

# THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

*Tribunus*



*Plebis*

RELIABLE. REGULAR. RELEVANT.

*Volume XVI, Number 11*

*March 2026*



## A WINTER PERSPECTIVE

*By Ron Bernard*

It's good to remember when winters could be even more severe than the one we've had this year. For instance, March 10-12, 1968. A Nor'easter delivered a 33-hour Berkshire blizzard that dropped 11 to 19 inches of snow, brought 50-mph winds, and zero visibility. The storm caused "significant disruptions, high absenteeism at work and schools, and dangerous driving conditions."

One who remembers that time is Gene Riiska. Gene grew up on his family's Riiska farm on New Hartford Road (today home of the Sandisfield Orchard). Here is one of Gene's Kodachrome photographs of that time. He said, "I was about 15 then and had to crawl out of a window because our doors were blocked by the snow." ❧

# WINTER 2026



*A buried truck.  
Richard Migot.*



*A Sandisfield front  
door, shoveled but  
needs it again.  
Richard Migot.*



*New Boston,  
Sandisfield Road.  
Larry Dwyer.*

# WHO'S RUNNING FOR WHAT IN 2026?

## RESULTS OF THE TOWN CAUCUS, MARCH 2

By Bill Price

Normally only one Select Board seat is open for election, a rule that prevents two newbies starting on the Select Board at the same time. The Board can be an intense on-the-job learning experience for first-timers and having two new members of the Board feeling their way through the thickets of Town and Massachusetts regulations at the same time is never a good idea.

This year is the exception in Sandisfield. Two spots on the three-member Select Board are open, by necessity.

Steve Seddon's seat was open on schedule at the termination of a three-year term. Steve himself was first elected to the Board in 2021 to complete the term of Mark Newman, who resigned after four years on the Board. Seddon may get a second three-year term since he was nominated again at the Town Caucus. If he does, the newby problem would be solved.

The other Select Board seat is for the remaining one-year term of Bob Feddell's seat on the Board. Bob's three-year term has another year to go, but because he will soon be moving out of Sandisfield he would be required to relinquish the seat.

First elected in 2023 to fill out the term of Alex Bowman who resigned with one year to go, Bob was subsequently elected to a full three-year term which would have finished in 2027. While only two full years on the Board, Bob served with calm distinction and, being a long-term EMT, was the Board's representative to Sandisfield's emergency services. As such, he helped oversee the changeover to the Town owning its own Fire Station #2.

Nominated to fill his seat was Jeff Bye, who is a member of the Planning Board.

Other candidates may still run for the open offices by taking out nomination papers (see deadlines below). And not all of the nominated candidates have accepted nomination.

### Town residents nominated at the Town Caucus:

Moderator (1 yr)	Dominic Konstam, incumbent
Selectman (3 yr)	Steve Seddon, incumbent
	Alex Russo
Selectman (1 yr)	Jeff Bye
	Vanessa Tarasuk

*Ralph Morrison (Since only two can be nominated at caucus, a runoff vote was held and Morrison, who came in third, was eliminated from the list)*

Assessor (3 yr)	Roger Brown, incumbent
Board of Health (3 yr)	John Boulais
	Brigitte Ruthman
Planning Board (5 yr)	Carol Garcia
Town Clerk (3 yr)	Douglas Miner, incumbent
	Amanda Leavenworth
Library Trustee (5 yr)	Kathy Burrows

### Other important dates for the Town Election:

Thursday, March 12:	Deadline to obtain nomination papers
Monday, March 16:	Deadline to submit Nomination papers to the Registrars by 5:00 p.m.
Monday, March 30:	Deadline to file Nomination papers with Town Clerk by 5:00 p.m.
Monday, March 30:	Deadline to object/withdraw for nominations made using nomination papers by 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 12:	Deadline to register to vote for annual town meeting and annual town Election
Saturday, April 25:	Deadline to post warrant for ATM and ATE
Wednesday, April 29:	Deadline to receive applications for mail in ballot for ATE
Saturday, May 16:	Annual Town Meeting, 10:00 a.m. at DPW Garage
Monday, May 18:	Annual Town Election, noon until 7:00 p.m., Old Town Hall, 3 Silverbrook Road

## 2025 Sandisfield Annual Town Report

The FY25 Annual Town Report is now available. Please reach out to Laurie McArthur ([lmcarthur@sandisfieldma.gov](mailto:lmcarthur@sandisfieldma.gov)) if you would like a hard copy of the report. Reports will also be available for viewing at the following locations: The Sandisfield Library, Old Town Hall, Town Hall



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# OUT ON A LIMB



## The Lawsuit Over the Tape AND WHAT DOES ANTI-SLAPP MEAN?

*To bring readers up to date regarding the legal consequences of the lawsuit brought last fall by Sandisfield residents Ralph Morrison and Rico Sanchez against the Select Board and others, The Times asked Attorney Steven Nonkes to explain where the lawsuit stood at Berkshire County Superior Court and the meaning of the Anti-SLAPP statute, which one of the defendant's claimed in defense.*

*Attorney Nonkes, of the firm Harris Beach Murtha, is the legal representative for defendant Carl Nett.*

*By Steven Nonkes*

Those who have been following the news surrounding the Sandisfield Fire Department, Inc. (SFDI) and its relationship with the Town of Sandisfield may be aware of the lawsuit that Town residents Ralph Morrison and Ricardo Sanchez filed last August against Fire Chief Mike Grillo, the three Sandisfield Selectmen, and resident Dr. Carl Nett. While both Morrison and Sanchez are members of SFDI, they filed the suit on their own behalf.

The lawsuit centers on a recording of a conversation between Morrison and Sanchez. The complaint alleges that Chief Grillo violated the Massachusetts wiretapping statute by playing that recording at a Select Board meeting last July, and that the Selectmen violated the law by allowing Chief Grillo to play it. The complaint also alleges that they violated Morrison and Sanchez's right to privacy and their civil rights. Against Dr. Nett, it claims that he violated the wiretapping statute and their right to privacy by posting a "transcript" of that recording to the Connect Sandisfield Facebook group.

