

Sanford Springvale MAINE NEWS

Nonprofit newsletter produced with volunteers

Free

March 22, 2024

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New Fire Station Designs Unveiled



Artist's rendering of the proposed new Sanford Fire Department headquarters.

Photo: City of Sanford

By Zendelle Bouchard

At the City Council meeting on March 19, 2024, members of the public got their first detailed look at plans for the proposed new fire stations. If voters approve the project in November, construction will take place over the next few years. The presentation by Bob Mitchell of WBRC/Mitchell Associates showed artist's renderings of the interior and exterior

of both stations, along with detailed floor plans.

The design goals of the project include firefighter health and safety, inclusive design and energy efficiency. Each station has separate hot, warm and cold zones to protect firefighters from cancer-causing chemicals that adhere to their

vehicles and equipment while they are battling fires. Quiet bunk areas away from station activity are designed to minimize the long-term effects of sleep deprivation that firefighters often experience. Private, gender neutral bathrooms and shower facilities provide equity for female firefighters. Dedicated training spaces allow firefighters to get the skills they need in the most efficient manner possible.

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Council OKs Budget Adjustments: PAYT Bags to Increase to \$16

By Zendelle Bouchard

City Manager Steve Buck presented his recommended municipal budget for fiscal year 2024/25 to the City Council on March 19, after which Council members debated and approved several adjustments. One adjustment to the revenue side of the budget would increase the price of the orange Pay-As-You-Throw trash bags from \$14.50 to \$16 per package.

Deputy Mayor Maura Herlihy noted that other area communities charge much more than \$16 for their municipal trash bags. Councilor Bob Stackpole said he had hoped to keep the price the same for five years after the last increase, but the cost of waste disposal and hauling is expected to rise significantly in the new contract under negotiation.

Councilor Jonathan Martell spoke against any price increase, saying he would prefer to look

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Community CALENDAR

Compiled by Lisa Blanchette

Have an event coming up?

Email events@sanfordspringvalenews.com

Visit www.sanfordspringvalenews.com for more details on these and future events.

Saturday, March 23

- Maine Maple Weekend, Packy's Sugar House, 232 Harry Howes Rd.
- Pruning Workshop (full), 9 am, McDougal Orchards, 201 Hanson Ridge Rd., Spvl.
- Veterinary Clinic, 9:30 am, Pet Supplies Plus
- Baby Blessings, 10 am, St. George's Episcopal Church, 3 Emerson St.
- ACE Flavor Fest Grill Presentation, 11 am, Eldredge Lumber, 1787 Main St.
- Spring Prep for Gardening Season/Eldredge Lumber, 1 pm, 1787 Main St.
- Seacoast Warhawks Season Opener, 7 pm, SHS Alumni Stadium, 100 Alumni Blvd.
- Two Acts of Shakespeare, 7 pm, Nasson Theatre
- Follicly Challenged, 8 pm, Mill Towne Tavern

Sunday, March 24

- Maine Maple Weekend, Packy's Sugar House, 232 Harry Howes Rd.
- Two Acts of Shakespeare, 2:30 pm, Nasson Theatre
- Weekly Softball Clinic, 5 pm, SHS

Monday, March 25

- Baby Rhyme Time, 10 am, Spvl. Library
- Food Pantry, 10 am, Sanf Food Pantry, 1204 Main St.
- Red Cross Blood Drive, Noon, N Parish Church
- Lego Builders Club, 3:30 pm, Spvl. Library
- Mindfulness and Sound Therapy with Sarah Daigle, 5:30 pm, Spvl. Library

Tuesday, March 26

- Job Searching with Maine Career Center, 10 am, Spvl. Library
- Baby/Toddler Rhyme Time, 10:30 am, Goodall Library, 1364 Main St.
- Pre-K Story Time, 11 am, Goodall Library, 1364 Main St.
- Free Lunch at Sanford Warming Ctr 69 Brook St.
- York County Food Pantry, Noon, YC Shelter Program, 5 Swetts Bridge Road, Alfred
- Shelter Operations Course, 1 pm, YC Gov. Building, 149 Jordan Springs Rd., Alfred
- Knit Lits, 3 pm, Spvl. Library, 443 Main St.

