

Sanford Springvale MAINE NEWS

Nonprofit newsletter produced with volunteers

Free

April 12, 2024

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Local hotels open for the season were full last week, so some storm cleanup crews bunked at the York County Courthouse in Alfred. In this photo, Ben Belanger and Brittany Parr, of Central Maine Power parent company Avangrid, and Jim Nassif of the York County Facilities Department, clear cots and bedding from the second floor of the courthouse. Other crews stayed in school gyms, a community center, and fire stations.

Photo courtesy of York County government

Community CALENDAR

Compiled by Lisa Blanchette

Add an event? Events@SanfordSpringvaleNews.com.
School Sports: <https://tinyurl.com/bd89duyj>
See complete details at SanfordSpringvaleNews.com

Saturday, April 13

- Biannual Fifty Cent Clothing Sale, St. George's, 9 am-2 pm, 3 Emerson St.
- Free Reiki Circle, Springvale Library, 10 am.
- More Composting, Eldredge Lumber, 11 am
- Comedy Fundraiser, Elks Lodge, 9 pm, 13 Elm St.
- YMCA Gala, 7-11 pm, 1 Emile Levasseur Dr.

Sunday, April 14

- DowneastCon, 9 am, Memorial Gym, 678 Main St.
- US Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus, 3 pm. SPAC, 100 Alumni Blvd.
- Weekly Softball Clinic, 5 pm, SHS

Monday, April 15 (Patriots Day)

- April Break Basketball Camp, Nasson Gym (4/15-4/19) 457 Main St. Springvale
- April Break Activities at Free Baptist Church, 10 Pleasant St. Springvale (4/15-4/19)

Tuesday, April 16

- Sanford Transfer Station Closed
- Baby/Toddler Rhyme Time, 10:30 am, Goodall Library, 1364 Main St.
- Pre-K Story Time, 11 am, Goodall Library
- April Break-Seed Planting, Goodall Lib. 1-3 pm
- Free Lunch at Warming Center by YC Shelter Program, Noon, 69 Brook St.
- YC Food Pantry, Noon, YC Shelter Program, 5 Swetts Bridge Road, Alfred
- Knit Lits, 3 pm, Springvale Library
- Bingo, 4 pm (opens) 6 pm (games start), Elks Lodge
- Matthew Meal, 6 pm, St. Thomas School.
- City Council Meeting, 6 pm, City Hall

Cont'd page 3

Saturday's Gala Addresses Childcare Shortage

By Alexa Livingston, University of New England News Fellow

A critical need is being addressed by the new childcare facilities under construction at the Sanford-Springvale YMCA, the focal point of the Gala fundraising event being held Saturday evening, 4/13, from 7-10 PM.

Maine faces a significant childcare shortage, with 25% of childcare operations closing their doors since the pandemic, according to a report by Ready Nation last June. Furthermore, the report found 22% of Mainers live in a childcare "desert" where there are more than three children under the age of five for each available childcare slot. When the Sanford YMCA heard almost two years ago that there were funds available through the state to expand childcare services, they jumped on the opportunity.

The YMCA received, and will be matching, \$250,000 from the State of Maine Early Child-care Infrastructure Grant to expand their Early Learning Center in a \$775,000 project. The

expansion will include three classrooms adjacent to the existing center. The classrooms will open up 30 more childcare slots and will lower the minimum enrollment age from 3 years to 6 weeks. With assistance from community stakeholders, the classrooms are expected to be open from 6:30am to 6pm, at an affordable cost, beginning in mid-June. Funds from the Gala will go toward needed supplies and equipment to outfit the three classrooms.



The 2,800-square foot addition on the right is for the expanded childcare program
Photo: Lee Burnett

Cont'd page 4

Scan this for more in-depth stories



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The United States Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus
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FREE CONCERT
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www.SanfordPAC.org

NEWS NOTES

Compiled By Carolyn Cadigan



Lesley Unger, Springvale Library director, shows off the Weber grill that will go to the winner of the library's raffle, part of its 4th Annual Online Auction held April 22 - 28. Sam Clendaniel, the circulation librarian, looks on from behind the desk.

