

# THE SANDISFIELD TIMES



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Volume XVI, Number 5

August 2025

## THE SHADOW KNOWS

By Wayne Keller

The whole thing unfolded while I was watching a movie late that night at my place on Roberts Road. As the movie began, a large black bear lumbered up the driveway toward the house, triggering the driveway motion sensor light. I was seated beside the bow window in the living room, so when the light snapped on, it pulled me straight out of the film.

A bear is not a rare sight, but one that resets the mind to the reality of where we live.

Later, as the movie wrapped up, the barn light flared on.

I looked over to see what had set it off, and that's when the moose's shadow crept eerily into view from right to left, hauntingly ghost-like. I leaned toward the corner of the window for a better look, and all I saw were tall, backlit legs, statuesque and unmistakable.

The camera video shows motion, but the freeze-frames distill the drama.

And after a long pause, the moose stepped forward into view, unhurried, deliberate. Then it turned its gaze back toward the house. Not startled. Just curious. Like it was taking in the strange geometry of the artificially lit-up night, and the quiet figure watching from behind the glass.

Reset complete. 🐾



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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

*Will It Never End?**YES, BUT NOT YET*

*Beginning on this page is an editorial from The Berkshire Eagle's July 26-27 issue that speaks directly to the ongoing controversy between the Town of Sandisfield and the Sandisfield Fire Department, Inc. Beginning on the facing page is a report by Jane Kaufman from the July 24 Eagle about the rebuilding being conducted by Sandisfield's new fire chief. The Times appreciates The Eagle's generosity in allowing us to reprint both reports.*

*A thoughtful summary of the issues between the Town and SFDI, published July 14 and also written by The Eagle's Jane Kaufman, can be read online at [www.berkshireeagle.com/michaelmorrison](http://www.berkshireeagle.com/michaelmorrison).*

*At this time, the Select Board has agreed in spirit with Fire Chief Grillo's draft resolution to disassociate from the SFDI and will communicate soon with SFDI. A Working Session between the Select Board and SFDI, open to the public and without legal representation, has been tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 27 at Fire House #2.*

*One former Select Board chairman said at the Annual Town Meeting that the firehouses morally, if not legally, belong to the Town because Fire House #2 was funded by Town donations and built at least in part by local volunteers under the impression the building would revert to the Town. Firehouse #1 was bought from the American Legion in 2015, the post commander of which has said she was under the impression she was selling the building to the Town. This building also was rehabilitated by local donations and volunteers who contributed skills and labor.*

*In the meantime, the Fire Department is accepting new volunteers and seeking additional paid firefighters/EMTs to replace those who have resigned.*

– Bill Price

## OUR OPINION: SANDISFIELD'S FIRE DEPARTMENT DRAMA RAISES ALARMS

*The Berkshire Eagle, July 26-27, 2025*

If a local fire department's ability to respond to calls is compromised by office politics, then the alarm is coming from inside the firehouse. Sandisfield's leaders need to straighten out the problems undermining a critical municipal service before this controversy turns from embarrassing to life-threatening.

At a July 14 Select Board meeting, the town's new Fire Chief Michael Grillo claimed that former chief Ralph Morrison is hamstringing his efforts to lead the department. According to Chief Grillo, his predecessor has sought to smear him on social media as well as maintain influence over the department. Chief Grillo claims that Ralph Morrison's brother Michael Morrison, the town's police chief, is also participating in this effort against him.

This is not the first time in recent memory that controversy has surrounded the Morrison brothers' prominent roles in the town's public safety system. Ralph Morrison resigned as fire chief in 2023 after a serious accident involving a tanker truck with faulty brakes that had failed inspection. Michael Morrison,

who was serving as deputy fire chief under his brother at the time, was driving the truck when it crashed.

This isn't the only small town where whisper campaigns and personal disputes prove disruptive to public business. But in Sandisfield, the picture is further complicated by the unique arrangement under which the fire department operates. The town has a public, volunteer fire department run by a chief who is a municipal employee hired by the Select Board. However, a private nonprofit — Sandisfield Fire Department Inc. — acts as the fundraising arm of the fire department and owns the town's two firehouses. The nonprofit's president and director are, respectively, Ralph and Michael Morrison.

This arrangement obviously grants outside influence to the former fire chief, who resigned from the fire department under scrutiny, and his brother, who is currently on paid administrative leave from his police chief role while an independent investigation reviews a whistleblower complaint. According to Chief Grillo,

*Cont'd on p.5*

# Sandisfield Fire Chief Tries to Rebuild Department

By Jane Kaufman, Community Voices Editor,  
The Berkshire Eagle

Article and photos reprinted with permission from  
The Berkshire Eagle.

SANDISFIELD — Two per diem firefighters worked their first shifts on Monday, a week after Chief Michael Grillo won permission from the Select Board to use his budget to begin hiring.

Grillo said volunteers stopped showing up for shifts shortly after Police Chief Michael Morrison was placed on paid administrative leave pending a formal investigation.

Grillo has accused Michael Morrison and his brother, Ralph Morrison, Sandisfield's former fire chief, of attempting to sabotage the department through the nonprofit Sandisfield Fire Department Inc. Ralph Morrison is president and Michael Morrison is a director.

Now, Grillo hopes to have 25 per diem firefighter/emergency medical technicians to staff Station 2 on Route 57 within two weeks.

In addition to nine Sandisfield volunteers who've come forward since last week, Grillo said 10 people are interested in taking paid shifts at a rate of \$30 an hour.

## NEW FIREFIGHTERS

"It's all genuinely new people," Grillo said. The volunteers should be ready for service in three to six months and three of them are planning to begin emergency medical technician training in September, according to Grillo.

Meanwhile, two volunteer firefighters — Alec Morrison and Shamus Geherty — and one EMT, Cayenne Riiska, have resigned, Grillo told the Select Board on Monday.

One of the two new firefighters, Brian Reynolds, worked a 16-hour shift on Monday, from 8 a.m. to midnight. He's commuting from Norwich, Conn., but said he's happy to help out Sandisfield. He plans to return on Wednesday for a second shift.

