

# THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

*Tribunus*



*Plebis*

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

*Volume XVI, Number 9*

*December 2025*



*Photo: Ron Bernard*

## TOWN VOTES A RESOUNDING “YES”

### STANDING-ROOM ONLY AT SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

*By Bill Price, with contributions by Times reporters and The Berkshire Eagle*

In an odd turn of events, Sandisfield residents voted overwhelmingly at a Special Town Meeting November 21 to buy their own firehouse.

How could that be?

It's a more than 40-year-old story that has been told and retold back and forth across Town and in the pages of this newspaper, particularly over the past two years. The Times' stories can be accessed and read again or for the first time at [www.sandisfieldtimes.org/archives](http://www.sandisfieldtimes.org/archives).

The story may have finally reached its culmination at the Special Town Meeting. The Select Board asked the voters whether or not to buy the Town's Firehouse #2 from Sandisfield Fire Department, Inc., the nonprofit that has “owned” the station since its construction in 1980.

A motion was made that the voting be by secret ballot. The motion was defeated. Let's get on with it, seemed to be the point of the evening.

Hands had to be raised and kept high for Town Clerk Douglas Miner to get the count. It probably was the largest crowd ever at an STM. Some voted on the honor

system because only 150 yes/no paper slips had been provided versus the 164 voters who showed up.

Most attendees seemed to understand that this was one of the most important votes in the Town's 260+-year history.

When the votes were tallied, there were more than enough to clear the required two-thirds majority. The proposal passed with 116 yes votes, 36 no, and 12 abstentions.

*The following is adapted from a report by Jane Kaufman in The Berkshire Eagle, November 28, 2025:*

### A NEW CHAPTER FOR TOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT

**SANDISFIELD** — Voters in Sandisfield endorsed plans to buy one of the town's two fire stations and backed a plan launched by the new fire chief to staff that station.

The meeting held last week was seen as a referendum for Fire Chief Michael Grillo, a lightning rod

*Cont'd on p.2*

## Town Votes a Resounding "Yes"

*Cont'd from p.1*

who has been both vilified and praised, depending on the speaker. He called it a new chapter.

"I think that it's overwhelming support for the Fire Department," Grillo said. "I think tonight is really a defining moment. The people in town trust the fire department and they finally want to be done with this." . . . .

A record number of voters and onlookers packed the town's Department of Public Works garage for the town meeting with just eight articles that lasted close to two hours.

Holding the meeting in the DPW garage rather than at the larger of the town's fire stations was emblematic of the friction between the town and the Sandisfield Fire Department Inc. (SFDI), the nonprofit that was established to support the functions of the town's fire department.

The town severed ties with the nonprofit in the summer after Grillo accused SFDI of attempting to undermine him and the town's fire department. His release and dissemination of an audio recording obtained from a "butt dial" have led to lawsuits.

The biggest ticket item on Friday's warrant was a transfer of \$560,000 from free cash to acquire Sandisfield Fire Station 2 at 207 Sandisfield Road by gift, purchase, eminent domain, "or otherwise."

Under the current lease, the town doesn't have full access to the building and negotiations have not gone favorably for the town.

Town Clerk Douglas Miner spoke as an individual in favor of the funds requested to staff the station 200 hours a week. He is the only unpaid volunteer on the fire department and is pursuing Firefighter 1

certification. Miner said he was shocked that other volunteers left the department after Grillo was named chief. . . . . He praised the work of the firefighters. "I just want everybody to know, in case you're doubting it, the people you have right now protecting the town are incredible, and regardless of what happens, most of them are not going anywhere," he said.

While the article to staff the station for 200 hours passed by majority, two others,

don't feel comfortable giving over the firehouse to the madness they have going on."

Select Board member John Field said the vote means the town will be "outside the grip" of the nonprofit "who is undermining public safety."

"I think it's a good day for Sandisfield," he said.

*End of Berkshire Eagle excerpt.*

## Heard at the Next Select

### Board Meeting

Following a working session with DPW Superintendent Derek Boomsma, the Select Board held its first regular meeting after the Special Town Meeting on November 24. The main topic revolved around the results of the STM.

Chairman Steve Seddon said that it "was a true residential meeting. Everybody seemed to speak their mind. There was overwhelming support for buying the fire station under eminent domain."



*Photo: Jane Kaufman, The Berkshire Eagle*

which would have bolstered staffing with additional hours, were rejected or tabled.

Melissa Bye spoke in favor of spending money to purchase the fire station even though she said she and her husband, Jeff, voted in May to oppose an article that would have allowed the town to spend up to \$750,000 for both fire stations. At that meeting, voters approved acquisition by gift only. . . . . Things have changed, she said, praising Grillo's work and knowledge. . . . .

The vote to purchase the fire station required a two-thirds majority and passed 116-36 by hand count.

Daniel Andrus, who served as interim fire chief prior to the hiring of Grillo and is president of Sandisfield Fire Department Inc., said he felt the town meeting went poorly. "It's not like we're looking for money," Andrus said. "We want to correct the problems. We

He added that the amount stipulated in the vote, \$560,000, was an "outside limit" and that other estimates will be made before the Town settles on the value of the property. The board expects the other estimates to be somewhat lower due to building code issues.

Selectman John Field, who serves as the board's representative in negotiations with SFDI, reported on a meeting he had held with current SFDI president Dan Andruss. He pointed out that when SFDI was asked at the Special Town Meeting what it would do with the proceeds from the sale should the property be transferred by eminent domain, no one stood up to answer. Field said, "I asked Dan that question, and he told me they didn't want the money. They didn't like the current fire department. That was about the end of the meeting."

*Cont'd on next page*



## Town Votes a Resounding "Yes"

*Cont'd from previous page*

In response to a question, Chairman Seddon pointed out that eminent domain is a taking of property for the greater good of the community. "It can't be used to take someone's property, for example, without good reason and without a vote by the community."

He added, "We must never allow another nonprofit to gain that much control over a Town entity. The volunteers act like Chief Grillo is the problem, and that we've imposed chiefs on them. They forget that they previously elected Henry Fristik as chief, and that he resigned with the belief that SFDI members were working to undermine him."

