

October 25, 2024

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## Halloween Trick or Treats in Sanford

By Kristi King and Zendelle Bouchard

Here's where Halloween fun (with tasty candy!) can be found in Sanford:

**Trick or treat** at participating downtown businesses on Halloween from 4 to 6 pm. Remember that the Friends of Downtown **Selfies with Scarecrows** is going on through the 31st. Take selfies with your favorite scarecrows all around town and post them on social media with the hashtag #sanfordscarecrows to support our local businesses.

Be sure to stop by Mikini Embroidery and Sports Apparel on Halloween Night for their **Trunk or Treat** starting at 5 pm with additional parking at Sanford Sound.

*Cont'd on Page 3*



*Make mine medium rare!  
This High Street display is both funny and spooky.  
Photo: Zendelle Bouchard*

## Council Addresses Campgrounds, Needle Exchange, More

By Zendelle Bouchard

After hearing from residents and campground owners unhappy with a proposed ordinance regulating new campgrounds in Sanford and Springvale, the City Council on Oct. 15 decided to seek a compromise measure that can be voted on next month. Councilors also responded to online discussion about the fire station project, advocated for a change in the state's needle exchange program, and recognized volunteer interpreters who have helped the city. All councilors were present.

A dozen residents spoke against the campground ordinance, which would apply only to new developments like the one proposed for the Sand Pond area. Campground owners and developers all said the proposed 75-foot setback was too big, while residents and members of the Sand Pond Association advocated for 200 feet instead, which they said several other York County towns require. The council



*Volunteer interpreters Dr. Brendan Spinelli and Dr. Joshua Pongan were recognized by the City Council as Extra Mile Day Heroes  
Photo: WSSR-TV*

discussed the ordinance at length, including season of operation and zoning as well as setbacks and vegetated buffers. Finally, Deputy Mayor Maura Herlihy recommended having a Zoning Subcommittee meeting in the next two weeks to come up with a final compromise that the council could vote on in November.

*Cont'd on Page 2*

## Community CALENDAR

Compiled by Lisa Blanchette

### Saturday, Oct. 26

- Selfies with Scarecrows through 10/31
- Sanford Farmers' Market, 8 am, Central Park
- Spooky Sprint 5K Race, 8 am, YMCA, 1 Emile Levasseur Dr.
- Baby Blessings, 10 am, St. George's Church, 3 Emerson St.
- Harvest Fest 2024, 10 am, Salvation Army, 871 Main St.
- Great Halloween Treasure Hunt, 1 pm, Pilot's Cove Café (1st location), 199 Airport Rd.
- Witches on the Water, 3 pm, #1 Pond, William Oscar Emery Dr.
- MBDA Marching Band Finals 2024, 5 pm, Alumni Stadium, 100 Alumni Blvd.
- Halloween Costume Party @ Pilots Cove, 5:30 pm, 199 Airport Rd.
- Hallo-Queen Ball, 7 pm, Downhill Bagel Co., 446 Main St. Springvale
- Mill Towne Tavern Halloween Party, 8 pm, 898 Main St.

### Sunday, Oct. 27

- Spooky Ice Cream Social & Movie Night, 2:30 pm, St. Therese Parish, 66 North Ave.
- Springvale's Colorful Railroad Era Lecture @ Historical Society, 3 pm, 505 Main St.

### Monday, Oct. 28

- Baby Rhyme Time, 10 am, Springvale Library
- Sanford Food Pantry, 10 am, 1204 Main St.
- Red Cross blood drive, noon, North Parish Church, 893 Main St.
- Lego Builders Club, 3 pm, Springvale Library

### Tuesday, Oct. 29

- Salvation Army Food Pantry, 10 am, 871 Main St.

*Cont'd on Page 3*

# Phat Cat SWINGER

## NATIONAL TOUR!

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### HOLLYWOOD'S HOTTEST LITTLE BIG BAND!

**CITY COUNCIL *Cont'd from Page 1***

**Fire Station bonding:** Mayor Becky Brink and City Manager Steve Buck both addressed comments on social media regarding the cost of bonding the \$42.5 million principal to build the two new fire stations. The total cost with principal and interest will be \$74.9 million. Brink compared this to taking out a mortgage, but reminded voters that if the project is approved, the city will be able to apply for grants to help reduce the principal, and therefore the interest on the bond as well. Buck explained that the interest was included in the net taxation figures the city has publicized on its website as well as at last week's informational forum. "There's no smoke and mirrors," he said.