Joe Lester worked an eight-hour shift on Monday, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. He's a firefighter and paramedic in Connecticut, Grillo said.

Both Reynolds and Lester trained on Sandisfield's trucks, fired up chainsaws and tried out the Hurst tool, also known as the Jaws of Life. Reynolds also went through the air packs and found one in need of filling.



Fire Chief Mike Grillo has been battling uphill since he was hired in July.

Photos: Jane Kaufman, The Berkshire Eagle. Used with permission.

Grillo said he's been in contact with the Massachusetts Office of Emergency Services regarding credentials for EMTs he's hiring from Connecticut, including his own credentials.

## LOCKED OUT

Of Sandisfield's two fire stations, Station 2 is larger and newer. It has an office and large room on the second floor that could house bunks, as well as a kitchen and day room.

Grillo said the owner of the station, Sandisfield Fire Department Inc., has locked the two rooms on the upper floor and dumped the duty gear that had been stored in them onto the floor of the garage. Grillo left the duty gear there for now, he said, because he has no other place to put it.

In addition, some important documents, such as emergency preparedness plans, were stacked on top of a filing cabinet, he said. Other documents, though, Grillo has no access to, including patient information. They remain in a locked office.

"Who does this?" Grillo said. "This is what really stepped up everything."

When asked on Wednesday about the equipment, Ralph Morrison, told The Eagle "that's what [Grillo] requested so that's what we did.

"The SFDI has nothing to do with this baloney," Ralph Morrison added. "I'm sick of hearing it."

Michael Morrison could not be reached for comment.

Since he can't work in the office in Station 2, ostensibly because the lease doesn't extend to that part of the building, Grillo has been working out of the chief's car and sharing a desk with the town accountant.

## SUPPORT FROM THE SELECT BOARD

At Monday's Select Board meeting, the Select Board approved in spirit a strongly worded letter Grillo drafted severing ties with the Sandisfield Fire Department Inc.

### Sandisfield Fire Chief Tries to Rebuild Department

Cont'd from p.3

“We’re just butting heads with an association that’s not working together with us,” Select Board member Robert Fedell said at the meeting. He’s a firefighter and EMT in New Marlborough and is now volunteering for Sandisfield calls, as well.



Two Sandisfield Selectmen, Bob Fedell (left) and Steve Seddon support their choice for the Town’s new fire chief.

Photos: Jane Kaufman, The Berkshire Eagle. Used with permission.

The Select Board will draft its own letter based on the advice of town counsel and approve the final version before forwarding it to the nonprofit.

Among the deficiencies Grillo has identified are ambulance calls that went unbilled since 2021. Altogether, he said, that adds up to \$341,000 in lost revenue. Grillo said \$156,000 of that total is “still collectible.”

Grillo told the Select Board that if Sandisfield Fire Department Inc. won’t approve a lease renewal next summer, he has a plan to house firefighters, trucks and equipment in a town-owned building.

I have full faith in Chief Grillo,” Fedell said after the meeting. “What he’s presented and what he’s been able to accomplish in three or four short weeks has been amazing. The amount of deficiencies he’s uncovered and revealed is what we were basically begging to be told. We can’t fix something that we’re not told about.”

Fedell said he hopes that current members of the Sandisfield Fire Department will take care of the community, “go on calls and do their duty.”

“The townspeople that are pushing back realize that this newcomer’s going to expose all their dirty secrets,” Fedell said. “The problem is that the door’s open. It’s Pandora’s box right now. If you close it, it’s not stopping anything. The issues have been revealed. We have to deal with them now.”



## Town-Wide Tag Sale

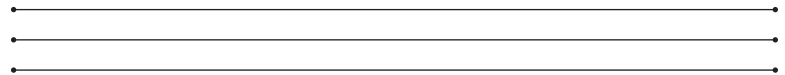
### TENTATIVE DATE, OCTOBER 11

By Anna Wald, President

The Historical Society has scheduled the town-wide tag sale with a tentative date of Saturday, Oct. 11. We need time to gather and organize the households and to draw a good map that includes everyone.

If you’re interested in taking part, and having your address listed, call me at 258-4415. We’re using this as a fundraiser for the Society, and the cost will be \$20 per household.

Rain date will be Sunday, October 12.




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**Our Opinion: Sandisfield's Fire Department Drama Raises Alarms**

**The Berkshire Eagle, July 26-27, 2025**

*Cont'd from p.2*

that influence is being used in a malign manner against him, up to and including direct interference with department operations. The chief claims that the fire department could not respond to three emergency calls (all of which went to mutual aid) because the Morrison brothers convinced some volunteer firefighters not to respond. On top of those three missed calls, Chief Grillo also said he responded to seven additional calls alone because of rank-and-file resistance to his leadership that he believes was inflamed by the Morrises.

Additionally, Chief Grillo said he was restricted from acquiring office space at either of the town's firehouses. If true, this petty and nonsensical protocol exemplifies the pitfalls of Sandisfield's status quo. While SFDI owns the firehouses, presumably the town is leasing them with the understanding that their primary function is to serve public firefighting operations rather than the nonprofit leaders' personal whims. It therefore makes no sense, ethically or legally, for the SFDI to be able to restrict the town's fire chief from maintaining office space in the town's firehouses.

Yet Chief Grillo is not the first to encounter such a roadblock. Henry Fristik, who was hired as fire chief last year, said he too was told he could not use office space at the town's firehouses. He also echoed Chief Grillo's claims about interference from SFDI's leaders. Half a year after he was hired, Mr. Fristik wrote the following in his resignation letter: "Unfortunately, due to the ongoing issues between the town and SFDI, it has made the atmosphere toxic, hostile [and] unsafe

to work in. I firmly believe that the timing of hiring a chief was premature and these issues should have been resolved prior to the position being filled."

