

May 31, 2024

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## June 11 Election Information

Compiled by Zendelle Bouchard,  
Connie Garber and Renée Morin

Sanford voters will head to the polls on Tuesday, June 11 for the School Budget Validation referendum (*see that story for more info*), as well as for primary elections. This is the election to vote for the state, county and federal candidates from the Democratic, Republican and Green Independent parties to appear on the November 5 general election ballot.

### General Election Information

Maine now has 'semi-open' primaries, which means unenrolled voters (those who are not enrolled in any party, commonly referred to as independent) can now participate in primaries and are not required to enroll in the party they choose to vote for. They simply will indicate their choice for

the party ballot they want to vote for and remain unenrolled. This can also be done for voters requesting an absentee ballot by checking the box for the party you want to receive a ballot for. Here's what you should know before casting your ballot:

- 17-year-olds are permitted to vote in the June 11 election if they will be 18 years old by November 5.

- Voters 65 and older or with disabilities may request to receive absentee ballots on an ongoing basis.

- Voting hours are between 7 am-8 pm June 11, with 8 pm also being the cutoff for absentee ballot acceptance.

- The City of Sanford/Springvale is divided into three electoral districts or "wards." Your address determines which ward you

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## Primary Election Features School Budget Referendum

By Kendra Williams

Voters who go to the polls on June 11 to decide on parties' candidates for next November's election will also see a referendum on the school budget for 2024-25.

The City Council recently approved a combined city and school budget that represents a 6.8% increase over the current budget, raising the mill rate – what property owners pay for each \$1,000 of assessed value – from \$15.14 to \$16.17. It is possible that the rate could decrease with increased valuation. The school budget is approximately 43% of the mill rate. Maine law

requires districts to put the school portion of their budgets to a public vote each year.

Superintendent Matt Nelson said the School Department's expenses have increased, mainly because of contracts, health insurance and transportation. At the same time, the city's property valuation has increased, which means the state has reduced its subsidy. This has led to some cuts to programs and staffing.

"Under the circumstances, I am proud of this school budget, especially during these inflationary times when many expenses are beyond our control," Nelson wrote in a

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## Community CALENDAR

Compiled by Lisa Blanchette

Add an event? [Events@SanfordSpringvaleNews.com](mailto:Events@SanfordSpringvaleNews.com)  
School Sports: <https://tinyurl.com/bd89duyj>  
See complete details at [SanfordSpringvaleNews.com](http://SanfordSpringvaleNews.com)

### Saturday, June 1

- 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Arnie's Ride in support of M CCP, 8 am, Sanford Elks Lodge, Elm St.
- Sanford Farmers' Market, 8 am, Central Park, 920 Main St.
- CJL PTA Color Fun Run, 8:30 am, CJL School, 233 Shaw's Ridge Rd.
- Gun Give Back Event, 10 am, Sanford Police Department, 935 Main St.
- Waypoint Music Fest, 2-6 pm, Waypoint, 5 Dunaway Dr.
- Spaghetti Dinner-(Spartans-Shriner's Lobster Bowl), 6 pm, Preble Lodge, 16 Elm St.

### Sunday, June 2

- "Chamber Talk with Rick Stanley," 7 am, Radio Station 104.3 The Oldies
- Kids Fishing Derby-Roberts Pond, 9 am, Springvale Fish & Game, Gebung Woods Rd., Alfred
- Sanford 2024 Pride Picnic, noon, Gowen Park Dr.
- "Menopause the Musical 2: Cruising Through the Change," 3pm, SPAC, 100 Alumni Blvd.

### Monday, June 3

- Sanford School Department Special Olympics, 9 am, CJL, 233 Shaw's Ridge Rd.
- Red Cross Blood Drive, 9 am, Nasson Community Center, 457 Main St., Springvale
- Sanford Food Pantry, 10 am, 1204 Main St.
- SHS Athletic Awards Night, 6 pm, Sanford Performing Arts Center, 100 Alumni Blvd.

### Tuesday, June 4

- Baby/Toddler Rhyme Time, 10:30 am, Goodall Library, 1364 Main St.
- Pre-K Story Time, 11 am, Goodall Library, 1364 Main St.

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**Menopause The Musical 2**  
**Cruising Through 'The Change'**  
Sunday, June 2 - 3:00PM  
[www.SanfordPAC.org](http://www.SanfordPAC.org)

The advertisement features a vibrant illustration of four women in tropical attire (hawaiian dresses, leis, and a swim ring) and a man in a white captain's uniform. To the right is the Sanford Performing Arts Center logo, which includes a stylized map of Maine.

# Large Committee Starts Work on City Guidance Document

By Lee Burnett, submissions editor

The Sanford City Council recently named 31 people to a Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee to update the city's long-range planning document, last updated in 2005. The group includes city councilors, city staff, business owners and citizens. They met for the first time on May 22 to get acquainted and orient themselves to the task ahead.

The process will be led by City Planner Erin Moriarty, a veteran of community-wide engagement efforts. Moriarty has guided the development of 10 comprehensive plans, four downtown plans and one regional transportation plan in earlier work as a private consultant.