Dr. Nett filed a "special motion to dismiss" the complaint against him under the Massachusetts Anti-SLAPP statute.

SLAPP refers to a Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation, a lawsuit designed to prevent or punish someone for exercising their First Amendment freedom of speech. Because defending a lawsuit can be expensive and time-consuming, merely the threat of litigation can be enough to intimidate someone into silence.

Anti-SLAPP statutes are designed to combat the use of litigation to silence opponents. The Massachusetts Anti-SLAPP statute is unusual because, rather than free speech generally,

it explicitly protects "petitioning" activities. Protected petitioning is defined in the statute to include statements to government bodies, "any statement reasonably likely to encourage consideration or review of an issue" by a government body, and "any statement reasonably likely to enlist public participation in an effort to effect such consideration" by the government.

Dr. Nett's special motion to dismiss pointed out his history of advocacy in Sandisfield, the recent public debate about SFDI's role, Dr. Nett's advocacy in that debate, and that the specific document that he had posted to Connect Sandisfield was an "Official Public Release" from the Sandisfield Fire Department. Both Dr. Nett and the Town defendants also moved to dismiss the lawsuit on other grounds.

On February 5, the Superior Court issued a decision that dismissed all claims against Dr. Nett. Superior Court Justice David Hodge determined that, in light of Dr. Nett's history of civic engagement, "It is no great stretch for the court to conclude that Nett's post was 'reasonably likely' to encourage the Board to review and (re)consider the degree of influence SFDI – Morrison's company – had on the Department, and/or 'reasonably likely to enlist public participation in an effort to effect such consideration.'"

As for the Town defendants, the Court did not dismiss the wiretapping and civil rights claims at this point. The Court found that Morrison and Sanchez's allegations were enough to make an illegal "interception" of their conversation by use of an "intercepting device" to be a possible interpretation from the facts they alleged.

But the Court also pointed out that it was not a "necessary inference," and that it was obligated to give the plaintiffs the benefit of the doubt because of the early stage of the case. The Court specifically contemplated further motions "if and when there is sufficient evidence to prove how the recording was made." The Court indicated that the claims could be subject to a later motion for summary judgment, which would allow the Court to consider undisputed facts and testimony about the origin of the recording, and could result in dismissal without need for a full trial.

Dr. Nett's victory highlights the importance of Anti-SLAPP protections. Because he was engaged in protected petitioning, the claims against him were dismissed early on. While the Town defendants may well achieve a similar result, they will have to first go through the "discovery" process, exchanging written information with the plaintiffs and depositions of witnesses; that process takes time and money. In this case, the Anti-SLAPP statute worked as intended and shielded an active citizen from those burdens.

Those who would like to see the decision can find it on the Massachusetts Courts website, [www.masscourts.org](http://www.masscourts.org), under the public records for the Superior Court, Berkshire County, and searching for one litigant's name. 

**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.**

# New Owner of Fire Station #2

By Bill Price

It finally happened. The Town of Sandisfield took possession of its own firehouse at 207 Sandisfield Road (Rt. 57).

The Town became owner of what has always been termed Fire Station No. 2 in January, after the Select Board voted to take ownership of the building by eminent domain and the “taking” was duly recorded at Berkshire Southern District Registry of Deeds.

The entity surrendering the property was the nonprofit Sandisfield Fire Department, Inc. (SFDI), which had been established in 1987 to help construct the building and support the Town’s fire department. In the summer of 2025, the town severed ties with the nonprofit after recently appointed Fire Chief Mike Grillo charged SFDI with attempting to undermine him and the Town’s fire department.

From when the building was constructed, SFDI had held title to the firehouse and charged the Town a yearly rent to use the building. For several years and a series of Select Boards, the title and use of the firehouse had been in dispute. Finally, to resolve the issue, the Town agreed to pay SFDI \$299,000 for the building, after voters authorized the payment at a Special Town Meeting in November.

As part of the handover, SFDI requested a walk-through to identify items in the building that it claimed were owned by SFDI. This took place Sunday, January 18. In attendance were Chief Grillo, other current members of the Sandisfield Fire Department, Selectman Bob Fedell, a few members of the public, and reporter Kaufman of The Berkshire Eagle. Representing SFDI was current president Dan Andrus; former president and current director Ralph Morrison; director Mike Morrison; and SFDI member Rico Sanchez.



The tour took place in the building where a brass plaque reads:

SANDISFIELD  
FIRE STATION NUMBER 2  
1991  
Built with generous contributions  
From residents and friends  
And through the volunteer efforts  
Of members of the  
Sandisfield Fire Department  
And supportive area contractors

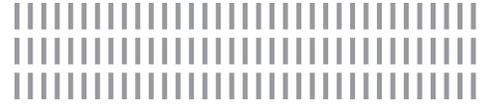
During the tour, Ralph Morrison pointed out items he said had been paid for by SFDI, including kitchen items that one member of the public, Zoe Nelson, believed were property of the New Boston Congregational Church which hosts dinners at the firehouse. Morrison said the paper plates and disposable cups belonged to SFDI and he wanted to take them. He told Chief Grillo, “Don’t throw nothing out.”

As part of the eminent domain taking, the Town was required to present SFDI with two documents. One, a friendly taking of the property at the assessed value, included an agreement by SFDI not to sue for more money in the future. The other document, termed a “pro-tonto” document, included a statement that for three years SFDI reserved the right to sue the Town for more money.

As reported by reporter Kaufman in The Eagle, SFDI could have accepted “the price in what’s known as a friendly taking, sue over the price based on an [earlier] appraisal, or gift the station to the town.” She quoted SFDI president Dan Andrus as saying that “he didn’t know what action the approximately 22 members of the nonprofit would decide. ‘Obviously, gifting is not one of the options,’ he said. ‘They’re disassociating from us, then, here you go – we’re not playing with them.’”

As expected, SFDI signed the second document and the taking of the property proceeded. By press time, current SFDI president Andrus had not returned a phone call to address SFDI’s future plans.

At the walk-through, after the SFDI members had finished identifying what they felt was their property, Ralph Morrison said, “Let’s get out of here.”