Of course there are two sides to every story, and Michael Morrison for his part has denied Mr. Fristik's allegations. At this point, however, Sandisfield has had two fire chiefs in a row profess not just frustration but alarm with how their public service is circumscribed by the nonprofit central to the Fire Department's operations and the influential community voices behind it. Indeed, it is alarming when a fire department's internal affairs disrupt its primary function of responding to calls for help from local residents who might be in deadly danger. If the Morrises want to convincingly rebut the concerning allegations that they're undermining or even sabotaging the fire chief's crucial role, they could start by living up to the responsibility of the influence they clearly wield over the department. A good start would be publicly stressing that ignoring emergency calls is not an acceptable way to resolve disputes.

Recently, Chief Grillo brought on some new firefighters. That's a good step to shore up the ranks and hopefully prevent any more no-shows when the Fire Department is called upon in emergencies. However, it seems that Mr. Fristik was right in his diagnosis of unresolved personnel and structural issues that threaten the Sandisfield Fire Department's ability to perform its critical duties. Those issues have to be addressed if the town is to give both the new chief and the new volunteer firefighters the best shot at success. ♡



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## *Newest Resident of Sandisfield*

*Stuart was born June 30 into the Guernsey family at Joshua's Farm on Dodd Road. He is pictured here at about two weeks, attended by his loving mother.*

*Photo: Brigitte Ruthman, owner, proprietor, and midwife.*

# Mega Yard Sale in September

## AT THE NEW BOSTON CHURCH

The New Boston Congregational Church has announced a multi-family yard sale to be held at the church September 19-21. Proceeds will go towards a new roof for the historic Gothic Revival-style building.

Dubbed "Not Your Ordinary Yard Sale," the organizers hope to attract buyers to a wide-ranging assortment of above-average, interesting, vintage or practical things, items more likely to be found in consignment shops than at garage sales.

Chris Park who heads up collecting said, "We are looking for a little higher-end and good value items, new or lightly used things or collectibles we can offer in a range of \$5 to \$50, about 25 percent of what they might cost when new."

Also, there is going to be a special collection – the entire contents of the former parish hall/Sandisfield Grange headquarters that stands behind the church. The 1920s era building, which is in poor condition, has been moth-balled since 2001. About a dozen sturdy wooden tables, numerous old chairs of many types, and other meeting hall furnishings, most of it probably dating from the 1930s and 1940s, will be displayed outside for sale.

Pastor Eric Kriebel said "The congregation is building on the community spirit and momentum generated from last years' 150th anniversary celebration. We hope for a good turnout to support a good cause."

The 1879 all-chestnut building is in virtually original condition and will be open for tours.

For more information including how to donate items and/or to assist, contact any of the following:

- Chris Park, Tel 646 491-2680/  
Phryk@mac.com;
- Steve Hoekstra, 413 335-4656/  
sdhoekst58192@gmail.com; or
- Ron Bernard, 413 269-0012/  
Ronbernard@aol.com. 

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# “THANK YOU, SANDISFIELD!”

## Students Visit Baby Animals with Cultural Council Grant

By Jennifer Hibbins

Thirty students in the first and second grades of Farmington River Elementary School traveled to Hancock Shaker Village on a sunny day last April to tour and learn about baby animals, as well as experience the Shaker way of life.

Experts at Hancock Shaker Village provided students with knowledge about the baby animals, including when they were born, how they are taken care of, and where they go once they mature. Staff also demonstrated how to shear a sheep.

“The best part of our field trip was seeing goats!” exclaimed one first grader from Sandisfield. “I also liked seeing the pigs that are babies! I liked the donkeys, too!”


Another student from town remarked, “The best part of our field trip was looking at the pigs. They were my favorite.”



*A thank-you card from one of the pupils.*

A young participant declared, “The part that was my favorite was when we could go in the pen and pet the animals. Also where you could milk a fake cow.”

Funded by the Sandisfield Cultural Council, the trip complemented the state educational standards for life science. The council covered the cost of admission, bus transportation, and a new brooder for baby chicks back in the classroom, so that learning about the life cycle of a chicken could continue even after the trip.

The Council’s mission is to broaden and enhance the cultural life available to the town of Sandisfield and its residents, with high priority given to our school children and activities related to learning. Supported financially with an annual grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and with volunteer efforts of local residents, the Council always welcomes new members who want to help with projects like this and can be contacted at [culturalcouncil@sandisfieldma.gov](mailto:culturalcouncil@sandisfieldma.gov). 



*First and second graders visit Shaker Village.*

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## Sandisfield Ladies Book Club

Thursday, August 28th at 6:00pm,  
 the Sandisfield Women's Book Group  
 will meet to discuss *Calamity of Souls*  
 by David Baldacci. A prolific writer,  
 noted for his many best-sellers, this  
 is set in the south in 1968.

A racially charged murder case sets a  
 duo of white and Black lawyers against  
 a deeply unfair system as they work  
 to defend their wrongfully accused  
 Black defendants in this drama. Stacy  
 Abrams says "A tale of high tension,  
 false assumptions, and stubborn  
 humanity, where the law is a crucible  
 for who we imagine ourselves to be  
 and how much effort still lies ahead."



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# Two Pigeon Stories

## A SECOND CHANCE FOR A HAPPY ENDING

Story and photo by Ron Bernard

About ten years ago Jean and I were enjoying an early evening dinner on our deck when an uninvited feathered guest arrived in the yard. It fluttered up to our table and began to drink from Jean's glass of water. How cheeky!

But he was beautiful and tame. And, banded. A homing pigeon. We assumed it was a "he" and for sure he was exhausted and thirsty. He pecked at some of the food too. And then just parked himself with us. We finished our meal with him sitting on the table as if we'd invited him for dinner.

Free to leave, he chose to hang around. For days. Now part of the family, we named him "Walter."

What to do? Walter's leg band included a complicated, almost hieroglyphic-type code. An online search led one clue to another until we eventually reached someone at a Rhode Island pigeon racing club. "Yes, that's our bird," the man said. "He's coming from Ohio. He is resting and will leave on his own."

