Volume XVII, Number 8 *November 2026*



The Sandisfield Times

Transitions in Town Government

Can Public Discord Affect Our Future?

By Bill Price

Two recent resignations have prompted questions among Sandisfield residents about changes in Town leadership and what lies ahead.

Select Board member John Field officially resigned October 12, approximately halfway through his second term on the Board. In recent months, Field had attended several Board meetings remotely, appearing in person when certain votes required his presence.

Town Clerk Douglas Miner has also announced plans to step away from his position. Although his resignation will not take effect until after the November 3rd election, Miner announced in September that he would not be completing his term as Town Clerk. In the meantime, he remains available to assist with time-sensitive matters, including birth and death certificates and election-related responsibilities, until a replacement can be hired.

Field cited his responsibilities as owner/operator of John Field Tree Service as a factor in his decision. Miner, who resigned from the School Committee as well as Town Clerk, still serves as Assistant Fire Chief with the Sandisfield Fire Department.

In speaking with The Times, both also expressed frustration with what they described as a challenging atmosphere surrounding Town government.

Field described what he sees as an increasingly negative environment, stating, "There is too much negativity in Town. If one side doesn't like your opinion, you're no good. I know the difference between right and wrong, and I do what I think is right. If people don't agree with you, you're a bad person. What I want to do is go back to my line of work and worry about that."

Miner similarly acknowledged that a lack of harmony had contributed to his decision to step aside.

While he expressed support for maintaining the Town Clerk position as an elected office rather than transitioning it to an appointed position, he recently encouraged the Select Board to consider holding a Special Town Election to fill the vacancy. See his comments on page 2 regarding keeping Town Clerk as an elected position rather than appointed.

Challenges Ahead

In an interview with The Times, Select Board Chair Steve Seddon also acknowledged concerns about divisions within the community. He pointed to recent scheduling conflicts among local nonprofit organizations, including competing community events that draw from the same pool of volunteers, vendors, and attendees.

Other recent disagreements, including the controversy surrounding improvements to the Transfer Station Swap Shop, have also generated considerable, as they say, discussion on social media and among residents. See Melissa Bye's Out on a Limb column on page 3. Next month The Times will feature a discussion with the new volunteer monitors of the Swap Shop.

Relatively small, in fact insignificant events like these, if allowed to grow and fester, can help form a sense of Us vs. Them in a small town. In a small community, disagreements over seemingly

Cont'd on p.2

Annual Appeal Issue!!

Discord Could Affect Town's Future Cont'd from p.1

minor issues can sometimes reflect broader challenges in communication and cooperation. What are the implications for Sandisfield for 2027 and beyond if cooperation becomes impossible, first in the small things and then increasingly in larger ones?

Maintaining constructive working relationships among Town officials, committees, organizations, and residents are crucially important to the community's ability to move forward.

What Comes Next?

The recent resignations leave questions about how the vacancies will be addressed.

Seddon said that the idea of holding a special election will be discussed at a Select Board meeting soon. "We just cleared the last Special Permit request, so I think much of our regular business can continue with two selectmen until the election at the Town Meeting. We'll have two open Select Board seats then, John's and the seat Jeff Bye is filling out for Bob Fedell."

Filling the Town Clerk position presents a different challenge. The position has been posted since early September and "no one has jumped up," Seddon said.

Seddon acknowledged the difficulty in filling the position and expressed his personal opinion that the Town Clerk should be appointed rather than elected. He noted that the position requires familiarity with state laws, regulations, and municipal procedures, and that he believes it is important for someone entering the role to have a strong understanding of those responsibilities.

Town Manager Janey Snyder emphasized the importance of continued community involvement and encouraged residents not to be discouraged from pursuing opportunities in local government.

COMMENT FROM DOUGLAS MINER, TOWN CLERK

I will step down as Town Clerk after the November 3 election.

Town Clerk has been an elected position in Sandisfield since 1762. It's one of the oldest offices in American government – the Clerk used to do most of the Town's work. There's no debate between elected and appointed. The position is elected. If nobody runs, then it can be switched to appointed. But appointed should be a last resort.

The question of changing the Town Clerk position from elected to appointed was previously considered at the 2022 Annual Town Meeting, where the vote was two-to-one to maintain the position as elected.

