

June 21, 2024

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Sanford Community Adult Education Holds Graduation Ceremony

By Sam Bonsey
Sanford Schools Communication Coordinator

“Go do good things.” Advice from a father to his graduating daughter decades ago became a message for adult learners as they celebrated their own educational milestone on Wednesday, June 12, at Sanford Community Adult Education’s graduation ceremony in the school’s library. SCAE Director Jayne Perkins passed on her father’s words of wisdom urging the Class of 2024 to carry this simple yet powerful message into their futures. “You are examples of what hard work and determination can do,” she said. “Do not stop now. Keep working. Keep pushing yourself forward. Lead by example.”

Sanford Schools Superintendent Matt Nelson opened the ceremony with words of welcome. He highlighted the Class of 2024’s ability “to do hard things.” The



2024 SCAE Graduates

PHOTO: Sanford School Department

graduating students had each taken different paths, embraced obstacles and tackled challenges. “Everyone has a story,” Nelson said. “And the stories of our graduates tonight are some of the best stories with some of the happiest endings.”

Following Nelson’s remarks and the

Cont’d on Page 2

Community CALENDAR

Compiled by Lisa Blanchette

Saturday, June 22

- Sanford Farmers’ Market, 8 am, Central Park, 920 Main St.
- Yard sale, 8 am, Sanford-Springvale Fish & Game Club, 449 Country Club Rd.
- Car Show, 9 am, Acton Fairgrounds, 550 Route 109, Acton
- Baby Blessings, 10 am, St. George’s Episcopal Church, 3 Emerson St.
- Mainers vs Bristol, “Country Night,” 5:00 pm, Goodall Park, 32 Roberts St.

Sunday, June 23

- Chamber Talk with Rick Stanley, 7 am, Radio Station 104.3
- Low-Cost Rabies Clinic, 4 pm, Tractor Supply Co., 1770 Main St.

Monday, June 24

- Sanford Food Pantry, 10 am, 1204 Main St.
- Baby Rhyme Time, 10 am, Springvale Public Library, 443 Main St.
- Red Cross Blood Drive, 11 am, Preble Lodge #143, 16 Elm St.
- Lego Builders Club, 3 pm, Springvale Public Library, 443 Main St.

Tuesday, June 25

- Camping Story Time, 10:30 am, Goodall Library, 1364 Main St.
- York County Food Pantry, noon, YCSP, 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.
- Police Citizen Advisory Group, 6 pm, Sanford Police Department, 935 Main St.
- Mainers vs. Vermont, “Broose’s Birthday,” 6:30 pm, Goodall Park, 32 Roberts St.

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Tenters Disperse, Outreach Continues

By Lee Burnett

Mental health outreach workers continue to be in touch with people uprooted by the closure of a large tent encampment in the Mill Yard this week, City Manager Steven Buck told the Sanford City Council this week.

Dozens of people were uprooted by the long-announced closure that began Monday morning. Some 22 people accepted offers of assistance through the resource hub at Central Park. That includes temporary housing at the emergency shelter in

Alfred or a clinical detoxification treatment center. Others accepted vouchers for apartments managed by Sanford Housing Authority. Still others choose to couch surf with friends or found a willing property owner to host them on their land.

Buck told councilors that trust-building and persuasion efforts will continue as long as unhoused people remain in the community.

“Know that this is a constant effort of

Cont’d on Page 3

Neil Berg's 101 YEARS OF BROADWAY

Sanford Performing Arts Center

100 Alumni Blvd., Sanford, ME

Saturday, August 3 - 7:00PM | www.SanfordPAC.org

GRADUATION - Cont'd from Page 1

Pledge of Allegiance, SCAE graduates Alina Randall and Savana Summers took the podium to give speeches on their journeys.

Randall recognized the challenges each student had to face and overcome in her speech. "Our journey has been anything but easy," Randall said. "It has been a testament to the resilience, determination and unwavering spirit of perseverance."

Summers discussed her struggles growing up and how her life changed when she became a mother. She knew she had to rewrite her story entirely and said returning to school to earn her HiSet wasn't just a goal, but a mission. It was an opportunity to pave a new path for her and her family. "I had to become the person my children look up to," she said. "I was focused not only for my family, but also to pursue my

dream of becoming a cosmetologist."