The next morning, we found him on the edge of the road. He'd been run over while pecking the ground, as pigeons do. We informed the man at the club who said, ungratefully, "Why didn't you keep him safe?"

We buried Walter respectfully beside a nice boulder under a tree in the yard. Although abating, our feeling of guilt remains.

\*\*\*\*\*

Fast forward to July 12, 2025. Jean said, "Returning from the grocery store that afternoon, I saw something lying in the road near our house." It wasn't the usual casualty on Sandisfield's roads, namely, squirrel, chipmunk, or small

turtle. "Flashers on, I got out to investigate. It was a pigeon, exhausted, exposed to traffic and lucky to be alive. It was banded."

"Here we go again," she thought.

Having the benefit of our previous experience, we put the bird in a dog cage with water and chicken food to let him recuperate while figuring out what do so as not to repeat our experience with Walter.

Jean went on a tear, a mission, both hands working the phone and the computer. The search for advice and his owners was much better this time. Jean found an umbrella organization for pigeon racing clubs called, The International Federation of American Homing Pigeon Fanciers, based in nearby North Brookfield. Lost Bird Coordinator, Alex Cruz was very helpful. He determined that our bird's home base is in New Jersey.

The standard advice about dealing with a banded pigeon is to keep it safe from predators and provide food (grains and seeds) and water and rest for 24 to 48 hours before release. They should go on their way.

But after 36 hours our little visitor was still hanging around, less stressed but showing no signs of being ready to fly. We were concerned about his condition and wanted to avoid Walter's fate. Birdie wasn't keen to go back into the cage which led to a lot of sweet talk and a comical chase-and-capture by Jean.

Several attempts to reach the New Jersey club were unsuccessful. Alex referred Jean to a local group for more advice, the Torrington (Conn.) Racing Pigeon Club, and "pigeon fancier" Andy Burdyl.

They decided that our pigeon should be examined. Jean drove that day to Connecticut for a hand-over to Andy who said, "Look how thin he is. He never would have made it to New Jersey."

Andy also said that this was probably a young male, only four or five months old, which may have been released as part of a training exercise and simply got lost. He needed at least a week of food and rest before he could go anywhere.



Jean with her latest visiting homing pigeon. We should have named him "Lucky."

Jean said, "Andy took the bird home to his pigeon loft where he promised to care for him and try to connect with its owners. I returned knowing I had done the right thing which likely saved the bird's life."

So, our batting average with homing pigeons in Sandisfield is .500. 🍀

### If a Homing Pigeon Drops In . . .

The legband will contain codes and identifiers that pinpoint the bird's owners. The letters "IF" may be there which stands for The International Federation of American Homing Pigeon Fanciers at [www.IFPigeon.com](http://www.IFPigeon.com). The initials of the home club should be prominent. For example, "SRPC" might stand for "Sandisfield Racing Pigeons Club." Other identifying numbers might be useful to the organizations.

In our two experiences, the standard advice was to let an uninjured bird recuperate for up to 48 hours and release it. That didn't work either time. We've found the best thing to do is to place the bird in a secure, comfortable cage and contact the IFAHPF or a local club if there is one. Be prepared to travel.

# Our Introduction to Sandisfield

## A SPECIAL ENDORSEMENT BY ED RIISKA

By Tom Christopher

When my wife and I first visited Sandisfield almost 25 years ago, one of the very first people we got to know was the late Ed Riiska. This was by necessity.

Suzanne and I had just spent all our savings on a remote tract of woodland at the far end of Sears Road. This move had been a dream of ours for several years. Suzanne had grown up in Monterey, and she had wanted a retreat here to enjoy not only the natural beauty but also the distinctive pleasures of a rural Berkshire community.

I'd come from a proudly Yankee family on my father's side and western pioneers on my mother's side – she'd grown up in a tent on the Oregon prairie and a mining camp in the Rocky Mountains of Utah. When Suzanne and I were shown a little valley centering on a big beaver pond by local landowner Robert Liberman, we immediately fell in love.

There was just one problem, and that is how we came to know Ed Riiska.

The last mile of Sears Road to the entrance of where we hoped to make our home had not been maintained in many years. You could navigate it in a Jeep or ATV, but not in our family car or a contractor's pickup. My mother-in-law and head of the Monterey Select Board advised us that we needed to consult the local road superintendent. That's how I met Ed.

As Sandisfield's old timers will recall, Ed was a taciturn but fair individual, one of those people who got things done. He reluctantly admitted that our stretch of Sears Road had never been de-listed from Town maps, which meant that it was still a public thoroughfare and as such was the Town's responsibility.



He asked me sternly if we really intended to build a home there; he'd had experience in the past with new arrivals who demanded upgrades to a road only to sell their enhanced property as soon as the work was done. I assured him that we were committed, and Ed decided we were in earnest.

Over time, as his budget permitted, Ed and his

crew bulldozed boulders off the road and regraded it. The results were fairly primitive but passable, and Suzanne and I got a building permit.



Ed Riiska. Courtesy of the Riiska family.

My mother, bless her, offered to pay for the installation of a powerline, but when I went to Ed for his official approval to install the necessary poles, he initially refused. He was in a battle with Verizon, which had refused to move its poles when Ed had widened Town Hill Road.

The result of this impasse was that a quarter mile or more of the newly widened road had utility poles running down the middle of the southbound lane, and Ed told me I had to get those moved before he'd approve the installation of any more. When I pointed out to Ed that it was Eversource that was responsible for the poles on Sears Road, not Verizon, he grumbled but signed the necessary permit.

Home building is rarely simple, and Suzanne and I had to fire the first general contractor, a man from Dalton recommended by our architect. At the time, southern Berkshire County was in the midst of a building boom, and everyone local we contacted was busy working at huge mark-ups for plutocrats from New York City. Eventually we ended up hiring two friends of friends in Nebraska. Lee loved to travel and Troy wanted to experience the construction of a timber-framed house, and so they came to spend several months of camping out and building our home.

*Cont'd next page*

Lee and Troy weren't licensed in Massachusetts, so I had to assume the role of general contractor, even though I functioned mostly as a go-fer.