## BOARD AND COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Serving on a volunteer Town board or committee provides an opportunity to participate in local government and contribute to important Town decisions.

Sandisfield has several vacancies on its boards and committees. More information at [www.sandisfieldma.gov](http://www.sandisfieldma.gov).

If you are interested in any of the positions, please send a letter of interest to Administrative Assistant Laurie McArthur at [lmcarthur@sandisfieldma.gov](mailto:lmcarthur@sandisfieldma.gov).

### Board/Committee Vacancies

Cemetery Commission	2
Council on Aging	1
Memorial Day Committee	1
Recreation Committee	3
Scholarship Committee	2
Tree Warden	1
Yanner Park	1
Zoning Board of Appeals	2



# SCHOLARSHIPS NOW OPEN

FOR SANDISFIELD  
RESIDENTS  
CONSIDERING  
PURSUING  
VOCATIONAL  
AND TECHNICAL  
TRAINING

***Adult/Non-Traditional and  
High School Seniors welcome  
to apply***

Two scholarship opportunities are now available to Berkshire County residents seeking education and training beyond high school.

The Berkshire Catalyst Scholarship supports individuals pursuing up to two years of training in the trades and related support technologies. Eligible fields include healthcare, construction, automotive technology, culinary arts, and similar career pathways.

Established in 2025, the Robert Anelli Family Scholarship serves residents of New Marlborough, Monterey, Otis, Sheffield, and Sandisfield who are working toward a vocational or technical certificate or degree. Funding may be used at a community college, technical or trade school, vocational program, or other approved professional training program. In addition to tuition, awards may help cover certification or licensure fees and exams (when applicable), along with necessary tools, textbooks, transportation, and childcare expenses. Individuals who have not completed high school or earned a high school equivalency credential are welcome to apply.

The application deadline is March 15. Applicants must create an account through the scholarship portal and submit the appropriate application.

- **Adult and non-traditional students**

should complete the Scholarship Application for Adult Learners.

- **Current high school seniors** should complete the Scholarship Application for High School Students.

These same applications may also be used by students planning to attend a two- or four-year college, university, or other postsecondary program.

All applicants are automatically reviewed for every scholarship for which they are eligible, including awards not specifically listed above. Questions may be directed to [scholarships@berkshiretaconic.org](mailto:scholarships@berkshiretaconic.org).

Additional details are available at [berkshiretaconic.org/scholarships](http://berkshiretaconic.org/scholarships).

Eric Jette

Community Engagement Officer  
for Education and Scholarships  
Berkshire Taconic Community  
Foundation

800 North Main Street  
Sheffield, MA 01257

t: 413-229-0370 Ext. 107  
[ejette@berkshiretaconic.org](mailto:ejette@berkshiretaconic.org)

## Sandisfield Scholarship Committee

### A GENEROUS OFFER

A generous offer to match donations to the Sandisfield Scholarship Fund has been presented to the committee.

Any amount that you can give by April 1st will be matched for 2026, dollar for dollar, up to an additional \$500.

The additional matching dollars will be funded by the Ruth J. & Robert D. Freeman Sandisfield Scholarship Fund. Please call Elaine O'Brien to make your donation at 413-269-4465. 🇺🇸

\* \* \* \*

### ATTENTION: PARENTS OF SANDISFIELD HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Is your teen planning to seek further education at a technical school, a 2-year college, or a 4-year college?

There are funds available to help through the Sandisfield Scholarship Fund. We don't deny anyone as long as they are eligible, their application is complete, and on time. Awards are granted after the student's first successful and complete semester.

Applications for scholarships are due April 1st, and can be requested by email to [ally.g.marks@gmail.com](mailto:ally.g.marks@gmail.com). Paper correspondence can be sent to: Sandisfield Scholarship c/o Pat Richard, 46 Lower West St., Sandisfield MA 01255. 🇺🇸

**Chris Maccarini, PMP**

*Owner*

617-816-6152

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

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

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# OUT ON A LIMB



## At Night, Up or Down?

### UNDERSTANDING THE THERMOSTAT SETBACK MYTH

By Wayne Keller

#### WHY THIS TOPIC MATTERS RIGHT NOW

Hopefully with this winter's cold snaps behind us, it's worth clearing up a common misunderstanding about home heating that resurfaces every winter.

Many people have heard that lowering the thermostat at night "makes the furnace work harder" and ultimately uses more energy to warm the house back up in the morning.

That claim sounds intuitive, but it's not how heat loss actually works. With just a little more understanding of the details involved, we can make more informed decisions about this seemingly debatable topic.

#### THE SIMPLE PHYSICS OF HEAT LOSS

A house loses heat at a rate determined mainly by insulation, air leakage, and the temperature difference between indoors and outdoors. When the indoor temperature is lower, that temperature difference shrinks, and the house simply leaks heat more slowly. A cooler house loses less total heat over the setback period, and the morning warm-up only replaces what was lost, nothing more.

#### WHY ADVICE OFTEN SOUNDS CONTRADICTIONARY

It's common to see two statements paired together in articles and advice columns.

First, a warning not to let the house cool "too much," and second, the claim that turning the thermostat down 7–10 degrees for eight hours can save about 10 percent on a heating bill.

Both statements have a grain of truth, but without context they sound contradictory. The missing piece is the physics of how a house actually stores and loses heat.

#### YOUR HOME IS A THERMAL BATTERY

A home isn't just a box of warm air; it's a massive thermal-storage battery. The walls, floors, ceilings, furniture, and even the framing store the overwhelming majority of the heat inside the building. These

materials have mass, and mass holds heat. When the thermostat sets back at night, the furnace shuts off, but the structure itself continues to release stored warmth slowly and steadily.

It's the same principle as a cast-iron skillet: once heated, it cools gradually, not instantly. That stored heat is why a modern New England home (built to current energy efficiency requirements or retrofitted to meet those specs) cools only one or two degrees per hour, even on a bitter night. An eight-hour setback might drop the indoor temperature from 70°F into the lower 60s or 50s, not anywhere near bone-chilling or freeze-up conditions.