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Legacy Foundation Raising Funds for Sharon Remick Library

The nonprofit Sanford Schools Legacy Foundation is hoping to raise \$5,000 to rename the Margaret Chase Smith Elementary School library in honor of Sharon Remick, a lifelong resident and second-generation educator who died on March 13. Remick spent 50 years in education, including 45 years in the Sanford school system, and retired in 2020 as principal at Lafayette School.

As an elementary teacher and principal, Remick was well-known and regarded for her annual "Cake Walk" staff event, her Halloween felt-board story and her collection of holiday sweaters. Perhaps she was most proud of her work with the Terrific Kid Program, Beat the Winter Blues, and the spring reading events in the park, plus the Early Learning Events, which involved local childcare programs, St. Thomas School and the public schools.

Not everyone knew how quietly generous Remick was with her students. "She would go buy clothes for kids, buy books. No problem. Whatever was needed," said Debbie Andrews, who worked with Remick as a Reading Recovery teacher at the Lincoln School in Springvale. "She worked from dawn to well past dusk. That's Sharon, so dedicated, so generous.

"I initially thought it was a Sanford thing, but I learned over time working with her, it was a Sharon thing," Andrews said. "She worked hard to create a culture of respect. Whether you were a teacher, an ed tech or the custodian, Sharon created a climate that embraced everyone, no matter what position you played. Staff, kids and parents were all part of this family."

Remick started teaching in Sanford in 1974 as a transitional first-grade teacher at the now-closed Lincoln School. Years later, even though she could have retired as principal of MCS, she was asked to lead Lafayette School until it closed.

Her family has always been active in Sanford. Her parents owned Bowl-o-Rama (which her brother Owen Martin operates now), and her mother, Leatrice Martin, was a first-grade teacher. Remick and her husband, Frank, have two children, Karen and Darrell. Today, she and many of her former colleagues maintain their



Sharon Remick with three grandchildren at a Halloween party

Photo: Submitted

friendships and even an active book club.

"Wherever she went, she created the same climate. It was a Sharon thing," Andrews said. "Sharon has given her entire life to the community of Sanford. I'm thrilled for Sharon to receive this recognition after all that she has given to the community."

To donate: <https://tinyurl.com/yz37xstk>. ■

Fire Stations *Cont'd from page 1*

The SFD Headquarters is planned to be built at the corner of Main Street and Mayflower Drive in South Sanford. The district station in Springvale will be built on Payne Street, near the intersection with Pleasant and Water Streets.

Councilors discussed whether to plan for a June or November referendum. They settled on November, even though the six-month delay will cost an estimated additional \$1.3 million, as they felt the presidential election will result in a much larger voter turnout. The total cost for the construction of both stations is projected at \$42.5 million. If voters reject the project this year, every year of delay will lead to an additional \$2.6 million in cost. ■

CORRECTION

The Jagger Mill yarn shop is open on the first Saturday of each month. The day was stated incorrectly in an article last week.

New Round Small Business Recovery Funding Available

Compiled by Lee Burnett, Submissions Editor

The Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission is offering a new round of Covid-relief funding to help small businesses and non-profits recover from pandemic disruptions.

Applications for the so-called Economic Recovery HUB grants are due April 12. Businesses are eligible for cash grants up to \$10,000 and technical assistance. Non-profits are eligible for technical assistance.



Keith McBride and Mary Hastings of Sanford Regional Economic Growth Council and Ben Bell, owner of Moe's Italian Sandwiches, who was a recipient in the first round of funding.

Photo: Sanford Regional Economic Growth Council

Businesses with 25 or fewer employees are eligible for up to \$10,000, as long as they opened during Covid era, January 2020 through May 11, 2023, can demonstrate negative impact on business from Covid and have not received substantial assistance under other Covid assistance programs. Funds can be used for rent, utilities, inventory, equipment, insurance, payroll (non-family) and working capital, but not refinancing, down payment on new financing or wages for owner or family member.