Following student speeches, Perkins and Operations Manager Lisa Merlin presented scholarships to students. Caitlyn Beane, Randall, and Paul Peck received scholarships generously donated by Senior College and Sanford-Springvale Rotary. Summers received the Patricia A. Hughes Scholarship, given by the Maine Adult Education Association to students who seek to further their education beyond high school.

Peck received another scholarship donated from Central Maine Community College. Peck, Beane, Randall, Summers, Brett Smith, Elliot Osmer, Aubrey Robinson, Christian King, Shantell Johnson, and Kaydynce Dunlap also received scholarships donated by the University of Maine at Augusta. Summers also received a special scholarship from Mainely Characters, do-

nated by Ed Gardner and Marsha Weston, who are both on the organization's Board of Directors.

State Office Representative Pamela Buck then spoke to deliver a comment from U.S. Senator Susan Collins. "The diploma each of you receive is proof of your ability to discipline yourself, to set clear goals, and drive towards those goals," Collins said in a statement.

Congratulations to the following graduates: Caitlyn Beane, Thomas Bereshny, Stephen Briggs, Ryan Conley, Logan Delzell, Kaydynce Dunlap, Aidden Hayward, Chloe Hilton, Shantell Johnson, Christian King, Isaac Millington, McKenzie Nell, Elliot Osmer, Joshua Ouellette, Paul Peck, Alina Randall, Deshaun Severe, Brett Smith, Jordan Stuart, Savana Summers, John Ward, and Ann-Marie Varnell. ■



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.

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Young Reporter Has News, Civic Engagement in Her Blood

By Gail Burnett

Renée Morin understands why many people – including most people of her generation – don't follow the news, or don't trust what mainstream news outlets tell them. But she's OK with being an exception.

Morin, 19, of Sanford, says the stakes are just too high in this election year for citizens to ignore what's going on with their government, politics and environment.

"I really believe that if people understand what they're voting for, they will tend to vote in the country's best interest," she said.

Her focus on the news – she follows several news outlets online, including CNN, MSNBC and the Wall Street Journal – earned her a reputation as the person who knew things at The New School in Kennebunk, where she graduated on June 15.

"Most of my friends don't watch the news or anything like that," she said, and have told her they depend on her to keep them informed. "It's really flattering to be trusted so much, but it's a lot of responsibility."

The New School requires seniors to spend 200 hours doing something they believe in. Morin's project was to volunteer as a reporter with the Sanford Springvale News, a job that has involved watching hours of City Council meetings, reporting on public hearings and on election results. She attends biweekly remote meetings of the SSN staff – meetings at which she is the



Renée Morin sports an old-fashioned press hat, a gift from co-workers at the Sanford Springvale News.
PHOTO: Gail Burnett

youngest person present by at least a couple of decades.

She plans to continue with the newspaper this summer, working around her job at Jetpack Comics & Games in Rochester, NH, and then see how things look when she starts attending York County Community College in the fall. Her long-term plan is to attend law school and then work in immigration law. In both these endeavors she'll be following the example of her father, Brad Morin, who worked at two newspapers before deciding to study law. He is now a partner at Bourque, Clegg, Causey and Morin in Sanford, where her mother, Stacey Morin, is a paralegal.

Even if school pulls her away from the SSN in the fall, Morin says she fully intends to return to reporting when she has the time. "That's the best thing you can do for the community – to have an informed community," she said. "I kind of want to be a part of that." ■

CALENDAR - Cont'd from Page 1

Wednesday, June 26

- Firefighter Story Time, 10:30 am, Goodall Library, 1364 Main St.
- Lego Builders Club, 2:30 pm, Goodall Library, 1364 Main St.
- Summer Hiring Event, 2:30 pm, York County Career Center, 9 Bodwell Ct., Springvale
- 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.
- Mongol Derby Program, 5:30 pm, Springvale Library, 443 Main St.
- Wednesday Night Bite Free Meal, 6 pm, Curtis Lake Church, 38 Westview Dr.
- Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, 6 pm, Sanford City Hall, 919 Main St.
- Mainers vs. North Adams, 6:30 pm, Goodall Park, 32 Roberts St.

Thursday, June 27

- Food Bank at St. Thérèse of Lisieux, noon, Holy Family Church, 66 North Ave.
- Tickles The Clown Magic Show, 2 pm, Springvale Library, 443 Main St.
- Free Food Distribution, 3 pm, SHS & Willard, 100 Alumni Blvd & 668 Main St.
- Free Community Meal, 5 pm, New Beginnings Christian Church, 181 Grammar Rd.
- Training: Substance Use Disorders, Stigma & Narcan, 6 pm, Sanford PD, 919 Main St.