#### A REAL-WORLD EXAMPLE

Our own home as an example: We keep the thermostat at 70°F during the day. At night, we allow the system to set back.

When the outdoor temperature drops into the low teens or even lower, the house is still in the 50s or 60s by morning, comfortable enough for sleeping, and nowhere close to freezing. The thermostat wakes the heating system from its eight-hour slumber about half an hour before we get up, and by the time we're out of bed the house is warm again.

The entire process is automatic, reliably uneventful, and completely comfortable.

#### WHY THIS MATTERS IN NEW ENGLAND

This matters even more in our region, where heating oil and propane remain the dominant fuels and electricity is among the most expensive in the country. Across the nation, just 5

percent of homes are heated by oil, with 95 percent of that consumption occurring here in New England where many homeowners are now being encouraged to install heat pumps, systems that rely entirely on electricity.

Massachusetts and Connecticut have been stuck in the top three most expensive contiguous U.S. states for residential energy prices for roughly a decade, and every major indicator suggests the Northeast will remain the nation's costliest region for years to come.

With heating oil around four dollars a gallon, propane in the mid-three-dollar range, and electricity hovering above thirty cents per kilowatt-hour, the potential savings from reducing heat loss are not trivial.

An aggressive but wellproven setback strategy can yield savings well into the hundreds of dollars per season, no matter whether the home is heated with oil, propane, or a heat pump.

#### THE TAKEAWAY

Thermostat setbacks reduce heat loss and reduce energy consumption. Longer setback periods result in more reduction. The recovery cycle does not erase the savings, and the house won't crash to dangerous temperatures.

With home heating costs high across the board, understanding this simple physics can help homeowners stay comfortable while keeping winter bills under control. 

**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.*



# A Crossroads for the Society

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS

The current members of the board – President Ann Wald, Treasurer Barry Freedman, and acting-Secretary Lorraine German – while passionate about Sandisfield’s history, are all looking to transition away from their involvement in the Society.

The officers realize that in order to keep the Society viable, important to the community, and to complete the necessary upgrades to the building, such as repairing the roof and installing a restroom, new and possibly younger leadership will be required.

This is not a criticism of the current board, but merely the reality that they have all served for many years and are ready to turn over the reins.

A conscientious and talented Sandisfield citizen, Wayne Keller, has in the past volunteered his expertise and labor to

repair the furnace and has offered to take on other projects. Still, in order for other repairs and upgrades to be completed in our building (a little church that was in fact moved from another location) and to fundraise and govern effectively a leadership team with energy and time needs to be in place.

Not only is the Historical Society looking for new board leadership, it also needs more members willing to help so that when requests for genealogy information and other research are received that those requests can be fulfilled. While the Society has a wealth of documents pertaining to Sandisfield’s history such as those (as stated in the Society’s by-laws) related to “its exploration, settlement, development, and activities in peace and war; development in population, wealth, education, religion, arts, science, agriculture, manufacture, trade, and transportation,” currently the Society simply does not have the manpower to search through those documents and fulfill requests.

What will happen if no members of the Sandisfield community express interest in assuming the leadership of the Society that houses so much of our town’s valuable history?

Per the Historical Society’s by-laws, all of its assets (in this case the building) and materials will be transferred to the state of Massachusetts. Sandisfield residents are justifiably proud of their history and the individuals responsible for making that history. Let’s help keep that history in the hands of town residents.

For anyone interested in helping to keep that history in Sandisfield and to help maintain the viability of our Historical Society, please contact Ann Wald at 413-258-4415.



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KARAOKE  
MARCH 20TH 8PM

**BTE TRIVIA**  
Thursdays 7PM

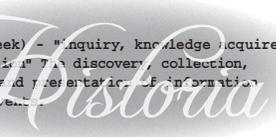
**CORNHOLE**  
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**LINE DANCING**  
*with TINA!*  
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WEEKEND CELEBRATION  
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FAREWELL TO OUR BAR!  
MARCH 13TH-15TH  
*We will be closed March 16 & 17*

**KNOX HAPPENINGS**  
MAR 1ST MASTERPIECE ART BAR PAINT PARTY 2PM  
MAR 6TH MIKE PARROT 6PM  
MAR 7TH FULL BURN BAND 8PM  
**MARCH 10TH MINIONS MOVIE NIGHT 4:30PM**  
MAR 14TH SHYNE BAND 8PM  
MAR 15TH BLUES JAM 2PM  
MAR 21ST BRETT POTTER DUO 7PM  
MAR 27TH JON BERMAN 6PM  
MAR 28TH MELISSA BRINTON & ELAINE MOREL DUO 7PM

historia (Greek) - "inquiry, knowledge acquired by investigation" The discovery, collection, organization and presentation of information about past events.



For a series of articles about Sandisfield's connections to the struggle for American independence, 1775-1783, I wrote in *The Times* (November 2025) about the taverns that were situated near the Knox Trail in northern Sandisfield in the late 18th century. The most prominent of these was the Henry Spring Tavern. Below, a patron of the tavern mentions his visit there during a stormy night.

## An Overnight at Henry Spring's Tavern, 1775

By Ron Bernard

The Knurow Collection is one of the crown jewels at the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield.

Berkshire native Edward R. Knurow (1909-1997), a career Mass. DCR employee, devoted his life to preserving every bit of Berkshire history that he could find. His collection, legendary among Massachusetts historians, consists of countless pictures of historical buildings, gravestones, historical markers, roads, photostats of old documents, newspaper articles, deeds, hand-drawn maps, and other drawings and more, including much about the Knox Trail.

I used this amazing collection while researching for *Ye Trodden Path*, the story of the 18th century "war road" best known as the Knox Trail, that I am writing with others. In it, I ran across a reference to a passage in the diary of an individual who spent the night of April 23-24, 1775, as a guest at Henry Spring's Tavern

James Jeffrey, who lived from 1733 to 1807, was a native of Salem, Mass., and a merchant by trade.

