Sanford Springvale NEWS

Nonprofit newsletter produced with volunteers

Free

March 29, 2024

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Courthouse Could Be Repurposed for Housing Altogether, three York County courthouses –

MRKING IN REAR

By Lee Burnett, Submissions Editor

The former Maine District Court building in Springvale could be converted into 20 or more

apartments as a result of legislation, supported by the Mills administration, that is whisking its way through the legislature.

The Sanford Housing Authority is conducting a feasibility study to determine renovation costs, code requirements, and funding streams, according to Executive Director Diane Small, who has

personally toured the building. "It's going to be good," she said. Apartments would be available to people 55 and older who meet affordable housing income limits.

The courthouse has been vacant since last July when the state consolidated courts in Alfred, Biddeford, Springvale and York by opening a new York County Judicial Center on Route 1 in Biddeford.

Altogether, three York County courthouses – in Biddeford, Springvale and York – would be repurposed as affordable housing under a Mills administration bill that was endorsed Tuesday by the Maine Legislature's Joint Select Com-

mittee on Housing after a public hearing that drew no opposition, according to press reports. The House and Senate would still need to pass the legislation.

At least 10,100 new housing units need to be built in York County by 2030 to meet current and future demand, according to a landmark October

report. Some of the state's priciest communities are in the desirable region sandwiched between greater Portland and the Boston metro area.

"If we could get at least 30 (units), it would help," said Small. Much of the demand for the units will come from seniors downsizing from houses to apartments, she said. Under a program started by Sanford's Land Bank Authority, the houses they vacate could be repurposed into affordable housing units as well, she said.

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Community CALENDAR

Compiled by Lisa Blanchette

Add an event? Events@SanfordSpringvaleNews.com. More on these events? SanfordSpringvaleNews.com School Sports: https://tinyurl.com/bd89duyj

WEEKEND EVENTS

Saturday, March 30

- Baby Blessings, 10 am, St. George's Episcopal Church, 3 Emerson St.
- ACE Flavor Fest Grilling and Tasting at Eldredge Lumber, 11 am, 1787 Main St.
- Kick off to NFL Youth Flag Football, 11:30 am, Crystal Athletic, 414 Alfred Rd.
- Guys & Dolls, 1:00 & 6:30 pm, Sanford Performing Arts Center, 100 Alumni Blvd.
- God's Holy Lamb-Easter Musical, 6 pm, Riverside Campus, 25 Riverside Ave.

Sunday, March 31

- Chamber Talk with Rick Stanley, 7 am, Radio Station 104.3
- God's Holy Lamb-Easter Musical, 10:30 am, Calvary Baptist Church, 47 High St.
- Weekly Softball Clinic, 5 pm, SHS, 100 Alumni Blvd.

WEEKDAY EVENTS

Tuesday, April 2

- Red Cross Blood Drive, Noon, Nasson Community Center
- City Council Meeting, 6 pm, City Hall

Wednesday, April 3

- New Kindergarten Early Reg, 5 pm, CJL School
- NHS Variety Show, 7 pm, SHS

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By Lee Burnett, Submissions Editor Goodall Library plans to reopen Monday, a week after hundreds of books were ruined by rain that leaked around a clogged roof drain.

The library's reopening will be quicker than expected. Initially, librarians had feared subsequent rainstorms would send more water dripping through the ceiling at its temporary location at The Center for Shopping. But within a day, a maintenance worker had unclogged a roof drain, an electrician had secured the elec-

trical system, and SERVPRO, the water and fire cleanup company, had deployed five dehumidifiers and 10 blowers to dry things out.

"It was getting pretty loud," Head Librarian Ann Thomas said with a laugh. With the outlook brightening by Tuesday afternoon, Thomas said the library would offer front door service Thursday and Friday for people needing to return books or pick up books ordered through inter-library loan. Full service will resume Monday.



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Municipal Budget Adjustments Continue

By Zendelle Bouchard

The City Council continues to work on the budget for fiscal year 2024/25. On March 26, 2024, they met again to discuss possible further cuts and adjustments to a budget which will likely result in the largest property tax increase in more than 10 years.