We shouldn't make that change before trying to fill the vacancy through election: that would be like amputating your leg before you get an infection.

A special election for Town Clerk is on the agenda for the Select Board meeting November 2. If the Special Election happens, it would have to be soon, and I would stay on in some capacity to help facilitate the special election.

"Serving the Town is an important responsibility," she said, "but it is also rewarding to make a meaningful difference in the community. We need residents who are willing to step forward, bring fresh perspectives, and contribute their time and experience. Public service inevitably comes with disagreements and challenges, but those should not overshadow the value of working together toward what is best for Sandisfield."

Fire Department Leadership

Asked about the search for a new Fire Chief, Seddon said a panel had been assembled to participate in the interview process and provide input.

The panel included Town Manager Janey Snyder, Select Board member Jeff Bye, Assistant Fire Chief Douglas Miner, and former Select Board member and current Firefighter/EMT Bob Fedell. Panel members participated in the interviews and had the opportunity to ask questions of the candidates.

Snyder, as Town Manager, is responsible for making the final hiring recommendation. Under the Town's governing provisions, the Select Board has a 14-day period to review and appeal the appointment.

Seddon indicated that he expected an announcement regarding the Fire Chief position in the near future.

Regional EMS Discussions

Seddon acknowledged that discussions are ongoing among Sandisfield, Otis, Monterey, and New Marlborough regarding potential regional approaches to addressing shared staffing challenges. The communities are exploring ways to work together to maintain dependable EMS coverage while considering the financial and operational realities facing each municipality.

As recently as October 26, representatives from the four towns met to begin an open dialogue about potential regionalization opportunities. Discussions will continue among the Fire and EMS Chiefs, with recommendations and updates to be brought back to a larger group involving the Town Managers and Select Boards.

As these conversations continue, ensuring that Sandisfield residents have reliable emergency medical services remains a priority. ST

OUT ON A LIMB

The Sandisfield Swap Shop Saga

Could It Go On Like "Days of Our Lives?"

By Melissa Bye

Someone once told me in jest that there are folks in Sandisfield who wouldn't open, much less read a get-well card if it came from me. So, I'm taking a risk writing what you see below with the hopes folks in Sandisfield will read it.

Despite what many users of the transfer station may have been told or read on social media, the Swap Shop clean-up was NOT a nefarious plan to retaliate against any one individual.

The fact that three months after the clean-up the false narrative of an ulterior, retaliative motive is still being circulated is not only sad and damaging to the individuals involved, it is preposterous.

What Was it All About?

Two senior ladies, as they had done in previous years, picked a day when the Transfer Station was closed to clean the overloaded Swap Shop as part of their Senior Tax Work-off. The selectman who came to help with the heavy lifting was simply helping two senior citizens – at their request. Nothing more, nothing less.

The Swap Shop was closed for a couple of days for a total cleanout which gave time for a reprinting of the rules as to what items were allowed, basically the same items that were allowed when the Swap Shop opened in June, 2020. The information on the new signs is the same as what is and has been on the town website for six years.

Again, nothing more, nothing less.

After the Good Deed?

The vitriol and nastiness that followed the temporary shutdown was surprising and disturbing.

Individuals involved in the clean -up were accused of being vindictive, wicked, acting unilaterally, engaging in harassment, and finally – my four favorites – mentally unstable to the point of needing meds, should move out of town, performing ICE-like raids, and acting like despots.

Wow .... All of this anger and name calling because trash (rusty utensils, disgusting egg cartons, chipped and broken plates and glassware, filthy stuffed animals, and nasty rugs) and many mildewed books and magazines were thrown away.



But Beyond the Cleanup

Most upsetting about the Swap Shop drama is that things we should value in our town and treat as precious, such as the volunteers who helped clean up the Swap Shop that day, were treated like trash.

While the trash that was thrown out was treated as if it was the most precious thing in our town.

As a lifelong lover of tag sales, I completely understand that "one man's trash is another man's treasure." Still, I hope we all never lose sight of the fact that people – especially those who step up and give of their time and energy to our town – are our real "treasures."

As late as mid-October, folks were still asking why there were no books in the Swap Shop. Books can't be stored long in an uninsulated shed. There have been suggestions to start an online book swap, a book-labelling option, and a Little Library. In the meantime, a plan to deal with donated books is in the works. (See "Transfer Station to Add Book Donation Bin" on page 12.)