Local businesses that have already benefited from the program include Frannie's Mini Donuts, River Junction Brewing, Moe's Italian Sandwiches and Deneen Bernier LLC.

Non-profits are eligible for technical assistance provided directly by a local vendor, such as bookkeeping, web design, and social media planning/implementation.

Business skills classes are also available.

An online application is available at <https://smpdc.org/hubprogram>. ■

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City Council *Cont'd from page 1*

for cuts elsewhere in the budget. Stackpole argued that the PAYT bags provide an equitable means of paying for the costs associated with solid waste, as each homeowner only pays for the bags they use. If the PAYT program was eliminated, taxes would go up substantially, he said. Mayor Becky Brink added that the orange bags encourage recycling, which saves the city considerable money on waste disposal. "People won't recycle," without them, she said.

Martell said people find the bags annoying and would prefer to pay higher property taxes to get rid of them. Councilor Pete Tranchemontagne said he "hated" the PAYT bags until he was appointed to the Solid Waste Subcommittee and learned how the program really works to save money for taxpayers. The Council voted 6-1 to approve the increase, with Martell in opposition.

The Council unanimously approved adding another \$350,000 to the line item for General Assistance. Buck explained that asylum seekers have begun to flow into Sanford again, so he doesn't feel his original projection of \$600,000 will be adequate. But he added that the reimbursement from the state for these expenses is expected to increase substantially as well. The state currently reimburses municipalities for 70% of GA payments, but the supplemental budget under consideration by the state legislature would raise that to as much as 90%. He expects to know the final percentage in early April, before the Council votes on the budget as a whole.

The Council unanimously approved eliminating the Community Development Director (CDD) position from the budget, and adding an Assistant City Manager position, with a net increase of \$17,857 in expenses. The Council supports Buck's view that an Assistant City Manager could cover for the City Manager when necessary, while also fulfilling the duties of the CDD. Ian Houseal, who has held the CDD position for seven years, opposes the change on the grounds that the CDD is a full-time job in itself. He expressed concern that the city would be at risk of greater liability without the position.

The Council declined to fund a second mental health clinician to work with the Sanford Police Department's Mental Health Unit, although there seems to be consensus that the position is needed. Buck said the position can be added later if grant funds to cover the cost of salary and benefits are secured.

The Council will meet again March 26 to work further on the budget. A final vote is scheduled for April 2. ■

Land Trust Invites Signups for Planting



Photo: Kevin McKeon

Sanford Community Garden is accepting applications for gardeners to use 4-foot by 12-foot raised beds for this growing season. The 52 beds and a few 3-foot by 5-foot kids' beds are located at the McKeon Environmental Reserve, 246 Blanchard Road in Springvale. Tools and fertilizer are provided in the tool shed, and water supply, produce wash area, table and chairs under a grape vine pagoda, off-road parking, and an outdoor restroom are all available. The reserve also offers 2 1/2 miles of well-marked, dog-friendly trails. The gardens are all maintained using approved organic methods. This community service from Mousam Way Land Trust is made possible with support from Kennebunk Savings Bank and Eldredge Lumber. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/4dwnfz82> for more information and applications. ■

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Sanford

The City of Sanford, Maine will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 6:00 pm, at the City Council Chambers, 919 Main Street, Sanford, Maine, and by remote methods, pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 403-B(2)(D) and section 6 of the Sanford City Council Rules of Procedure, to discuss an application being submitted to the State of Maine CDBG program for a Community Enterprise Facade Grant.

The purpose of the grant application is to assist commercial property owners on Main Street with façade improvements. Public comments will be solicited at this Hearing and will be submitted as part of the application. All persons wishing to make comments or ask questions about the grant application are invited to attend this Public Hearing. Comments may be submitted in writing to: Mary Hastings, SREGC, 917 Main St, Suite D, Sanford, Maine, 04073 at any time prior to the Public Hearing.