Photo: Sebastiaan ter Berg via Creative Commons

At the kickoff meeting, Moriarty provided an overview of the process, which is aimed at reviewing existing data and trends and charting a path forward while remaining responsive to residents.

Moriarty identified seven trends current in comp planning: aging in place; urban

livability and walkability; flex work and co-working; buy local and farm to table; transit-oriented development; historic preservation and adaptive reuse; and tourism, marketing and brand.

The process will take a year or more and will include multiple opportunities for participation from the wider community, including periodic community workshops, planning pop-ups and community surveys, Moriarty said. "It's important that (the comp plan) is unique to Sanford," she said.

The group spent most of the first meeting cataloging Sanford's strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities. Its next meeting, featuring a market analysis overview, is scheduled for June 26. ■

## Election Information *Cont'd from page 1*

fall into and where you vote. The polling places for each ward are as follows:

- Ward ONE votes at Nasson Community Center Gym.
- Ward TWO votes at Sanford Christian Academy Riverside campus (Formerly known as St. Ignatius Parish Hall-Gym.)
- Ward THREE votes at Sanford High School (Entrance Door #41.)

To look up which ward and State Representative district you reside in, scan this QR code with your phone camera:



For more general voting information, scan this QR code with your phone camera:



To view sample ballots for Democrat, Republican and Green Independent primaries, scan this QR code:



To request an absentee ballot, scan this QR code:



This online service is not available for the school budget validation referendum, only for the primary election. You may also request an absentee ballot for both elections by calling the City Clerk's office at 207-324-9125.

Absentee voting in person is available now through June 6. Stop by the City Clerk's office Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm. June 6 is also the last day to request an absentee ballot online or by mail.

### - YORK COUNTY CANDIDATES -

There are three candidates for county-wide seats this year. All are incumbents and all are running unopposed. Democrat Scott Houde is seeking reelection as Judge of Probate for York County, Republican Carol Lovejoy is running for another term as York County Register of Probate, and Republican Donna Ring is seeking reelection as York County Commissioner.

### - CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES -

Democrat Chellie Pingree is seeking election to a ninth term representing Maine's 1st District in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is unopposed in the primary.

The only contested race in the entire election is on the Republican primary ballot to choose a candidate to challenge Pingree in November. Andrew Piantidosi of Cape Elizabeth works as a substitute teacher following a career in sales and business; Ronald Russell of Kennebunkport is a retired military veteran and defense industry consultant. There is also a declared write-in candidate on the Green Independent Party's ballot, Nicholas Vigue of Clinton.

Profiles for Republican and Democratic candidates for State Senate and State House of Representatives can be found on pages 4 and 5 of this issue. ■



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Design & Production - Michelle McCarthy

## CALENDAR *Cont'd from page 1*

- York County Food Pantry, noon, YC Shelter Program, 5 Swetts Bridge Road, Alfred
- Knit Lits, 3 pm, Springvale Library, 443 Main St.
- Bingo, 4 pm (doors open) 6 pm (games start), Sanford Elks Lodge, 13 Elm St.
- City Council Meeting, 6 pm, Sanford City Hall, 919 Main St.

### Wednesday, June 5

- Community Café, 11:30 am, Mayflower Place, 27 Mayflower Dr.
- Book Talk-Early Families of Kennebunkport, 2 pm, Springvale Library, 443 Main St.
- Lego Builders Club, 2:30 pm, Goodall Library, 1364 Main St.
- Weekly Cruise In, 4 pm, Shain's of Maine, 1491 Main St.
- Poetry Group, 5 pm, Goodall Library, 1364 Main St.
- Fiber Arts Group, 5:30 pm, Goodall Library, 1364 Main St.
- Sam's Book Club, 5:30 pm, Springvale Library, 443 Main St.
- Wednesday Night Bite Free Meal, 6 pm, Curtis Lake Church, 38 Westview Dr.
- SHS Graduation Ceremony, 6 pm, SHS Alumni Stadium, 100 Alumni Blvd.
- Family History Library, 6:30 pm, Church of Jesus Christ LDS, 25 Westview Dr.

### Thursday, June 6

- Food Bank at St. Thérèse of Lisieux, noon, Holy Family Church, 66 North Ave.
- Sanford Community Youth Alliance Meeting, 4 pm, Sanford Police Dept., 935 Main St.
- Free Community Meal, 5 pm, New Beginnings Christian Church, 181 Grammar Rd.
- Mainers Home Opener vs. Mystic Schooners, 6:30 pm, Goodall Park, 32 Roberts St.

### Friday, June 7

- Electronics Recycling Event, 8 am, St. Thomas School, 69 North Ave.
- Toddler Time, 9 am, Sanford Community Adult Education, 668 Main St.
- Salvation Army of Sanford Produce Pantry, 10 am, 871 Main St.
- York County Food Pantry, noon-3 pm, YCS Program, 5 Swetts Bridge Road, Alfred
- First Friday Spaghetti Dinner, 5 pm, New Beginnings Church, 181 Grammar Rd.
- St. Thomas School's Night at the Mainers, 6:30 pm, Goodall Park, 32 Roberts St.