Barbara Cormier, one of the half-dozen residents at the Select Board meeting, summed up the feelings of most people in the room. "I'm sick and tired of hearing about the fire department. We have to get past this."

Before the meeting moved on to other Town business, Fire Chief Mike Grillo told the Select Board, "On behalf of the fire department, thank you. You guys have taken it on the chin since before I've been here. You never gave up. A lot of people are proud of you." 🍷

## OUT ON A LIMB



## The Future of the Fire House – and the Town

*By Zoe Marinelli Nelson*

Our Town should not be divided on safety issues.

There has been a clear case of shoot the messenger and ignore the message. We asked for transparency from our Selectmen and when they give it to us some chose to pick what they wanted to believe.

It has become clear that to continue to run our emergency services we need to purchase or be gifted Fire Station #2, a building that I believe the townspeople already own by generosity of contractors and individual donations.

As we know, SFDI, the non-profit, has refused to gift the building with the reason they don't like the direction of the

present SFD. I believe that the SFD is moving forward, the only direction to go.

I am asking once again that the new Board of Directors and the past Board of SFDI agree to gift the building to the Town. This has become a hardship to our Town and will continue to be until SFDI does the right thing.

The Town spoke loud and clear at the STM as to what the majority of voters want for the future of our fire department.

Please, past president of SFDI Ralph Morrison, gift the building, so all the positive you have done for the Town is your legacy and that's what we all should and want to remember. 🍷

### 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.*



## The Select Board: Special Town Meeting

*Posted on the Town website: November 25, 2025*

The Sandisfield Select Board would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the residents who attended the November 21, 2025 Special Town Meeting. The turnout was extraordinary, and it was a powerful reminder of what makes this community so remarkable.

We recognize that many of the Articles placed before the Town were challenging, and we do not take lightly the responsibility of asking voters to consider difficult and consequential decisions. Your engagement, your questions, your candor, and ultimately your votes reflect a community that cares deeply about its future and the safety, stability, and integrity of its Town government and emergency services.

We are sincerely grateful for the overwhelming support shown for the articles endorsed by the Board. Your votes affirm the collective commitment to strengthening our emergency services, ensuring

responsible financial management, and positioning Sandisfield to meet both present and future needs. Even on articles where opinions differed, the respectful dialogue and strong participation exemplified the very best of local democracy.

Thank you for showing up. Thank you for caring. And thank you for standing with the Town, with each other, and with the Select Board as we continue working to serve Sandisfield with transparency, accountability, and dedication. 🍷

Sincerely,

Sandisfield Select Board

Chairman Steve Seddon, John Field, Robert Feddell

# Police Chief Mike Morrison Fired

## INVESTIGATION REFERRED TO BERKSHIRE DA'S OFFICE AND ETHICS COMMISSION

*By Times Reporters*

Former Police Chief Michael Morrison was fired from his duties as police chief and deputy fire chief in November following an investigation by the Town's attorney, KP Law, into payroll practices while Morrison was deputy fire chief. He had been placed on paid administrative leave earlier this fall after the Select Board received a memo from newly hired Fire Chief Michael Grillo questioning payroll discrepancies while Morrison was deputy fire chief.

The Select Board has subsequently referred KP Law's investigation to the Berkshire District Attorney's Office and the State Ethics Commission.

*Following is a Statement by the Select Board, November 6, 2025:*

### CONCLUSION OF THE FIRE/POLICE PAYROLL INVESTIGATION

The Sandisfield Select Board is issuing this statement to inform the public of the conclusion of the investigation into payroll practices within the Town's Fire/EMS and Police Departments and the resulting personnel action.

In July, the Select Board received a formal complaint concerning Mr. Michael Morrison and potential payroll discrepancies affecting both departments. In response, the Board placed Mr. Morrison on paid administrative leave while an independent investigation was conducted. To ensure that public safety operations continued without interruption during this period, the Board appointed Monterey Police Chief Brian Fahey to serve as Interim Police Chief. Interim Chief Fahey continues to serve in that role as the Town navigates next steps.

Because Mr. Morrison held dual roles as Assistant Fire Chief and Police Chief, the Select Board authorized an independent investigation through KP Law to review payroll submissions, dispatch logs, and related documentation for both the Fire/EMS and Police Departments. The investigatory process included a review of one full year of Fire/EMS and Police payroll records, Fire/EMS and Police dispatch logs, police detail logs, and communications from Town-issued devices. The purpose of the review was to determine whether reported hours were supported by call activity and whether any duplicate or unsupported payments had been made.

The investigation found significant discrepancies within the Fire/EMS payroll, including the repeated submission and approval of hours not supported by dispatch records, the use

of an undocumented "minimum call hours" practice, and duplicate or excessive payments issued for individual calls. In addition, due to Mr. Morrison's dual roles, the investigation identified instances in which hours he submitted or approved for Fire/EMS overlapped with or duplicated hours recorded for his Police duties, resulting in improper compensation across departments.

Mr. Morrison was provided the opportunity to review the investigation report and respond. Following that process, and after meeting in Executive Session to consider the findings and Mr. Morrison's response, the Select Board voted to recommend termination of his employment. The Town Manager accepted that recommendation, and Mr. Morrison's employment with the Town has been terminated.

Consistent with the Town's Special Act, *An Act Creating the Office of the Select Board and Town Manager in the Town of Sandisfield*, and with the Town's obligation to ensure proper oversight and accountability, the Select Board will be submitting the investigatory report to the State Ethics Commission and the Berkshire District Attorney's Office for their review.

The investigatory report is now available on the Select Board webpage, attached to the Executive Session minutes. To maintain patient confidentiality, dispatch records reviewed as part of the investigation have been excluded.

The Board appreciates the community's patience while this process was completed thoroughly and in accordance with the law.

*Following the release of the statement, Berkshire Eagle reporter Jane Kaufman wrote in an article on November 20 that:*

"At his Oct. 27 disciplinary hearing, held in executive session, Morrison said he was never solely in charge of the fire department, that the three-hour rule was 'standard operating procedure,' and that the investigation omitted critical information from run reports.