**Needle exchange:** The council voted unanimously to adopt a resolution asking the Maine Center for Disease Control to return the state's syringe exchange program to a 1:1 swap system, which was changed during the covid pandemic to allow drug users to receive 100 syringes at a time, even if they have none to turn in. The resolution will be distributed to the commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services and to Sanford legislators as well as to Maine CDC. Brink and Buck met recently with Gordon Smith, director of opioid response for Gov. Janet Mills' office, who said adopting a resolution is the quickest route to getting action on the issue. Brink said other mayors are ready to sign on to the request due to problems with discarded syringes littering

public places. (Portland Mayor Mark Dion was unable to persuade the Portland City Council to support the resolution on Monday.)

**Volunteers recognized:** The council approved a proclamation recognizing Joshua Pongan and Brendan Spinelli as Extra Mile Day Heroes. Both men have PhDs in Spanish linguistics and have served the Sanford Police Department and General Assistance office as volunteer interpreters on numerous occasions. The award was initiated by Police Chief Eric Small, who said Pongan and Spinelli have "saved the day many times." Extra Mile Day on Nov. 1 is a national day recognizing volunteerism.

**Fire Department grant:** The council voted to accept \$28,925 in grant funds from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation to purchase 55 escape system bailout kits, which will enable our firefighters to safely escape from a second-floor window. Assistant Chief Brian Watkins told the council that up until now, Sanford firefighters had to "cross our fingers and jump" if first-floor egress was blocked.

**Police accreditation:** James Willis of Dirigo Safety, LLC, presented a plaque to the Sanford Police Department for successfully completing the Maine Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. MLEAP was created by the Maine Chiefs of Police as a proactive way to instill best practices in law enforcement. The exhaustive two-year process was spearheaded by Professional Development Coordinator (and former Assistant Chief) Tim Strout

but involved all members of the SPD. Only about a quarter of Maine police departments are accredited. One benefit of accreditation is the city will receive a 15% discount on its liability insurance from the Maine Municipal Association.

**November meetings rescheduled:** The council voted to change the dates of its November meetings to avoid conflicting with Election Day. Regular council meetings will be held Nov. 12 and 26, with subcommittee meetings scheduled for Nov. 19 and 20.

**Helicopter agreement:** The council voted to approve and authorize an updated operating rights agreement with Pine Tree Helicopters at the Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport. The update will allow PTH to operate different types of helicopters and perform more helicopter-related services for other companies, as their business is growing. Airport Manager Allison Navia said the amount of revenue PTH pays the airport will increase, which will help cover the cost of plowing and maintenance.

**Soccer festival:** The council voted to approve the closure of Shaw Road from Spur Road to Shaw's Ridge Road from 7 am to 5 pm on Oct. 26 and 27 for Sanford Soccer's Fall Festival.

**General Assistance:** The council voted 6-1 to amend the General Assistance ordinance that was discussed at the previous meeting. The amendment was needed to adopt the state's updated maximums for GA payments. Councilor Martell cast the sole vote in opposition.

*Cont'd next page*

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## TRICK OR TREATS *Cont'd from Page 1*

Get spooky at the **Trunk or Treat**, taking place at the VFW Post 9935 Sanford on Hutchinson Street from 4 to 8 pm on Oct. 31.

Swing by Dance Studio of Maine South for their first ever **Trunk or Treat** on Oct. 31 at the Studio parking lot at 751 Main St. from 4 to 7 pm.

There is **Trick or Treating** being held at Summer Commons, 21 June St., on Oct. 31 from 6 to 7 pm.

**Goodall Library** will be handing out treats on Oct. 31 from 4 to 7 pm if you would like to stop by and say "Boo!"

If you just can't wait until Halloween, Kid's Kove Childcare and Learning Center 1 & 2 is hosting a **Trunk or Treat** on Oct. 28 from 6 to 8 pm in the lower Mid-Town parking lot.