### Saturday, June 8

- Sanford Farmers' Market, 8 am, Central Park, 920 Main St.
- Fortean Fest 2024, 9 am, Sanford Memorial Gym, 678 Main St.
- Free Reiki Circle, 10 am, Springvale Library, 443 Main St.

### Sunday, June 9

- "Chamber Talk with Rick Stanley," 7 am, Radio Station 104.3 The Oldies
- Low-Cost Rabies Clinic, 4:00 pm, Tractor Supply, 1770 Main St.
- Spring Sports Recognition, 6:00 pm, Sanford High School, 100 Alumni Blvd. ■

## County Commissioners OK Homeless Assistance Plan



From the left: York County Manager Greg Zinser and commissioners Richard Clark, Robert Andrews, Chair Richard Dutremble, Donna Ring and Justin Chenette Photo: Tammy Wells

By Tammy Wells, York County media specialist

Agencies that aid homeless people in York County now have a new source of funds to help people get into housing and stay there.

About a year ago, the York County Budget Committee added \$125,000 to the 2024 York County operational budget to help combat homelessness. County Manager Greg Zinser met with municipal managers, but there was little consensus on how best to help. That led to discussions with the York County Homeless Response Hub – a group of social service agencies from throughout the county – and a proposal that county commissioners approved unanimously on May 15.

The \$125,000 will go toward helping with housing placement and diversion funding, which helps keep people in their homes. According to Abigail Smallwood, the Homeless Response Hub coordinator, funding would initially be split between placement and diversion, tracked and assessed, and then adjusted based on feedback and experience. The cap per household would be \$2,000. In the proposal, Smallwood estimated at least 50 households could be served.

"Support would consist of a one-time payment that addresses the main issue preventing someone from being placed in housing or remaining in housing," Smallwood wrote.

The initial split offers \$54,625 each for placement and diversion, with \$15,750 set aside for administrative costs.

When possible, York County funds would be used to supplement other, existing funding sources. Smallwood wrote that while there are several resources available, they often do not go far enough to cover the need; the county funding would cover the gap. The funds would be administered by York County Community Action Corp. Financial awards for placement and diversion would be tracked on the Homeless Management Information System.

Commissioner Justin Chenette wondered

if more people could be helped if all of the funds were to go to placement, rather than a combination of placement and diversion. "I have no doubt the recommendation (from the Hub) is solid ... but that would maximize reach," he said.

Zinser said a car repair that allows someone to go to work – and therefore keeps the roof over their head – is as critical as placement.

"If people lose their house they lose a lot. It's more than one thing," said Commissioner Richard Clark, adding he believed keeping the diversion piece is important.

Zinser suggested letting the York County Homeless Response Hub know that commissioners would be amenable if some funding needs to be transferred between the two portions of the program.

"It gives them flexibility and assures us we're helping as many people as possible," Chenette said of that option. "I'm fine with that." ■



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# June 11 Primary: Republican Candidate Profiles

Compiled by Zendelle Bouchard, Connie Garber and Renée Morin



Republican Candidates photo: L to R: Matt Harrington, Lucas Lanigan, Amy Bell, Ann Fredericks

## - STATE SENATE DISTRICT 33 -

**Matthew “Matt” Harrington** was born and raised in Maine. He is currently serving his first term in the Maine State Senate representing the people of Alfred, Lebanon, Sanford and Waterboro. He sits on the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety and the Committee on Energy, Utilities, and Technology. Prior to his service in the Senate, Harrington represented the people of District 19 for four terms in the Maine House of Representatives, where he served on several committees, including the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. A longtime public safety professional, Harrington is currently a patrol officer for the Kennebunk Police Department. He is a graduate of Southern Maine Community College and earned his bachelor’s degree in criminology from the University of Southern Maine. He and his family live in Sanford. Harrington is a member of the Sanford Elks Lodge, local Freemasons and Kora Temple Shriners, and is Chairman of his church’s board of trustees.

## - STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES -

**DISTRICT 141: Lucas Lanigan** is currently serving his first term in the State Legislature, where he represents Newfield and Shapleigh as well as parts of Sanford and Springvale. He sits on the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business and has worked to reduce taxes, advocate for small businesses, and increase support for those affected by substance use disorder. Lanigan has spent his career designing and installing lighting for weddings and other events and is currently Vice President of Lighting Operations for SHE/Luxe. He and his wife Catalina have four sons. Lanigan has served the City of Sanford as a City Councilor, Deputy Mayor, Planning Board member and member of the Marijuana Task Force. He has served as a board member for the Chamber of Commerce and has been a volunteer and coach with several youth sports organizations.

**DISTRICT 142: Amy Bell** has lived in Sanford for 20 years. She has an associate’s degree in secretarial science. She previously homeschooled her children until she helped her husband, Pastor Todd Bell, start and operate the Sanford Christian Academy in 2010. She currently serves as the school’s Administrator and as the Calvary Baptist Church Secretary. They have four children and three grandchildren. If elected, she hopes to focus on legislation that will lower inflation and living costs for families and seniors.

