unknown, but it seems likely to have hitchhiked in Japanese beech trees imported for sale to gardeners.

This is a common cause of our tree epidemics.

North America was actually part of the same landmass as Asia until 200 million years ago. Because of this, Asian and American forests are populated with related trees. After the two continents drifted apart, the two forest floras evolved along different lines, as did the local pests that preyed on each. The much larger forests of Asia developed all sorts of parasites and diseases – because these co-evolved with the local trees, over millennia the trees there developed a natural resistance to infection. North American trees, because they had no contact with the Asian pests, did not evolve a similar resistance. When Asian pests and pathogens from Asia are abruptly introduced into America in a shipment of nursery stock, they find trees related to their Asian hosts but with no defenses. What had been a modest pest in the Asian homeland becomes a mass killer here.

The most recent U.S. Forest Service census indicates that just under 10% of the trees with a trunk diameter of 1 inch or more in the Massachusetts woods are beeches. The disappearance of so many trees will have a huge impact on our forest ecology.



The loss of the American beech will deprive trees over 100 species of native butterflies and moths, as well as many other native insects, of an important food source. The caterpillars, in particular, are an important food source for the chicks of many native songbirds. The nuts born by American beeches are a high protein

and fat food source for many mammals and birds, including red, gray and flying squirrels, chipmunks, bears, blue jays, tufted titmice, wild turkeys, and ruffed and spruce Grouse.

As serious as the loss of this tree species may be, it is just one element of an ongoing transformation of the Northeastern forest.

Many other exotic tree species imported by gardeners have also served as transportation for other devastating Eurasian pests and diseases. Chestnut blight, a hitchhiker on imported Asian chestnut trees, stripped our woodlands of American chestnuts, one of the most common hardwoods, in the early 20th century, and dogwood anthracnose, an imported fungal disease, has reduced wild populations of our native flowering dogwood by 90% in some areas.

Other pest introductions have been a by-product of international trade.

The emerald ash borer, an Asian insect that has largely extirpated our native ash trees, is believed to have arrived in wooden packing materials from Asia. Dutch Elm disease, a fungal disease that despite its name seems to have originated in Asia and eastern Europe, arrived with imported lumber.

Meanwhile, our warming climate has allowed cold-sensitive tree pests to colonize areas such as ours where winter cold once excluded them. Last year, for example, I noticed that the hemlock trees around my Sandisfield home had become infested with hemlock woolly adelgid, an insect parasite that has already eliminated that tree species from most of its southern range.

According to Dr. Dorothy Peteet of Columbia University, changes in forest composition have been a periodic feature at least since the end of the last ice age 11,500 years ago. Dr. Peteet is a palynologist, a type of scientist who studies pollen grains which have been preserved in bogs and lakebed sediments, sometimes for hundreds of thousands of years. Each species of flowering plant produces a distinctive shape of pollen grain. By identifying and then carbon dating the pollen found at different levels in the sediments, palynologists can reconstruct the flora of the surrounding area at different epochs. This provides

insights into the local climate of that period as well as changes in the character of the vegetative cover.

Dr. Peteet noted that the palynological record reveals that hemlock trees disappeared temporarily from the Northeast 5,000 to 7,000 years ago, most likely because severe and extended droughts reduced the trees' resistance to native insect pests.

Likewise, during the Younger Dryas, a 1,200-year cold spell that set in circa 12,800 years ago, existing forest trees in the northeast were temporarily replaced by species from more northern regions. However, she added, the current abrupt disappearance of tree species here, with its consequent impacts on loss of wildlife numbers and diversity, are unprecedented, at least since the last episode of mass extinctions 66 million years ago when the impact of a massive asteroid ended the career of the dinosaurs and the loss of an estimated 75% of plant and animal species worldwide.

The current disappearance of so many tree species from the Sandisfield woods has the inevitable effect of opening up countless gaps in the forest canopy, which creates an opportunity for other trees and shrubs to move in. Many of these new arrivals are likely to be aggressive invasive foreign trees and shrubs (the majority of which were also introduced into our landscape by gardeners).