One day they had sent me into Great Barrington to get some supplies. When I returned, they were both laughing. I asked what the joke was, and Lee told me that "Your friend Ed Riiska stopped by."

I asked what he had wanted and Lee and Troy, both natives of small towns in Nebraska, laughed even harder.

"Ed said he'd gotten a small grant from the state of Massachusetts," Lee told me. "And he said, 'Tom's not too much of an \*sshole, so I thought I might spend it on his road.'"

That, Lee and Troy assured me, was the best endorsement that an outsider like me would ever get in a small town.

"You can put that on your gravestone," Lee told me.

The next week, a teenaged boy from an excavation company in Monterey run by a childhood friend of Suzanne was busy pulling stumps, reaming out the roadside ditches, and spreading bank-run gravel in the low spots. Within weeks, Ed gave us a very functional road.

Then he went back to taking care of the rest of the community. And whenever I catch myself on the brink of doing something truly stupid, I think about Ed's judgment and try not to be too much of a you know what. 🇺🇸

## Invitation:

With Tom's and Suzanne's story of coming to Sandisfield, The Times begins an occasional series of how people discovered this hidden corner of the Berkshires, whether they arrived last year or are the third or fourth generation to make a home here. Write us a story about why you're out here in the woods with us, 400-700 words or so, and send it to [editor@sandisfieldtimes.org](mailto:editor@sandisfieldtimes.org) or in the mail at PO Box 584, Sandisfield 01255.



## Letters to the Editor

When I was 18, just out of high school and itching to be on my own, I left Sandisfield. After a brief stay in Lake George, I settled in Springfield, Illinois, where I still reside.

Your story about the Sandisfield Grange in last month's issue brought up special memories – recollections about how my Grange experience has affected my life (and probably the lives of many others) which I hope to share with your readers.

Betty Wilber started all of this for me. She knew that the Grange needed younger people for it to survive. It took a bit of convincing from her, but I joined. To my surprise the experience was fulfilling, and I recruited many other kids from town.

Every summer there was a Grange Youth Leadership school conducted at Nichols College in Dudley. Money to cover participation by one of us for a week was raised by Betty's legendary potluck dinners and tag sales. I was chosen to go three times. We were required to report on what we had done and learned for that week.

That experience has shaped my development and character, and I am proud to say that it made me a better and a successful person.

I arrived in Springfield with little money. I got a job right away with McDonald's. I was just 20 when I was selected for McDonald's management program. That laid the foundation for a 30-year career with the company, something I could never have imagined.

After my time at McDonald's, looking for a change, I embarked on a second career with the Best Buy company in Springfield, where I have been for almost 18 years, recently as semi-retired.

All my life I have been in leadership positions and facing the public which is not always easy. I believe that those inspiring weeks in the Grange leadership school and the opportunity to grow and mature in the Sandisfield Grange prepared me. There I got self-awareness and the confidence to lead by example and to succeed.

It's been a good life. One marriage with three beautiful daughters and a career in one town. No one is surprised that all our girls worked at McDonald's with their father. And now four of my nine grandchildren have working experience at Best Buy. I am ever grateful for what the Grange did for a kid from Sandisfield and everything that has followed.

Thank you for the story.

Dan Platt  
Springfield, Illinois



## We Can Help: Town Offices

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

### Administrative Assistant

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

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

### Town Clerk's Office:

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

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

### Assessor's Office:

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

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

### Tax Collector:

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

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

## FARMER'S MARKETS

### Open Through August

Compiled by Laura Rogers-Castro

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

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

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

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

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



## NEW MARLBOROUGH MEETING HOUSE August/September EVENTS

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



**Terra String Quartet**  
August 2, 4:30 pm Saturday  
A thrilling afternoon of great chamber music from this dynamic young quartet.



**Heard World Jazz**  
September 6, 4:30 pm Saturday  
A family friendly performance by the seven member Afro-Caribbean jazz band. Back by popular demand!



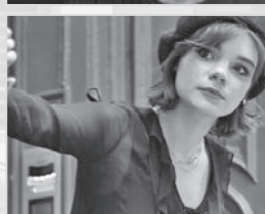
**Ruth Reichl and Kevin West**  
August 23, 4:30 pm Saturday  
Two food superstars lead a lively discussion of their new books and answer our questions about the culinary arts!



**Bill McKibben**  
September 13, 4:30 pm Saturday  
This acclaimed author, educator and environmentalist will discuss the climate crisis and his new book, *Here Comes the Sun*, a call to harness solar power.



**Simone Dinnerstein**  
August 24, 4:30 pm SUNDAY  
An audience favorite, this internationally renowned pianist will present an exciting afternoon of great music. Note the Saturday date. Harold Lewin Memorial Concert.



**The Laura Anglade Quartet**  
September 20, 4:30 pm Saturday  
Drawing inspiration from Sarah Vaughan, Dinah Washington, Shirley Horn, and Barbra Streisand among others, this wonderful singer who has appeared internationally will deliver an afternoon of the Great American Songbook.



**Paul Krugman and Ellen Pollock**  
August 30, 4:30 pm Saturday  
The former *New York Times* columnist and Nobel Prize-winning economist will discuss current affairs with *New York Times* business editor Ellen Pollock.



**at the Meeting House Gallery!**  
**BLACK AND WHITE** and what lies between  
August 29 - October 5  
Reception August 29, 5-7 pm

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

# recreation COMMITTEE



## THE PIG ROAST IS BACK

WE NEED YOU TO RSVP AND ASK YOU TO VOLUNTEER

By Laurie Seddon

The Sandisfield Recreation Committee formally invites you to its Annual Pig Roast.

This year the roast will be on Saturday, September 13, at the Pavilion at American Legion Post 456, starting at 5:00 p.m. It's free of charge. Bring your appetite.

We are excited to have booked the popular band, Full Burn.

We will again feature delicious side dishes from McGrane's on the Green in Winsted, CT, locally sourced corn, and of course the headliner, THE PIG, which will be professionally roasted and prepared by John Ormsbee Sr. and his team.