"Morrison's lawyer, Andrew Gambaccini, said that not all calls are routed through dispatch; some come directly through fire or police lines.

"In addition, 'Morrison expressed his concerns that the investigation was not thorough enough and lacked sufficient information,' according to the minutes of the hearing.

"Steve Seddon, Select Board chair, said, 'There seems to be an effort to create reasonable doubt about a three-hour minimum as a defense for the police chief, where his lawyer tried to make that case. It was hearsay. There is no evidence.'

"Seddon said that even if that unwritten policy existed, it would not explain why people were paid for time they didn't work: 'days there were no calls, people being paid twice when there was only one call, people being paid for one or two hours. All of these things negate a three-hour minimum.'"



# OUT ON A LIMB



**Opinions in Out on a Limb articles are those of the authors and do not represent The Sandisfield Times.**

*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.*

## Injustice

By Larry Dwyer

Only two weeks after being appointed as the new Fire Chief on June 17, 2025, Fire Chief Michael Grillo filed a complaint with the Select Board on July 1, 2025, questioning the Fire Department's payroll practices. In that letter, he requested "a full and independent audit of all fire department financial activity." The Select Board responded by assigning the town counsel, KP Law, to conduct an investigation. However, the KP Law report could hardly be considered independent, as it was completely one-sided.

A major focus of Grillo's complaint was a discrepancy between the Berkshire County Communications Center (BCCC) call logs and the three-hour minimum normally paid to emergency responders. In the KP Law report, "Chief Grillo informed us that Fire Department members should only be receiving pay based on time spent on calls to which a relevant Fire Department unit responded, as they appear in the BCCC Fire Department call logs only."

The fundamental problem with this claim is that BCCC logs do not accurately reflect the actual time personnel spend responding to emergencies. Not all calls were routed through the BCCC and some went directly to the former Fire Chief at Ralph's garage. Also, due to Sandisfield's terrain and spotty cell coverage, some calls never reach the BCCC at all.

In an October 21 email, a Public Safety Answering Point director at the BCCC clarified that "while call logs are beneficial in tracking incident data and apparatus responses, they are not typically used as a lone resource for personnel time tracking."

The KP Law report itself provided examples that highlight the limitations of relying solely on BCCC logs:

- **July 1, 2024 – Odor of gas:** The BCCC recorded the call as lasting eleven minutes. Anyone

familiar with Sandisfield knows it is impossible to travel from the firehouse, handle a call, return to the firehouse, and file a report in eleven minutes. If we used Chief Grillo's logic, the emergency responder's compensation would have been \$4.58.

- **July 19, 2024 – Motor vehicle accident:** The BCCC logged the incident at under 27 minutes – again, far too short to cover travel, response, and paperwork.
- **September 19, 2024 – Medical transport:** The BCCC log shows less than 21 minutes. Given that Sandisfield is roughly 15 miles from Great Barrington, Lee, or Winsted, a round trip to any of these locations takes nearly an hour. A 21-minute transport time is unrealistic.

For years, volunteer emergency responders received a standard three-hour minimum at \$25 per hour, totaling \$75 per call. KP Law argued that no written contractual provision for "minimum call hours" existed. However, the absence of a written document does not mean the policy did not exist.


Sandisfield was notorious for improper record storage. In the Select Board minutes of March 9, 2020, it is recorded, "Dolores (Harasyko) reviewed the condition of the town's records in the gray storage container. There is no electricity, water is seeping into the container and onto the records, the floor is rotting, and it is infested with rodent[s]." Due to the improper storage of town records, documents were contaminated with vermin and became moldy, making them unsafe to handle, and many town records were disposed of.

In the Select Board executive session minutes on October 27, Andrew Gambaccini, the attorney for Mike Morrison, reached out to Dolores Harasyko, the former town clerk and town secretary. Gambaccini reported that Dolores recalled the policy and reported that it was in her folders and files. Dolores Harasyko was the town clerk and town secretary for 24 years. When it came to town business, she was considered the oracle. She was the go-to person for handling town business. Therefore, she could be considered an expert witness. Since there is no written record available at this time, a judge would have to determine if the testimony of Dolores Harasyko was valid.

Despite these complexities, the KP Law report admitted in its conclusion: **"We did not interview Chief Morrison or other members of the Fire Department."** [emphasis added] This omission, combined with the limited sources relied upon, strongly suggests that the investigation was neither independent nor fair nor impartial.

\*\*\*\*\*

My report is based on the following documents:

- The KP Law investigation.
- Select Board minutes October 27, 2025.
- Email from the BCCC to Mike Morrison October 21, 2025.
- Select Board minutes March 9, 2020. 



# Miles of Roads

## NEW DPW SUPERINTENDENT OUT DRIVING AROUND

By Bill Price


Our new road superintendent, Derek Boomsma, who began the job only about a month ago, reported at a Select Board working session before Thanksgiving that he's been driving our dirt roads picking out which are in the worse condition, which are the most travelled, which ones we need to start fixing now and which ones can wait till spring.

He said the Town's DPW would soon be paving a section of Silverbrook Road and that he wants to repave the Town Hall parking lot. He mentioned culverts on Beech Plain Road that need some help, and that he believes the DPW can fix them "by ourselves."

And of course he's well aware of Dodd Road. "The engineers are engaged," he said.

Town Manager Janey Snyder reported that the Town was awarded a Community One-Stop for Growth Grant for \$164,000 for engineering for the reconstruction of Dodd. "We have already contracted with Tighe & Bond to engineer the road, but we don't anticipate that project being completed for at least a year. Once the engineering is complete, we will apply for another grant for the actual road construction."

Boomsma received two accolades from Select Board members. John Field said that his experience on the season's first black ice was that Sandisfield was well ahead of all our neighboring towns. "Your crew was out early, and got ahead of it. I appreciated that driving to work."

Chairman Steve Sedden added that in his opinion more had been done in the DPW in the last month than in the six previous months. Derek seemed to be off to a good start. 