According to the modern miracle of AI, "Jeffrey was a civilian merchant's clerk in Quebec during the 1775 siege by American forces, not a soldier. His journal

provides a unique perspective as a primary source from a non-military resident of the besieged city. His role during the siege was primarily that of an observer, recording events, conditions, and the atmosphere within Quebec as the American forces under Richard Montgomery and Benedict Arnold attempted to capture the city. His detailed civilian account complements official military records, offering insight into daily life, morale, and the impact of the conflict on the general populace during that period."

In 1966, historian Knurow transcribed Jeffrey's account of his passage through Massachusetts toward Boston, and his overnight stay at Spring's Tavern. Knurow prefaced Jeffrey's memoir with, "[The diary] begins Jan. 1, 1775, in Quebec City. A very good account. April 20, he was in Albany where he crossed by ferry and rode about 36 miles and lodged at Claverack."

Jeffrey wrote in the memoir:

"April 22. Rain this morning. Did not set off til 9 o'clock, Stopt at one Younger(?) at Barrington. There heard that an express came up yesterday which brot an account of a scurmish between some of the regular troops and some of the country people. At this place [Great Barrington] the drum was beating to arms and several people were muster'd, armed." (Jeffrey is describing the early news about the battles of Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775, which marked the beginning of the American War of Independence.)

He continued: "Went on to Springs at the entrance of the green wood." The Springs he mentions is Henry Spring's Tavern. The "green wood" was the undeveloped section of the long colonial road from Albany to Boston.

"Slept here for the night. Had here a confirmation of the skirmish [19th April], with the addition that the Regulars were drawn back from Lexington to Boston ... Thunder, lightning & rain this evening and

during good part of the night. The latter part of this day's good or bad as I ever travelled.

"23 Sunday. Rain this morning. Set out about 8 o'clock with two men who were going to Roxbury or Cambridge to hear the particulars of the engagement. Lodged near Springfield."

From here Jeffrey continued his journey, relating no more about his overnight stay during a dark and stormy night at Spring's Tavern. For a superb description of an overnight stay at a Massachusetts tavern at that time, a reader will have to refer to the account of Ishmael's stay at the Whaler's Inn in the early section of *Moby Dick*. ♡

\*\*\*\*\*

*Ye Trodden Path: A History of the Knox Trail & Examination of the Longest Original Section of the Trail in Berkshire County, Mass.*, with contributions by local historians Bernard Drew, Gary Leveille, Rob Hoogs, Tom Ragusa, and Ron Bernard, will be available soon.

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# The Librarian's Corner

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 Thursday, 2:00 p.m. - 6 p.m.  
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 Closed Tuesday, Friday and Sunday  
 Phone: 258-4966  
[sandisfieldlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:sandisfieldlibrary@gmail.com)

[www.sandisfieldlibrary.org](http://www.sandisfieldlibrary.org)

## FOOD PANTRY

Low on budget? Need a little helping han 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. We greatly appreciate all your help and kindness.

## ARTS & CRAFTS

On the Ides of March, (Sunday, March 15), the library will host an Arts & Crafts for Adults and Kids. Felt inspirations will be here from 1:00-3:00 p.m., and will assist in creating beautiful felt necklaces and bracelets. Come join the fun.

Latest additions to the library shelves

## ADULT FICTION

*Woman Down.* An emotional story about loss, hope, grief, and forgiveness by best-selling author Colleen Hoover.

*The Order of Swans.* A thought-provoking blend of science fiction, fantasy and fairy tale by Jude Deveraux. The first book in the Blue Swan Series.

*The Order of Royals.* The second book in Jude Deveraux's Blue Swan series.

*Blood Moon.* By Sandra Brown. An unruly detective and an ambitious TV producer work against the clock to

prevent the disappearance of yet another young woman.

*Pendergast the Beginning.* By Preston and Childs. The Agent Pendergast origin story, his strange and shocking first case.

*My Husband's Wife.* By Alice Feeney. One house, one husband, two women. Someone is lying. A thrill ride.

## NEED A NOTARY?

The Library can do that to! 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
- Mass Moca
- Ventfort Hall
- The Zoo at Forest Park



# NEW BOSTON CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday, March 15  
 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m

Palm Sunday  
 Worship Service  
 Sunday, March 29  
 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m

All welcome.

4 Sandisfield Road  
 Sandisfield, MA 01255

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



# Mill River Folk School

[www.millriverfolkschool.org](http://www.millriverfolkschool.org)  
 a Massachusetts 501(c)(3) not-for-profit

Registration for the 2026 workshop season is now open, and the first one is on us! (February)  
 Space is limited, so register soon.



Blacksmithing, Woodcarving, Beeswax Candle Making, Basket Making, and much more!



# WINTER 2025-2026 SNOWFALL



2025-2026 Snowfall to date as measured / estimated at a Beech Plain back-yard weather station.

November 2025 . . . . .	1 inch
December 2025 . . . . .	19.5
January 2026	
1 . . . . .	2.0
5 . . . . .	1.5
7 . . . . .	1.0
17. . . . .	6.0
18. . . . .	2.0
25-27. . . . .	18.0
<b>January TOTAL. . . . .</b>	<b>30.5</b>
February 2026	
7 . . . . .	2.5
11. . . . .	2.0
20. . . . .	2.5
23. . . . .	11.5
25. . . . .	1.5
<b>February to date. . . . .</b>	<b>20.0</b>

**SEASON TO DATE . . . . . 71.0**

**EXTREME TEMPERTURES:**

Dec 5, 2025 . . . . .	-3.1
Jan 24 . . . . .	-6.7
Feb 8 . . . . .	-10.1



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- ★ Season May-October (Off season, field and covered fire pit available)

## SCHOOL NEWS

### Farmington River Elementary

#### STAY HEALTHY

In her March Newsletter, Principal Laurie Flower wrote that before the spring break, many families and staff experienced illness, which is something we continue to monitor closely at the school.

We appreciate your partnership in reinforcing healthy habits at home and at school. Frequent handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and keeping children home when they are not feeling well all help keep our community healthy. At school, we are maintaining our regular cleaning and disinfecting routines, with added attention to high-touch surfaces throughout the day. Our custodial team works diligently to keep our building clean and safe, and we are grateful for their continued efforts.