Instructions for joining the meeting by in-person and remote methods are posted on the City's website on the Meetings Calendar. The meeting will be broadcast on cable channel 26 and archived at <https://townhallstreams.com/towns/sanfordme>

If you are physically unable to access any of the City's/Town's programs or services, please call Lorisa Ricketts at (207) 324-9173 so that accommodations can be made.



City Council March 19 Meeting Summary

By Renée Morin

The city council met on March 19, 2024, with all members present.

Subcommittee Reports: Food truck locations and where they can connect to electrical outlets have been identified as a future agenda item for the Property Subcommittee.

The Public Safety Subcommittee report noted that they had been given a wildfire presentation by the fire department.

Attempts are being made by the subcommittee to expand the ordinance around loitering and overnight sleeping on city property. The subcommittee will bring the proposal before the City Council before the work is continued.

The Zoning Subcommittee report detailed ongoing interest by residents in the conservation of Sand Pond. It was determined that a proposed moratorium regarding the pond was unnecessary, as the Codes and Planning Departments have sufficient regulations to protect the pond.

The Solid Waste Subcommittee detailed the issue of vape paraphernalia disposal. Concerns have been raised about exposure to used marijuana cartridges causing false positives on drug tests for city workers handling waste. Lithium batteries found in the vapes also contain hazardous material and are expensive to dispose of. A "bottle bill," with an initial disposal fee, may eventually be added to the cost of vape purchases to address this.

City Manager's Report: The schedule for the planned update to the city's 2005 Comprehensive Plan has been released by City Planner Erin Moriarty. According to City Manager Steve Buck, the proposed timeline is "very aggressive"

and is within a "12-month period of time."

In addition, Buck said, "This would provide for a Steering Committee of 23 Representatives. The public will have the additional opportunity to comment on the developing sections and will also be part of specific focus groups when applicable."

Moriarty has learned of a previously unknown grant available from the Department of Economic and Community Development to perform a study that will aid in housing, a significant area of our comprehensive plan. The grant is for \$50,000.

The Trails Committee has received a grant of \$500, for work to be done around the areas of early colonial settlement.

The city and Maine DOT will now begin the task of replacing every traffic light in the city, with new ones connected to Sanford Net Fiber. Work began in South Sanford on March 12.

The Orange Line bus will be extended to Wells Beach to primarily address workforce needs.

The city website has been updated, with a new option to receive emails with City Council subcommittee meeting agendas. Updates from other local government bodies, such as Maine DOT, are available as well. This feature can be found on the Agendas, Minutes & Videos page of the city's website, <https://www.sanfordmaine.org>.

While the **Lafayette Warming Shelter** is slated to close for the season May 1, other services including the Recovery Center, which assists people dealing with substance abuse, will

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remain open. Occupants of the warming shelter have been given advance notice and are being encouraged to work with the housing navigators to find housing. HUD vouchers are available to assist in this.

Conditions at the encampment at **Heritage Crossing** are deteriorating, with a lack of trash removal described as being a prime issue. Case managers and navigators are determining how best to help the population, and when to clear out the encampment.

Communications/Presentations: Congratulations were given during the meeting for Sanford Police Sergeant Colleen Adams being named one of USA TODAY's Women of the Year.

Cont'd next page

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City Council *Cont'd from page 4*

A draft of an upcoming educational video on **fire station construction** was shown to the Council by Communications Coordinator Jordan Wilson. Along with the video, Wilson communicated the edits that she was planning to make to the video before the final product is released. At the end of her presentation Councilor Jonathan Martell gave some constructive criticism on the video, before commenting that it was a "great start" and thanking Wilson for her work. Wilson and the fire department have also filmed two other videos, one addressing cases of cancer in firefighters, and another about fire station deficiencies. More videos tackling the financial angle of the project will be produced in the future.