Friday, June 28

- Salvation Army of Sanford Staples Box Distribution, 9 am, 871 Main St.
- Friday Story Time, 10 am, Springvale Library, 443 Main St.
- Salvation Army of Sanford Produce Pantry, 10 am, 871 Main St.
- York County Food Pantry, noon, YCSP, 5 Swetts Bridge Road, Alfred
- Music on the Patio, Just Us: Ellen & Paul, noon, Springvale Library, 443 Main St.
- Smitty's Cinema Frank Santos Jr. (comic/hypnotist), 7 pm, 1327 Main St.
- Line Dancing with Lori, 7:30 pm, Pilot's Cove, 199 Airport Rd.

Saturday, June 29

- Sanford Farmers' Market, 8 am, Central Park, 920 Main St.
- Indoor Rummage Sale, 9 am, Sanford First Baptist Church, 905 Main St.
- Birdhouse Painting Workshop, 1 pm, Goodall Library, 1364 Main St.
- 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament for Sanford Soccer, 4 pm, Shaw Field, Shaw Rd.
- Country Band HOTT MESSS, 6 pm, Pilot's Cove, 199 Airport Rd.

Sunday, June 30

- Chamber Talk with Rick Stanley, 7 am, Radio Station 104.3
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection, 9 am, Transfer Station, 81 Rushton St.
- Cookout Kickoff-Kids Jam, 5 pm, Pleasant St. Baptist Church, 10 Pleasant St., Springvale ■



Public works crews start the cleanup of the former encampment. PHOTO: Lee Burnett

ENCAMPMENT - Cont'd from Page 1

engagement,” he said. “Until they choose to take resources, those efforts will continue.”

Tenters can store belongings for up to 30 days at a secure shipping container parked at the Sanford Police Department, which is accessible to them around the clock. All but 10 tenters had departed by 7 am Monday when Sanford Public Works employees arrived with dump trucks, front-end loaders, skid steers and a mini excavator. The road through the area, known as Heritage Crossing, was cordoned off.

The cleanup crew was greeted by piles of trash seven feet high, spent needles, propane tanks, abandoned tents and human waste.

“I challenge anyone who walks through that site ... to tell me any human being should have been left in that situation,” said Buck, who was one of several city officials who visited the site Monday morning. “It’s truly shocking.”

The crews removed nine truckloads of trash. “It went as smoothly as it could,” said Major Matthew Gagne of the Sanford Police Department. “It’s always difficult because you know you’re displacing people.”

It’s not cleaned up yet. In July, a biohazard remediation company will arrive to remove spent needles and other health hazards. Some were strewn about the woods, others accumulated in 20-gallon containers and five-gallon buckets. “There were needles everywhere,” Buck said.

Sanford’s efforts at moving people out of the large encampment drew praise from Meaghan Gean-Gendron, executive director of York County Shelter Program, which runs the emergency shelter in Alfred. She said a task force of allied agencies has been meeting for months to plan short and long-term strategies for developing housing and preventing homelessness while keeping

individual needs at the forefront.

“I feel like it’s very unique and special,” she said.

The site of the tent encampment is being developed into a 30-unit apartment building, built around the “housing first” model allowing homeless people a base of stability and services to rebuild their lives.

The first step toward that end occurred April 4, when the City of Sanford assumed ownership of encampment property through the tax foreclosure process after the prior owner failed to pay taxes for two years. The city is now working with the Sanford Housing Authority to prepare a proposal for funding from Maine Housing. The Housing Authority is developing concept architectural plans while securing financing and a developer. “They’ve done everything ahead of schedule,” Gean said. ■

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City Council June 18 Meeting Report

By Renée Morin

The city council met for its regular meeting on Tuesday June 18. All members were in attendance except for Mayor Becky Brink.

City Council Sub-Committee Reports

The Zoning Sub-Committee discussed adjusting the city ordinances regarding food trucks, as well as the trucks' access to electrical power. A decision was also made limiting polling stations to just the high school, as opposed to both the high school and middle school. The plan is to eventually move toward having just one polling place to make it easier for the clerks. Finally, Deputy Mayor Maura Herlihy presented a house key to the new owner of a house on Allen Street built by Habitat for Humanity.