Help keep the lights on at Springvale Library: The 4th Annual Online Auction at the Springvale Library is being held April 22 to 28. Over 180 items worth more than \$18,000 are available for bid. In addition, a raffle is being held for a Weber SmokeFire EX4 Wood Fired Pellet Grill, donated by Eldredge Lumber in Sanford. The online preview began on April 1 with in-person viewing starting April 12. To see what is available at this year's auction and to learn about the bidding process, go here: <https://tinyurl.com/4vv2h53s>

Interested in a firefighting career with the Sanford Fire Department? Applications are being accepted until May 2. FMI: <https://tinyurl.com/5y48ky55>

Clean up our community: Earth Day Trail Maintenance and Community Clean Up Event, sponsored by Fast & Happy Bicycles at 463 Main St. in Springvale, will be held April 20 at 1 pm. Bring your rakes, leaf blowers and garbage bags to join others in tackling various cleanup and/or trail building and maintenance initiatives. This is a fair-weather event. FMI: <https://tinyurl.com/yw4e6trm>

Partners Bank donates \$4,000 to area events: Partners Bank has donated \$1,500 to the 13th Annual Chip in Fore Charity Golf Tournament. The Kiwanis Club and the Sanford-Springvale Rotary Club will hold the outing at Province Lake Golf Course in Parsonsfield on June 7. Money raised supports the many charitable activities of the two service clubs, including scholarships for local high school students, literacy programs, food pantries, the Sanford Backpack Program and the Sanford City Trails system. Volunteers interested in helping at the golf tournament can sign up here. Partners Bank also contributed \$1,500 to the Hollis Community Day Pirate Festival to be held on August 10 in Hollis. The family-friendly event will feature a pirate parade, free games for kids, live music, raffles, food vendors, costume contests, a bouncy ship and storytelling sessions. The donation helps the small, rural community hold the festival free of charge. Finally, the 12th Annual Cruise'n Car Show at the Acton Fair, to be held August 22 - 25 at the Acton Fairgrounds, benefitted from a \$1,000 contribution from Partners Bank.

Stick to your knitting or other fiber art: Two library-based fiber arts groups have started in Sanford and Springvale. One group, Knit Lits, meets in the front room at the Springvale Library on Tuesdays from 3 pm to 4:30 pm. Another fiber arts group is starting at Goodall Library on April 24 and will meet on Wednesdays from 5:30 pm to 7 pm. Those interested in joining in the fun can bring knitting, crocheting, quilting, cross-stitching or other fiber art and enjoy some company while they work.

Free for all at Healthy Kids Day: Lots of fun is planned for Healthy Kids Day, a community event scheduled for April 20, 10 am to noon, and put on by the Sanford-Springvale YMCA. Activities at this free event will include crafts, outdoor games, giveaways, family swim, a dance party, a petting zoo, a bounce house and more. The YMCA will be joined by several guest hosts, including Frannie's Mini Donuts, Maine Fish & Game, Sanford Fire & Rescue, Sanford Police Department and others. In addition, a raffle will be held. Call 207-324-4942 FMI.

Classes and auditions at Nasson Little Theatre: Starting April 18, Improv for Teens meets five consecutive Thursdays from 6 to 7:30 pm with a showcase on May 17. Students, ages 13 to 18, will tap into their funny bone to learn the tenets of improv comedy. For those more into musical comedy, auditions for The Addams Family will be held April 26, 6 to 8:30 pm, and April 27, 2 to 5 pm and 6 to 8 pm. Those interested should bring a resume, headshot, brief monologue and 16 bars of a song. Show dates are July 19, 20, 21, 26, 27 and 28. FMI: <https://tinyurl.com/43s7y4ay>