If you prefer **traditional trick or treating** in neighborhoods, remember that Sanford/Springvale always does this on Halloween night, Oct. 31, from dusk to 8 pm. The Sanford Police Department wants everyone to stay safe while having a "spooktacular" time. Here are some simple tips to make sure your night is full of fun and not frights:

- Be bright! Bring a flashlight or wear reflective gear so drivers can easily see you.
- Drive slowly. Trick-or-treaters will be out and about! Take extra care when driving through neighborhoods.
- Stay alert when crossing the street, and always use crosswalks.
- Stick together; kids should stay with an adult or in groups.
- Check the treats before digging in; it's better to be safe! ■

## PASSAGES

Compiled by Rev. Susan Murphy

**Charles Leland Nickerson**, 90, of Wells passed away peacefully on October 14, 2024. At his request no public services will be held.

**Irene C. Lambert**, 85, of Springvale, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, on Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024, at her home. Visiting hours were held Oct. 24 at the Carll-Heald and Black Funeral Home, with a private burial. ■

## CITY COUNCIL *Cont'd from Page 2*

**Anderson Learning Center:** The council voted unanimously to approve amendments to the master lease agreement with the Sanford Springvale Development Corp., which operates the ALC. The most significant change was to the section of the lease regarding capital improvements and requires the SSDC to maintain a six-year plan for improvements that will allow the city to anticipate and budget for them. Space in the ALC is subleased to organizations which provide a public benefit, at lower cost than they would pay to lease space elsewhere.

### Other items:

- The council voted to accept a bid for concrete sidewalk demolition and construction services from Genga Excavation Contractors of Springvale. The bid is for future work as needed, due to the retirement of the city's long-term sidewalk contractor.
- A public hearing and first reading on an update to the City Ordinance Chapter 70 Airport Article IV Rates and Fees was held. Navia said putting the fees the airport charges into the ordinance will provide its users with continuity and certainty and creates a more business-friendly environment. The proposed rates will keep the airport competitive and financially self-sufficient, and the rates will be updated every five years.
- Councilor Nate Hitchcock reported on the Oct. 9 meeting of the Land Bank Commis-

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sion, which was the first one held in several months. The commission is reexamining the process of dangerous building hearings, which are expected to start up again soon. It also looked at buildings that had an action plan that failed and reviewed next steps. Commissioners also plan to restart the process of planning how to address blighted commercial buildings in town.

- Buck noted that the Maine Department of Environmental Protection has completed a cleanup of the Regco property off Heritage Drive where leaking transformers saturated the earth with oil.
- Buck reported that the town of Alfred has removed the Hay Brook Bridge after Sanford won a judgment in court to force the issue. A contractor will now close off both ends and install guardrails.
- The city has been awarded \$50,000 for work on a market analysis and parking study to assist with the Comprehensive Plan update.
- Assistant Fire Chief Watkins repeated the presentation on decontamination that he gave to the Public Safety Subcommittee last week. Decontamination is imperative due to the carcinogens released during a fire, which coat gear as well as the skin of firefighters.
- The council appointed Sue Cote as the warden for the Nov. 5 municipal and state election. ■

## CALENDAR *Cont'd from Page 1*

- Family Story Time, 10:30 am, Goodall Library
- Free Lunch at YCSP's Recovery Community Center, noon, 69 Brook St.
- York County Food Pantry, noon, YCSP, 5 Swett's Bridge Road, Alfred
- Cribbage, 2 pm, Springvale Library-Williams Reading Room
- Knit Lits, 3 pm, Springvale Library
- Bingo, 4 pm (doors open) 6 pm (games start), Sanford Elks Lodge, 13 Elm St.
- Dulcimer Group, 6 pm, Goodall Library
- Haunted Woods 2024, 6 pm, Gowen Park, Gowen Park Dr.

### Wednesday, Oct. 30

- Thanksgiving/Christmas Salvation Army Assistance Apps, 10 am & 4 pm, 871 Main St.
- Covid-19 & Flu Vaccine Clinic, 1 pm, Traf-ton Senior Center, 19 Elm St.
- Lego Club, 2:30 pm, Goodall Library
- Fiber Arts Group, 5 pm, Goodall Library
- Wednesday Night Bite Free Meal, 6 pm, Curtis Lake Church, 38 Westview Dr.
- Kids Halloween magic show @ Smitty's, 6 pm, 1327 Main St.