For the Property & Public Safety Sub-Committee, work has begun to codify park ordinances into law. Sanford Police Sergeant Colleen Adams and Communications Assistant Director Darcy Valido of the Sanford Regional Communications Center will be appearing in a documentary addressing yellow flag laws. Adams also received a certificate of recognition from

the state legislature on May 31.

A discussion was had with the Sanford Police Department regarding the adoption of a policy of "local preference" for the distribution of wrecking permits in Sanford. Other communities in the US have adopted this policy, the lack of which has had adverse effects on the business of Sanford based wrecking companies, Councilor Ayn Hanselmann reported. Ultimately it was determined that both local and out of town companies have provided "excellent" service to the city, so the sub-committee declined to take any action at this time.

The Sanford Police Department has introduced "Bike Patrols" to the city.

In hiring news, the city has hired three new Sanford Regional Communications Center staff members, with Hanselmann referring to the center's staffing levels as strong. The fire department has had three recent retirements, and is looking to hire 3-4 new firefighters, with 8 candidates currently having applied. The position of Animal Control Officer is also open with 4 candidates having applied.

In response to concerns brought up in the Property & Public Safety Sub-Com-



Sanford Housing Authority Executive Director Diane Small is congratulated by son Wil Cote, daughter Emily Cote and granddaughter Grace on receiving the Sanford Spirit of America Award for 2024 for her collaborative work assisting the unhoused population. Photo: Eric Small

mittee meeting, the council may review at a later date the policy of displaying the Pride Flag at City Hall. The flag will continue to be flown until the end of June.

Herlihy shared with the council that "National Night Out" is scheduled to take place Tuesday August 13.

City Manager's Report

The city will receive a \$50,000 grant to assess climate change vulnerability to the downtown's stormwater drainage systems.

Cont'd on Page 7

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Sanford Team in All-Female Pilot Competition

Press Release

Southern Maine Aviation, operator of Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport, is sponsoring a team in the nation's oldest race of female pilots.

Sue Tholen and Lenora Lewis, who work at Southern Maine Aviation, and teammate Marisa Jordan, competing as Southern Maine Loonatics, are among 46 teams in the Air Race Classic, a race launched in 1929 with famed pilot Amelia Earhart among the contestants. This year's race started Tuesday in Carbondale, Illinois, and hopscooped across 11 states before ending in Loveland Colorado. Total distance is 2,628 miles. All contestants should have finished by Friday, June 21.

Because each plane receives a unique handicap, teams are racing against their own best time, not against one another, according to the Air Race Classic website. This creates a level playing field, so slower planes can compete against faster planes on an equal basis. Teams strategize to play the elements, holding out for better weather or seeking more favorable winds, to beat their handicap by the greatest margin.

All teams are equipped with a SPOT tracker. Their positions are posted in real time on the ARC website. ■



Sue Tholen, Marisa Jordan and Lenora Lewis sit on the wing of a Diamond DA40 before takeoff.
PHOTO: Allison Navia



Our Baby Turns One!

The Sanford Springvale News has been published and delivered to locations throughout Sanford and Springvale each week, with local news, without bias and at no cost to you!

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All reporters, writers, proofreaders, photographers, delivery people and board members are volunteers. We have a contracted layout designer.

How Costs Are Covered

To maintain our website, Facebook page, eNewsletter and do the print edition, we're accepting business advertisements, sponsorships and donations, and pursuing grant opportunities.

Why It's Important

We believe it's fundamental for all members of our community to know what is happening locally, what decisions are being made, and what events and services are available to them.

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The results of the school budget validation referendum have been certified, with "Yes" receiving 71% of the vote in a turnout of only 8%.

Repairs on the Johnson's Mill Bridge, which is located on Sand Pond Road and spans the Great Works River, returned higher cost estimates than expected. It is theorized that possible inaccuracies in GIS and FEMA data used in the estimate are to blame. Buck said, "the engineers concurred with the observed data and are now re-examining the project for a more cost-effective replacement, potentially with a locally administered project performed cooperatively between Sanford and North Berwick."

Ladder 37 has been plagued with issues and has not been fully operational on several occasions. The truck's manufacturer, Allegiance, had taken the truck to their repair facility for a bumper-to-bumper review. Issues have persisted nonetheless, and Allegiance is now conducting onsite work on the vehicle.