#### MARCH MADNESS

March also brings back a favorite tradition that students are already buzzing about: our March Madness Reading Program. This exciting unit connects the NCAA basketball tournament with learning across our special areas.

Students will be reading, researching colleges, designing team uniforms and sneakers, learning fight songs, and exploring the rules of basketball; all while emphasizing teamwork, sportsmanship, perseverance, and goal-setting. At its heart, March Madness at Farmington River is about promoting a love of reading and encouraging students to become confident, independent readers.

It also reinforces an important message: education opens doors. We want students to try their best, set goals, and understand that learning continues throughout their lives.

Families can support this program by encouraging regular reading at home. Whether your child is reading

independently, reading with a family member, or talking about books they enjoy, these moments make a meaningful difference.

#### AND MORE

The end-of-February newsletter also includes updates and celebrations from around Farmington River, classroom highlights from PK/EK, Grade 1, and Grade 6, along with creative projects from Art. It also includes information from our speech therapist on stuttering, offering guidance and support for families, a Student Teacher Profile, a recap of Global Play Day, and highlights from the 100th day of school which we celebrated with the oldest resident of Otis for his 100th birthday the very same week. 

## A Prize for Young Artists

### THE 5TH ANNUAL DANIEL MANACHER PRIZE

An opportunity is presented again for young artists aged 17 to 26 who live in or attend school in Berkshire County. The prize recognizes and encourages emerging talent across the county. Submissions can be from a range of visual arts, including painting, drawing, mixed media, and sculpture. The Sandisfield Arts Center of Sandisfield announced the call for art

Up to three artists will be selected as finalists and each will receive \$400 in support of their art practice, as well as participation in a group show of their work at the Sandisfield Arts Center in the 2026 Gallery season. Opening for the group show will be on August 16.

The award was established by Adam Manacher and Carol Birnbaum in memory of their son, Daniel Manacher. "Daniel worked on different surfaces, always hand-drawn," said his parents. "He loved interacting with people in their love for art. We hope, with the Daniel Manacher Prize

for Young Artists, to inspire other young artists and to assist them as they reach for their dreams."

The deadline for artists to complete and submit applications is April 17. There is no application fee. Details of eligibility and application requirements can be found at [sandisfieldartscenter.org](http://sandisfieldartscenter.org). Please read the eligibility and application requirements carefully before submitting for the prize. Direct any questions to [gallery@sandisfieldartscenter.org](mailto:gallery@sandisfieldartscenter.org)

The Sandisfield Arts Center is committed to inclusivity. Artists needing technical assistance due to a lack of access to a computer, camera, or internet at home to complete their application are encouraged to contact [gallery@sandisfieldartscenter.org](mailto:gallery@sandisfieldartscenter.org). There is no fee associated with the application and all entrants will be judged based solely on the merit of the work presented. 



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# Thank You!

Thanks to all who contributed in  
January and February

*Cynthia Argo*

*Bianca Doering &  
Nick Doriva*

*Richard Ellis Hand*

*Robert E. Johnson*

*Maxine Kupperman-Guinals*

*David Kelley*

*Michele Mauro*

*Eileen McDonald*

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

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

Sandisfield, MA 01255 or donate online at our website: [www.sandisfieldtimes.org](http://www.sandisfieldtimes.org). Donations to The Sandisfield Times are deductible under section 170 of the Federal Income Tax Code. Donations do not include subscriptions. Subscriptions do not qualify as donations.

The Times is distributed free of charge to all Sandisfield postal address and boxes. Free copies are available at the following town locations: The transfer station (Wed/Sat/Sun), the Library, and in New Boston at A&M Auto, the Farmington River General Store, and the

New Boston Inn. The Times is also available in West Otis at the laundromat, the library, and Paige's Place; in East Otis at Katie's, Pappas, and the Knox Trail Inn. Also at the Monterey Library (outside box) and the Roadside Cafe, in Colebrook at the post office, and in New Marlborough at the Mill River General Store. Back copies are available for purchase.

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

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

## SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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

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Now Hear This!: Laura Rogers-Castro

Founding Editor: Simon Winchester

### How to Contact Us

Mail can be directed to

The Sandisfield Times, PO Box 584, Sandisfield, MA 01255.

If internet accessible, all letters, news events and tips, ideas, obituary and family announcements, photos (600 dpi if possible) and advertisement queries to [editor@sandisfieldtimes.org](mailto:editor@sandisfieldtimes.org)

# Comings and Goings



## MARCELLA SMITH

1947-2025

Marcella Smith, a longtime veteran of the New York publishing and bookselling world, died after a short illness on December 20.

Born November 5, 1947 to Harry and Phyllis Smith in Mason, Michigan, Marcella graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in English and plans to be an English teacher. A student's evaluation that Miss Smith is "very nice but boring" sent Marcella in another direction. She arrived in Washington, D.C., in 1972, landing a job at the American Anthropological Society, where she was soon asked to leave on account of her "raucous, persistent, and entirely inappropriate" laughter. She then found her true path, taking a job as a sales clerk at the Globe, a small bookshop near the White House.

It turned out that her life's calling was in the book business. She soon moved on to be manager of the hardback department at Brentano's main Washington store. She became a beloved fixture in the store, puffing away at Lucky Strikes as she kept track of inventory and the next big sellers, which she had a prescient knack for spotting. She had an oft-repeated refrain for big hits of the day such as Jonathan Livingston Seagull and Jacqueline Susann's *Once Is Not Enough*: "It might not be great literature but it sells like hotcakes." Marcella's big break came in the spring of 1974, with the publication of *All the President's Men* by Woodward and Bernstein. Everyone in Washington wanted a copy, and Marcella ensured that Brentano's had copies on hand to sell. Brentano's saw a star in Marcella, and she was promoted to the New York buying office.

She switched hats again when she became manager of the Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich bookstore. Among her regular customers were Stephen Sondheim, Paulette Goddard, and Katharine Hepburn. With the store's closure, Marcella became a sales representative for St. Martin's Press and spent much of her time traveling around her territory in the Northeast and later served as Director of Special Sales before leaving for a tenure at Simon and Schuster.