YMCA Spring registration is open: The Spring Program Guide for the Sanford-Springvale YMCA is now available. Registration began on April 8 for the Spring Session, which runs April 22 to June 8. FMI and to access the guide: <https://tinyurl.com/53my3k56>

It's time to start planning for summer camp: Sanford Parks and Recreation registration for Summer Camp is open for residents. Non-resident registration will open on April 15. Register online here. FMI, email recreation@sanfordmaine.org or call 207-324-9130. ■

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Sanford Arts Commission Calls for Artists' Input on Proposed Artist Co-Op



By Jordan Wilson, Communications Coordinator, City of Sanford

The Sanford Arts Commission is envisioning the establishment of an Artist Co-Op in the Springvale-Sanford area and is inviting local artists to share their needs, interests, and ideas.

The Commission actively seeks feedback from local artists to shape the project. The overarching concept involves acquiring a building that could house a large, open co-working space alongside smaller to larger personal studio spaces, catering to a diverse array of artists in curating their artwork. The Co-Op would offer monthly rentals, with the possibility of day passes depending on space availability. Additionally, amenities and tools would be provided to renters/members, with the potential inclusion of an art gallery depending on space constraints.

If you're an artist in Springvale-Sanford or surrounding regions, the Sanford Arts-Commission encourages you to participate

in their survey. If you know any artists, please share this opportunity with them: <https://bit.ly/Sanford-artist-coop>

Established in 2023, the Sanford Arts Commission is a relatively new city commission with a clear purpose:

- Inspiring a sense of place and pride in the City of Sanford;
- Identifying, strengthening, supporting, inspiring, promoting, and broadcasting Sanford's cultural assets, infrastructure, and artistic treasures;
- Building and facilitating community involvement in the arts;
- Recognizing the economic power of the arts and culture in Sanford;
- Invigorating Sanford with an emphasis on the City's unique history and assets; and
- Assisting and advising the City on arts and culture matters.

Exciting news for art enthusiasts! The Sanford Arts Commission's Second Friday Art Walks are back. Save the date: April 12th marks the kickoff of the art walk season, beginning at 4 pm and continuing until dusk. Join us.

Stay updated on Sanford's upcoming Art Walks, Art in the Park, and other arts events by following the Sanford Arts Commission on Facebook: www.facebook.com/sanfordartscommission ■

Calendar *Cont'd from page 1*

Wednesday, April 17

- Community Café, 11:30 am, Mayflower Place
- April Break Activity-Slime Workshop, Goodall Lib. 2 pm
- Lego Builders Club, 2:30 pm, Goodall Library
- Poetry Group, 5 pm, Goodall Library
- Paint Night with Lizz, 5 pm, Pilots Cove Café
- Toddle Time, 5:30 pm, Memorial Gym Cafeteria
- Wednesday Night Bite Free Meal, 6 pm, Curtis Lake Church, 38 Westview Dr.

Thursday, April 18

- Free Lunch at Warming Center by YC Shelter Program, Noon, 69 Brook St.
- Food Bank, St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Noon, Holy Family Church, 66 North Ave.
- YMCA Day at Boston Red Sox, 1:35 pm, Fenway
- Free Community Meal, 5 pm, New Beginnings Christian Church, 181 Grammar Rd.
- Harry Potter Theme Night, Trivia & Magic, Smitty's, 5 pm, 1327 Main St.
- Improv for Teens, Nasson Community Ctr, 6 pm

Friday, April 19

- Toddler Time, 9 am, SCAdult Education
- Story Time, Springvale Library, 10 am
- Salvation Army Produce Pantry, 10 am, Salvation Army of Sanford, 871 Main St.
- Dueling Piano Show, Smitty's, 7 pm, 1327 Main St.
- YC Food Pantry, Noon, YC Shelter Program, 5 Swetts Bridge Road, Alfred