**DISTRICT 143: Ann Fredericks** is serving her first term in the State Legislature, during which she introduced two bills aimed at reducing taxation. She serves on the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. As a nurse practitioner, she also takes an active role co-sponsoring and advocating on health care issues. Fredericks has master’s degrees in nursing and public administration and has also worked in the public sector for the Veterans Administration. She is a member of the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and the Association of Cannabinoid Specialists. In 2016, she and her daughter opened Vetted Cannabis, a medical dispensary, in South Sanford. Fredericks’ community involvement includes the Sanford Chamber of Commerce and the Sanford-Springvale YMCA. ■

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# June 11 Primary: Democratic Candidate Profiles

Compiled by Zendelle Bouchard, Connie Garber and Renée Morin



Democratic Candidates photo: L to R: Daniel Lauzon, Patty Kidder, Anne-Marie Mastraccio, Katie Manende Hall

## - STATE SENATE DISTRICT 33 -

**Daniel Lauzon** is a retired locomotive engineer who ran freight and passenger trains for 42 years. During that time, he was elected to serve as the legislative representative for engineers in New England, advocating for rail safety and funding while prioritizing working families. Through this work, he was instrumental in creating over 500 permanent, good-paying jobs on the railway. Lauzon and his wife Maureen have raised a blended family of nine children and nine grandchildren. Lauzon has also owned and operated four different small businesses and understands the challenges facing small business owners. He has served as Chair of the Lebanon Democratic Committee and Vice Chair of the York County Democratic Committee and has been active in other Democratic party committees as well as railroad employee organizations.

## - STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES -

**DISTRICT 141: Patricia “Patty” Plummer Kidder** grew up in Shapleigh and attended USM, studying Business Administration and Computer Science. She and her husband moved to Springvale 30 years ago to raise their children who both attended Sanford public schools. She has owned and operated a tax preparation business for 40 years. She is an active member of the Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church, where she has served in many administrative and leadership roles. Her involvement with the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network and the Maine People’s Alliance has given her the opportunity to testify before many committees, sit in on their work sessions, and assist in building state-wide coalitions to promote change. She has served as President of the Sanford/Springvale Democratic Committee and has volunteered with the York County Democratic Committee and MainersTogether.com (making food deliveries during the pandemic).

**DISTRICT 142: Anne-Marie Mastraccio** is currently serving her fifth non-consecutive term in the Maine House of Representatives. She has served on a variety of committees including as House Chair of the Government Oversight Committee. At the local level, Mastraccio has been a Town Councilor and School Committee member for multiple terms and served one term as Mayor. She is a board member of Strategies for a Stronger Sanford and was a member of the Core Building Committees for Sanford High School/SRTC and the renovation projects for MCS, SMS and Sanford Pride Elementary. Mastraccio has an associate’s degree from Northeastern University and is a retired dental hygienist. She also managed her husband’s optometric office. They have two children and three grandchildren.

**DISTRICT 143: Kathryn “Katie” Manende Hall** studied forestry and wild-life ecology at the University of Maine. She works for Central Maine Power as a Manager of Vegetation Management, where she coordinates a team of arborists who manage vegetation around CMP’s distribution and transmission systems. She is also responsible for directing their overall operational strategy, as well as participating in community engagement activities such as a recent day spent with 50 Girl Scouts, introducing them to careers in STEM. Hall and her husband have two children. She has served as President of the Maine Chapter of the Society of American Foresters and was a recipient of the Mollie Beattie Young Forester Leadership Award. Hall has volunteered with Stay; For Life, a mental health and suicide prevention program, as well as with the Sanford Trails Committee. ■

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# NEWS NOTES

Compiled By Carolyn Cadigan



The boiler house of the International Woolen Company.

**Sanford awarded EPA grants for assessment and cleanup of mill properties:** On May 20, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded the City of Sanford substantial funding under the EPA Brownfields Program in two categories. The first is an Assessment Grant for \$500,000, which will be used to conduct ten Phase I and seven Phase II environmental site assessments. The focus area is the Historic Mill Yard, including priority sites such as the 7.2-acre International Woolen Mill site, the 9.5-acre Emery Mill site and the 3.53-acre Wasco Mill site. The second award, which is from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, is a Cleanup Grant for \$5 million. This grant will fund the cleanup of the International Woolen Mill Boiler House on Pioneer Avenue. The site, contaminated with various hazardous substances, will be remediated.

**Library book sale raises additional funds:** The donation-based book sale held at Goodall Library on May 17 and 18 raised \$555 for the library. The money will help with operating expenses at the library's temporary location. Director Ann Thomas and the library staff thank all those who supported the fundraising event.