Information on the Heritage Crossing Encampment is discussed in a separate article.

Communications/Presentations

The Sanford Springvale Rotary Club was formally recognized by the city for their efforts in raising funds and gathering donations of clothes for Sanford's unhoused population during their annual "January Thaw" event. Since their first fundraiser in January 2022, the Rotary Club has raised over \$30,000 for this cause. According to Kim Lachance, a commissioner from the Sanford Housing Authority, these funds have been utilized to obtain shower vouchers, hotel rooms, rental assistance and travel costs.

Sanford Housing Authority Executive Director Diane Small was presented the Sanford Spirit of America Award for 2024, in recognition of her collaborative work assisting Sanford's unhoused population. The proclamation attached to the award described Small as a person that "has consistently gone above and beyond what is expected of her in any position she holds, dedicating extraordinary personal effort to ensuring that safe, secure and appropriate housing and shelter options can be provided for all people in our community."

Public Hearings

A public hearing was held on the application for a liquor license by Downhill

Bagel at 446A Main St, Springvale, where the Hen House used to be. The owner spoke to the council about his plans for the business to be a "cafe-meets-nighttime destination" with plans to offer natural wines and craft beers on the weekends while having a "chill, small plates" nighttime experience. He assured the council that the aim is not to be a "rowdy, honky-tonk type destination" and that the city's hospitality industry will benefit from this endeavor. The application was approved.

Old Business

Sanford Fire Chief Scott Susi presented the city's proposed ordinance on open fire permits to the council with the addition of clarifying language in response to critiques made by councilors at the previous council meeting. The changes were subsequently adopted.

New Business

The city affirmed a contract made with Dead River Company, fixing the price of #2 heating oil at \$2.8115/gal for up to 35,000 gals.

Kevin Eaton has been appointed to fill the unexpired term of Trustee of the Sanford Sewerage District following the resignation of former Trustee Keith Patterson.

A collective bargaining agreement between the city and AFSCME Council 93 General Services Union has been ratified by the council, and will be in effect between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2027.

The area of road between the crosswalks at both ends of the International Woolen building on Heritage Crossing will be closed to vehicles from June 18 to August 1 for cleanup efforts and construction in the area.

The agenda items concerning the city Safety Action Plan and upcoming roadwork are discussed in separate articles.

Council Member Comments

Councilor Robert Stackpole congratulated the Boston Celtics for their victory in the NBA finals, and complimented the work done on cleaning up Heritage Crossing, saying that the city should not allow a similar situation to happen in the future. He also expressed appreciation for everyone who voted in the recent election. Finally, he mentioned his new dog, and stressed the importance of keeping Number One Pond clean of dog waste and litter.

Hanselmann followed up on Stackpole's comment by alerting the council that the plastic bag dispensers for dog waste at the pond need to be refilled. She also brought

up the issue of Canadian geese waste, with Herlihy expressing an interest in looking into what Boston is doing to tackle this issue. Hanselmann finished off her comments by promoting the new quilting business on Main Street, Knots & Bolts, as well as suggesting people should check out businesses on Main Street in general.

Councilor Jonathan Martell expressed an interest in discussing the location of polling places sooner rather than later, to obtain better consensus among the council.

Councilor Pete Tranchemontagne offered thanks to Diane Small for her work in the community.

Future Agenda Items

Councilor Nathan Hitchcock suggested the council have a discussion about the Sanford Springvale Development Corporation, to come to an understanding on both the council and the Corporation Board's view of the "structure and future" of the corporation. ■

PASSAGES

Compiled by Rev. Susan Murphy

Irene D. (Roberts) Orino, 85, passed away peacefully surrounded by friends and family on June 12. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on June 24 at 10 am at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish, Holy Family Church with a graveside service to follow at St. Ignatius Cemetery in Sanford.

Janet Lynn Pecoraro, 68, of Sanford passed away at her home on June 11. Visitation will be held from 4-7 pm on June 21, at the Carll-Heald & Black Funeral Home. A funeral service will be held at the funeral home at 10 am on June 22. Interment will be at a later date at the Southern Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Springvale.

Doreen C. Perry, 68, of Sanford passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family in the early hours of June 9. No service is planned at this time.

Diane Lasante Fortier, 78, passed away on June 15. A private ceremony will be held for the immediate family.