### Thursday, Oct. 31 Halloween

- Sensory Story Time, 10 am, Springvale Library
- Free Lunch at YCSP's Recovery Community Center, noon, 69 Brook St
- Food Bank at St. Thérèse of Lisieux, noon, Holy Family Church, 66 North Ave.
- Trunk or Treat, 4 pm, Dance Studio of Maine South, 751 Main St.
- VFW Post 9935 Sanford Trunk or Treat, 4 pm, 1 Hutchinson St.
- Free Community Meal, 5 pm, New Beginnings Christian Church, 181 Grammar Rd.
- Scrabble Night, 5 pm, Goodall Library
- Truck or Treat, 5 pm, Mikini Embroidery, 1458 Main St.

### Friday, Nov. 1

- Salvation Army of Sanford Harvest Table Food Pantry, 9 am, 871 Main St.
- York County Food Pantry, noon, YCSP, 5 Swett's Bridge Road, Alfred

### Saturday, Nov. 2

- St. Thomas School Mingle Jingle 5K & Vendor Fair, 9 am, Memorial Gym, 678 Main St.
- Winter Growing & Gardening, 10 am, El-dredge Lumber, 1787 Main St.
- Thanksgiving Dinner, 4:30 pm, St. Thomas School, 69 North Ave.
- Jocelyn Boucher-North Shore Medium, 6 pm, Performing Arts Center, 100 Alumni Blvd. ■

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# NEWS NOTES

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan



Jason Beaulieu of Beaulieu Logging and Steve French of Landry Construction, at the site of the future York County First Responder Training Center and separate York County Recovery Center in Alfred.  
Photo: Tammy Wells

**Site prep continues for recovery center, training center:** Land clearing has begun for constructing the \$24 million York County First Responder Training Center and separate York County Recovery Center in Alfred. Clearing should be completed in early November.

**Dance to benefit Thanksgiving Basket Program:** York County Shelter Programs (YCSP) is holding its annual Harvest Dance on Nov. 8 from 6 pm to 10 pm in order to collect food and raise funds for its Food Pantry's Thanksgiving Basket Program. Every year the pantry distributes hundreds of Thanksgiving meals to local residents in need. Tickets for the dance,

to be held at the Sanford Elks Lodge at 13 Elm St., are \$10 each and may be purchased at the door or in advance by calling YCSP's Stacy Irving at 207-651-5538 or 207-550-2075 or Scott Davis at 207-502-0520. Bring a non-perishable food item to be eligible for drawings, door prizes, a raffle and 50/50 drawings. There is a cash bar. For those who cannot attend but would like to donate nonperishable Thanksgiving meal food items, a turkey, or money to the Thanksgiving Basket Program, contact Scott Davis at 207-502-0520 or [scottd@yescpi.org](mailto:scottd@yescpi.org).

**Parking ban:** The Department of Public Works has issued a parking ban for Goodwin's Bridge Road on Oct. 25, 28 and 29 from 6 am to 7 pm.

**Is there anything you haven't done?** Travel+Discover Maine recently published an online guide, "28 Best Things to Do in Sanford, Maine This Year." The guide, which calls Sanford the city with a small-town feel, provides a brief history of Sanford and highlights several indoor and outdoor activities, restaurants and lodging

options. Read the guide here. And should you want to venture out of the city, there are guides that cover many of the surrounding communities as well.

**Helping needy families stay warm this winter:** This year, the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is again being offered to help keep people safe and warm during Maine's long, cold winter season. A new online application process is available to simplify and speed up processing times for Mainers who need help this winter. The HEAP helps qualifying households by paying a portion of their home energy costs, primarily for heating. Mainers can check their eligibility for HEAP and start the application process here.