If you'd like to join us please RSVP by September 5 to help us order enough food and supplies.

We kindly ask you to leave your pets at home. Thank you.

A call for volunteers! This is our largest event, and we cannot do it without help.

We need people with trucks to gather and transport tables and chairs from Old Town Hall to the American Legion and back. We will need trucks for cleanup.

We need help with set up, organizing, decorating, monitoring the bounce house for safety, serving and refilling supplies, and clean-up the following day.

Join the Sandisfield Recreation Committee



LIVE MUSIC • FOOD • BOUNCY HOUSE

**Saturday, September 13th, 5pm**

Free Event • All Ages Welcome

**RSVP by 9.5.25**

sandisfieldevents@recreationcommittee.info

The Council on Aging has loaned us their large tent this year and we will need help transporting it to the American Legion and with set up, the same to break down the tent afterwards and return it to COA.

To RSVP and/or to volunteer to help please contact us at sandisfieldevents@recreationcommitte.info.

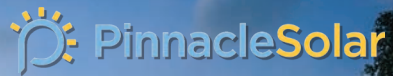
See you September 13 at the Pig Roast!!

### WHAT WE OFFER


- Residential and commercial solar
- Ground Mounts
- Customized solar design and installation
- Whole home battery backup
- Roofing available for our homeowners going solar
- Ownership cash purchase (Fastest ROI)
- Low interest loans and PPAs with \$0 down
- 25-year warranties on equipment & labor

### SOLAR BENEFITS

- Gain energy independence
- Escape rising energy costs
- Tax credits and incentives still available
- Tax credits on your roofing when combined with solar project
- Class 1 REC available: Get paid for the next 10 years for your solar electricity production
- Now is the time to go solar before net metering 1/1 changes!



## Berkshire Solar Consulting





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Tony.scapin@pinnacle-solar.com  
www.pinnaclesolarenergy.com

Free quotes!

MENTION AD FOR SUMMER SPECIALS!

FINAL MONTH TO SIGN UP & CLAIM 30% TAX CREDIT!!! MUST BE INSTALLED BEFORE DEC 31<sup>ST</sup>



# Employment Opportunities: Sandisfield Fire Department

## Title: Per Diem Firefighter/EMT

Position Type: Per Diem/Non-Benefited Hourly Rate: \$30.00/hour

Minimum Qualifications : Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Minimum age of 18
- Valid Massachusetts driver's license
- National Registry EMT-B certification
- Massachusetts EMT license, or obtain within 90 days of hire
- CPR for Healthcare Providers (AHA or equivalent)
- CORI/SORI background check clearance
- Department orientation and skills evaluation
- Firefighter I required Firefighter II preferred

See [www.sandisfieldma.gov](http://www.sandisfieldma.gov) for complete job description and requirements.

## Title: Full-time Firefighter/EMT/Admin.


Position is 40 hrs/week, M-F, 8AM-4PM, \$52,000 salary, plus benefits.

Position includes providing emergency response as an EMT and firefighter, as well as performing administrative duties in support of the department.

- Valid MA EMT certification
- CPR card
- BLS/EMT certification,
- Nero's Law certification
- Fire Fighter 1 license
- Driver's license

See [www.sandisfieldma.gov](http://www.sandisfieldma.gov) for complete job description and application.

Submit applications to [lmcarthur@sandisfieldma.gov](mailto:lmcarthur@sandisfieldma.gov).

Position open until filled. 



**Now accepting new students!**  
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# NOT your Ordinary Yard Sale!



Friday, Sept 19  
9 am - 5 pm &  
Saturday, Sept 20  
9 am - 4 pm

New Boston Congregational Church, 4 Sandisfield Road

*Proceeds will go towards a new roof for the church!*

Antiques & better quality household & garden items & equipment, rugs & furniture, artwork, crafts, jewelry & much more - bargains galore.

*PLUS - entire contents of old parish hall!*

Baked goods, hotdogs, popcorn and beverages will be available.  
Church tours on request!

To volunteer, donate, or for more info, call Ron at 413-269-0012



## NEW BOSTON CHURCH SERVICES

Sunday Worship Service  
Sunday, August 10  
10:00 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service  
Sunday, August 31  
10:00 a.m.

All welcome.

4 Sandisfield Road  
Sandisfield, MA 01255

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



## KNOX TRAIL INN

### New Menu Items!

- COCONUT SHRIMP
- KNOX STUFFIES
- HOT LOBSTER ROLL
- NY STRIP STEAK
- SHRIMP BOWL
- FISH & CHIPS

- LOTS OF SALADS
- GREAT BURGERS

- PIZZAS & CALZONES
- WINGS, WINGS, WINGS!

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

★  
*Weekly Specials*  
Many Gluten Free  
& Vegetarian  
choices



**SPINDLE!**  
MUSIC BINGO  
AUGUST 13TH & 27TH

**BTE TRIVIA**  
Every Thursday 7PM

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

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

★  
*Takeout or Dine In!*

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

### Live Music Every Weekend!

- AUG 1ST ADAMS BROTHERS 7PM
- AUG 2ND GENERATION X ROCK 8PM
- AUG 6TH KELLIOKE KARAOKE 7PM
- AUG 8TH PAPA & FRIENDS 7PM
- AUG 9TH SHYNE 8PM
- AUG 15TH SCOTT SILVIA 6:30
- AUG 16TH CHALK DUST 8PM
- AUG 17TH HILLTOWN BLUES JAM 2PM
- AUG 22ND ALEX ROHAN BAND 8PM
- AUG 23RD TOM BURGESS 7PM
- AUG 29TH BRETT POTTER 7PM
- AUG 30TH BRB B. REANEY BLUES 8PM



## The Librarian's SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE Corner

Monday, 9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.