Sanford Police Department Chief Craig Andersen told the Council he currently has two vacant police officer positions and offered to use the salary from one of those positions to cover the cost of hiring a second social worker to the SPD's Mental Health Unit. He said having a second social worker is a priority that could help prevent tragedies. The Councilors agreed that adding another social worker to cover the evening shift, when many crisis calls come in, would be valuable but had previously cut the funds that would pay for it from the budget. After hearing from the Chief, they agreed to make

that adjustment. The social worker position is budgeted at about \$11,000 less than the police officer position, so there is some savings as well.

Under Public Works, the Council agreed to keep the roadway capital improvement plan at \$3 million, the same as the current year. They had previously planned to increase it to \$3.5 million next year to keep up with inflation and to continue improving the overall condition of Sanford's roads, but decided it was too much of a jump with the budget already higher than they'd like. They also agreed with City Manager Steve Buck's recommendation to use \$250,000 from Tax Increment Financing revenues to help offset the \$3 million road CIP.

The Council also approved a suggestion from Deputy Mayor Maura Herlihy to reallocate some Public Works Department equipment CIP funds to purchase a new garage lift, which will enable the PWD to service more of its fleet in-house. Councilor Pete Tranchemontagne agreed that it was a safety issue that would also save money in the long run.

There was discussion about using funds from the city's undesignated fund balance. Councilor Ayn Hanselmann advocated for using almost \$250,000 to cover one-time expenses, including a new roof and masonry work for the Veterans Memorial Gym. The majority of the Council supported the idea. Councilor Bob Stackpole asked if it was sustainable to consider doing that every year, but Buck said he did not recommend it to keep the city's cash flow in a healthy position.

After the adjustments the Council agreed to, the net-to-taxation increase came to 8.3% (combined municipal and school). If the state agrees to reimburse the city 90% on general assistance benefits, that would add \$190,000 to the revenue side, and bring the increase down to 7.78%, which means a 98-cent increase in the property tax rate per \$1,000 of valuation.

School Budget Update - Alt Ed Program Stays

By Zendelle Bouchard

Superintendent of Schools Matt Nelson appeared before the City Council at a special budget meeting on March 26, 2024 to present the latest version of the school budget for fiscal year 2024/25. He was happy to report that the Harvard Health Plan administrators have agreed to a 14% increase in the cost of health insurance. School Department officials were originally expecting a 17.5% increase in this plan, which covers most school employees. A three-tiered proposal for budget cuts approved by a majority of School Committee members eliminates positions at the central office as well as a custodian at the Willard Building and a district-wide behavior interventionist but retains the counselor at Sanford Middle School. These cuts, on top of those already planned (see this story: https://sanfordspringvalenews.com/ big-school-budget-cuts-proposed-but-council-wants-more/), brought the net-to-taxation increase for the school budget to 7.7%.

Sanford High School's Alternative Education Program, which has been the subject of much controversy, is not being cut.

Four of the seven City Councilors approved of that level of increase, but other Councilors wanted to see more cuts made.

At a budget workshop the following day, Nelson presented the School Committee with some additional adjustments to the proposed budget. Adjustments include moving the Willard custodian whose position is being cut to a vacant position at Sanford Pride Elementary this month, which would save money by eliminating the last few months of the Willard salary; and a revised estimate on the increase for the Anthem health plan which covers administrators and custodians. In total, the savings would be \$26,424, bringing the net-to-taxation increase for the school side of the budget down from 7.7% to 7.5%

The four School Committee members in attendance approved the adjustments. Nelson will present them to the City Council next week before the Council votes on final approval of the school budget appropriations figure. Voters will have the last word on the 2024/25 school budget at the June 11 validation referendum. ■

SHS Senior Receives MPA Principal's Award



Aidan Gendron with SHS Principal Amanda Doyle

Principal Amanda Doyle recently announced Aidan Gendron, a senior at SHS, has been selected to receive the 2024 Principal's Award. The award, sponsored by the Maine Principals' Association, is given in recognition of a high school senior's academic achievement and citizenship.

"Aidan's contributions to the SHS community are numerous and impactful. He's an excellent student, a leader among his peers, and a steward of our core values," Doyle said.

Aidan, Athletic Director Zach Lemelin and other award winners and school administrators will attend an honors luncheon in early April.

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Sanford Mainers Launch Literacy Program

The Sanford Mainers have launched a literacy program that provides activity books, giveaway game tickets, a recognition night, story hour and a tiny library.