**Sanford native named DHHS acting commissioner:** Gov. Janet Mills appointed Sanford native Sara Gagne-Holmes, deputy commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), as acting commissioner beginning June 1, temporarily replacing outgoing DHHS Commissioner Jeanne Lambrew. Gagne-Holmes served as deputy commissioner for the past five years, and practiced law with a focus on health care at a Maine firm before serving as a health policy and legal adviser to former Gov. John Baldacci. Lambrew is leaving the department to take a teaching position at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and to serve as director of health care reform for The Century Foundation in Washington, D.C. According to a news release, Gov. Mills is still considering permanent candidates for DHHS commissioner and is expected to name a nominee in the coming weeks. Once a nominee is named, that person will be subject to a hearing before the Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee and confirmation by the state Senate.

**Red Cross needs your help:** Two local blood drives scheduled for June still have openings. The first will be held at the Alfred Parish Church, 8 Kennebunk Rd., on June 19 from 10 am to 3 pm.

The second will be at the Preble Masonic Lodge #143, 16 Elm St., Sanford, on June 24 from 11 am to 4 pm. Log onto the Red Cross website here to schedule a time to donate. <https://www.redcross-blood.org/give.html/find-drive>

**Chocolate makes everything better:** The recent Chocolate Benefit Spectacular raised \$34,000 for the Sanford Backpack Program, which provides food to hungry students on weekends and in the summer. The fundraising makes possible the distribution of 30,000 meals annually, according to Ayn Hanselmann, an advisory board member of the program. "The program is extremely grateful to our sponsors, donors, chocolatiers (16 of them) and attendees who made it all possible," Hanselmann wrote. Summer distribution, which was in doubt last winter, is assured thanks to Atlantic Federal Credit Union, according to Hanselmann. The first distribution of the summer begins at Willard School and Sanford High School on June 13 from 3 pm to 5:30 pm. Distribution continues every Thursday through Aug. 22.



Keller Williams volunteers spend their day of service cleaning up at Sweetser.

**Commitment to community service benefits Sweetser:** As part of their RED Day annual day of service, Keller Williams team members recently volunteered at the Sanford office and Saco campus of Sweetser, the behavioral health

provider. Volunteers landscaped at both locations, refreshing planting beds, raking and more. Special thanks to Eldredge Lumber and Hardware for donating 14 bags of organic mulch that the team used at Sweetser's Sanford location. For 16 years, Keller Williams has reserved the second Thursday of May as RED Day, when its employees spend the day volunteering and making a tangible impact on the communities they serve.

**Free training helps alcohol sellers and servers keep their communities safe:** Alcohol retailers and servers/sellers of alcohol in York County play an important role in keeping the community and workplace safe and healthy. A free training session, Responsible Beverage Server and Seller Training, is designed for any establishment that serves or sells alcohol. To be held June 3 from 9 am to noon at Southern Maine Healthcare in Sanford, the training covers safe practices that help ensure the safety of workplace staff, customers and the community. Attendees will learn how to assess and prevent intoxication, detect impairment, identify false ID's and build refusal of sale skills. Participants will receive a 2024 ID checking guide. To register, email [stephanie.mastersplamondon@mainehealth.org](mailto:stephanie.mastersplamondon@mainehealth.org).

**Much thanks for an act of kindness:** Dennis and Sharon Oliveira recently volunteered their gardening skills at the Trafton Senior Center at 19 Elm St. They planted beautiful annuals to make the center's entry a welcoming space.

**YMCA water system helps to reduce plastic waste:** The Elkay water bottle refilling fountains at the Sanford-Springvale YMCA recently registered 150,000 water bottles saved from being added to the landfill or eventually to the ocean. The refilling fountains dispense cool, filtered water. Bring a refillable water bottle on your next visit to the YMCA and do your part to help the environment. ■

## School Budget Vote *Cont'd from page 1*

budget message to the community. "It is in line with other surrounding school districts in Southern Maine and York County." He said Sanford spends less per pupil, excluding costs like debt service and vocational program costs that most districts don't offer, than other area districts.

"Our main goal is to produce a budget that best meets the needs of our students, while doing our best to balance the ability of our community to support these needs. We continue to appreciate that the debt service for our new and upgraded school facilities is fully reimbursed by the State of Maine's Department of Education each year," Nelson wrote.

Nelson said the School Committee's proposed budget "provides the funding necessary to support the changing needs of our students and offer quality educational experiences for our community's most valuable resource – its children – in light of the ongoing dramatically shifting educational landscape."

Polls will be open from 7 am to 8 pm on June 11. Besides the school referendum, voters will have a chance to nominate party candidates for president, U.S. House, State Senate and State House.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot for the state elections – not the school vote – is Thursday, June 6. ■

# Longtime Sanford Stylist Hangs Up His Scissors

by Zendelle Bouchard

After 49 years in the hairstyling business, Rodney LaPierre is looking forward to retirement. The 75-year-old proprietor of The Best Little Hair House in Town on Main Street in Sanford will hang up his scissors at the end of this week.

As a young man, LaPierre had originally planned to go into the medical field. After serving as a medic in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War, he got a job at Goodall Hospital and was accepted to the physician's assistant program at Dartmouth College. But due to high demand for the program, he was told he would have to wait a year before he could begin taking classes. Since he had previously enjoyed cutting and styling hair for friends and family, he decided to enroll in a nine-month beauty school course and work for three months until a spot opened up at Dartmouth. But those three months proved he could earn a living as a stylist and changed his future plans.