For more in-depth obituaries sign up for our e-newsletter to be delivered to your email inbox at every Saturday morning at <https://sanford-springvalenews.com/sign-up/> or scan the QR code. ■



NEWS NOTES

Compiled By Carolyn Cadigan

City advocates for fire station modernization leading up to Election Day:

The City of Sanford has embarked on a campaign to promote the construction of two new fire stations. Sanford/Springvale voters will have the opportunity to weigh in on the issue in the Nov. 5 election. The modern stations will better ensure the safety and well-being of both the Sanford Fire Department staff and the residents they serve, according to the city. The new facilities are intended to address critical issues with the current, outdated stations, such as their age, size, location and lack of facilities for female firefighters. In addition, the new facilities will improve firefighter safety by meeting current safety standards and providing decontamination zones. Approval of the project will also yield financial benefits by enabling the city to apply immediately for federal grants

to help fund the construction and avoiding additional costs associated with project delays, anticipated to be \$2.6 million each year the project is delayed.

Water Ski Show will feature a new boat this season: On June 12, the team at Maine Attraction Water Ski Show took out their new boat, a twin-rig Hydrodyne with two 150HP Mercury engines. The boat will enable the team to pull bigger acts and attempt new stunts on the water. The addition of the Hydrodyne was made possible by those who supported the non-profit organization through its Benefit Dance and Auction last March.

Volunteers needed for food box assembly and loading: The Sanford Backpack Program is seeking volunteers to help with the Free Community

Food Distribution for the summer. The need is for a few hours on Thursdays through Aug. 22 to help fill food boxes and load cars in the curbside distribution program at Sanford High School and Willard School. To sign up for available dates, scan this QR code:



Invasive Japanese stiltgrass at the Sanford Community Forest

PHOTO: Three Rivers Land Trust

Stiltgrass invasion at community forest prompts closure: Rail Trail access to the Sanford Community Forest is closed until further notice due to an extensive growth of invasive Japanese stiltgrass. This grass-like plant, which can grow unimpeded even in shady, forested conditions, was most likely spread by ATVs that carried seeds on muddy tires from another location. The closure is aimed at preventing further spread of the plant. With guidance and assistance from Maine Natural Areas Program invasive plant biologists, the Three Rivers Land Trust will work on managing the stiltgrass in July before the plants begin to seed in late summer.

Cont'd on Page 9



Blaine Boudreau, Partners Bank president & CEO (center), and Kimberly Stewart, AVP – mortgage consultant (right), present an \$80,000 check to the Sanford-Springvale YMCA's Matthew Ouellette, youth and family services director (left), to support the organization's Early Learning Center expansion.

PHOTO: Partners Bank

Donation to YMCA supports expanded childcare program: Partners Bank has pledged to donate \$80,000 to the Sanford-Springvale YMCA to support the expansion of its Early Learning Center. This new 2,800-square-foot space will enable the YMCA to add approximately 30 more childcare slots in the program as well as lower its minimum enrollment age from three years to six weeks old. The project, which broke ground last year, is slated for completion in July.

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NEWS NOTES - Cont'd from Page 8

Please observe the posted signs and help protect the rest of the forest and other trails from this damaging plant.

Planning for fun all summer long:

Goodall Library has several summer reading events planned for children, teens and adults. In addition to its 2024 Summer Reading Program as well as its craft and activity adventures scheduled for each week, the library is offering several other events — from a birdhouse painting workshop to a Mario Kart tournament for teens to the library’s weekly Fiber Arts Group, Scrabble Nights, and more. FMI on the summer program and how to sign up for events, visit www.lbgoodall.org.

Transportation director takes over as new regional planning chief: After an extensive search, Stephanie Carver has been named to replace Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC) long-time Executive Director Paul Schumacher who is stepping down this summer. Serving



Stephanie Carver and Paul Schumacher
PHOTO: Raegan Young

as the SMPDC Transportation Director since 2020, Carver has led significant transportation efforts, including the expansion of SMPDC’s Municipal Planning Organization from five to nine municipalities to coordinate transportation projects in the region with the Maine Department of Transportation. She has also led the Joint Land Use Study, the collaborative planning initiative between Kittery and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, to address transportation, workforce housing, land use and climate/economic resilience. According to Schumacher, “Stephanie’s competency and experience will make this leadership transition a

seamless one.” SMPDC was founded 60 years ago to provide planning and economic development services to municipalities located in Southern Maine – offering a coordinated effort for land use, smart growth, resource management, environmental sustainability, and transportation planning.