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# Thanksgiving Fire Destroys Historic Barn

## NO INJURIES, BUT BARN AND CONTENTS A TOTAL LOSS

By Tom Christopher

It was their son's dog that saved their house at 154 New Hartford Road, say Eva and Jean Paul Blachere.

The family had assembled for Thanksgiving dinner and the dog had been shut in its crate in the barn. Soon after 4:00 p.m., though, the dog nevertheless appeared at the door of the house. When the celebrants went to see how it had escaped from its confinement, they found the barn enveloped in flames.



*The barn, fully engulfed in fire.*

*Photo: Sandisfield Fire Department*

What ensued was tragic, but far better than it could have been.

It was also a compelling vindication of the measures regarding the fire department adopted at Sandisfield's recent Special Town Meeting. The decision to continue funding per diem employees, for example, meant that a firefighter, in this case Fire Chief Michael Grillo, was already on watch in Firehouse #2 when the Blacheres' emergency call to 911 was relayed to the chief at 4:14. Grillo arrived at the scene of the fire with the town fire engine just 7 minutes later.

The speed of this response proved to be crucial, Grillo says, for the fire, which had already burst through the barn's roof, had ignited the surrounding bushes and was threatening to spread to an adjacent field and the Blacheres' house and guest house. With the thousand gallons of water in the fire engine, Grillo and the Sandisfield Fire Department volunteers, who appeared within minutes, contained the flames' spread and wet down the guesthouse which was downwind of the barn, preventing it from catching fire.

With many of the Fire Department volunteers out of town attending Thanksgiving festivities as far away as Boston and New Jersey, the Sandisfield personnel's response was limited to just five firefighters.

However, a protocol had been recently put in place to automatically notify the departments in Riverton, which soon arrived with a vital supply of water, and New Marlborough and Colebrook, which sent crews and fire engines. Before Chief Grillo had even arrived at the fire, he had realized that it was serious by the quantity of smoke he saw billowing into the air, and he had put in a call to Mutual Aid, which triggered a response to additional nearby communities so that a total of eight fire departments joined together in fighting the fire.

The barn could not be saved. One of the oldest structures in Sandisfield, it is believed to date from the 1770s. An outstanding example of an "English" style barn, it was the work of a famous family of barn builders, the Dowds, and had been meticulously restored by the Blacheres in 2006. It had also housed a collection of antique furniture the Blacheres had moved from a recently sold winter home in Savannah, Georgia. By 8:30, when the fire was out and the exhausted firefighters returned home, there was nothing left besides cinders and charred bits of timbers.

Despite this loss, the Blacheres were grateful that none of their family – not even the dog – had been injured, that the main dwelling was unharmed. Even the guest house suffered only a single cracked window and the melting of its surrounding trim.

Eva and Jean Paul described the response of the Sandisfield Fire Department as "amazing." Chief Grillo credited the residents of Sandisfield and its Select Board who had brought the Fire Department intact through a recent period of turmoil and supported the reforms that had enabled the quick response. 🏠



*The c. 1770s barn in 2011, one of Sandisfield's most historic structures.*

*Photo: Ron Bernad*

# THE HOLIDAYS IN SANDISFIELD

## A LINEUP OF GOOD CHEER

By Emily Ruocco

The holidays are here, and our Town is glowing with the warmth of the season. Whether you love baking cookies, shopping for handmade gifts, singing carols or just listening, or simply spending time with friends and family, there's something wonderful waiting for everyone this December.

Browse the bounty of local farms and artisans. You'll find fresh greens, root vegetables, meats, cheeses, baked goods, jams, and maple syrup. There's live music and plenty of holiday cheer while you shop for locally made gifts and treats.

December in Sandisfield is all about coming together and celebrating the warmth of community.

Wishing everyone peace, joy, and plenty of holiday sparkle, Happy Holidays from The Sandisfield Times!

## IN SANDISFIELD

### ANNUAL HOLIDAY FAIR

**Saturday, December 6, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**  
Fire Station #2, Route 57.

Start your holiday season with one of Sandisfield's most beloved traditions. The Holiday Fair is filled with handmade crafts, delicious baked goods, raffles, and more than forty local vendors. Santa will arrive around 11 a.m. to visit children and spread cheer. This event benefits the Sandisfield Scholarship Fund and is co-sponsored by the Sandisfield Historical Society and the Recreation Committee. Email: Sandisfield Recreation Committee ([sandisfeldevents@recreationcommittee.info](mailto:sandisfeldevents@recreationcommittee.info))

### UNVEILING: A SHOW OF PORTRAITS [FINAL DAY]

**Sunday, December 7, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**  
Sandisfield Arts Center

Stop by the Sandisfield Arts Center for the closing day of this wonderful portrait exhibit featuring the work of talented local artists. A lovely Sunday afternoon surrounded by creativity, conversation, and community. Contact: Sandisfield Arts Center ([sandisfieldartscenter.org](http://sandisfieldartscenter.org))

### SENIORS INVITED TO HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

**Thursday, December 11, 12 noon.**  
Knox Trail Inn, Otis.

The COA is inviting Seniors to a Holiday Luncheon. The cost is \$10 per person.