Initially, he worked for Theodore, who had a three-chair salon upstairs from Shaw's Hardware. In May of 1977, LaPierre decided to strike out on his own and



Rodney LaPierre  
Photo: Zendelle Bouchard

opened The Curling Room Etc. in the old Grant's building (now home to Republi-Cash). He stayed there for 11 years before moving to an even larger location at the corner of Washington and School Streets, and ran that for 12 years under the name Hair Etc.

After 23 years of being a boss, LaPierre decided it was time to scale back and sold his business. He and his then-wife purchased a house on Main Street and he opened The Best Little Hair House, which enabled him to work right from home. He was apprehensive at first about whether a home-based salon could draw enough cli-

ents, but the cheeky name caught people's attention and it was a success.

After LaPierre had rotator cuff surgery about ten years ago, he cut back from working five days a week to a three-and-a-half day a week schedule. He was envious of friends who were able to retire, but fully expected he would never be able to afford to do so himself due to the expense involved in maintaining the house. "I used to tell my clients I would be doing their hair and they would hear a thud on the floor, and I would be dead and retired all at the same time," he says. Then, a few years ago he sold the house to his older son Jason, making retirement a possibility. Now, his son's family has the main part of the house while Rodney has a small apartment on the second floor – and the financial freedom to enjoy the next phase of his life.

LaPierre jokes that he will spend the first month of retirement in his bathrobe. "If you see me in my robe at Hannaford's, just tighten my belt and wish me well and leave me alone," he quips. He hopes to have ten years of continued good health to do some traveling and spend time with friends and family, including his younger son, Scotty. ■

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# Memorial Day Commemorated at Veterans Cemetery Despite Rainy Weather

By Nadine Gookin

The Memorial Day event at the Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery in Springvale proceeded as planned on May 27 despite the wet and rainy conditions. A large, dedicated group of attendees, many of whom stood outside the Committal Shelter in the rain, gathered to honor and remember our nation's veterans.

The ceremony featured meaningful speeches from Senator Susan Collins and Vice Admiral George Emery, USN (Ret.). Sen. Collins spoke passionately about the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by our servicemen and women, while Vice Admiral Emery shared his heartfelt reflections on the significance of Memorial Day. Their words resonated deeply with the attendees, who showed their commitment by braving the inclement weather.

In addition to the speakers, the bagpipers, bugler, rifle guard, and singers also stood in the rain, demonstrating their dedication to honoring our fallen heroes. Despite getting drenched, they performed with unwavering respect and solemnity, adding to the event's profound sense of remembrance.



Vice Admiral George Emery, USN (Ret.) and Senator Susan Collins lay the memorial wreath. Credit: Pamela Hodgdon



Pipers Al Halliday and Bill Ferrigno play while the Rifle Guard from Amvets Post 3 stands ready. Credit: Pamela Hodgdon

The Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery was a fitting location for this tribute, providing a solemn and respectful environment for the community to come together for Memorial Day ■

# PASSAGES

Compiled by Rev. Susan Murphy

**Bertha Dugre-Demers**, 85, of Sanford, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 20, 2024. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 am on Saturday, June 8 at St. Thérèse of Lisieux Parish, Holy Family Church, in Sanford. Interment will follow at Oakdale Cemetery.

**Rita L. Legere**, 84, of Sanford, passed away peacefully with her family by her side on May 22, 2024. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Thérèse of Lisieux Parish, Holy Family Church on Thursday, May 30 with burial at the Southern Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

**Howard C. Soule**, 88, of Sanford, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 20, 2024. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at a date to be announced at St. Thérèse of Lisieux Parish, Holy Family Church. Interment with Military Honors will follow at the Southern Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Springvale.

**Ralph Harold Sprague**, 88, passed away peacefully on May 17, 2024, at Gosnell Memorial Hospice House. A graveside service with military honors will be held at noon on Friday, June 21 at the Southern Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Springvale. ■

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# School Committee Meeting Highlights: May 20, 2024

by Kendra Williams

School Committee members on May 20 learned more about a new program that will expand access to high-quality pre-kindergarten education for 4-year-olds in town. Assistant Superintendent Steve Bussiere explained that the P-K Partnership grant from the Maine Department of Education will fund programming for 16 students at the YMCA, where many youngsters already go for daycare.

The pre-K component will be offered at no cost to parents or the School Department, Bussiere said. The YMCA will oversee the program and provide staffing, while the School Department will provide transportation and meals. The grant is for one year, but students served will be included in the future state subsidy funding formula, making this a program that will be sustainable over time.

Also at last week's meeting:

- The committee unanimously approved contracts with teachers and ed techs, pending approval by the respective unions. Administrative continuing contracts were also announced.
- Sanford Regional Technical Center Director Matthew Petermann provided information about updates to programs that have declined in their relevance for today's world. The committee unanimously approved his recommendations to update Digital Design to a Commercial Art Program and Robotics to Engineering Technologies.