The dogs will thank you very much: The Sanford Dog Park needs volunteers to help spread mulch that is already onsite. Rakes and shovels are at the park for people to use. This opportunity is also perfect for a student who needs to fulfill community service hours.

A milestone reached: The City of Sanford has issued a Certificate of Appreciation to Jeffrey Geaumont, deputy assessor, for reaching 20 years of service with the city. Thank you for your hard work and dedication in serving the community. Congratulations on reaching this milestone! ■



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**CITY OF SANFORD
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
SanfordMaine.org**

**Tuesday, July 2, 2024 6:00 PM
City Council Chambers
City Hall Annex, 917 Main St., Sanford, ME**

The City Council will open a public hearing to seek and receive comments on the following:

An application submitted by **Kind Farms LLC, 81 Industrial Ave, Unit C, Sanford, Maine** for a NEW Medical Marijuana Grower/Cultivator License

The hearing will be conducted in person in the Sanford City Council Chambers and via remote video & teleconference at 6:00 P.M. on the date above-referenced. Members of the public wishing to join the meeting by phone should dial 1 (929) 205-6099 and use the meeting ID & Password provided in the link on the City of Sanford website calendar for the meeting date listed above: (www.sanfordmaine.org).

Public comments may be submitted via email to info@sanfordmaine.org in favor or against the requested license. TDD/TTY users may call local TTY number or 711.

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

*Date Posted: June 20, 2024
Susan H. Cote, City Clerk*

Even in Urban Sanford, Dark Skies Can Be Appreciated



El Gordo galaxy cluster PHOTO: NASA, ESA, CSA, and STScI

On the first night of an Outward Bound team building wilderness camping trip in Maine, one of the teenaged group's girls was found staring up to the skies with tearful eyes. My granddaughter asked what was wrong. Well, this gal had never before seen such a star-filled sky and was overcome with emotion from the awareness of the awesome beauty above her. She was from an urban city environment where artificial lighting, buildings and indoor living were the norm.

We would do well to wrap our heads around those emotions as we consider that Sanford, even though a city, has places where such dark skies can be appreciated. In the Sanford area, Hanson and Shaw's Ridges will easily show the glow of artificial light. So seek out spots where the surrounding horizon is blocked by trees, and an opening in the forest canopy is large. The "Fishing Rock" at Deering Pond near the rail trail is good, as is the meadow at the McKeon Reserve and the high meadow/former logging yard at the Three Rivers Land Trust Community Forest.

Artificial light surrounds our typical life. As the result of the "Shifting Baseline Syndrome" effect, the scope of light pollution has crept up on us, relatively unnoticed. Over 80% of the world's population lives under a "lit sky" — closer to 99% in Europe and North America—and it's increasing globally by over 2% per year. Light pollution's deleterious impact on bird migrations generated a United Nations "Dim the Lights for Birds at Night" effort as part of its Convention on the Conservation of Migratory

Species of Wild Animals. This 2022 UN global campaign highlights the need for international action to reduce light pollution. And, as we all know, global actions begin with you and me, in our backyards.

Nature's world is dark half of the time, and creatures have evolved throughout the ages to perform all of their survival needs during various times of day, under various shades of sunlight. Patterns of feeding, sleeping, hiding, migration, hibernation, and reproduction have become dependent upon the circadian rhythm, and the defining element of circadian rhythm is the light/dark cycle. Circadian rhythm is the 24-hour time period during which organisms recognize, anticipate, and use changes in their environment - mostly light levels. They prepare and use their various survival tactics, like finding food and shelter, avoiding predators, mating, and getting rest. Organisms optimizing these tactics have survival advantages, so capitalization of daily light levels is paramount for species' survival and procreation.

Enter artificial-light streetlights, driveway lights, porch lights, landscape lights, vehicle lights, business lights, security lights, and on and on. All this lighting affects the environment in unnatural ways, disrupting the natural biological processes entrained within the circadian rhythm of all creatures, including humans.

Disruption of circadian rhythms results in unnatural "time shiftings" of creatures' various survival activities. Feeding times may shift to times when food is less plentiful and/or predators are more prevalent.