As was reported in last month's Times, four people have signed up to monitor the Swap Shop. That's good.

It's time to focus our energy on more important issues. Of course, we all have different priorities. Still, when having conversations to determine what is important, we should try to be civil, stick to the facts, and bring legitimate concerns to town leadership rather than angrily post on social media comments such as people "have some explaining to do," accusing people of engaging in "ICE-like raids," being "despots," "wicked," needing "meds," or recommending that they should move away.

While it's not always easy, we should all make the effort to find common ground in our community rather than manufacture problems and drama that result in division like what we've experienced with the Swap Shop saga. ST

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 respectfully by and for Town residents. Address either PO Box 584, Sandisfield, or email.

Friends of Sandisfield Fire Department

Where the AEDs Are

A DEFIB Could Save Your Life

By Liana Toscanini, Secretary

Thanks to our summer fundraising efforts and the generosity of individuals and businesses in Sandisfield, the Friends of Sandisfield Fire Department (FOSFD) was able to purchase 13 Automatic External Defibrillator units (AEDs), along with the appropriate indoor or outdoor cabinets. The total cost was $11,700. Former Chief Grillo negotiated a deeply discounted bulk price for these re-certified units, which includes a three-year warranty.

Along with one previously installed AED located at Town Hall, the new AEDs will be placed at: Old Town Hall, DPW Garage, Transfer Station, Library, Yanner Park, Clam River Trail, Hanging Mountain, West Lake, Spectacle Pond, York Lake, Sandisfield Arts Center, Sandisfield Orchard, and Sunny Rose Farm.

The Philips HeartStart FRx Defibrillators (AEDs) are quite small, measuring approximately 7 x 9 inches. They come in a zippered case with both written and recorded instructions which can be played at the press of a button. If you're curious about their ease of use, you should go to Youtubehowtousephilipsaed.



The crucial first step in using an AED to help someone is to call 9-1-1 before starting the procedure. Ensure that help is on the way, then open the kid and follow the instructions.

We plan to continue our mission to educate the public (including CPR classes & AED instruction), create community through events, and fundraise for needed items for the fire and emergency services departments. If you have any questions, email us at info@friendsofSFD.org.

Living Near Wetlands in Sandisfield

Read this before you cut, dig, fill, or build near water.

An informational flyer presented by the Sandisfield Conservation Commission.

Wetlands soak up floodwater, filter water that ends up in our wells, recharges the aquifer, and shelters most of the wildlife in town.

Because wetlands do so much, Massachusetts law asks local Conservation Commissions to review certain work near them. Most projects are approved – the point is to check with the Commission before the shovel goes in the ground.



Do I live near a wetland?

Quite possibly. Sandisfield is about 90 percent forest, and more than one acre in five lies in a wetland, within its 100-foot buffer, or a river-front area. Wetlands are not just open water – they include:

- Swamps, marshes, bogs, wet meadows, and hillside seeps
- Vernal pools – spring pools that dry up by midsummer
- Ponds and lakes
- Streams, including ones that only run part of the year.

The plants are the tell: skunk cabbage, red maple, jewelweed, sedges, and ferns all grow in wet soil. Not sure? Call or email us. 258-4430.

Cont'd on next page

Cont'd from previous page

Does my project need a permit?

The Commission reviews work within 100 feet of a wetland, within 200 feet of a year-round stream, or in the 100-year flood zone. Work that usually needs review:

- Cutting trees or clearing brush and understory
- Filling, grading, or excavating
- Driveways, crossings, and new property access
- Decks, sheds, additions, or other structures
- Septic installation or repair – even a straight replacement
- Anything that changes how water drains across the site.

This list is not complete – distance and scale both matter.

What if the work is already done?

Call or email us anyway. Unpermitted work can lead to an enforcement order, required restoration, and fines. Coming to us first is almost always faster and cheaper.

How do I get started?

- Call or email early. Describe what you would like to do. Early is cheap; later is expensive.
- We tell you what is needed. Often that is a quick phone check or a short walk on the property.
- File the form. We will help you fill it out.
- Come to the hearing. It is a regular public meeting, not a trial.
- Wait for your permit and record it at the Registry of Deeds before any work starts.
- Put up the erosion controls your permit requires and leave them up until the work is finished.