- Based on surveys to students in partner schools as well as available space, Petermann recommended adding two new SRTC programs in the 2025/26 school year. The addition of a Baking and Pastry Program and an Athletic Training Program was unanimously approved. A formal application to Maine's Department of Education will now follow.

- Petermann was recognized as recipient of the annual Backpack Benefit with the "Friend of Backpack" Award. He has supported the program in many ways, including providing space for food distribution and support for the development of the Spart Mart.

- Curriculum Director Beth Lambert and Bussiere provided a follow-up to the previous presentation of changes to the federal title programs, with more information on how the funds will be allocated. An opportunity for public comment about the changes will take place in the near future.

- A PSA video created by students from the Sanford High Theater Club, about the harm caused by vaping, was shown. It encourages students to make good choices for their future health.

- A brochure of available summer activities developed by Lambert and Communications Coordinator Sam Bonsey was presented with the plan for distribution. Also, the latest Sanford Spotlight Newsletter highlighting happenings in

the schools throughout the district was presented. It can be read here.

- Student Representatives Aiden Gendron and Emma Adawadkar were honored for their commitment to the School Committee for the past two years. Both are graduating in the top ten of their class and shared their college and other plans.

- A donation from the Sanford Schools Legacy Foundation for the naming of the Margaret Chase Smith School Library in honor of Sharon Remick was unanimously approved. The naming celebration, open to the public, was to be held on Thursday, May 30.

- Superintendent Nelson presented staff resignations retirements, appointments and transfers.

- Several year-end school events were announced, including the SHS graduation on June 5 and Adult Education graduation on June 12. The School Budget Referendum is on June 11.

Scan this for more in-depth stories including Obituaries and Real Estate Transactions



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## Art Walk Heads Over to Central Park



Artist Madi Mullet exhibits prints, cards and bookmarks at last month's art walk.

Photo: Evelyn Nitzberg

By Evelyn Nitzberg

The second art walk of the season plans to set up at Central Park to test out the venue as an alternative to the sidewalk along Main Street. The event runs from 4 pm to sunset on Friday, June 14.

Art walk organizer Evelyn Nitzberg said Central Park offers a more relaxed atmosphere than Main Street, and the visual effect of clusters of people might draw in more passersby. "People might be more intrigued," she said. The 18 artists who exhibited in May were all willing to try out the new space, she said.

In addition to artists, Nitzberg is inviting hula hoopers, jugglers, dancers, musicians, face-painters, mimes, bubble blowers, and tightrope walkers. Event tents are welcome, but they should be secured with sandbags or gallon water jugs, not spikes.

The art walk is the creation of the Sanford Arts Commission, which is also promoting visual arts through rotating exhibits at Sanford Performing Arts Center, Nasson Little Theater, Sanford Regional Economic Growth Council, Downhill Bagel, Sanford Water District, Eldredge Lumber and Good-all Library.

The art exhibit at the library's temporary space at The Center for Shopping is set for 2 to 6 pm on Tuesday, June 4. ■

## SPORTS NOTES

By Sam Bonsey, Sanford Schools Communications Coordinator



Zoe McCann goes for the ball during a Sanford High School girls' lacrosse game. Photo: Autumn Dupuis

### Sanford High School Sports Teams Gear up for Postseason

A handful of Sanford High School's spring sports teams have qualified for the postseason.

The baseball team completed its regular season on a high note, beating Bonny Eagle 2-1 on Saturday, May 25. Noah Corliss allowed one run on three hits while striking out one in four innings pitched. Sanford went 10-6 in the regular season to qualify for the Class A South Playoffs.

The boys' lacrosse team awaits their first-round opponent after losing to South Portland at Home on Senior Night on Friday, May 24. Ayden Lockard scored seven goals.

The girls' lacrosse team finished its season with a 10-7 win over South Portland. Ali Long and Savannah Knight each scored three goals for the Spartans, who will likely open their postseason on the road on Tuesday, June 4.

The boys' and girls' tennis teams also qualified for the postseason, while a handful of track and field athletes qualified for the Class A State Championships.

### Sanford Mainers Hosting Inclusion Night

The Sanford Mainers and the New England Collegiate Baseball League are hosting a special night this July to celebrate individuals of all abilities.

This event is part of the league's Inclusion Week, which promotes inclusivity and recognizes the talents of people with diverse backgrounds and capabilities.

Come out to Goodall Park on Wednesday, July 10, and be a part of this community celebration. Gates open at 5:30pm, with the first pitch at 6:30pm.

Before the game, enjoy refreshing adult beverages (21+) at the Cruisn' Infusion Drink Tent and delicious food from the Howling Hunger Food Truck. ■

## High School Students Preparing for Solar Job Opportunities



Photo: WSSR TV

By Kendra Williams

Students in the Electrical Wiring Program at Sanford Regional Technical Center are gaining real-life experience at its Clean Energy Learning Lab. Through a collaboration with Northeast Electric and Gowen Power Systems, students have installed solar panels on the field house building at Alumni Stadium.

This learning opportunity – described to School Committee members at the May 20 meeting – was developed by Jay Desmond from Northeast Electric, a board member of Skills USA, with Electrical Wiring instructor Tim Fecteau, also a board member. Their goal was to develop a "microgrid" that would provide some power benefit to the school as well as learning opportunities to current and future students.