Her final and long-lasting post was as a buyer for the Barnes and Noble bookstore chain, where she also served as Small Press Manager and head of Vendor Relations.

Marcella helped hundreds of small press owners better navigate the world of publishing, a role she also fulfilled with the national Independent Book Publishers Association. She sat on the PMA Board from 1995 to 1999. For more than 25 years she served as a judge for the PMA's widely respected Benjamin Franklin Awards (now the IBPA Book Awards). She was instrumental in starting and nurturing the organization's Trade Distribution Program, which offered Independent Publishers Group distribution contracts to hundreds of small publishers. Smith was revered for her fair and honest assessments to help developing publishers improve their books and performance.

Marcella's apartment on West 46th Street, where she lived for more than 50 years, was a gathering spot for legions of friends, more than a few of whom found temporary lodging on her couch as they settled into life in the big city. In 1995 Marcella began sharing her life with her wife, Linda Mironti, and the couple eventually divided their time between Manhattan and Sandisfield. They were both very active in the Sandisfield Art Center, and Marcella was quickly scooped up to serve as board president for two years. She also chaired the program committee for many years, helping to secure art center events.

In their almost 30 years together, Marcella and Linda traveled extensively, often in connection with Linda's duties as co-owner of *Il Chiostro*, a company offering workshops and programs in Italy with a focus on art, culture, food, and wine. Marcella's final trip with Linda was to Venice just a couple of months before her death. On her return, she said she would always cherish the view of the Grand Canal from her window.

Marcella is predeceased by her parents and her sister, Janet. She is also predeceased by her "sister in spirit," Jennell Cappo Sorrell, her friend since age 4. Along with her wife, Marcella is survived by Jennell's husband, Michael, and by their daughters, Elana Rudiger, Johanna Sorrell Vetter, and Alix Sorrell, who considered Marcella their favorite aunt.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.



**JOHN SKRIP**  
1946-2026

John Skrip, Jr., died on January 25, at his home in Sandisfield after a prolonged illness.

He was born to Lucy (Burgio) and John Skrip Sr on October 29, 1946 in Waterbury CT.

John was a proud graduate of Crosby High School, Sacred University, Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Masters in Natural Science) and Central CT State University (Sixth Year Educational Leadership).

He resided with his wife of 56 years, Rosanne (Daddona) Skrip in Sandisfield. They have one son John, who resides in Natick MA, with his wife Julie (Zhu Lei) and their two sons, Jaden and Jason Skrip.

John was an active member of the Sandisfield community, serving on many committees and boards, including the Sandisfield Select Board, School Committee, the Sandisfield Cultural Council, and the Sandisfield Arts Center.

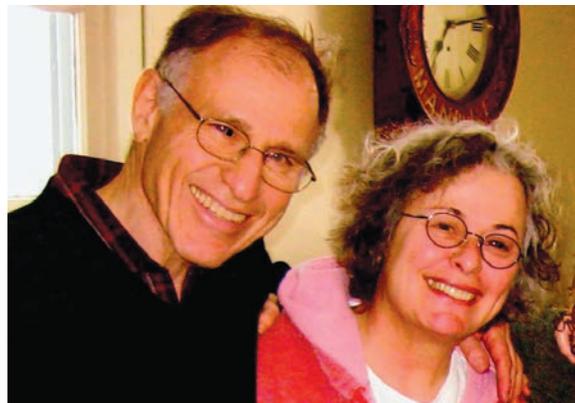
Prior to his retirement John worked 35 years for the Waterbury CT School System, as a chemistry teacher, Science Department Chair, and Assistant Principal. John also worked at various Colleges and Universities (Naugatuck Valley Community College, Post University, Berkshire Community College and MCLA). He retired from college teaching in 2015.

John was a founding partner in American Realty and Mortgage, a State licensed Real Estate and Mortgage Company that was started in 1978 and closed in 2020.

John will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend. He loved a good party, vacations in warm climates, an occasional cigar and Scotch in the man cave, and visits to the casino a few times a year.

John would like to remind his many students that "Busy People Are Happy People."

There were no services; however, a celebration of life will be held later at the convenience of the family. Donations in John's name may be made to the Sandisfield Art Center, 5 Hammertown Rd, PO Box 31, Sandisfield, MA 01255,



**JUDY GOLDSMITH**  
1939-2026

Judith Ellen Goldsmith of Plandome Manor, NY, and Sandisfield died on January 14 in her 86th year. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ted, in 2022.

Born in 1939 to Rosalind and Phillip Field in Brooklyn, New York, Judy was raised in Cedarhurst, New York. She met the love of her life when she was 16, her late husband Ted.

Judy started her floral design business in Port Washington, New York, during the late 1970s and which she continued into the 1980s. After her career of working with fresh flowers, she created a silk flower business named "Silk Bloomers" to have more free time on the weekends. She was an avid tennis player and enjoyed performing in the Port Singers. Post-retirement, Judy volunteered to teach English for the Speakers of Other Languages program (ESOL) at the Port Washington Public Library where she and Ted were adored by their students and colleagues.

Judy and Ted were drawn to the Berkshires, purchasing their home in Sandisfield in 1986. They spent many happy long weekends enjoying the beauty of the land with friends, family and their little dog, Mabel. Judy especially loved her gardens where she grew beautiful flowers that she transformed into spectacular floral arrangements. They were loyal supporters of the Sandisfield Arts Center, where they made many beloved friends. Judy and Ted loved being a part of this welcoming community of creative people..

Judy and Ted were the devoted parents of Kenneth Goldsmith (Cheryl Donegan) and Margie Alley (David Hill), and the cherished and adored grandparents of Max Alley (Julie Balefsky), Izzie Alley (Sebastian Strong), Finnegan, and Cassius Goldsmith.

A Celebration of Judy's Life event will take place on Long Island in the Spring. Donations can be made in her memory to The Friends of the Port Washington Library, [pwpl.org](http://pwpl.org), or to The Michael J. Fox Foundation, Parkinson's Unity Walk, at <https://tinyurl.com/margiesmovement>.