Which filing do I need?

- A short check asks whether the law applies to your project at all. Best for small or simple work, and you usually have an answer within 21 days. On the form is a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA).
- A full application is for work that will fill, dredge, or alter a wetland or its 100-foot buffer. It opens a public hearing and ends with a permit setting out how the work must be done – on the form, a Notice of Intent (NOI) and an Order of Conditions. ST





The Future Sandisfield Orchard

Permit Ensures a Business Stays Viable

By Bill Price

The Sandisfield Orchard was granted approval to expand its operations by a Special Permit signed at the end of September.

Calvin Rodman, who owns the Orchard with his wife, Emily Melchior, told the Times, “The permit gives us the assurance to invest in the property as a business.”

He said that their goal with the Orchard is to “sell apples, and all of the work we've done is to make that happen. We don't want to turn the farm into something else, and we don't want to run another type of business on top of what we're already doing.”

The Special Permit, which was postponed from last summer to be redrafted after comments from neighbors and other businesses, will allow the Orchard to grow beyond the restrictions of its former agricultural zoning.

Rodman explained, “It allows us to have the cafe open year-round, if demand exists. We could host events like weddings but for now we’re only looking at small events that are compatible with apple season or in summer the farming operation. Higher-stakes events are not our focus. We can continue with our new cider building and serve cider. It also gives us the opportunity to carry a wider range of local products in our farm store.”

Both Rodman and Melchior said they wanted Sandisfield Orchard to be “a beautiful, relaxing place to pick apples and spend the day." ST

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The Sandisfield Times

by Val Coleman

Three years ago
In one small town,
Writhing and rivering
With a snowstorm of stories to tell,
A paper was born.
And it bent to the wind of the people
Finding its place
In among the trees and the tears.

And now we could read about our storms
And find old friends
And talk boldly about gardens and dying
And figure out the smaller things
That sweeten up the day.

When you think about it
Things can happen right down the street
Next to the three rivers
Or on one morning up the Tolland hill.
And someone needs to tell us
Because everything’s important
On a country day.

And now we can see things
That should be remembered:
An old barn falling,
Fireworks, an anniversary
A new baby, an old bridge
A fire truck or a square dance
Or just the graven image of the sky.

Originally printed in the Times
April 2013

A Cat and a Coyote

Both Caught on Film by Cindy Ragusa, Otis





A young coyote, on October 21. Still healthy and beautiful, well-fed thanks to his mom and dad.

A young bobcat, on October 7. The little guy tried for a second day to catch a chipmunk, but no luck. Never mind. He won't give up. ST

HIT THE SLOPES WITH THE PTA

Registration is officially OPEN for the **2027 Otis Ridge Ski & Snowboard Program!**
Thanks to your amazing fundraising efforts and the generosity of a local donor, we are thrilled to offer this program to ALL Farmington River Elementary students in grades 1–6 **completely free!**

When: Wednesdays, January 6 – February 10, 2027
Lesson Time: 6:00 PM (Arrive 45 min early to get ready)
Ski Lessons: Available to students in grades 1–6
Snowboard Lessons: Available to students in grades 3–6
Cost: $0 for FRES students!

Don't wait 'til it's too late – register for the **Otis Ridge Ski and Snowboard Program** today!

Click Here to Register

Use code **FARMINGTON100** for free FRES registration.

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SUN, MON (CLOSED TUES) WED & THUR 12-9PM
FRI & SAT 12-10PM

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WINGS, WINGS, WINGS!

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MUSIC BINGO
NOV 9TH & 23RD 6PM
KELLIOKE KARAOKE
NOV 13TH & 25TH 8PM

★ **TRIVIA EVERY THURS 7PM**

KNOX HAPPENINGS
KNOXGIVING MEAL DONATIONS
Donate a Thanksgiving meal for those in need this month & we'll do the cooking!
NOV 6TH **JON BERMAN** 6PM
NOV 7TH **ROCK 201** 8PM
★ **NOV 11TH VETERANS DAY** ★
1/2 PRICE MEALS FOR VETERANS
NOV 14TH **HOTSHOT HILLBILLIES** 8PM
NOV 20TH **FRANK LIND** 6PM
NOV 27TH **LINE DANCING WITH TINA**
8PM START-DINNER RESERVATIONS SUGGESTED!
NOV 28TH **MIDNIGHT 30** 8PM

Moving into Winter

Art Center's 2026 Season Ending

By Suzanne OConnell

It has been a rich seven months of activities, art, and energy.