"We have a unique opportunity to serve as a literacy gateway to our local youth who might not otherwise participate in reading programs," explained Andrea Pais, the baseball team's office and sales manager. "Our mission is to strengthen literacy skills within the Sanford-Springvale community to gain the confidence children need to positively engage with the world around them."

This program would operate in two yearly 12-week sessions with an age range of kindergarten to grade 8. The first session runs now through May.

Each participating child receives a passport book that lists participating venues, the outline of the program, and upcoming events. Inside the passport will be a baseball diamond. Readers can track their reading around the bases in 15-minute increments. Once at home plate, students receive two game day tickets to a Sanford Mainers home game.

There will be a recognition night for all reading program participants and their families.

McSea Publishing, owned by celebrated children's author Stephanie Mulligan (wife of retired NFL player Matt Mulligan), has agreed to work with the Mainers to develop a baseball short story and activity book to go with the reading program. This book will be available to sell in the Mainers' retail store and souvenir shop and from book sellers throughout Maine. Revenue from sales will be utilized to maintain



Stephanie Wilkins of Altrusa joins Andrea Pais of the Mainers and Marie Burns of Books Revisited.

the community-centered literacy program.

In addition, a tiny library built by Habitat for Humanity will be installed at the park during our season and at the Mainers office in the off-season. Books Revisited on Main Street will be a location for students to stamp their progress. Altrusa has donated to the program so that children can choose a book with a coupon they receive when signing up for Boomer's Bookworms.

Springvale Library is providing space for the Mainers Literacy Program entitled "Adventures in Baseball" and will host a reading hour. During baseball season, Mainers players will be invited to read aloud to children.

Zippy Copy will serve as a stamping location in South Sanford as well as providing printing materials for the program at a discounted rate.

Calendar Cont'd from page 1

Friday, April 5

- Men's Movie Night @ Curtis Lake Church, 6 pm, 38 Westview Dr.
- Sound Journey @ The Y, 6:30 pm, 1 Emil Levasseur Dr.

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday, April 6

- Rolling Thunder Fundraiser Dinner, 4:30 pm, 1 Hutchinson St.
- Sanford Christian Academy Auction Night, 6 pm, 25 Riverside Ave.
- Third Annual Toss-For-A-Cause Cornhole Tournament, 6 pm, Nasson Community Center
- Neil Berg's 100 Years of Broadway, 7 pm, Sanford Performing Arts Center

Sunday, April 7

- Winter Percussion and Winter Guard Finals
- SSLL Softball Weekly clinic, 6 pm, SHS

WEEKLY EVENTS

Mondays

- Baby Rhyme Time, 10 am, Springvale Public Library, 443 Main St.
- Sanford Food Pantry Distribution, 10 am, 1204
 Main St. (except Federal Holidays)
- A Family for ME, (2nd Mon) Noon & 6 pm, Zoom
- Lego Builders Club, 3:30 pm, Springvale Public Library, 443 Main St.

Fuesdays

- Free Lunch-Sanford Warming Ctr Hosted by YC Shelter, Noon, 69 Brook St.
- York County Food Pantry, Noon, YC Shelter, 5 Swetts Bridge Road, Alfred
- Knit Lits, 3 pm, Springvale Public Library, 443 Main St.
- Sanford Water District Trustees Meeting, 4 pm, 243 River St. Springvale (2nd Tues)
- Bingo, 4 pm (doors open) 6 pm (games start), Sanford Elks Lodge, 13 Elm St.
- Mattew Meal, (2nd Tues) 5:30, St. Thomas School
- Police Citizens Advisory Bd, (4th Tues) 6 pm, SPD

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Seeing and celebrating the total solar eclipse on April 8: Springvale Library will begin handing out solar eclipse glasses starting April 1. They will provide two pairs per family to Sanford/Springvale residents or library patrons while supplies last. In addition, the library will host a Solar Eclipse Party on April 8 from 2 pm to 4:30 pm. Participants can enjoy solar-themed snacks, kids' crafts and T-shirt painting. Should there be cloud cover or inclement weather, all activities will take place inside the Community Room, and the eclipse will be streamed live from NASA.

Expanded YMCA childcare program now accepting registrations: Construction of the Sanford-Springvale YMCA's new addition to support expanded childcare services is moving along, with an anticipated opening on June 10. The Early Learning Center program, which will offer childcare to children 6 weeks to 5 years old, is currently accepting registrations. The new learning environment will include customized classroom space, developmental centers and playground access. In addition, the program will offer field trips, weekly library excursions and more. FMI, call 207-324-4942.