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

Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

Closed Tuesday, Friday and Sunday

Phone: 258-4966

sandisfieldlibrary@gmail.com

www.sandisfieldlibrary.org

### EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY THIS MONTH

Thursday, August 28th at 6:00pm, the Sandisfield Women's Book Group will meet to discuss *Calamity of Souls* by David Baldacci. A prolific writer, noted for his many best-sellers, this is set in the south in 1968. A racially charged murder case sets a duo of white and Black lawyers against a deeply unfair system as they work to defend their wrongfully accused Black defendants in this drama. Stacy Abrams says "A tale of high tension, false assumptions, and stubborn humanity, where the law is a crucible for who we imagine ourselves to be and how much effort still lies ahead."

All month long - It is never too late to participate in the Massachusetts Center for the Book 2025 Reading Challenge. August's book is one where the protagonist is a teenager or senior citizen. Stop by

the Library for a postcard of each month's reading challenge and, of course, to search for the right book.



The Sandisfield Library is proud to announce it will be working in conjunction with the Otis Police Department's **School Supplies Drive**. A program to assist local Students. The Sandisfield Free Public Library will be one of the DROP-OFF locations for the supplies. Please drop off during library hours or you may utilize the black book drop. **The Collection is from July 20 - August 11, 2025.**

#### Supplies needed are as follows:

Backpacks, lunch/snack bags, reusable water bottles, boxes of tissues, Ticonderoga pencils, mechanical pencils, crayons (24 count boxes), colored marker (12 count), colored pens, highlighters (non-yellow) Pencil boxes/pouches, glue sticks, index cards, sticky notes, black dry erase markers (Thin and Thick size), hand-held pencil sharpeners, 1" and 3" hard cover binders, 3 ring binder pencil pouch, 3 ring binder dividers with tabs and loose leaf 3 ring binder paper.

**Other Drop off locations:** Otis Town Hall & Papa's Food and Fuel

**Distribution will be August 14th from 4:00 – 7:00 pm and August 23rd from 10:00am -1:00pm at the Otis Town Hall.** The above supplies, snacks and more will be available to pick-up.

All Families are Welcome. Please give the gift of learning.

#### FOOD PANTRY

The Sandisfield Public Library will be hosting the **Sandisfield Food Pantry**. We will be accepting non-perishable foods. Donations will be accepted during library hours or may be dropped into the black box (not recommended if the item would break open such as rice in a bag). The food pantry will be open to all during regular library hours. Together, we can provide a helping for those in need.

#### LATEST ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY SHELVES

- *The Sinners All Bow* (Nonfiction) by Kate Winkler Dawson.
- *The Dark Hours* by Amy Jordan (Fiction)
- *Wayward Girls* by Susan Wiggs (Fiction)
- *Don't Forget Me, Little Bessie* by James Lee Burke (Fiction)
- *The White Crow* by Michael Robatham (Fiction)
- *Democracy Awakening Notes On The State Of America* by Heather Cox Richardson (Nonfiction).

**NEED A NOTARY?** The Library can do that too! Give us a call for an appointment.

#### MUSEUM PASSES

Don't forget the Library has passes to the following:

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

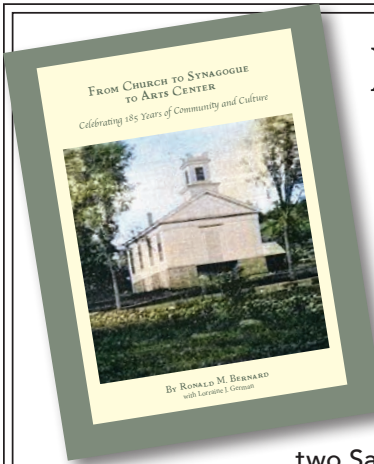
### AMERICAN LEGION PAVILION AVAILABLE FOR GROUPS

Contact: Post 456 Commander Maria Domato  
May-October (413) 258-4578; November-April (941) 624-2459  
Email: yankeefruitloop@gmail.com



- ★ Daily rental \$350 (adjusted for local non-profits)
- ★ Renovated 800 sq. ft hall with band / DJ stage
- ★ Fully equipped commercial kitchen includes cook & dishware
- ★ Beautiful riverside field with pond and covered fire pit
- ★ Season May-October (Off season, field and covered fire pit available)





# NEW Sandisfield History Book!

**From Church to Synagogue to Arts Center: Celebrating 185 Years of Community and Culture** is the story of a special Sandisfield building home to three different communities and their leaders who cherished and preserved it for posterity.

The origin of Montville Baptist Church (1839), now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, traces to two Sandisfield Baptist societies that formed in 1779 and 1788 in northwest Sandisfield. This uniquely American history narrative is based on years of research by local historian Ronald Bernard. It is told through the lens of family biographies of the 35 ministers who presided until 1918. Fellow author Lorraine German picks up the story in 1921 when the building was saved and (improbably) converted to an orthodox Jewish synagogue for seven more decades. Community groups in the 1990s again saved the building as the Sandisfield Arts Center which is celebrating its 30th anniversary.

This 425-page commemorative edition in hard cover is a keepsake to be passed down to generations. Only 125 copies have been printed. Don't miss out – order today!

## Commemorative History Book To Benefit the Sandisfield Arts Center

### **From Church to Synagogue to Arts Center Celebrating 185 Years of Community and Culture**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

\*Required for all orders.

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

SAC 8/25

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30 years!  
SANDISFIELD  
ARTS CENTER

## A Busy Month at the Arts Center

By Suzanne OConnell

July at the Sandisfield Arts Center was not to be missed, concluding with a sold-out performance on July 26 by NYC's Seth Herzog, a warm-up comedian for Late Night with Jimmy Fallon. He agreed to his first visit to Sandisfield to see his longtime friend Douglas Miner. On stage he poked fun at the abundant biting insects enjoying him while he tried to eat a dinner outside before the show, and several audience members, including one who didn't know what make of car he drove.

Two Saturday morning events brought crowds of 20-30 people to learn more about Sandisfield.

On July 12, Tom Ryan, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (Tom.Ryan@mass.gov) presented "Strategic Forest Planning in a Stressful Environment." He enumerated the components of the five P's that are changing our forests forever, Pests, Pathogens, Plants (invasives and non-invasives), Planet (Climate Change) and People.