Saturday, April 20

- VIP Pet Clinic, Pet Supplies Plus, 9:30 am
- Corner Cupboard, Unitarian Church, 10 am,
- YMCA Healthy Kids Day, 10 am,
- Earth Day Trail Maintenance/Clean Up, Fast&Happy Bicycles, 1 pm, 463 Main St., Spvl
- April Break Activity-Beginners Knitting, Goodall Library, 1 pm
- Seacoast Warhawks vs. NE Bulldawgz, 6 pm, Alumni Stadium ■



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York County Commissioners Look at 9.6% Hike for Municipalities

Press release

Inflation and increases in the state government's valuation of county municipalities has led to a proposed 7.38 percent increase in York County government's budget and an estimated 9.6 percent increase in municipal assessments for the fiscal year that begins July 1. The proposed budget is \$25.16 million, with \$21.55 million to be raised through taxes to the 29 cities and towns, the latter up by about \$1.88 million.

York County Commissioners began their perusal of the proposed budget for the coming year on April 3 and were to continue the process on Wednesday, April 10. If the five-member board takes a vote at that time, the spending plan then moves on to the York County Budget Committee for review and a vote on the spending plan. ■

CHILDCARE GALA - *Cont'd from page 1*

The Ready Nation report found that infant care in Maine averages \$11,960 per year, exceeding the cost for in-state public college tuition by 8%. In 2022, the YMCA provided just over \$28,500 in scholarship support to their preschool families. Financial assistance through the YMCA and federal/state programs are being offered for the Early Learning Center expansion.

Applications for the Y's scholarship program can be found here <https://sanfordymca.org/y-owls-preschool/>. Enrollment spots are still open but filling quickly.

"We are proud to serve an essential need in the Sanford-Springvale and surrounding communities," CEO Andy Orazio said. "We wanted to plan a fun event and at the same time support our project efforts."

The Gala event features a complimentary drink with registration, a DJ and dance floor, snacks, a silent auction, raffle baskets, and a nontraditional diamond earring lottery, valued at \$1,200 and donated by Jeweler's Outlet. Upon entry, guests will each receive a box of chocolates, with one box containing the winning ticket for the earrings.

Entry tickets are \$50 and open to all ages. For more information, visit the YMCA Welcome Center, or call (207)-324-4942.

The Y hopes to see you there! ■



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Greater Sanford Babe Ruth Changes Up Format for 2024

Press release

Greater Sanford Babe Ruth is reforming all teams this year to give all players the greatest opportunities.

The Board of Directors has adopted the following format for the league that serves 13 to 16-year-olds: following player assessments, a draft will be held by the team coaches and all players will be assigned to a primary team. Games are being scheduled for weeknights. On Sunday afternoons, an all-team, group skills development clinic is scheduled to ensure opportunities for each player to improve their abilities. Offensive and defensive stations ensure players get significant reps to support their in-game playing time.

Primary coaches will manage their team's development. If a player needs more game experience there are several options to improve their confidence and skills. Through coordination with other local baseball leagues, developing players will be able to take advantage of additional play time through the following:

- Travel prep team - Exhibition Babe Ruth games against equal skill level (B Teams) from surrounding towns. We are looking to have one game per week. This is for our 12-year-old players and any developing players needing more game time experience.
- If there are enough 12-year-old players signed up, The League will add some 12U Cal Ripken travel team games. This will be coordinated with other 12U teams in southern Maine, playing on the mid-size diamond at a reduced 70-foot base path



Photo: Creative Commons

and 50 foot pitching distance. These games allow players to adjust, build arm strength, and gain experience beyond Little League with added rules including leading off, dropped third strikes, etc.

- Lastly, the 12U players will be eligible for an All-Star Cal Ripken 12U tournament at the end of the season.

For more information about Greater Sanford Babe Ruth Baseball, for volunteering and to help sponsor, navigate to <https://sanfordbaseball.sportngin.com/>.