This disturbance of the flora is being reinforced by climate change, which is already eliminating such iconic trees such as the sugar maple from the central New England landscape.

As I've noted, gardeners have played a significant role in contributing to the destabilization of our forests. We can also make a positive contribution. When we seek new trees for our yards, we should look to native species that flourish in the states to our south, which flourish in the higher temperatures we are experiencing. Unlike the invasive new arrivals, these natives do help support North American wildlife and so are a superior alternative.

To expedite this sort of plant transfer from south to north, the northeast division of RISCC (the Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change Network) has created a free online guide. Founded to connect scientists with land managers and planners and promote innovative and more effective strategies to counter these two threats, RISCC's northeast division is based at the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

This past summer, it published "Climate-Smart Gardening 2.0: Plants to Promote Climate Adaptation." Available for download at <https://scholarworks.umass.edu/entities/publication/1f91536f-00e4-4213-b2c2-6a51e6f82201>, this document is the fruits of an exhaustive search of 339 major nurseries in the Northeast and MidAtlantic regions for plants, including flowers, grasses, shrubs, and

trees, that are native to the eastern United States and which, judging by a number of criteria, should flourish in the northeastern states as the average temperatures rise. Many of the plants are labeled as "near-natives;" that is, they are not indigenous to our region now but currently native to nearby states and are predicted to fare well in the climate Massachusetts will experience by the middle of this century. The lists of recommended plants, which are grouped by states, also includes information of interest to gardeners such as each species' preferences for level of sunlight as soil type, the color and season of its bloom, as well as services it provides to pollinators and other wildlife.



This will be my most useful tool for replacing the ashes and beech trees I am having to remove from my Sandisfield yard. After all, if I plant a tree, I want it to endure for decades. Likewise, I want it to nourish the birds, bears, and butterflies that I call neighbors. 🍷



CALL FOR ACTORS!

A Radio Play:

The Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow

WITH

THE SANDISFIELD PLAYERS

a script-held, minimally staged
radio play to be performed on

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 25

We need volunteer voice actors (up to 30
speaking parts available), sound effects
and stage personnel. If interested, call the
Sandisfield Arts Center at 413-258-4100
and leave a message with your name,
telephone and email address.



A Hot August and September

ARTS CENTER KEEPS THINGS PERKING

By Suzanne OConnell

Another hot month and things were certainly hot at the Sandisfield Arts Center, especially in the Gallery.

The art exhibit "Beyond Our Boundaries" featured artists from Poland, Lithuania, France, Germany/Macedonia and from many states, Texas, New York, Washington (state), California, Florida, and local artists from Otis, Monterey, Great Barrington, and Sandisfield. There was a steady stream of visitors to see the exhibition, and four works were sold.

Next month, due to an injury the exhibit by local sculptor and painter, Serena Granbery, has been postponed until next year. Instead, visitors will be treated to "A Retrospective" of photos and posters from the Sandisfield Art Center's history and journey from Church to Synagogue to Art Center. It will open September 13 and run until

October 11. Look for the red Galley Open flag on the Sandisfield Art Center's sign on Route 57 and stop by.

"Open Mic, Four Fabulous Friday's" brought local talent to the stage August 15. There's one more chance to share your talent this year. Come to the Arts Center on Friday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. and perform your heart out.

Fourteen intrepid souls enjoyed an informative slide show and mushroom walk on Saturday, August 23. John Wheeler, president of the Berkshire Mycological Society, led us on the beautiful Clam River trail to search for edible fungus and, even though it was dry as we walked along the river and tributary streams, we found 29 different mushroom species, some alleged to be delicious.

On September 13 at 7:30 p.m., the popular NYC/Sandisfield singer and performer Linda Moranti will recreate her smash New York cabaret performance at Don't Tell Mama. A review of her performance in Broadway World states: "Linda Mironti delivered a particular brand of magic with her heartfelt and hilarious show, Perfectly Imperfect. . . . equal parts musical memoir and love letter to resilience, all wrapped in the warm hug of winking humor, and genuine soul." She will be joined by Lennie Watts, Tracy Stark, and Deborah Zecher.