In October, attendees had the opportunity to see the documentary "Nazi Town, USA", a disturbing portrait of America before World War II and to discuss the film with producer/director, Peter Yost.

Two engaging music performances followed on Sunday afternoons. The Thistle Quartet, on October 3, a wonderful eclectic local group (featuring Sandisfield residents Bill Taylor and Jaye Moscariello), followed in two weeks by jazz with Noah Baerman (piano) and Henry Lugo (base). A family emergency prevented Baerman from participating and pianist Jen Allen masterfully substituted with an enchanting result.

If you haven't been to the 2026 Art Center this season, you have three more opportunities.

November 14, the doors will open for our inaugural contra dance. The accomplished Jon Greene, renowned throughout New England, will be calling. Fiddle music by Eric Martin and Contra pianist Susan Creighton will complete the experience. Dancing has many health benefits, see the helpful list on the Arts Center website: sandisfieldartscenter.org. For myself, I learned contra and square dance at the Mill River School decades ago and still love it. I've already purchased my tickets.

Immediately after Thanksgiving, Friday, November 27, Josh Luxon-Robinson will delight us again. Luxon-Robinson, the grandson of Sandisfield's Ben Luxon, is a recent graduate of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, is now a soloist and chamber musician. His performance will include evocative romantic and early twentieth-century music, suggesting landscapes, moods, birds, water, or childhood.

The season will conclude with the return of the Sandisfield Players under the direction of Jean Atwater-Williams in a radio performance of *A Christmas Carol* "as you've never seen it before" on Saturday, December 5 at 7:00 pm. Supported by the Sandisfield & Otis Cultural Councils, the Players will transport you to Dickens' England to experience the ruthlessness, repentance, and redemption of the human spirit

And don't forget our newly renovated Garfield Gallery. The last show, Family Fotos curated by Josie Miner, opens Saturday November 7 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. and closes after "A Christmas Carol." The exhibit explores the idea of family in all forms – biological/chosen, remembered/ imagined, whole/fractured – and considers questions of memory, intimacy, identity, absence, and belonging. The program is free and not to be missed. ST

SANDISFIELD ARTS CENTER
5 HAMMERTOWN ROAD, SANDISFIELD, MA

GALLERY **OPENS NOVEMBER 7 FREE**
FAMILY FOTOS
Family of Man meets Sally Mann meets a box of dusty photos. An intimate exploration of family in all its possible forms. ***Closes December 5.***

SAT. NOVEMBER 14 7 PM
$25 COUPLE, $15 INDIVIDUAL
AN EVENING OF NEW ENGLAND CONTRA DANCE
Our inaugural Contra dance event! Calling the dances, the popular **John Greene** with fiddle music by **Eric Martin**. No experience needed.

FRI. NOVEMBER 27 4 PM $30
SPECIAL CONCERT:
JOSH LUXON-ROBINSON RETURNS!
Romantic piano music by Rachmaninoff, Chopin, Scriabin, Debussy for the day after Thanksgiving from this talented young pianist and Arts Center favorite.

SAT. DECEMBER 5 7 PM $20
TEENS $10 | 12 & UNDER FREE
SANDISFIELD PLAYERS *PRESENT*
"A CHRISTMAS CAROL"
A RADIO DRAMA
Save the Date
Join us for this holiday classic as you've never seen it before!
Performed as a semi-staged radio play with sound effects, you'll be transported to Dickens' England to experience the ruthlessness, repentance and redemption of the human spirit.

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



SANDISFIELD OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FORUM

Join the OSRP Committee for a community conversation about the future of outdoor recreation and the protection of the town's open spaces.

Wednesday, November 18
6 p.m.
Old Town Hall
3 Silverbrook Road

PIzza will be provided
RSVP to Andrew Mckeever, BRPC
amckeever@berkshireplanning.org



The Scholarship Committee: An Invitation

The Sandisfield Scholarship Committee is seeking additional members.