Wanda Parent receives Elks citizen award: Sanford Elks Lodge #1470 honored Wanda Parent with its Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award earlier this month. The award goes to someone who has contributed in a special way to improving the community, has shown leadership and has provided voluntary service. Parent is perhaps best known for her role as volunteer director of Stuff the Bus Maine as well as her work with the Right

NEWS NOTES

Compiled By Carolyn Cadigan

Brain Club. Stuff the Bus is a nonprofit school readiness program that provides backpacks, school supplies and other items to prepare low-income students in York County for academic success. Right Brain Club is a summer enrichment program that keeps children reading, learning and engaged over their summer break from school.

Sweetser announces a new addition to its staff: Sweetser recently welcomed Kristine Gile as its new children's residential director. During Gile's 20-plus years of experience in children's behavioral healthcare, she has been a therapist, manager and director in a variety of programs. She most recently worked in an accredited psychiatric hospital clinic as a director of services for children and adults with serious emotional disorders/serious mental illness who have had multiple inpatient admissions. In addition, she has presented at many conferences and served on committees across the country.

It's been a long road: Congratulations to Tom Gilman on his retirement after 28 years of service in the City Highway Department.

Save those home delivery boxes: The Springvale Library is looking for boxes to pack up book sale donations. The boxes need to be sturdy and roughly the size of banker boxes. Donated boxes can be dropped off at the library.

York's County Jail lieutenant attends leadership program: Former Springvale resident Lori Marks, a 16-year employee at York County Jail, recently attended a weeklong jail leadership program at Sam Houston State

University in Texas. Marks also won a scholarship to attend the program, which was developed by American Jail Association and the Correctional Management Institute of Texas. Marks, a lieutenant at the jail, is the supervisor of an array of programs, including remedial



and enrichment classes, peer recovery coaching, and housing classification.

Program focuses on blood pressure and nutrition: A blood pressure self-monitoring program is being offered at the Sanford-Springvale YMCA. During the 4-month program, participants will learn how to measure and record their blood pressure, attend two 10-minute blood pressure consultations per month and attend monthly nutrition education seminars to develop healthier eating habits. In addition, each participant receives a free blood pressure cuff. The program cost is \$40. Scholarships are available. FMI or to enroll in the program, contact Merilee Perkins, director of healthy living, by email at mperkins@sanfordymca.org or call 207-324-4942. ■



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CORRECTED CORRECTION

The Jagger Spun Yarns store on Water Street in Springvale is open every Thursday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the second Saturday of the month 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Sanford Springvale News regrets the error.



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Funeral Home Builds Legacy of Comfort and Care

By DJ Guillemette Grade 8, St. Thomas School

Located at 580 Main St. in Springvale, Carll-Heald & Black Funeral Home specializes in memorialization, cremation and funeral services. The business provides personalized, professional and compassionate service to help lighten the burden of individuals experiencing loss. This commitment has been a pledge of the funeral home for decades.

The history and evolution of Carll-Heald & Black Funeral Home is an interesting one.

In 1938, Lionel Lafrance built a new funeral home bearing his name at 29 Winter St. in Sanford, which was later sold to a local dentist, Dr. Walter Ouellette, in 1947. The Boisvert family became the owners in 1961 and managed the funeral home for 19 years, until it was sold to Normand Lambert in 1980. The funeral home operated as Lafrance-Lambert Funeral Home for 24 years before being purchased by John and Lori Black. In 2020, the Blacks transferred ownership to Adam and Caitlin Walker, owners of Conroy-Tully Walker Funeral Homes of Portland and South Portland. Just two years later, in December 2022, LaFrance-Lambert and Black Funeral Home closed permanently, the focus shifting to the Main Street, Springvale location also owned by the Walkers: Carll-Heald & Black Funeral Home.

Carll-Heald & Black, according to their website, is "successor to several firms in western York County with roots back to the 1920s." Today, it is the only funeral home in operation in Sanford. The business reflects the names of Lucene "Sammy" Carll, who ran the business from 1948-1961, James and David Heald, owners in the '70s, '80s and '90s, and John and Lori Black, owners from 2005 until 2020.