The month closes with Mind-Body Coach Anni Crofut's presentation at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 20, "Chronic Pain and the Mind-Body Connection." Her work is grounded in Dr. Dan Ratner's groundbreaking 3-Columns system, emotions, doubt and power. Anni specializes in helping people find relief from chronic pain and other persistent mind-body symptoms.

Save October 25 for a special treat. The Sandisfield Players will be producing a staged radio play, "The Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow," to be performed on Saturday, October 25. We are putting out a call for volunteer voice actors and stage personnel. If interested, call the Sandisfield Arts Center at 413-258-4100 and leave a message with your contact information (name, telephone number and email address). See you on the radio. 📻



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Serena Granbery Retrospective

SEPTEMBER 13 - OCTOBER 11

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SAT., SEPT. 13 7:30 PM \$50

Live from NY Cabaret — an Evening of Song

A musical journey featuring songs from jazz to Broadway and the Great American Songbook with **Linda Mironti, Lennie Watts, Tracy Stark and Deborah Zecher.**

Prosecco and dessert to follow.

FRI., SEPT. 19 7 PM DONATION

Open Mic - the perfect venue for showcasing your talent. 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., SEPT. 20 10 AM \$10

Chronic Pain and the Mind-Body Connection

Anni Crofut shares the latest research and knowledge on chronic pain and how to recover from it using Dr. Dan Ratner's approach.

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

recreation COMMITTEE

The Fall Line-Up

By Laurie Seddon

Here we are again on the cusp of another season change. The Recreation Committee will be keeping some things the same but changing some others.

This year's Pig Roast, September 13 from 5:00-8:00 p.m., at the American Legion will remain mostly the same. Once change this year is that Full Burn will provide the music, their first appearance in Sandisfield.

Oktoberfest will be on Saturday, October 4 from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. at Looking Glass Gardens. We bumped the date up one weekend from previous years, as this event was traditionally held on the Sunday prior to Indigenous People Day.

There will be a new food truck for Oktoberfest this year, as well as hot dogs, bratwurst, chili, cold beverages and hot coffee for sale. Looking Glass Gardens will provide live music, hayrides and beer for sale. Sunny Rose Farm will provide \$5 pony rides and the Recreation Committee will provide fun activities and sweet treats. Please join us and RSVP by September 26 to sandisfeldevents@recreationcommittee.info.

One major change to our fall line-up is that we've discontinued hosting the annual Sandisfield Halloween Trail. The past few years we have seen a decline in participation, for various reasons. One of our goals at the Recreation Committee is to



spend the budget allocated to us by the Town responsibly. We hope you understand this decision.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to us at sandisfeldevents@recreationcommittee.info. 🍷

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An Unexpected Scene

FROM BACCALAUREATE TO BACCHANAL

By Anne Mihalick

Trash strewn about. The barriers with signage prohibiting entrance by vehicles broken and pulled out. Deep truck tracks dug into the meadow.



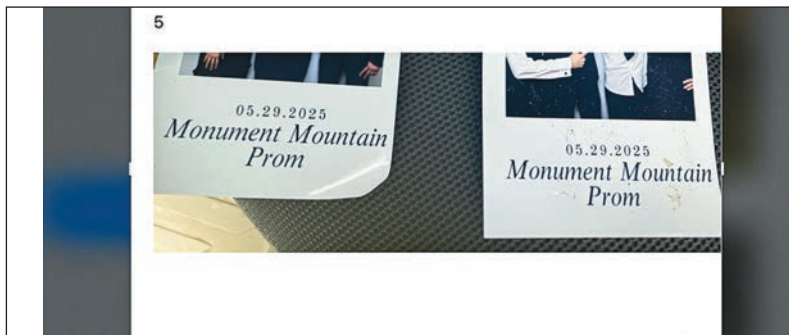
As I walked along, instead of bucolic scenery were the remains of a drunken frenzy. Beer bottles and cans, vodka spritzers, cranberry juice, and more thrown about in a large (how far can you throw?) area. Broken glass all over the rocks and dozens of cans and bottles floating in the lake.