If you are looking for a chance to give back to the community, we are a small group who meets only a few times a year and we could use your support.

The Sandisfield Scholarship Committee manages a donation-based fund that supports students living in Sandisfield as they enter their first year of post-high school education.

For more information, or to join us, please contact Ally Marks at ally.g.marks@gmail.com.ST

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Thursday, 2:00 p.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Closed Tuesday, Friday and Sunday

Phone: 258-4966
sandisfieldlibrary@gmail.com

www.sandisfieldlibrary.org

Please note the Library will be CLOSED for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday, November 26 and Saturday, November 28.

Events at the Library this month.

Book Group

Thursday, November 19 at 6:00 p.m., the Sandisfield Women's Book Group will meet to discuss "Reykgavik" by Ragnar Jonasson. This is a slow-burning, atmospheric cold-case mystery inspired by the classic style of Agatha Christie.

Mahjong

Join the fun on Saturdays from 10:00 to 1:00 p.m. (And sometimes on Wednesdays – call the library at 258-4966 to confirm the Wednesday time.) All levels. Coffee and tea available.

Food Pantry

Out of Time? Low on budget? Need a little helping hand? Please stop by whenever the library is open and browse our nonperishable shelf and perishables in our refridgerator.

Donations of 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. We greatly appreciate all your help and kindness.

Latest additions to the library shelves

Fiction:

Miss Wolcott's Ghost, by Louise Penny. Armand Gamache returns in Penny's latest novel. Gamache, Jean-Guy Beauvoir, and Isabelle Lacoste search for the mythical, long-abandoned area of Lost Nation. In an overgrown, forgotten cemetery, they find a body dressed in vintage/early-century clothing on a nameless grave. A perfect read for cold, autumn nights in the dark!

Hollywood Ending, by John Green. Tender, heartbreaking, and shrewdly funny, this is a deeply observed novel about the tension between a public and a private life, finding someone to trust in an untrustworthy world, and the audacity to pursue the kind of love we all deserve.

The Witch, by Freida McFadden. "Jaw-dropping. A wildly entertaining and genuinely spooky story. nI have no hesitation in saying that The Witch is Frieda's best book yet. I loved every single page." - Liz Nugent, author.

The French Illusion, by John Grisham. A gripping suspenseful novel about a Paris honeymoon gone horribly wrong and the nightmare that follows.

Non-Fiction

To Infinity and Beyond, by Neil DeGrasse Tyson. Tyson teams up with StarTalk senior producer Lindsey Nyx Walker to take readers on an interstellar odyssey, combining science, humor and sidelong glances at Hollywood's portrayal of outer space. A great read for science junkies and fans of mysterious conundrums that astrophysicists ponder.

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

Museum Passes: Don't forget the Library has passes to several local museums!!ST



KOHLER ENGINES
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Transfer Station to Add Book Donation Bin

By Janey Snyder, Town Manager

The Town of Sandisfield will soon have a new option for residents looking to recycle unwanted books and media. Baystate Books recently contacted the Town about placing a donation bin at the Transfer Station, providing residents with a convenient way to donate unwanted books, DVDs, and CDs.

The Town hopes the new bin will provide a practical solution for residents and support continued efforts to reduce waste at the Transfer Station. The bin will be provided at no cost to the Town, and Baystate Books will empty it every two to three weeks, depending on demand. The bin is expected to arrive within the next two to three weeks.

Both DPW Superintendent Derek Boomsma and Transfer Station Attendant Tim Garcia support the addition. Several neighboring communities, including Otis, New Marlborough, Tolland, and Sheffield, already use Baystate Books for this service.

The new donation bin offers an alternative following the Town's decision to restrict books from being left in the Swap Shop. While the bin will not provide an opportunity for residents to take books home, it will give residents a designated place to donate unwanted books and media, helping keep those items out of the landfill while allowing the Town to maintain a clean and organized facility.



The Town also considered whether the Sandisfield Public Library could accept book donations. However, due to limited space and the need to periodically remove older books from its collection, the Library is unable to accommodate additional donations at this time. ST

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. 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.

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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. 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.

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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

Comings and Goings

Kimberly Ann Eisenlohr
1971–2026

Kimberly Ann Eisenlohr, 55, of Pittsfield, Massachusetts, passed away on October 4, 2026. Born on July 14, 1971, in Torrington, Connecticut, she lived in Sandisfield, Massachusetts, and moved to Pittsfield in 2023.