### 21ST ANNUAL COOKIE SWAP AT THE NEW BOSTON INN

**Sunday, December 14, 1:00 p.m.**  
Upstairs Ballroom, New Boston Inn.

Calling all cookie lovers! The New Boston Inn will host its 21st Annual Cookie Swap in the beautiful upstairs ballroom. Bring 36 homemade cookies on a platter and a container to take home your swapped treats. Santa will also make an appearance! It's a fun and festive afternoon filled with sweetness, laughter, and good company. Please RSVP to (413) 258-4477. Contact: New Boston Inn

### EVENING ADVENT BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP

**Sunday, December 14, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**  
New Boston Congregational Church.

Take a break from the holiday rush for an evening of reflection and fellowship. Enjoy a short Advent service followed by homemade soup, sandwiches, and Christmas cookies. Everyone is welcome to come and share the peace & joy of the season. Contact: New Boston Congregational Church ([newbostoncongregationalchurch.org](http://newbostoncongregationalchurch.org))

### COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

**Sunday, December 21, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.**  
New Boston Congregational Church.



Join friends and neighbors for an evening of joyful singing and holiday spirit. Gather around for favorite carols and Christmas songs that fill the church with warmth and laughter. The event is free and open to everyone, with donations appreciated to support the church's community programs. Contact: New Boston Congregational Church ([newbostoncongregationalchurch.org](http://newbostoncongregationalchurch.org))

## NEARBY FESTIVITIES

### HOLIDAY CARRIAGE RIDES AND CRAFT FAIR IN WINSTED

**Saturday, December 6, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
Corner of Main and Elm Streets, Downtown Winsted/Whiting Mills

Bundle up for a magical morning in downtown Winsted. Enjoy horse-drawn carriage rides by Utopia Percherons of Goshen, hot cocoa served by Boy Scout Troop 1027, storytelling, and caroling by The Gilbert School singers. The Winsted Fire Department will be serving s'mores, and Whiting Mills will host its Holiday Makers Shoppes with open studios and unique local crafts. Contact: Friends of Main Street ([fomswinsted.org](http://fomswinsted.org))

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## HOLIDAY MARKETPLACE AT BERKSHIRE BOTANICAL GARDEN

Friday, December 5 through Sunday, December 7  
Berkshire Botanical Garden, Stockbridge

This three-day holiday market is a perfect outing for the whole family. Explore artisan craft vendors, children's activities, and beautiful holiday greenery in a festive garden setting. Contact: Berkshire Botanical Garden ([berkshirebotanical.org](http://berkshirebotanical.org))

## HOLIDAY FAIR AT NEW MARLBOROUGH CENTER SCHOOL

Saturday, December 6, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
44 Hartsville–New Marlborough Road

Enjoy food, live music, crafts, and baked goods. Don't miss the community auction, with online bidding opening December 1. Contact: New Marlborough Center School (see Facebook for updates)

## LENOX WINTER MARKET, SHOP, SIP, AND SAVOR

Saturday, December 6, 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Downtown Lenox

Take a stroll through the charming streets of Lenox while browsing local shops, sampling holiday treats, and enjoying live music and art. It's the perfect way to spend a December afternoon. Contact: Lenox Chamber of Commerce ([lenox.org](http://lenox.org))

## CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS FUNDRAISER AND SPINDLE MUSIC BINGO

Sunday, December 14, 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.  
Knox Trail Inn, 1898 East Otis Road, East Otis

Have fun while giving back! Join the Knox Trail Inn and AMVETS Post 77 for an afternoon of Spindle Music Bingo hosted by DJ Pup Daddy. Your \$20 donation for four bingo cards goes toward helping families in need this holiday season. There will be a dance party, prizes, and a Best Christmas Outfit contest. Contact: Knox Trail Inn (413) 269-4400



## Property Value Up 10 Percent

### TAXES HOLD STEADY

By Times Reporters

At the Tax Classification meeting last month, the Board of Assessors Chair, Roger Brown, informed the Select Board that single family residential housing values (that represent 90% of property values in Sandisfield) have increased about ten percent over last year, bringing the average price of a home in Sandisfield to \$442,000.

The increase, he added, was driven by strong sales, building activity and the increased in construction costs that influence replacement cost. Land-only sales also increased with new homes constructed on previously vacant sites driving higher land prices.

The Select Board voted to maintain last year's tax policy that included a "split rate" that lowered property taxes on residential properties by shifting some tax burden to commercial, industrial and personal property classes. This benefited residential taxpayers who pay a lower property taxes and are exempted from personal property taxes on their full-time residence.

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GRILLED SKIRT STEAK  
**LOTS OF SALADS**  
**GREAT BURGERS**  
PIZZAS & CALZONES  
WINGS, WINGS, WINGS!

★  
**KNOX FAVORITE  
PRIME RIB**  
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### KNOX HAPPENINGS

DEC 2ND MOVIE NIGHT  
THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS 4:30-8PM  
DEC 5TH MIKE PARROT ACOUSTIC 6PM  
DEC 7TH XMAS SLEIGH PAINTING PARTY 2PM  
DEC 13TH JUST 'N KACE 8PM  
**DEC 14 SPINDLE MUSIC BINGO**  
CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS FUNDRAISER 2PM  
DEC 18TH BROOKMAN CANDLE MAKING 5PM  
DEC 20TH KNOX CHRISTMAS PARTY 1PM  
WITH LIQUID COURAGE BAND 8PM  
DEC 21ST HILLTOWN BLUES JAM 2PM  
DEC 22ND MOVIE NIGHT-ELF 4:30-8PM  
DEC 27TH SAMPLE THE CAT BAND



# Thank You!

to all those who contributed to our Annual Appeal!

*Peter Biamonte*

*Jean Paul & Eva Blachere*

*Philip Blampied*

*Victor & Maryann Colucci*

*Irene Conley*

*Larry & Jane Dwyer*

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*Joe & Sally Salzano*

*Matthew Schur*

*Lois Sedor*

*Ira Silverman & Tracey Hohman*

*John & Rosanne Skrip*

*Carol Spelman & Howard Strickler*

*Maura & Tom Sullivan*

*Peter Teschner*

*Liana Toscanini*

*Hilde Weisert*

*June Wink*

*Peter Wool*



## Letters to the Editor

Excellent Publication!

*Carol Spelman  
Otis*

Kudos for your steady good work producing this fine Reliable, Regular & Relevant news of Sandisfield – a town I love and still miss even though I hope Sandisfield will soon stop its headline-producing gutter politics and lead the way to more civilized community.

*Roberta Myers  
Monterey, California*

Thank you so much for your recent Letter from the Editor in the November issue, "Enough is Enough." It was very concise. Cogent and well written. We look forward to The Times each month and in the recent highly charged atmosphere in the town, you said what needed to be said very eloquently.