Two yellow blowers and electric cords and inflatable white 50' tent? over a black plastic ground cloth were below.

I cursed as I toiled. How many clean ups have I done in my life? Leave no trace, pack it out. Usually, it's a beer can or bottle here and there, a tire, a plastic lid and straw, a

diaper, used condoms and wrappers, fast-food wrappings, etc. Seldom such a full-out trashing of a somewhat secluded public space.

An hour and a half later I had gathered, sorted, and compacted the booty into the boxes they had also left behind. I hauled it back to the road. Among the debris were two Photo Booth pictures.



After I finished loading the haul into my truck two local fellows appeared and said they had been called to clean up the area. I was surprised to hear that someone had called them and that there were local people "to call" about such matters.

They gathered up the inflatable, ground plastic, cords and blower. They offered to take all the trash and recycling I had collected for proper disposal.

Later in the day I saw Park Ranger Langley at the scene. He said he was on routine patrol and had not gotten the message I had left in the early morning. He said he picked up a large garbage bag full of cans and bottles. I told him my tale and he appreciated my help.

I was despondent and lamenting about what the future might hold for these young graduates who planned and participated in this event. Just having fun? Letting off steam? Sowing wild oats? Who will clean up their next mess? The undeveloped teenage brains not responsible for their actions? Or has my generation so trashed this earth that they are just joining in.



For this one corner of the world, this one patch of earth where I walk and play, this sacred ground, I am deeply grateful. As I reach for the next cigarette butt, used mask, fast-food bag, bottle cap, I know I am grasping for order in a chaotic world. Maybe one day those eager lads who partied at West Lake will do the same or find their way to do so much better.

Sir Ernest Shackleton said, and he would have known, "Optimism is true moral courage." 🍷



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.

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Phone: 258-4966

sandisfieldlibrary@gmail.com

www.sandisfieldlibrary.org

EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY THIS MONTH.

Thursday, September 26 at 6:00 p.m., the Sandisfield Women's Book Group will meet to discuss "The Winter Sea" by Susanna Kearsley, a wonderful blend of historical fiction, women's fiction, and magical realism. Winter in Scotland, past and present.

All month long – It is never too late to participate in the **Massachusetts Center for the Book 2025 Reading Challenge**. September's book is one not told in chronological order. Stop by the Library for a postcard of each month's reading challenge and, of course, to search for the right book.

The Sandisfield Library is sponsoring a **Food Pantry**.

Donations of NON perishable food items can be dropped at the Sandisfield Library during regular library hours.

The Food Pantry will be open TO ALL on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month beginning September 6 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the lower level of the library.

Latest additions to the library shelves

There Is No Place For Us: Working And Homeless In America by Brian Goldstone Dawson. This landmark work of journalism relates the heartbreaking stories of five families in Atlanta, Georgia. Despite working full-time jobs, these families face housing instability, are often homeless due to low wages, rising rents, and a lack of affordable housing. The book highlights the connection between the decline of work and pay in the United States, and the resulting crisis of increasing numbers of working families being pushed into homelessness.

Bury Our Bones In The Midnight Soil by V.E. Schwab. A genre defying novel about immortality unfolds across several centuries, beginning in the 1500s. Three women, all from a different century and place, each confront the gift — or curse — of vampirism. Reviews have said even if you don't like books about vampires, you probably will like this one.

Katabasis by R.F. Kuang. Olive Blake, NYT bestselling author says "This is

a book of ideas, and as such, Kuang's creativity shines, her vehicle for story a prose that's as smooth as butter. Katabasis is a formidable, timeless work, destined to be a modern classic."