Kimberly was a force of nature. Wherever she went, she was always helping others. As a caregiver, she consistently put the needs of others before her own, both in her work and as a devoted mother. She raised two sons, Trae Christian Ezequelle and Donovan James Ezequelle with unwavering strength and love. She never faltered; her will was as strong as iron. Kimberly was able to overcome her addictions and lived a clean life right up until the end. Her tenacity and fierce love of life were an inspiration to all who knew her.

A devout Christian and a Reiki master, Kimberly found deep meaning in her faith and in the healing energy she shared with others. She enjoyed the outdoors and the simple joy of being around people.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Beatrice L. Johnson, and her father, Ernest R. Eisenlohr. Kimberly is survived by her sons, Trae and Donovan; her sisters, Robbin and Cynthia; and her brothers, Eric, Michael, and Chris. As a mother, sister, and friend, her presence will be sorely missed by all who loved her.

Many thanks to 01255 Our Town for lending their space for her celebration of life on October 24. Her family greatly appreciates it.

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Now Hear This! November Events

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

Veterans' Benefits information Session on Thursday, November 5 at noon at the COA Room in Town Hall. Veteran Director Tom Beasley will discuss benefits for veterans and veterans' widows. Pizza available. Sponsored by COA. Free.

Family Fotos opening, Saturday, November 7 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Garfield Gallery, Sandisfield Art Center at 5 Hammertown Road. Photos curated by Josie Miner exploring the idea of family in all its forms. Exhibit closes after "A Christmas Carol" on December 5.

Worship Service on Sunday, November 8 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church located on Route 57. Stay for fellowship after the service. All are welcome. For more information and to view the calendar, visit newbostoncongregational-church.org.

An Evening of New England Contra Dance on Saturday, November 14 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammertown Road. The inaugural contra dance event. Jon Greene will call, with fiddle music by Eric Martin. The great contra pianist Susan Creighton from Greenfield will be joining. In addition to contras, the program may include other fold dance formations, such as scatter mixers, circle dances, square dances, and Virginia reels. No experience needed. For tickets, visit sandis-fieldartscenter.org. $15-$25.

Open Space & Recreation Plan Committee on Thursday, November 18 at 6:00 p.m. at Old Town Hall at 3 Silverbrook Road. Public discussion of Sandisfield's recreation and open spaces. Want more hiking trails, a pavilion, new playground, a tennis court? Speak your mind. (See ad on page XX.)

Special Concert: Josh Luxon-Robinson Returns on Friday, November 27 from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammertown Road. This special performance by the brilliant, young pianist provides a great and uplifting alternative to couch-sitting on the day after Thanksgiving. For tickets, visit sandisfieldartscenter.org. $10-$30. Online sales close at 2:00 p.m. on November 27.

Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, November 28 from 11;00 a.m.-3:00 at 79 South Main Street in Historic New Boston. Hot chocolate and holiday treats will be available. Sponsored by the Sandisfield Historical

Society. (sandisfieldhistoricalsociety@gmail.com).

Christmas Worship Service on Sunday, November 29 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the New Boston Congregational Church located on Route 57. Stay for fellowship after the service. All are welcome. There will be a Church Council meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information and to view the calendar, visit newbostoncongregationalchurch.org.

SAVE THE DATE

Holiday Fair on Saturday, December 5 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Firehouse at 207 Sandsfield Road, Rt. 57. Specialty vendors, food for purchase, holiday crafting, penny auction to benefit the Sandisfield Scholarship Fund. Santa arrives at 12:00 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Sandisfield Council on Aging and the Recreation Committee.

"A Christmas Carol" on Saturday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Art Center at 5 Hammertown Road. Dickens as you've never seen it before, a radio performance by the Sandisfield Players. Supported by the Sandisfield and Otis Cultural Councils.

RECURRING EVENTS

A Farm and Garden Show with Sandisfield residents Bill Taylor and Jaye Alison Moscariello alternating with Growing Greener Show hosted by Sandisfield resident Tom Christoper every Monday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at berkshireradio.org. The past two weeks of the shows are also available on the website.