*Peter Rock  
Stump Road, Sandisfield*



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

# Help Keep Us On Our Toes

### ONCE A YEAR WE ASK YOU FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

For nearly sixteen years, The Times has been free to read, eleven printed issues a year. Since our beginning we've produced an electronic version, and in July introduced an interactive online edition. You can find us once a month in your mailbox or at [www.sandisfieldtimes.org](http://www.sandisfieldtimes.org).

Our archives are online, from April 2010, providing a significant published history of our town, month by month, along with an index of articles. You can, for instance, revisit online our Sestercentennial Celebration in the August 2012 issue and see Dave Lewis' fireworks again, although in black and white.

While The Times is free to read and we're glad we can distribute it to all resident addresses in Town, the fact is it's not free to produce. We pay for design, printing, postage, online space, and a few other things. Our volunteers write and edit each issue because they like to do it, they like rounding up local news for you, they like promoting our loyal advertisers.

We receive donations through the year, for which we are grateful, but most of our funds arrive during our annual financial drive. Donations cover at least two-thirds of our production costs, with

the balance coming from advertising. A small amount arrives from paid subscriptions, but providing that service costs about as much as we receive from it.

To put it plainly, your tax-deductible donations are essential to this newspaper's service, quality, and its ultimate survival.

The changing of the guard at Sandisfield's fire and police departments this year was neither smooth nor straight forward. In its more than 260-years as a municipality, Sandisfield has never experienced an upheaval like it. For two years your monthly newspaper has endeavored to bring fair and balanced reporting about these changes. We've tried to neither judge nor add to the confusion and we tried to stay true to our mission of serving the community responsibly.

Unfortunately, it appears that another period of discombobulation is ahead as town leaders, voters, and departments strive to amicably resolve difficult issues in the best interest of the Town.

Now we need another round of financial support from readers. Where else can you find a product or service which is free that benefits community life to this extent? And not just for news; The Times designs and publishes advertisements for local non-profits at no charge.

Thank you for your loyalty and we hope you have the best possible holiday season.

Bill Price  
Editor



### Slainte!

*Getting together with some of our closest Sandisfield neighbors proved difficult this past summer. My wife Suzanne and I tried to clinch a date with Eva and Jean-Paul Blachere, but one party was always busy. Persistence paid off. Both parties planned to be in Ireland in mid-October, so we managed to share a day's guided tour of the highlights of Connemara, including a brief stop at The Field Bar in the tiny village of Leenane. By Tom Christopher.*



### Legislators Visit

*State Representative Leigh Davis and Senator Paul Mark visited the Sandisfield Town Hall on September 30. Left to right,, Select Board Chairman Steve Sedden, Member Bob Fedell, Representative Leigh Davis, Member John Field, Town Manager Janey Beardsley, and Senator Paul Mark.*

# Frogs Leap in Sandisfield Event

August 16, 1976, Berkshire Eagle.

*Selected from the Eagle archives by Jeannie Maschino.*

**SANDISFIELD** — The slight, towheaded boy lovingly clutched the wooden White Owl cigar box with grass sticking out of the sides. He held the box in front of him with both hands and was careful not to shake it.

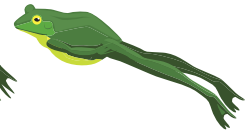
A group of about a dozen children huddled around a large aquarium full of grunting frogs, which the Cormier children were renting for 25 cents each. The towheaded boy walked over and silently eyed the competition in the tank.

At 1 p.m. Saturday, the annual frog jumping contest began at the Sandisfield Bicentennial Country Fair. Raymond Cormier, with black bowler, umbrella and measuring tape, called the shots as about 50 onlookers pressed together in the 80-degree heat and humidity to watch the amphibians' acrobatic feats.

The human trainers, ranging in age from 3 to 40, lined up to give the names to Cormier's assistant, who dutifully recorded them and the distance their frogs jumped.

About 15 trainers had placed their frogs on the tin can starting point, nudging and prodding the animals' hind quarters until a cheer went up from the crowd and the frogs did their thing — usually off to the left or the right of the crowd.

Then it was the little towheaded boy's turn. Still silent, he walked up to the starting point, placed the wooden box on the ground and very carefully opened it, revealing a two-inch tree frog inside.



The boy put the frog on the tin can. And the feisty creature immediately jumped about two-feet to the right of the crowd.

"That's a real jumper you got there," Cormier said. The boy leaped after the frog, pouncing on it. But it was too late. The mutilated little animal lay motionless on the ground, looking like a biology lab experiment.

The boy had squashed it. The boy stared at the frog, not quite believing what he had done. He didn't cry or say anything.

"Oh, why don't you go and pick out another frog from the tank," Cormier said consolingly. "You can have any frog you want for nothing."

The boy went to the aquarium and picked out a fat bull frog. But he put it back and never did re-enter the competition.

"Who was that boy?" a reporter asked. No one remembered his name. The reporter could not find the boy either during the rest of the frog competition or during the Maypole dances immediately afterward. Meanwhile, the frog jumping competition continued and 38 contestants in all raced their animals against Cormier's tape measure.

At the end, 40-year-old Peter Cordani of Torrington, Conn., emerged victorious, winning the first-place prize of \$5. His frog, Torrington, jumped 68 inches. Thomas Cormier, 8, of Beach Plain Road, won the \$3 second prize. His frog, George, jumped 66½ inches. Cordani's 7-year-old daughter, Nicole, placed third, winning \$2, when her frog, Fred, leaped 65 inches. 🐸



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## CCC Memorial Ceremony

**TUESDAY,  
DECEMBER 16, 2025,  
2:00 P.M.**

On December 16, 1934, five young men, members of the 196 Company, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) at Sandisfield State Forest, were killed in a truck accident on Three Mile Hill while driving in to church services in Great Barrington.

A memorial stone inscribed with their names stands today in the state forest.

On this 91st anniversary of that event, historian and CCC re-enactor Kevin Titus, DCR staff, friends, and neighbors will honor the memory of these men, and the service of the CCC in the creation of our State Forests and Parks.

Participate in a solemn ceremony at the memorial stone. View artifacts from the CCC program and talk more with resource experts about the legacy of this Great Depression New Deal Program.