The Violet Hour by Victoria Benton Frank. "A tale of the complicated relationships between mothers, daughters, and, let's not forget, sisters. This enchanting novel will bring romance and sunshine to your summer reading list." Elin Hilderbrand

For Richer For Poorer by Danielle Steel. A loving mother and successful fashion designer struggles to keep her family together and her business afloat.

Need a notary? Give us a call for an appointment.

Museum passes. Don't forget the Library has passes to several local museums.

At press time it was announced by the Town's Green Committee that its application for a grant to install a heat pump in the Library was accepted. The work is expected to take three days and be finished this fall. 🍂



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New Menu Items!

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SEPT 5TH ALEX ROHAN 7PM

SEPT 6TH FULL BURN 8PM

SEPT 12TH TREVOR DAVIS 6:30

SEPT 13TH RUMOURS 8PM

SEPT 19TH DAVE O'CONNELL 6:30PM

SEPT 20TH SIX-PACK OF BLUES 8PM

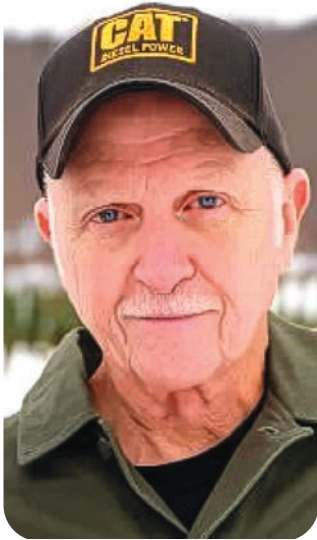
SEPT 21ST HILLTOWN BLUES JAM 2PM

SEPT 27TH EVEN IT UP BAND 8PM

SEPT 28TH SIGN PAINTING PARTY 1PM

Comings and Goings

MILTON EDWARD "ED" ARNOLD 1956-2025



"Ed" Arnold of Becket passed away on August 19 surrounded by his loving family after a courageous battle with cancer.

Born March 7, 1956, in Tampa, Florida, to Milton and Betsy Arnold, Ed moved with his family to Sandisfield in 1967 where he built lifelong friendships and a love for the Berkshires.

After graduation from Monument Mountain Regional High School, he proudly served in the U.S. Air Force as a mechanic, later pursuing his dream of flying as a pilot and even owning an airplane. Throughout his life, Ed held many careers, including running his own businesses, but he was happiest behind the wheel of a Peterbilt (or a Kenworth if he had to). In recent years, one of his greatest joys was trucking and working side by side with his son Jordan.

Ed lived a life full of adventure and hard work, with a passion for all things that had an engine. His love of the open road and sky was evident by his interest planes, motorcycles, trucking, and race cars.

Ed is survived by his sons, Bryan (Kate) of Becket and Jordan (Meghann) of Otis; his cherished grandsons, Jackson and Cameron; his longtime companion, Claire Romeo; the mother of his children and friend, Elaine Arnold; his sister Betsy Arnold (Jeff); and many nieces and nephews. Also, his best friend of over 50 years, Mark "Mac" McDermott of Canaan, Conn., and his boss and dear friend, Gary O'Brien of Lee.

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Comings and Goings

MARY SLATER

1935-2025



Mary Slater, a long-time resident of Sandisfield, died at Fairview Commons Rehabilitation Center on August 9. That afternoon, her daughter, Susan Galik, posted the news of her death on the ConnectSandisfield-Facebook page; ultimately, fifty-seven friends and neighbors posted condolences.

Mary was born January 6, 1935, in Budapest, Hungary. She was a schoolgirl when World War II began with the German invasion. When her younger brother Ferencz died in a bomb explosion in their neighborhood, Mary was sent to stay with relatives in the countryside to keep her safe. Years later she returned to Budapest and met her new brother, Joseph, who died several years ago.

After her schooling Mary became a bookkeeper in Budapest. She married Mihály Ga'lik and they lived under the Soviet occupation until the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. For a few months they were free, but in December the Soviets invaded and crushed the revolution, creating hordes of refugees fleeing the country.