Please note: If you are late to register or require financial assistance, email a Board Member from the website. The League looks forward to seeing you (and the player you cheer for) at a baseball game this summer! ■



PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 6:30 PM

Planning Board Meeting

The Sanford Planning Board will hold a public hearing & receive written & oral comments at its April 17, 2024 meeting, starting at 6:30 pm, on a Minor Site Plan and Minor Subdivision Application to convert the vacant commercial building at 37 Cottage Street to 9 units of multifamily residential dwellings on property owned by Pine Tree Properties at 37 Cottage Street (Map J27/Lot 39).

The hearing will be held in Council Chambers at City Hall, 919 Main Street, Sanford, and via remote video and teleconference pursuant to City Council Rules of Procedure. Testimony may be provided in person, via mail or email, or via Zoom. Meeting information, including how to connect via Zoom, is provided at www.sanfordmaine.org/planning. Questions or written comments should be directed to the Planning Office at 324-9150 or jlbabcock@sanfordmaine.org.

Schumacher to Leave Planning Agency after 28 Years

Press release

The Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission plans to advertise nationwide to find a replacement for long-time leader Paul Schumacher, who plans to step down this summer.

Schumacher grew the agency substantially during his 28-year tenure, including the EPA Brownfields program that has funded much of the cleanup of Sanford's former textile mill buildings and the CGA site.

Schumacher says the nonprofit is thriving and he feels confident about its future; "We have some of the most highly skilled, diverse and energetic people I have ever seen at any organization, along with the resources to help them flourish. It is a wonderful confluence of personalities and talent, and I am gratified to have been a part of it over the years. For me, it's particularly rewarding to see the impact on our member communities in York County and parts of southern Oxford County."

Staffing at the agency has more than doubled to 15 in just the past four years. SMPDC's Brownfields revolving loan program grew from a \$200,000 grant in 2005, and now handles more than \$15 million, which has been invested in underutilized and hazardous sites across the region. Under Schumacher's advocacy, SMPDC was designated as its own economic development district by the U.S. Economic Development Administration, establishing a consistent



Paul Schumacher

source of economic development funds for the region. Most recently, the creation of SMPDC's Regional Sustainability and Resilience program in 2020, and the addition of expert staff to lead it, has led to nearly \$6 million in leveraged funds for addressing resilience and climate change in the region.

"Providing land use planning assistance to municipalities has been a mainstay of the agency's focus for decades, but now that effort includes sharing expertise on affordable housing, broadband expansion, and transportation improvements," Schumacher said.

Prior to joining SMPDC in 1996, Schumacher worked as a Town Planner in several southern Maine towns and also at a consulting firm on Cape Cod. His retirement will begin this summer. ■

Bluegrass Concert

The Sanford-Springvale Historical Museum is offering an evening of toe-tappin' bluegrass music at 505 Main Street, Springvale.

Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is \$20.00 for ages 18 and older. Children are admitted at no charge.

Tickets may be purchased or reserved during museum hours (Fridays 10-4 and Saturdays 10-1) or by email, gcauger@me.com or 207-651-1980 or at the door. The Museum is handicapped accessible and air-conditioned. ■

Sports Note

By Sam Bonsey, Sanford Schools Communications Coordinator

Winners of the SMAA citizenship awards for Sanford, Sydney Roux and Jared Riley.
Photo: SHS Athletics



Sanford High School students honored at SMAA citizenship banquet: Two Sanford High School students were recognized at the Southwestern Maine Activities Association (SMAA) citizenship banquet on Monday, April 8. Sydney Roux and Jared Riley won SMAA citizenship awards for Sanford. They received their awards at the Italian Heritage Center in Portland along with students from the other 16 member schools. ■

INVITATION TO BID FACADE WORK SANFORD, MAINE



Sealed bids for the installation all new exterior trim, new entry door and window units, all new soffits on new eyebrow/roof, vinyl siding on two sides of building, and all materials needed, at 15 Roberts Street one-story masonry commercial location will be received at the Sanford Growth Council Office located at 917 Main Street, Sanford, Maine 04073 until 2:00 P.M., local time Thursday, April 25, 2024, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud. This project also includes commercial signage that may be bid on separately or together with the above work.