The 45-minute ceremony is at the site of the former CCC camp, on Route 183 in New Marlborough, just south of the intersection of East Hill/York Lake Road. Please park carefully along the roadside and walk into the camp site.

The ceremony is held weather permitting. Dress for the weather conditions. Recommended for ages 13 and up. For more information or updates call (413) 426-7890.

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# CRITTER CORNER



## *Posing for a Portrait:*

*This red-tailed hawk perched outside Cindy Ragusa's kitchen window in Otis one mid-afternoon in November.*



## NEW BOSTON CHURCH SERVICES

Evening Advent Bible Study and  
Fellowship Church  
Christmas Service  
Sunday, December 14  
10:00 a.m.

All welcome.

4 Sandisfield Road  
Sandisfield, MA 01255

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

## Winter Transfer Station Hours

Wednesday, 12 noon-5:00 p.m.

Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Sunday, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



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## November: Sandisfield Arts Center

By Suzanne OConnell

The Sandisfield Arts Center closed its 30th year with three terrific events.

On November 15, the annual fund-raising gala was a festive evening, with an outstanding meal prepared by chef and board member Adam Manacher, followed by a live demonstration of the sound effects used in the Arts Center's "Headless Horseman" radio show production. This wasn't just a sit-in-your-chair-and-listen experience.


Four brave – and possibly future – thespians joined producer/director Jean Atwater-Williams and sound-effects maestro Niko Friedmutter on stage for a new play written by Friedmutter, a theater student at Berkshire Community College. The audience had a role to play, as well. A full barnyard of animal sounds was required, and from the comfort of our seats different people claimed different creatures. I was a rooster. Everyone else was asked to become buzzing insects. Friedmutter directed his new play with cues; the only unscripted part was all the laughter.



*The Annual Fund-Raising Gala Dinner*

*Photo: Peter Baiamonte*

On the day after Thanksgiving, November 28, Josh Luxon-Robinson, a brilliant young pianist and grandson of Ben Luxon – who has performed at the Arts Center many times in recent years – delighted the audience with a program of Liszt's *Vallée d'Obermann*, Medtner's *Sonata Reminiscenza*, and Beethoven's *Sonata in A-flat Major, Op. 110*. Josh introduced each piece with engaging details about its composition and history.

The season finale was an enchanting conversation with Simon Winchester about his new book, *The Breath of the Gods*. The narrative begins on a still autumn day on Mount Washington, famous for its terrible wind and weather, and moves through a fascinating litany of music, remarkable people, and finally terrifying winds – both natural and human-made. Simon then answered a wide range of questions from the audience, as basic as the causes of wind to what little is known about the reclusive behavior of the jet stream. 



*Season's Greetings*  
*And our best wishes for a healthy and joyous*  
*holiday season!*



30 years!  
SANDISFIELD  
ARTS CENTER



SANDISFIELDARTSCENTER.ORG

# Hospitality at the Christmas Fair

*Members of the New Boston Congregational Church will provide refreshments at the Christmas Fair at Firehouse #2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on December 6, marking a revival of tradition at this much anticipated holiday event.*

*Coffee and freshly made cider donuts from Taft Farms of Great Barrington will be available in the morning. Lunch fare will include hot dogs and chili made with the former Tuckers Restaurant famous recipe, not to be missed.* \* \*

*The church will also have tables for crafts and bake sales. Proceeds from kitchen food sales will benefit the church and the Sandisfield Historical Society.* \* \*



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### EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY THIS MONTH.

Thursday, December 18 at 6:00 p.m., the Sandisfield Women's Book Group will meet to discuss *Eruption* by James Patterson and Michael Crichton. *Eruption* is based on an unfinished manuscript left by Crichton. The Chicago-born writer, who died of cancer in 2008 at the age of 66, was one of the most successful novelists of all time, among them titles that became blockbuster franchises, from *Jurassic Park* to *Westworld* and *ER*. The manuscript was discovered by his widow Sherri and has now been completed by the no-less-successful writer James Patterson, renowned for several thriller series of his own.



### FOOD PANTRY AT THE LIBRARY

Low on budget? Need a little helping hand? Please stop by any time the library is open and browse our nonperishable shelves in the lower level.

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

We want to thank everyone who has graciously donated to our little food pantry. You know who you are. We greatly appreciate all your help and kindness.

A special thank you this month to the Sandisfield Snowmobile Club Inc. Their gracious donation will allow us to offer ham or turkey this month for the upcoming holidays. FYI, the Club offers over 54 miles of trails in the area and for more information on the winter sport contact George Munson at 413-258-4810 or 413-441-5943.

Speaking of thank you's and community support, the library would like to thank SFDI and other volunteers who joined us on a Saturday afternoon to remove decades of grime from the library windows both upstairs and down. Everything shines much brighter now.

### LATEST ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY SHELVES

*Paper Girl*, a memoir by Beth Macy. "Beth Macy masterfully assesses a dysfunctional class system witnessed both as reporter and through lived experience. This essential book reveals that resolving our current sociopolitical crisis requires not just digging for facts but digging even deeper into our very souls." – Sarah Smarsh, NYT bestselling author of *Heartland*.

*Black AF History*, non-fiction by Michael Harriot. "History as it should be told: straight, no chaser: unvarnished and unembossed. Michael Harriot, the Samuel L. Jackson of the written word, strikes again, waving fascinating facts, scathing humor, and pieces of his own life story to detail the stony road we trod." – Joy Reid, American political commentator.

*Shadow Ticket*, fiction by Thomas Pynchon. Cut from the same cloth as Pynchon's previous novels, *Bleeding Edge* (2013) and *Inherent Vice* (2009). It is a zany detective story, the gumshoe is Hicks McTaggart. It is Milwaukee, 1932. Crime-wise, Milwaukee is presented as a backwater, yet the city's proximity to the gangland epicenter of Chicago gives it criminal cred, an underbelly further fed by prohibition. The novel's opening salvo, a bomb is rolled under a booze-smuggling truck, blowing it to 86-proof smithereens.