A church in Torrington, Connecticut organized a refugee rescue and Mary Galik and her husband left their home country via Austria and came eventually to Torrington where Mary gave birth to a daughter named Susan. Since she did not speak English, Mary began work as a housekeeper with a family that allowed her to bring her new daughter to work. Later Mary worked at Hitchcock Chair in Riverton, Connecticut.

She eventually went to work for the Torrington Company, starting as a machine operator and ending as crib manager, keeping all the tool and dies needed for the machinist to perform their job. During the 1960s, while at the Torrington Company, she met another employee, Fred Slater. They married in July 1967 at the New Boston Church, and Mary became stepmother to Fred's four children.

Seeing a need, Mary began looking into special education for Fred's two sons, a remarkable accomplishment for someone who did not understand the local educational system and after only eleven years in the country.

Married to Fred for 49 years, until his death in 2017, Mary was important to his accomplishments in Sandisfield. He served as Fire Chief from 1979 to 1981, Highway Department supervisor for 13 years, after which he worked part-time for the Highway Department. He also drove the Sandisfield school bus.

Mary was an accomplished sewer, knitter and crocheter. But she was best known for her embroidery. Examples of her work can be found at the COA, the Post Office and the New Boston Congregational Church.

Pastor Eric Kriebel of the New Boston Church, said of Mary: "She was a steady presence from the beginning of my pastorate here. My wife and I had the privilege, over the years, of picking Mary up for church services and bringing her home afterward. We got to know her very well, and she was always so kind, warm, and loving. She carried with her the spirit and heart of this congregation. Our church family was blessed to have her in our lives and in our congregation."

After her retirement in 2000, she joined the Sandisfield Council on Aging, eventually becoming its chairman.

In an email to The Times, her daughter Susan Galik wrote that her mother "led COA until shortly before Covid, when it became apparent that something wasn't right. Fred's death in 2017 brought Mom's Alzheimer's to the forefront. In 2019 she fell and broke her hip. While in the nursing home it became clear that she could no longer live alone and she moved to my home on Slater Lane to recuperate and then Covid hit.

"Mom lived her last 5 years at my place. A fall in June put her back into a nursing home, but the facility was understaffed and felt that at 90 with dementia my mother wasn't worth their time. She finally was transferred to Fairview, but it was too little too late. Mom refused Kit Kats and bananas, her favorites. And then she stopped eating and drinking. She was ready to go."

Her survivors include many friends, her daughter Susan Galik of Sandisfield, a stepdaughter Connie Campetti and stepson Frederick Slater III, and two nieces and their families in Hungary.

Now Hear This!

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

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sandisfield Select Board Meetings are currently through Zoom and in-person at 6:00 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 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 basement. 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.

Card Playing at COA, Town Hall basement, on Thursday, September 4, at 1:00 p.m.

Town Plan Survey Report and Pizza Party on Friday, September 12, at 6:00 p.m. at Old Town Hall at 3 Silverbrook Road. Hear survey results, add your own ideas, free pizza, soft drinks. See page 3 for details.

Pig Roast on Saturday, September 13 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at The American Legion-Post 456 on Route 8. Live music by Full Burn, food, bouncy house. Please RSVP (sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info) by September 5. Free, but registration required to help order enough food/supplies. No pets.

Live from New York Cabaret, An Evening of Song on Saturday, September 13 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center located on 5 Hammertown Road. Direct from Linda Mironi's smash New York cabaret performance at Don't Tell Mama, this musical journey features

songs from jazz to Broadway and the Great American Songbook with Linda, Lennie Watts, Tracy Stark, and Deborah Zecher. Prosecco and dessert to follow. Visit sandisfieldartscenter.org for tickets or pay at the door. \$50.

New Boston Church Worship Service on Sunday, September 14 at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome. There will be a Church Council Meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The New Boston Congregational Church is located on Route 57. For more information and to view the calendar, visit newbostoncongregationalchurch.org.