The work will be funded, in part, through a Community Development Block Grant from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, as administered by the State of Maine, Department of Economic and Community Development.

The Bid Package/Contract Documents may be obtained by contacting the Sanford Regional Economic Growth Council office located at 917 Main Street, Sanford, Maine 04073, or calling 207-608-4176. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Houseal Leaving Early

By Lee Burnett, Submissions editor

Friday April 12 was Ian Houseal's last day of work as Sanford's Community Development Director. Houseal has worked for the city for the past seven years and has been its point person in expanding housing and upgrading substandard housing.

During Houseal's tenure, the city increased housing density in the urban core, allowed accessory dwellings on any residential lot, regulated rental housing and recycled vacant and dangerous buildings back onto the housing market.

Houseal spoke against eliminating his position during the public participation portion of a recent City Council meeting, saying the position was a full-time job in itself and could expose the city to liability without it. The City Council opted to eliminate the position and to create an assistant city manager's position, at an additional \$17,857 cost, for the budget year beginning in July. The new position will have expanded duties and could provide coverage in the absence of the city manager. ■



31 hikers from Strengthen Your Mind and Body hiking group (on Facebook) camped out on the dam at Old Boney, an irrigation pond at McDougal Orchards.

Photo: Kristi Finochiaro-Turcotte

THANK YOU SPONSORS



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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SCHOOL NOTES

Compiled By Carolyn Cadigan



Photo: Peter Manidis via Creative Commons

Working where the wild things are: Sanford Middle School Jobs for Maine's Graduates (JMG) students visited the Center for Wildlife in Cape Neddick recently to explore careers in wildlife biology and rehabilitation. The Center for Wildlife has operated for over 30 years and has aided over 50,000 animals. During their visit, a wildlife biologist shared insights into her career and guided students through creating enriching activities and nutritious meals for various species. She also showcased the educational aspects of wildlife biology and animal sciences. Through hands-on activities, the students gained valuable experience in the field. In addition, the visit gave them a deeper understanding of the role of a wildlife biologist in wildlife rehabilitation and allowed them to gauge their interest in pursuing a career in the field.

SCA Auction Night date postponed:

Sanford Christian Academy's Spring Spectacular Auction Night has been rescheduled to April 27 at 4 pm. The event, to be held at the school's gym at 25 Riverside Ave., was postponed due to the storm.

Things to do while school is on break:

Several free events are scheduled at Goodall Library during April vacation week. Participants can learn about seed planting on April 16 from 1 pm to 3 pm, roll up their sleeves at a slime workshop on April 17 from 2 pm to 4 pm, and be crafty at beginner's knitting on April 20 from 1 pm to 3 pm. Activities are recommended for those ages 7 and up. No registration is needed. Note that the library will be closed on Monday, April 15, to celebrate Patriot's Day. FMI, call 207-324-4714 and ask for Miss Mai, the children's librarian.

Fun and games all week long: April Vacation Camp through Sanford Parks and Recreation will be held April 15 - 19, 7:30 am - 5:30 pm, at Memorial Gym for children in kindergarten through grade 6. The cost is \$150 for residents and \$200 for non-residents.

You'll need a vacation after April va-

cation: Free activities are scheduled all week during April vacation at the Pleasant Street First Baptist Church at 10 Pleasant St., Springvale. A different activity is scheduled for each day, Monday through Thursday, from 2 pm to 3:30 pm. The week will include Roll into Vacation (biking, skateboarding, roller skating), Park Time (playground time, basketball and the skate park), Wednesday Walk, and Kids vs. Parents Kickball. On Friday, a game night is scheduled from 5 pm to 7 pm and will include board games, ping pong and pizza.

Sanford school happenings: For more news from the Sanford school district, read the latest edition of the "Sanford Spotlight" newsletter here: <https://bit.ly/474dt0E> ■

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