**Have you voted yet?** Amid concerns about the U.S. Postal Service's ability to keep up with an influx of election-related mail, Maine's Secretary of State Shenna Bellows is urging absentee voters across the state to use drop boxes or return their ballot to their municipal clerk in person. This will lighten the load on the Postal Service and give absentee voters greater certainty that their ballot is received ahead of the Nov. 5 election. In-person

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**YOUR VOTE MATTERS - November 5th!**

absentee voting at City Hall's 3rd floor conference room is also an option until Oct. 31. The hours are 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, Monday through Thursday, and 8 am to 3 pm on the weekend. For those choosing to vote in person, the polling location for all Sanford/Springvale voters is Sanford High School at 100 Alumni Blvd. On Election Day, Nov. 5, poll hours will be 7 am to 8 pm. The city is providing free transportation to the polls through York County Community Action Corporation (YCCAC). YCCAC will pick you up, bring you to vote, and take you back home. All vehicles are wheelchair accessible. Call YCCAC at 207-459-9283 by noon on Nov. 1 to reserve your ride.

**The season of giving is right around the corner:** Toys for Tots Southern York County will begin its 17th year of giving together with community friends on Nov. 1. Its mission is to make Christmas brighter for children within its area of service covering 15 communities, including Sanford and Springvale. Each year, the organization seeks donations and volunteers to help with their mission. The online registration process for those requesting toys will be open Nov. 1 to Dec. 8. Like many programs, the organization cross references with other programs, so they ask that people register with only one toy-giving program. FMI on registering, donating and volunteering, email [Springvale.me@ToysforTots.org](mailto:Springvale.me@ToysforTots.org).



Helping to clean up the South Sanford roundabout are (left to right) Bob Myott, president of the Sanford/Springvale Rotary Club, Keith Patterson, Stan Hultin, Mark Yerkes, Amy Yerkes and Andy Orazio, CEO of Sanford YMCA. Photo: Sanford Springvale Rotary

**Rotary's roundabout revitalization realized:** Anyone traveling around the junction of routes 109 and 4 in South Sanford may have noticed the cleanup and revitalization of the roundabout, Sanford/Springvale Rotary. The club organized 11 work days going back to April for a total of 37 volunteer hours. The roundabout landscape project involved trash and weed removal as well as a native plant landscape designed and installed by Salmon Falls Nursery. The native plants include sweetfern, lowbush blueberries and little bluestem — the three most prevalent plants — as well as plantings of highbush blueberries, ninebark and pine trees. The

installation of hardy native plants helps to keep weeds at bay and provide food for birds, bees and other beneficial insects.

**Sanford insurance agency marks its 150th year with an acquisition:** Batchelder Bros. Insurance Agency acquired Ronel J. Dubois Insurance Agency on Oct. 1. Batchelder Bros. Insurance, with its staff of 11 and a large portfolio of carrier appointments, will continue to provide uninterrupted service to former Ronel J. Dubois policyholders. A third-generation, family-owned business that has been operating in Sanford since 1874, Batchelder Bros. Insurance marks 150 years of business this year. ■

## A Lot of Digging Downtown



Downtown Sanford is ringing with the sounds of heavy construction these days. ReinCorp recently broke ground on a 30-unit building at the corner of School and Bodwell streets, across from Central Park. Across the way, at a vacant lot between Sunset Towers and the former Verizon store, workers for TPD Construction are preparing to pour a foundation for a 12-unit building. Meanwhile, other workers for TPD have been setting curb for a new sidewalk at Goodall Library's \$4.5 million expansion.



(L) A worker hauls rebar for TPD Construction Co. housing on Main Street, and (above) an excavator loads a dump truck at ReinCorp's housing project on School Street. Photos: Lee Burnett

## Thank You

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the following recent donors to Sanford Springvale News:

Heidi Barker \*  
Theresa Collins  
Carol Forbess \*  
Michelle McCarthy  
Kevin McKeon \*  
Paul & Kendra Williams \*

\* Donors who have made a monthly giving commitment.

# Fire Department Receives Escape System Bailout Kits

By Jordan Wilson, Communications Coordinator, City of Sanford

The Sanford Fire Department has been named a 2024 grant recipient by Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation®, receiving \$28,952 to increase lifesaving capabilities in Sanford. The grant will be used to purchase 55 Escape System Bail-Out Kits for all department members and will ensure our firefighters can quickly escape extremely dangerous conditions that may occur in today's rapidly changing fire environment. These crucial safety devices are now a part of the turnout gear worn by Sanford firefighters and consist of heat-resistant webbing, an anchor hook, carabiners, and a descent control device.