Although the history of Carll-Heald & Black Funeral Home has been ever-changing, one thing has remained consistent: the level of trust and personalized care it provides its clients.

Daniel Guillemette, general manager and funeral director, agrees. Guillemette states, "I got started in the business because I wanted to help families during their times of loss." He remarks that this is both the most rewarding and challenging part of his profession. He emphasizes that he especially values the work he does because he was born and raised in Sanford and has strong connections to the area. He appreciates the working relationship he has with the organization's five full-time employees and numerous part-timers.

Guillemette also values the various community initiatives that go hand-in-hand with his work. He is currently involved with Oakdale Cemetery and has recently collaborated with Friends of Oakdale Cemetery on a cemetery mapping project. Guillemette assists the group with access to death records so they can thoroughly map out locations of stones and markers and the individuals buried there. In addition, Guillemette explains that the funeral home proudly supports various charities and groups within the community. This list includes, but is not limited to, the Sanford Elks, St. Thomas School, and the Sanford Dog Park. It also has a strong commitment to supporting veterans.

Guillemette is proud to be affiliated with Carll-Heald & Black, an organization that promotes integrity, compassion, respect, understanding, sympathy and dignity, particularly in a family's time of need. Learn more by visiting www.blackfuneralhomes.com, calling 207-324-4104 or emailing Dan@BlackFuneralHomes.com.

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If you have an interest or an area of expertise, please contact us at SSNews@SanfordSpringvaleNews.com.



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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Winter Guard rehearsal at Sanford High School

SCHOOL NOTES Compiled By Carolyn Cadigan

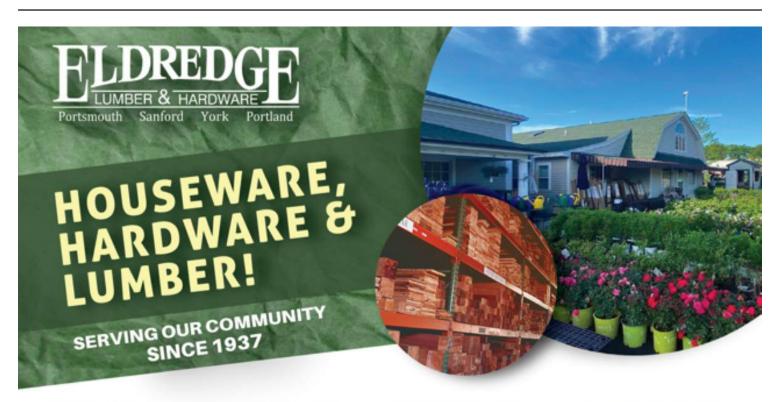
And the gold goes to Sanford: The Sanford High School Winter Guard took first place at the New England Scholastic Band Association competition at Dover High School (Dover, NH) on March 10. This year's show, "Car Wash," was designed by coaches Drew Halpin Desmarais, Eric Desmarais, Anna Yuhas and Claire Anderson. The group is comprised of students from four area schools - Kennebunk, Massabesic, Noble and Sanford. Accompanied by music, winter guard performances incorporate choreography, dance and the manipulation of equipment such as flags, sabers and rifles. FMI on the winning performance, go to https:// spartan-times.com/2024/03/18/winter-guardtakes-gold/

Those medaling kids: Earlier this month, Sanford High School's Jazz Band took home medals at the Maine Music Educators' Association High School Instrumental State Jazz Festival held at Lake Region High School in Naples. Sanford's school jazz ensemble received a silver medal while its after-school jazz ensemble and combo collected bronze medals. Several students also received the highest rating for improvisation solos. Those students include Hannah Paterson, Quang Lam, Tim McGee, Gabe Saucier, Keaghan Gagnon, Mikayla Adair, Austin Glidden, Lydia Treadwell and Joey Blanchette.

Sanford Music Boosters seeking volunteers at Finals: The Maine Band Directors' Association Winter Percussion and Winter Guard Finals competition will take place at Sanford High School on April 7 at 1 pm. The Sanford Music Boosters are looking for volunteers and food donations for this event. Anyone able to donate food or volunteer on the event day, email shsmusicboosters@gmail.com.