Employers are interested in skilled employees with strong social skills and work ethic to meet the demand. This project provides students with the real feel and understanding of what's important. It's a small project that simulates a grid for a home. The solar panels already installed will not be removed. However, a final piece with solar panels is being put on the ground so it can be turned off each year, allowing new students to take the panels off and see what it's like to install and test them.

President John Weyrens of Gowen Power Systems spoke about the importance of electricity in the future and of having passionate, skilled electricians. Currently, most people working on green energy are coming from out of state, making this a career with exciting opportunities here in Maine, he said.

The \$30,000 project has been done at no cost to taxpayers due to collaboration and contributions from the companies involved. Jason Rowe, a current senior in the Electrical Wiring Program, expressed appreciation to all involved for giving him the opportunity to work on "what is basically the future." ■

# SCHOOL NOTES

By Carolyn Cadigan

**Get to know SHS's Class of 2024 top 10 students:** As reported in the Sanford Springvale News (May 24), the annual Youth Banquet was held at the Sanford Elks Lodge on May 8. Part of the ceremony recognized individually the top 10 Sanford High School (SHS) students. For an inspirational read into these students' experiences at SHS and where they're heading next, navigate to: [www.spartan-times.com](http://www.spartan-times.com).



Sanford High School's Class of 2024 top 10 students (left to right): Zachary Parison (valedictorian), Aidan Gendron (salutatorian), Lamar Amoakohene, Jack Cullen, Ava Gendron, Hailey Tarbox, Korrinne Greer, Emma Adawadkar, Ailey Mann and Kamryn Sanborn Photo Credit: The Spartan Times

**June 15 deadline for public comment on the use of school funding:** The Sanford School Department accepts funding through the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA) of 1965. As part of the ESEA, the department is required to provide a reasonable opportunity for public comment on the consolidated application and consider comments prior to the submission of the application. Public comment will be accepted through June 15. To view the proposed projects in the application, go to: <https://shorturl.at/Eh1cv>

**JMG ceremony honors high school students' hard work and successes:** The accomplishments of Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) students at Sanford High School (SHS) and Sanford Regional Technical Center (SRTC) took center stage at the Performing Arts Center on May 21. Friends, family, teachers and school administrators gathered to honor the hard work and successes of the JMG program participants during the annual Closing Ceremony for all grade levels. Multi-year JMG students were recognized with certificates honoring

their participation and achievements. The graduating seniors were also given special recognition. A special feature of the event was a slideshow video created by Alissa Letourneau that recapped highlights and memorable moments from the JMG program throughout the school year. Juniors and seniors who completed their Career Exploration Badge, an opportunity to participate in 40 hours of meaningful work experiences, were also highlighted. The seniors recognized for their JMG program participation were Maddison

*Cont'd page 12*

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## School Notes *Cont'd from page 11*

Bouchard, Skylar Cabezal, Isabella Dale, Wyatt Flinkstrom, Caitlyn Goode, Zachary Jason, Connor Kingsbury, Emily Knight, Rylee Marr, Eric Norwald, Chloe Phinney, Mollie Poyner, Valerie Randall, William Reed and Reese Turner.



*Graduating students at Sanford Christian Academy include kindergarteners as well as seniors.  
Photo: Sanford Christian Academy*

**Pomp and circumstance for SCA graduates:** The kindergarten class at Sanford Christian Academy graduated on May 23. The following day, the school's seniors participated in their graduation ceremony. Congratulations to all the graduates! ■

## Real Estate Transactions

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan



*107 Jackson St. (5/23 closing date, listed below)*

**5/21, 3 George St., Springvale,** 3-story Duplex, 2 rental units: each 2 bed/1 bath, full basement, attic, detached 2-car garage, porch, fence, near town, \$400,000

**5/22, 12 Sidetrack Lane, #12, Springvale,** 6-room Condominium, 3 bed/2.5 bath, primary bedroom with ensuite, laundry on second floor, slab, attached 1-car garage, porch, patio, built in 2022, \$375,000

**5/23, 107 Jackson St.,** 6-room New Englander, 2 bed/1 bath, updated kitchen, bedroom and laundry on first floor, bonus room, hardwood floors, full basement, covered porch, patio, shed, fenced yard, intown, \$315,000 (pictured above)

**5/24, 46 Milton Ave.,** 6-room Ranch, 3 bed/1.5 bath, renovated, primary bedroom with half bath, family room, unfinished basement, attached 1-car carport, porch, intown, \$382,000

**5/24, 11 Curtis Lake Dr.,** 9-room Gambrel, 4 bed/2.5 bath, bedroom on first floor, primary bedroom with ensuite, large great room, laundry on first floor, full basement, attached 2-car and detached 1-car garages, porch, deck, .64 acre, \$544,000 ■



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The Invitation to Bid, Request for Proposals, and Scope of Work are available at the Public Works Office and online at [www.sanfordmaine.org](http://www.sanfordmaine.org) under Business: Bid Opportunities.