*Mask of the Deer Woman*, fiction by Laurie L. Dove. "A creepy, atmospheric page-turner and a thoughtful exploration of identity and belonging ... an ode to women's resilience and the powerful bonds between mothers and daughters." – K.T. Nguyen, author of *You Know What You Did*.

*6:40 to Montreal*, by Eva Jurczyk. "The book has everything you want in a can't-put-it-down story: clever characters, plot twists, nail-biting pace – but Eva Jurczyk doesn't stop there. She adds the claustrophobia of a broken-down train, a brutal snowstorm, a dead body, and no way out. A true master of simmering tension." Ashley Tate, international bestselling author of *Twenty-Seven Minutes*.

### IN THE CHILDREN'S SECTION

*The Elephant Girl* by James Patterson and Ellen Banda-Aaku. A beautiful, heart-pounding story of a girl, an elephant and their life-changing friendship.

*The Gift of the Great Buffalo*, by Carole Lindstrom. Before there was a little house on the prairie there was a tipi on the prairie. A beautiful and dramatic story of an indigenous community and a young girl's adventurous life on the prairie.

**Need a Notary?** The Library can do that, too! Give us a call for an appointment or stop by during regular hours.

### Museum Passes

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

- Springfield Museums – all FIVE!
- Clark Museum
- Hancock Shaker Village
- Norman Rockwell Museum





## Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The Annual Household Hazardous Waste collection will be held on May 16 next spring. More information and details will be posted later.

To keep up to date with Town News, visit <https://www.sandisfieldma.gov> where you see all announcements on the front page of the Town website. Individuals can also sign up on that page under (subscribe to E-alerts) and receive a notification when information is posted to the website).

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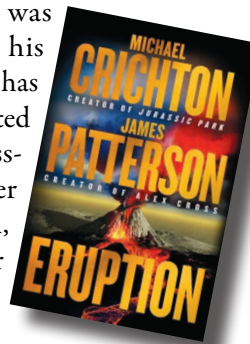
## Penny Auction is Here Again

The Penny Auction Table will be at the Holiday Fair December 6, at Fire Station #2 on Rt. 57.

Please contact Alicia Newsome at 413-233-7022 or Elaine O'Brien at 413-269-4465 with your donations of any kind.

## Sandisfield Ladies Book Club

Thursday, December 18 at 6:00 p.m., the Sandisfield Women's Book Group will meet to discuss *Eruption* by James Patterson and Michael Crichton. *Eruption* is based on an unfinished manuscript left by Crichton. The Chicago-born writer, who died of cancer in 2008 at the age of 66, was one of the most successful novelists of all time, among them titles that became blockbuster franchises, from Jurassic Park to Westworld and ER. The manuscript was discovered by his widow Sherri and has now been completed by the no-less-successful writer James Patterson, renowned for several thriller series of his own.



## Everybody Needs Kindling

With the advent of chillier weather, Sandisfield's youngest entrepreneur, Liam Pennington, has stepped up his production for his year-round kindling business. His mother, Lindsay, posted on ConnectSandisfield/Facebook that Liam's sale stand at 220 Sandisfield Road is ready for increased sales during this fall and early winter. If Lindsay is not on site, sales are on the honor system. \$5.00 per bundle, with mini-ornamental bundles at \$1.00.



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# NOW HEAR THIS!

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

## DECEMBER 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](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 necessary. Led by Nina Carr. This fun program includes free play, crafts, stories, and songs! A great time to meet up with friends and meet new friends! For confirmation of dates, please call Nina Carr (258-3314). Free!

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

**Chair Yoga with Wendy Larsen** on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall on 3 Silverbrook Road, sponsored by the Council on Aging. For more information, contact Nina Carr (258-3314). Free.

**Food Pantry** on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Library, lower level. Donations of non-perishable food items can be dropped at the library during regular library hours.

**Sandisfield Holiday Fair** on Saturday, December 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Firehouse #2 on Route 57. Over 40 vendors, holiday crafting, food, and penny auction to benefit the Sandisfield Scholarship Fund. Santa will arrive at 11:00 a.m. This event is co-sponsored by the Sandisfield Historical Society and the Recreation Committee.

**New Boston Inn 21st Annual Cookie Swap** on Sunday, December

14 at 1:00 p.m. in the upstairs ballroom. Please RSVP (258-4477). Make and bring 36 cookies for the exchange.

**Evening Advent Bible Study and Fellowship Church Christmas Service** on Sunday, December 14 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church located on Route 57. For more information and to view the calendar, visit [newbostoncongregationalchurch.org](http://newbostoncongregationalchurch.org).

**Community Christmas Sing-Along** on Sunday, December 21 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church. Please join for a joyful evening of holiday music and fellowship for all.

### ONLINE EVENTS

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

**Holiday Marketplace** on Friday, December 5 through Sunday, December 7 at the Berkshire Botanical Garden in Stockbridge. Artisan craft vendors, children's activities, and various plants.

**Holiday Fair** on Saturday, December 6 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the New Marlborough Center School on 44 Hartsville-New Marlborough Road. Food, music, vendors, crafts, baked goods, auction. Online auction

opening on December 1.

**Lenox Winter Market, Shop, Sip, & Savor** on Saturday, December 6, from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. in downtown Lenox.

**Holiday Shop, Sip, & Stroll** on Saturday, December 13 from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. in downtown Great Barrington. Free holiday fun for the whole family. Sponsored by the Southern Berkshire Chamber of Commerce.

**Berkshire Grown Winter Farmers Market** on Saturday, December 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Housatonic Community Center on 1064 Main Street in Housatonic. Vendors offer an abundance of locally-grown food, including fresh greens, winter squash, root crops, apples, meat, cheese, jam, honey, and maple syrup, baked goods, and more. Local artisan crafters round out the market offerings, and each market features live music.

**Annual Holiday Fair!**

Co-Sponsored by the  
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# THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

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Donations of any amount are needed to ensure the continuation of this newspaper. Please send checks to: The Sandisfield Times, P.O. Box 584,

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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.

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