# Comings and Goings



## ALLAN K. MARGRAF 1958-2026

Allan Margraf, 67, died unexpectedly on Friday, January 9, after a brief illness.

Allan was the loving husband of Frances “Franky” Ann (Herold) Margraf for 40 wonderful years. Born April 22, 1958 in Great Barrington, Allan was the son of Walter and Mary (Spring) Margraf.

Allan worked for many years as an arborist and in his younger years with a painting crew. His enjoyment in life was riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle and taking day trips with his wife. They enjoyed mini vacations to the beach and camping. He also loved just relaxing at home and spending time with his family.

In addition to his devoted wife, he is survived by his two beloved daughters, Amber Lynn Margraf of Boston and Amy Margraf of Pittsfield; his close siblings, Barbara Hotchkiss and husband John of Sandisfield, Danny Margraf of Sandisfield, Tina Thompson of Derby, VT, Terry Margraf and husband Tim LaCasse of Colebrook, CT, Jody Margraf and wife Shannon of Otis, MA and Robin Wilcox and husband John of Sandisfield. He also left behind two sisters-in-law; one brother-in-law, three grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother, Jimmy Margraf.

Funeral services were held on February 1, at The Little Brown Church, followed by a reception at the New Boston Inn, Sandisfield. Montano-Shea Funeral Home of Winsted handled the arrangements. Visit an online guestbook at [montano-shea.com](http://montano-shea.com). To plant a memorial tree in memory of Allan, please visit Montano-Shea’s Tree Store.



## Letters to the Editor

### A DYNAMIC DUO

After reading the fascinating article about the Adams-Hawley-Rowley farm in the Jan/Feb issue of The Sandisfield Times, I just want to take a moment to tip my hat to Ron Bernard and Jean Atwater-Williams who have contributed so much to the Town of Sandisfield.

Ron's contributions to preserving the Town's history are seemingly unmatched, with important articles documenting historical happenings, years of service on the Sandisfield Historical Commission, a leading role in the 250th anniversary of the Town, three robust books, and a Knox Trail commemorative publication coming soon.

Meanwhile, Jean is an important member of the Sandisfield Arts Center leadership team, designs many of Ron's publications, uses her Ukulele to bring joy to others, and organizes community events such as the recent radio play at the arts center, the New Boston Church Christmas caroling, and visit to Berkshire Rehabilitation & Skilled Care Center. She is also very active in The Kanikapila Project, a healing initiative born out of the Maui wildfires, among other things.

When Ron and Jean first moved to Sandisfield in the early 2000s, we were excited to get some new volunteers for the

various activities taking place back then. I don't think anyone could have imagined the extent to which they would put their considerable skills to work enhancing life in Sandisfield. Well done, friends!

*Liana Toscanini  
Sandisfield Road*

Dear Editor:

Many thanks to Ron Bernard for the truly wonderful article, "The Bleak Winter," in last month's issue. This article is significant historically and educationally, not only about the buildings on the property, but also of the people and families that were the first settlers, and their later generations. I have enclosed a donation to support your newspaper and suggestions for future articles of this nature.

*Robert Johnson  
North Haven, CT*



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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)*

## MARCH

**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 is necessary. Led by Nina Carr. This fun program includes free play, crafts, stories, and songs! Meet up with friends and make new ones. 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 Town Hall Annex, 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.

**Town Caucus** on Monday, March 2 at 6:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall at 3 Silverbrook Road. All inhabitants in Sandisfield, qualified to vote, are asked to attend to nominate candidates for Moderator, Selectmen, Assessor, Board of Health, Planning Board, Town Clerk, and Library Trustee.

**Worship Service** on Sunday, March 15 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church located on Route 57. All are welcome. For more information and to view the calendar, visit [newbostoncongregationalchurch.org](http://newbostoncongregationalchurch.org). Church Council Meeting to follow.

**Palm Sunday Worship Service** on Sunday, March 29 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church located on Route 57. All are welcome. For

more information and to view the calendar, visit [newbostoncongregationalchurch.org](http://newbostoncongregationalchurch.org).

### ONLINE EVENTS

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

**Habitat Chat** on first Wednesday of the month from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. sponsored by the Massachusetts Pollinator Network. An informal conversation to learn about wildlife habitat, pollinators, and more! Register at [thebeatnews.org](http://thebeatnews.org).

### EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

**COA Coffee Social** every Monday at 9:00 a.m. at the Tolland Public Safety Complex. Open to all Tolland residents and those of neighboring towns. Coffee, pastries, and good company! Free.

**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.

**Crafting Conversations with Susie Kandt** on Wednesdays through April 29 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Berkshire South Community Center in Great Barrington. Bring your current project and work alongside others in a casual and friendly atmosphere focused on creative play and light conversations. Free.

**Henry Knox on the Trail ... The Dawn of a Nation presented by Robert Hoogs** on Sunday, March 8 from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Bushnell-Sage Library in Sheffield. An illustrated talk about the route Knox and his teamsters followed through the Berkshires on their way to Boston. Includes a short film by Jonathan Bzarkan, followed by a Q&A session. Free.

**Rock and Mineral Show** on Saturday, March 14 and Sunday, March 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Whiting Mills in Winsted, CT. Over 25 vendors, food truck, and free admission.

**Berkshire Grown Winter Farmers Market** on Saturday, March 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Housatonic Community Center at 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 Adams Thunderfest!** Saturday, March 21 from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Adams Visitor Center. Music, local food, crafts, beer & wine vendors. Free admission.

**Monterey Folk Chorus Concert** on Thursday, March 26 at 4:00 p.m. at the Monterey Community Center. This concert is a wonderful opportunity to gather with neighbors and enjoy a diverse selection of choral pieces at the Community Center. Free.

### SAVE THE DATE

**Car Show**, New Boston Inn, June 1-4. Back green. Free to show cars. Grilling.





*Buried mailboxes.  
Larry Dwyer*



*Like always, kids  
like this stuff.  
Larry Dwyer*



*March 1: A four-foot "glacier," precariously balanced, threatened a row of windows and nervous Cold Spring Road home owners  
Jean Atwater-Williams*

# THE SANDISFIELD TIMES

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