Vacation camp helps kids sharpen their basketball skills: April Vacation Basketball Camp will be held at the Nasson Community Center Gym from April 15 through April 19. Coach Abi will be leading the camp, designed to help players develop skills through drills, games and play. Grades 3 to 6 will meet 8 am to 10 am, followed by grades 7 to 9 from 10 am to noon. The cost is \$85 for the week or \$25 daily for drop-ins. FMI and to register, email office@nassoncommunitycenter.com.

Sanford school happenings: For more news from the Sanford school district, read the latest edition of the "Sanford Spotlight" newsletter https://www.sanford.org/o/sanford-school-department/page/sanford-spotlight-newsletter ■



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Springvale Orchardist Represents Tree Fruit Growers in Augusta

Matt McAdam of McDougal Orchards in Springvale represented the Maine State Pomological Society at the annual Agricultural Day March 19 at the State House in Augusta. The day was hosted by the Department of Conservation, Agriculture and Forestry in the Hall of Flags. The event allows groups of agricultural and horticultural producers within Maine to set up displays highlighting their organizations. These groups introduce themselves and talk to senators, representatives, and others from state agencies. The Pomological Society comprises a majority of tree fruit growers (mostly apples, peaches, pears, and plums) in Maine. Pomology is the science and practice of growing fruit. ■



Matt McAdam speaks with State Sen. Henry Ingwersen, chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

Planning Board Public Hearings Held

By Kendra Williams

A public hearing was held for the Michael's Place final subdivision and private way application to develop a 10-lot residential subdivision on property located at the end of Guillemette St. and owned by Ash Cove Construction, LLC. Ronald Bougie spoke to affirm that he had agreed to an easement on the back of his driveway with a commitment to create a stub across the street and no more cutting of trees on his lot line. There were no other public comments. All other previously identified conditions were met. The project was unanimously approved.

A second public hearing was held for the Fletcher Farm final subdivision and private way application. The proposal is to develop a 5-lot subdivision of single-family homes with a private way on property located on Jagger Mill Road and owned by Patterson Companies, LLC. There were no comments from the public. Conditions identified by the Site Plan Review Committee have been met. The project is being subsidized through a Maine State Housing grant which sets a maximum amount the homes may be sold for, thereby reducing their cost. The project was unanimously approved.

Calendar Cont'd from page 3

Wednesdays

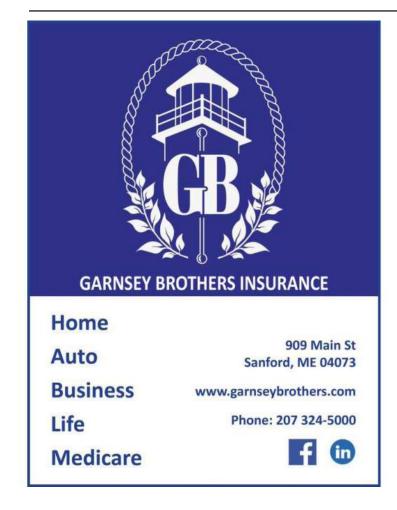
- Community Café, 11:30 am, (1st & 3rd Wed) Mayflower Place, 27 Mayflower Dr.
- Friends of Downtown, (2nd Wed) 4:30, Economic Growth Council Office
- Sam's Book Club (1st Wed) Fire Keeper's Daughter, 5:30 pm, Springvale Library
- Toddle Time, 5:30 pm, Memorial Gym Cafe, 678 Main St.
- Wednesday Night Bite Free Community Meal, 6 pm, Curtis Lake Church
- Family History Library, (First Wed) 6:30 pm, Church of Jesus Christ-LDS, 25 Westview Dr.

Thursdays

- Free Lunch-Sanford Warming Ctr Hosted by YC Shelter, Noon, 69 Brook St.
- Food Bank at St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Noon, Holy Family Church, 66 North Ave.
- Free Community Meal, 5 pm, New Beginnings Church, 181 Grammar Rd.

Fridays

- Toddler Time, 9 am, Sanford Community Adult Education, 668 Main St.
- Story Time at the Springvale Library, 10 am, 443 Main St.
- Salvation Army Produce Pantry, 10 am, Salvation Army of Sanford, 871 Main St.
- YC Food Pantry, Noon, YC Shelter Program, 5 Swetts Bridge Road, Alfred
- · Sanford Art Walk, (2nd Fri) 4 pm
- Spaghetti Dinner, (1st Fri) 5 pm, New Beginnings, 181 Grammar Rd. ■









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