New Business: Facilities Director Alex Hammerle shared his findings from tracking natural gas futures markets, which he said track closely with electricity pricing, to find the best rate for a renewed electricity contract with Maine Power Options. The current contract is set to expire October 2024. A mild winter has resulted in changes in pricing that are out of the norm for this time of year, with prices rising earlier than expected. The prices seem unlikely to come down, so a contract was drafted for three years, with a rate of \$0.0948/kWh. According to Hammerle's memo, this is "\$0.0073/kWh lower than the current contract." The proposed contract was unanimously approved by the council. ■

Calendar *Cont'd from page 1*

- City Council Budget Meeting, 4 pm, Sanf City Hall,
- Bingo, 4 pm - open, 6 pm - start, Sanford Elks, 13 Elm St.
- Police Citizen Advisory Group, 6 pm, Sanford Police Department, 935 Main St.
- Dulcimer For Beginners, 6 pm, Goodall Library
- Slow Flow Gong Yoga-Yin Yoga & Sound Healing, 6 pm, 21 Bradeen St., Spvl.

Wednesday, March 27

- Lego Builders Club, 2:30 pm, Goodall Library
- New Kindergarten Student Early Registration Event, 3:30 pm, MCS School, 248 Twombly Rd.
- Astronomy 101 w/Members of Astronomical Society of Northern NE, 5 pm, Spvl. Library
- Poetry Group, 5 pm, Goodall Library, 1364 Main St.
- Toddle Time, 5:30 pm, Memorial Gym
- New Kindergarten Student Early Registration, 5:30 pm, Pride Elementary, 708 Main St.
- Wednesday Night Bite Free Community Meal, 6 pm, Curtis Lake Church, 38 Westview Dr.

Thursday, March 28

- Free Lunch, Sanford Warming Center Hosted by York County Shelter Program, Noon, 69 Brook St
- Food Bank at St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Noon, Holy Family Church, 66 North Ave.
- Career Center Hiring Event, 2:30 pm, SCAE
- Free Community Meal, 5 pm, New Beginnings Church, 181 Grammar Rd.
- Community Training: Substance Use Disorders, Stigma and Narcan, 6 pm, Sanford PD

Friday, March 29

- Toddler Time, 9 am, SCAE, 668 Main St.
- Winter Story Time, Spvl. Library, 10 am, 443 Main St.
- Salvation Army Produce Pantry, 10 am, Salvation Army of Sanford, 871 Main St.
- York County Food Pantry, Noon, YC Shelter Program, 5 Swetts Bridge Road, Alfred ■



The Mission of the Sanford Springvale News is to produce a free weekly publication that provides current and factual information about what is happening in Sanford and Springvale.

News and stories are published in print, electronically and posted on Facebook.

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Comments Being Sought for Extension of Facade Improvement Program

Anyone interested in improving the appearance of downtown is encouraged to lend their support for extending a grant program to fix up storefronts, according to the Sanford Regional Economic Growth Council.

The City Council is scheduled to hold a required public hearing April 2 to gather comments about a proposed application for \$100,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds, according to Mary Hastings, small business coordinator for the Growth Council.

Hastings said she is seeking comments from a broad cross section of the community about how the grant program would improve the downtown. The funds could be used for new windows, siding, signs and other approved uses and must be matched by an equal investment from the property owner.

Mousam River Bistro at 6 River St., RIGZ Properties at 880 Main St. and White Bark Properties on Washington Street are three downtown businesses that have already benefitted from an earlier facade improvement program. There is still an additional \$25,000 available and three additional businesses are interested in applying, Hastings said. ■

SHS Athletic Director wins Emerging Industry Leader Award

By Sam Bonsey

SHS Athletic Director Zach Lemelin has been recognized by the National Center for Spectator Sports Safety and Security (NCS4) with its interscholastic Emerging Industry Leader Award.



This award recognizes a young professional who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in addressing safety and security issues.