Reproductive processes like the release of pheromone attractant shift to when the opposite sex is unavailable or non-responsive. Sleep/rest times become erratic, causing high levels of stress, a lowering of health levels, and shorter lifespans. Activity triggers may get muffled, causing delays and/or advances in migratory actions, resulting in arrivals that no longer coincide with usually available food sources or nesting sites.

A good example of the influence of artificial light upon species survival is your porch light. See all those insects flitting about that light? They're supposed to be in another place, feeding and pollinating their normal food sources and becoming food for other creatures. But they're doomed to flit about, depleting their energy stores and falling, exhausted, to the ground. By doing that, they are not feeding other creatures, like bats, whip-o-wills and owls, nor are they pollinating food and flowers, thus disrupting the entire ecosystem.

So, what can you do about it? Maybe turn off those night-time lights that are not really needed. Or consider motion-detecting lighting and other options suggested here <https://darksky.org/resources/what-is-light-pollution/light-pollution-solutions/lighting/> that are more environmentally friendly to our night-time creatures.

Become awestruck again with the brilliant dark skies above you - like the city girl!

Editor's note: Did you see something unusual last time you were out in the woods? Were you puzzled or surprised by something you saw? Ask our "Out in the Woods" columnist Kevin McKeon. He'll be happy to investigate and try to answer your questions. Email him directly at: kpm@metrocast.net ■

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SPORTS NOTES

By Sam Bonsey

Sanford Schools Communications Coordinator



Dennis Wilson Throws the first pitch at the Sanford Mainers game on June 17.

PHOTO: Sanford School Department

School Department's Dennis Wilson Honored with First Pitch at Mainers Game

Dennis Wilson, the Sanford School Department's Technology Support Specialist, had the honor of throwing out the first pitch before the Sanford Mainers game on Monday, June 17, at Goodall Park. The special moment was part of the team's Education Week celebration.

The Mainers went on to beat the Danbury Westerners 3-0 behind a strong start from starting pitcher Ryan Minckler, who tossed five shutout innings while allowing one hit and striking out six. Christopher Willis went 3-for-5 with an RBI to lead the Mainers.

Babe Ruth League Alumni Scholarship Application Deadline Approaching

Sanford's Babe Ruth League Alumni Scholarship application deadline is June 30.

The scholarship provides financial aid and is a significant steppingstone toward a player's educational endeavors. For more information on eligibility criteria and the application process, visit the Sanford Maine Babe Ruth Baseball Facebook page. ■

SCHOOL NOTES

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan



SHS Administrative Assistants Marguerite Smith, Donna Cormier and Joanne Bourassa (left to right) retire at the end of June.

PHOTO: Madison Nadeau, The Spartan Times

Three beloved SHS administrative assistants bid adieu: The end of the school year at Sanford High School (SHS) celebrated great student achievements and a new milestone for the senior class; however, it also marked the departure of three of the school's administrative assistants.

Marguerite Smith, who started as a substitute in the office before landing her full-time position, is retiring after working 27 years at SHS. She plans to spend time with her grandchildren and travel.

Joanne Bourassa is also retiring, after working more than 31 years — five years in the main office and the rest of her career in the principal's office. She and her husband plan to travel, spend time with their grandchildren and enjoy life.

Donna Cormier, of the school's counseling office and a SHS alumna, is also bidding the school community farewell. Having worked more than 10 years at the high school, Cormier looks forward to seeing what each new day brings and spending more time in Boston with her two boys.

Limited openings remain at St. Thomas School for next school year: St. Thomas School, offering Pre-K through Grade 8 education, has limited openings for the 2024-2025 school year, and will continue to offer tours over the summer.

The school offers academics in a faith-based setting, with integrated technology, art, music, language, physical education/health, and a commitment to service in the community. FMI, contact the school at 207-324-5832

Improve your volleyball skills this summer: Coach Hill will be conducting a Summer Volleyball Camp at the Nasson Community Center July 15 - 19, 9 am to noon. The camp, for Grades 5 through 12, costs \$85 for the week. To register, email office@nassoncommunitycenter.com.

Summer Games event offers fun and friendly competition: Vacation Bible School – Summer Games will be held at the Calvary Baptist Church, 25 Riverside Ave., Sanford, from July 7 to July 9, 6 pm to 8 pm. Children ages 4 and up are invited to join in the fun, including games and competitions, giveaways, snacks, bounce houses, face painting, and more. This Bible-based program is free.

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