Concluding on a hopeful note, he described the success of the Community Preservation Act, where towns and cities agree to a

small tax surcharge to raise funds for dedicated land conservation, affordable housing, historic preservation, and outdoor recreation facilities. Sheffield, Great Barrington, Becket, and 197 other MA municipalities have already signed on.

Two weeks later, Ron Bernard gave an intriguing presentation about the abundance of Native American ceremonial structures that fill our woods including serpentine walls, prayer stones and turtle effigies, some with the strategic inclusion of blocks of white quartzite. I doubt anyone in attendance will look at stones on the landscape in the same way, I certainly won't.

Four Fabulous Friday Open Mic series continued on July 18, which was a busy weekend for the Sandisfield Arts Center.

Beyond Our Boundaries, a groundbreaking international art show and "Not So Short" film festival opened in the Garfield Family Gallery on July 19. The film festival was a five-hour compilation of films by global artists created during the pandemic, including works by Irena Paskali (Macedonia/Germany) and Gabi Gusmao (Brazil.) The art exhibit, curated by Jaye Alison Moscarello, brings together a diverse group of talented artists from across the globe. It offers a unique challenge: all participating artists present work in small format—no larger than 12 x 12 inches. While working on a reduced scale might seem limiting, it often demands greater focus, intention, and precision. Through this diverse assembly of works, the exhibition reflects the expansive potential of contemporary art and offers a glimpse into the dynamic global art scene—featuring 19 artists from nine countries. The exhibit continues through August with the Galley opened Saturdays and Sundays, 12 to 3 or by appointment.

On August 15, the third of Four Fabulous Friday Open Mic series continues providing a wonderful forum for all kinds of performance and all kinds of performers. We've had young and old, novice and veteran performers and all kinds of music, poetry, and storytelling. Finally on Saturday, August 23, John Wheeler, president of the Berkshire Mycological Society will lead a mushroom walk beginning at 10:00 a.m. 🍄

30 years!

SANDISFIELD  
ARTS CENTER



5 HAMMERTOWN ROAD  
SANDISFIELD, MA

### CLOSING AUGUST 31 • International Art Show: Beyond Our Boundaries

This exhibition brings together diverse artists from around the world who push the boundaries of conventional art forms, embracing new methods and mediums to inspire and challenge our perceptions. See it before it closes!

**Gallery open during events, Saturdays from noon - 3pm,  
or by appointment (gallery@sandisfieldartscenter.org)**

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 7 PM- 8:30 PM FREE (DONATION SUGGESTED) • Open Mic Night!

Our open mic nights are the perfect venue for showcasing your talent. Seasoned performer or just starting out — bring your music, poetry, comedy, dance, or whatever creative talent you have to share. Or just come to enjoy some live entertainment and get a new perspective on your neighbors.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 10 AM \$40 • Mushroom Walk

Two-hour walk with **John Wheeler**, President, Berkshire Mycological Society

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

# NOW HEAR THIS!

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

## AUGUST EVENTS

**Sandisfield Select Board Meetings** are currently through Zoom and in-person at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays unless otherwise posted. Please visit sandisfieldma.gov or call 258-4711 for information.

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

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

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

**Card Playing** on Thursday, August 7 at 1:00 p.m. at the Council on Aging, Town Hall. Come join us.

**New Boston Church Worship Service** on Sunday, August 10 at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome. The New Boston Congregational Church is located on Route 57 near the New Boston Inn. For more information and to view the calendar, visit newbostoncongregationalchurch.org.

**Open Mic** on Friday, August 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center on 5 Hammertown Road. Bring your music, poetry, comedy, dance or other creative talent you have to share! Come to enjoy some live entertainment. Free.

**Mushroom Walk with John Wheeler** on Saturday, August 23 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sandisfield Arts Center. Learn about and forage for mushrooms with expert mycologist John Wheeler, President of the Berkshire Mycological Society. Space is limited. \$40.

**Fire Station Work Session** between Select Board and SFDI on Wednesday, August 27, time TBD.

**New Boston Church Worship Service** on Sunday, August 31 at 10:00 a.m. All are welcome. The New Boston Congregational Church is located on Route 57. For more information and to view the calendar, visit newbostoncongregationalchurch.org.

### SAVE THE DATE

**Annual Pig Roast**, sponsored by the Sandisfield Recreation Committee, on Saturday, September 13 at 5:00 p.m., at the Pavilion at American Legion Post 4556, Rt. 8, New Boston. Free, but RSVP by September 5. Entertainment by Full Burn. Pig professionally roasted by John Ormsbee Sr. and his team. See story on page 13.

### 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.

### EVENTS IN SURROUNDING TOWNS

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

**Guided Public Campus Tour at Jacob's Pillow** on Fridays from 4:30 to 5:00 p.m. Learn about the history and legends of Jacob's Pillow, a National Historic Landscape, in Becket. No registration required. Free.

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

**Knox Trail Documentary Premiere** in-person and via Zoom on Thursday, August 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the Monterey Public Library. "The Knox Trial" is a 12-minute documentary tracing the history of the famous route. This program will include a discussion with the producers of the film and local historian Tom Ragusa following the video viewing. Free, but registration is required otispreservationtrust.com.

**Live Music in the Hills** on Saturday, August 2, at 6:30 p.m. on the Tolland Town Green (or in the church in case of rain). Free coffeehouse style with light refreshments.

**End of Summer/Back to School Celebration** on Saturday, August 23 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Becket Federated Church on 3391 Main Street in Becket. Bounce House with waterslide, climbing wall, balloon animals, kids' crafts, backpack giveaway, vendors, bake sale, DJ, raffle.

**Ice Cream Social** on Sunday, August 24 from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Chesterwood in Stockbridge. An old-fashioned ice cream social with free ice cream and games in the Studio Garden. Free for all children under 18. Chesterwood is the summer home, studio, and gardens of sculptor Daniel Chester French.

**Chris Maccarini, PMP**

Owner

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