Long-time New Boston Church member, Marjorie Riiska Gardella, displays her latest Advent Calendar to be raffled. This type of folk art requires great skill and many hours to complete. Marjorie said that her previous calendar priced at \$500 sold immediately. Chances may be purchased at the Yard Sale September 19-20, and at upcoming Sunday church services or from Marjorie. For more information call her at 413 528-1513.

NOT Your Ordinary Yard Sale on Friday and Saturday, September 19 and 20, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, at the New Boston Congregational Church at 4 Sandisfield Road. See page 19 for details.

Open Mic on Friday, September 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammertown Road. Bring your music, poetry, comedy, dance or other creative talent you have to share! Come to enjoy some live entertainment. Free.

Chronic Pain and the Mind-Body Connection workshop on Saturday, September 20 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Anni Crofut is a Mind-Body Coach specializing in helping people find relief from chronic pain and other persistent mind-body symptoms. \$10.

Tag Sale and Tractor Pulls on Sunday, September 28, at the American Legion Pavilion. Tag sale, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Tractor pulls, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. See page 7 for details.

ONLINE EVENTS

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

SAVE THE DATE

Oktoberfest on Saturday, October 4 from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., at Looking Glass Gardens, 19 Dodd St., sponsored by Recreation Committee. Live music, hayrides, pony rides, beer, and more. RSVP by September 26 to sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info.

Town-Wide Tag Sale sponsored by Sandisfield Historical Society, Saturday, October 11. See Historical Society report, page 7.

"The Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow" by the Sandisfield Players at the Arts Center, Saturday, October 25. A staged radio play. See ad for Call for Voice Actors on page 11.



Multi-Family Yard Sale This Month

Benefit for the New Boston Church

WILL ONE COMMUNITY TRADITION GIVE WAY TO ANOTHER?

By Ron Bernard

A committee has been busy all summer planning the Church's multi-family yard sale.

In the past the Church raised funds with benefit dinners at Fire House #2, courtesy of the Sandisfield Fire Department, Inc. The dinners were much anticipated, consistently well attended, and an important element in the Town's social life. The proceeds were essential income for church operations. This year that tradition and its future in that format is uncertain, and the Church Council approved an alternative event, a tremendous yard sale.

The hope is that the income will help cover operating expenses and be considered in matching grant applications for a new roof. The current roof, which is about 40 years old, is deteriorating and dropping shingles. It is overdue for replacement.



"NOT YOUR ORDINARY YARD SALE," SEPTEMBER 19 AND 20, A FRIDAY AND SATURDAY

A large and wide-ranging assortment of interesting and practical things – new as well as vintage – at all price ranges – will attract a good crowd.

And plenty of impractical and whimsical things too.

A fun event, something for everyone.

We're including the entire contents of the long-closed parish hall at bargain prices. Many long wooden tables as well as card tables will be for sale, chairs, all the stuff the church doesn't need but you might.

A 'silent auction' is part of the plan. Burgers and hotdogs, freshly made popcorn, and water and sodas will be available for purchase.



The historic and charming all-chestnut church (1879) in virtually original condition will be open for tours.

The sale will run from 9 a.m. to through the afternoon, Friday and Saturday, September 19 and 20. Rain or shine. Except for a 'hurricane' (perish the thought).

The event will be patterned on the Sandisfield Art Center's successful Columbus Day weekend yard sale at Sandisfield Center ten years ago. It is expected that every bit of the church property will be employed.

For more information including what to donate, to arrange for pick up, or to assist at the event, contact either: Ron Bernard, Tel 413-269-0012/Ronbernard@aol.com; or Chris Park, 646-491-2680/Phryk@mac.com; or Steve Hoekstra, 413-335-4656/sdhoekst58192@gmail.com.

Donations from the public are welcome. Items should be in lightly used /good or new condition. Specialty or collectibles like books and all kinds of antiques, rugs, designer accessories or anything pertaining to local history are appreciated. We can't use paperbacks, electronics, clothing, or large furniture. Donations may be dropped off at the New Boston Church, 4 Sandisfield Rd., on Saturday from noon to 3 p.m. on September 6 and 13. 🇺🇸



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