Lemelin is the only high school leader in the United States to receive this award. ■



The U.S. Army Concert Band and Soldiers' Chorus are the oldest and largest of the U.S. Army Field Band's performing component.
Photo: U.S. Army

NEWS NOTES

Compiled By Carolyn Cadigan

Then it's hi! hi! hey! The Army's on its way: The Sanford Performing Arts Center will host the U.S. Army Field Band and Soldier's Chorus on April 14 at 3 pm. The 60-member band and 29-member chorus have performed in all 50 states and in 30 foreign countries. Tickets for this event are free but must be reserved in advance. FMI: <https://sanfordpac.org/us-army/>

Property fraud on the rise in York County: Sheriff William King is warning residents about a growing problem of fraud in which scammers use fake or stolen identification to sell land they don't own. "In York County, there have been 12 separate occasions where a seller impersonator tried to sell a victim's land," King said this week. However, York County is not alone. Property fraud is occurring in other Maine counties as well. To combat fraud, a bill has been introduced in the State House that would require identity verification before a deed can be transferred. The bill would also raise deed fraud to a felony, make it easier for property owners to nullify a fraudulent sale, and call for the creation of a campaign to raise awareness of the issue among real estate agents

and registrars of deeds throughout the state. Property owners can help themselves by signing up for the free Property Fraud Alert service offered by the Registry of Deeds in York County. The service sends an email notification to the property owner when a document is recorded at the registry with the owner's name. To sign up: <https://www.searchiqs.com/fraudalert/>

Making difficult days a little brighter: Grahamastic Connection, a nonprofit based in Springvale, brings joy to children battling cancer and other serious illnesses. To help it carry out its mission, the organization is grateful for any donations they receive from their Amazon Wishlist. To see what is needed: <https://tinyurl.com/yc9htsxt>

Tranchemontagne discusses cannabis industry involvement on podcast: Peter Tranchemontagne, Sanford city councilor and co-founder of licensed caregiver Uncle Pete's Re-Leaf, appeared on Chris Tash Pawtcast last month. The Pawtcast is a podcast that focuses on cannabis lifestyle and culture. Tranchemontagne, appearing in the podcast as a private citizen (not representing the city), discusses his work supporting the legalization of cannabis in Maine, helping organize the Maine Cannabis Union and fighting to amend current cannabis laws in the state. ■

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Three Sanford Properties Declared Dangerous Buildings

By Renée Morin



62 Twombly Rd. During August of 2023 notices of violation were sent twice to the owner for an overgrown lawn. The house on the property has had no water service and has been uninhabited since Nov. 2023. The building has damage to the roof, windows, doors, and siding, along with trash around the property. Comm.Dev. Dir. Ian Houseal called the building “unsecure” and “unsanitary.” The property owner has left, and no heir or personal representative has claimed it. Between 2019 and 2024 multiple police calls were made to the property, ranging from suspicious activity, to suspected drug use, to homelessness, to noise complaints.



41 Emerson St has been uninhabited since 2018. The building on the property currently has no water, and no electrical service. Additionally, the building displays visible signs of rot, including on the door, which was left ajar. The building is missing paint and side insulation and has growth on the roof. Notices of Violation were sent to the property owner in 2020 and 2024. The violations included: an abandoned vehicle on the premises, broken window and door frames, broken exterior lights, unsafe stairs missing handrails, and accumulated trash and debris scattered around the property.



51 Pleasant St. A violation notice was sent to the property owner in 2018 for a bed bug infestation, having no rental license, lacking heating and bathroom facilities, having no secondary means of escape in a bedroom, and an absence of carbon monoxide and smoke detectors. A notice was also sent in 2019 for continued and new violations, including no guardrails, GFCI, or lighting at exits. New wiring had been done without a permit. There was trash, unfinished drywall, and objects blocking the egress. The property was assigned an order to vacate, and has been uninhabited since at least December 2019. Police calls were made to the property for disturbances and trespassing between 2019 and 2023. ■

At the City Council meeting, three properties, determined by Code Enforcement to be abandoned, were adjudged to be Dangerous Buildings under the state definition. Owners have 30 days to come forward with a rehabilitation plan to be approved by Code Enforcement. If this does not take place, the city will take steps to address the issues.

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