Sandisfield Select Board Meetings are currently through Zoom and in-person at 6:00 p.m. on Mondays unless otherwise posted. Please visit sandisfieldma.gov or call 258-4711 for information.

Playgroup on Tuesdays from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Otis Town Hall. Sponsored by South Berkshire Kids. No pre-registration is necessary. Led by Nina Carr. This fun program includes free play, crafts, stories, and songs! A great time to meet up with friends and meet new friends! For confirmation of dates, please call Nina Carr (258-3314). Free!

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

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

Zumba Gold for Seniors on Thursdays from 10:00 to 10:45 at the old Town Hall. Sponsored by the Sandisfield Council on Aging. Wear comfortable clothing. For more information, call 516-660-0036. Free.

MahJong on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Public Library on 23 Sandisfield Road (Route 57). For more information, call 413-258-4966 or 917-686-1985. Free.

Food Pantry during open hours at the Sandisfield Library, lower level. Donations of non-perishable food items are gratefully accepted.

EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

Holiday Marketplace on Saturday, November 14 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Becket Arts Center.

An American Original: The Wild Turkey on Sunday, November 15 at 1:30 p.m. at Squires Tavern in Peoples State Forest on 100 East River Road in Barkhamsted, Connecticut. Master Wildlife Conservationist Ginny Apple will discuss wild turkeys, their role in early America, diet, habitat, mating rituals, and offspring. Free.

AMVETS Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, November 15 from 8:00-11:00 a.m. at the Otis/Sandisfield School, Rt. 8 in Otis. Veterans eat free, all else $5.00. Hosted by AMVETS Post 77.





The Sandisfield Times

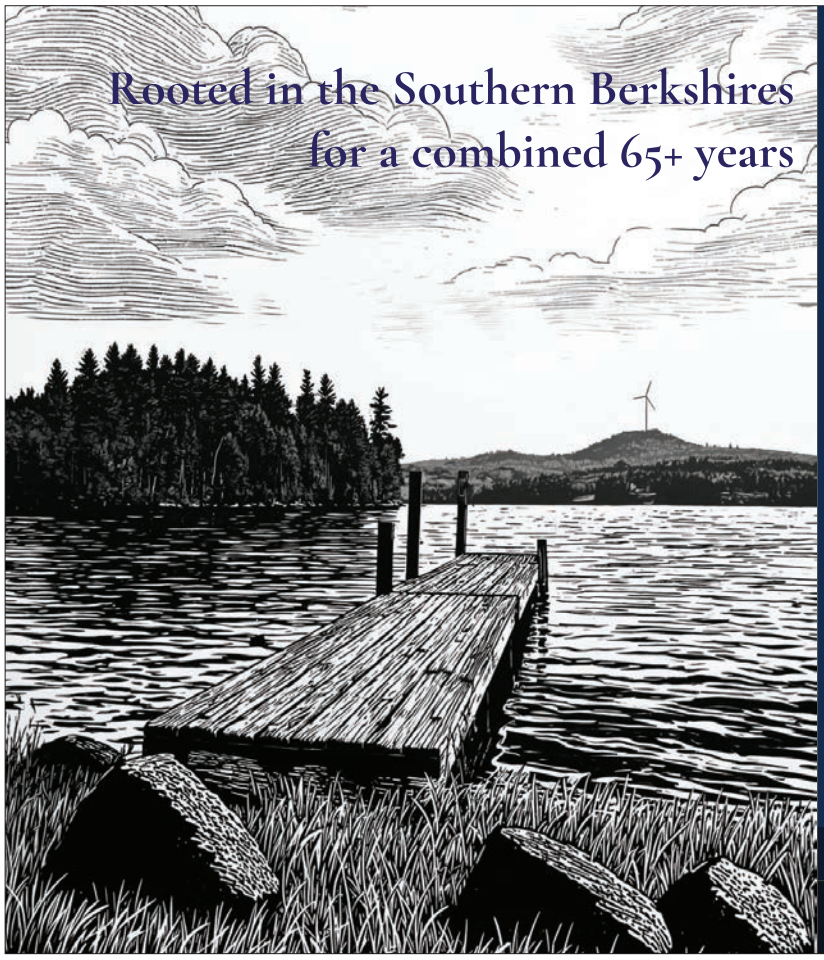
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