According to Assistant Chief Brian Watkins, they are very grateful for this grant. "The new bail-out kits will fulfill a critical need within our department and allow our first responders to quickly exit dangerous or compromised buildings, typically through a window, especially when usual escape routes like doors or stairways are blocked or unsafe."

The City Council voted to accept the grant at their meeting on Tuesday, October



Sanford Fire Department staff training with CMC staff to use the bailout system at the former Notre Dame site. Photos: Jordan Wilson

15 and fire department staff have already begun training on the proper use of these devices with CMC, the company that makes these devices.

For the past 19 years, charitable donations have been the driving force behind Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation® supporting first responders and public safety organizations nationwide. The grant is part of more than \$89 million given by Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation to support safety across the U.S. To learn more about Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation or donate directly, visit FirehouseSubsFoundation.org. ■





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# Lip Sync Showdown

By Kristi King

The Sanford Backpack Program's Lip Sync Showdown fundraising event took place at the Sanford Performing Arts on October 19. This friendly competition featured Sanford's community members from the city council, schools, and sports teams performing for an audience of 260 people for a vital cause. The event raised funds to provide enough food to fill 600 backpacks for area students. The Director's Award went to the Sanford Police Department for their "Thriller" performance. The Maine Attraction Water Ski Team received the



Photo: L-R: Tonya Pickering-SMS PTA, Makayla Rodney-SMS PTA, Ben Hartford-SMS student, Lenore Hartford-SMS PTA, Peggy Booker-Turgeon-MCS PTA

overall Judges' Award for the night. The supportive crowd cheered and yelled platitudes for the animated performers during this first showcase of community support and talent for the backpack program which may become an annual tradition. ■

## SHS Winter Sports Registration Open

Winter sports registration is now open for the 2024 season at Sanford High School. Students interested in participating can register online at the school's athletic registration portal.

Informational meetings have been scheduled for all winter sports programs:

- Girls Basketball: Tuesday, October 29 during Spartan Time in the Competition Gym

- Boys Basketball: Tuesday, October 29 at 2:30 p.m. in Room B243 (Red Wing)
- Indoor Track and Field: Thursday, October 24 at 2:30 p.m. at the Agora Stairs
- Wrestling: Thursday, October 31 at 2:30 p.m. in the Wrestling Room
- Competition Cheer: Thursday, November 7 during Spartan Time in Room E222

All interested student-athletes must register through the official registration portal before participating. ■



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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## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Sanford Planning Board will hold a public hearing and receive written and oral comments at its **November 6, 2024 meeting, starting at 6:30 pm**, on applications for the following projects:

- File # R9-63 - 137 Shaw Rd – Sanford-Springvale Soccer Association – Zone Change - Request for a Zoning Map Amendment to change lots R9-63 and R9-64 from Rural Residential Zone to Urban Zone to allow a year-round food truck park in the existing gravel parking lot, in conjunction with the continued use of youth sport programming.
- R8-69 – Hanson's Ridge Rd – Kiwanis Club - Zone Change - Request for a Zoning Map Amendment to change lot R8-69 from Residential Development Zone to Urban Zone to allow for the use of private sewerage systems, in conjunction with single family residential construction.
- File R12G-9 - 17 Oak Ridge Rd - Commercial Farm Site Plan – Application and site plan for change of use from single family residential to commercial farm due to the number of chickens on site surpassing the number allowed by the Residential Domesticated Chickens Ordinance.

The hearings will be held in Council Chambers at City Hall, 919 Main Street, Sanford, or via remote video and teleconference. 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](http://www.sanfordmaine.org). Questions or written comments should be directed to the Planning Office at 324-9150 or [jlbabcock@sanfordmaine.org](mailto:jlbabcock@sanfordmaine.org).



# OUT IN THE WOODS

By Kevin McKeon, Maine Master Naturalist

*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](mailto:kpm@metrocast.net)*

## Few Critters as American as the Raccoon

We might think of them mainly as invaders of our garbage cans or poor victims of speeding cars, but raccoons have a long history as symbols of our country and are remarkably clever creatures.

In the early 1600s, when Capt. John Smith wrote "A Map of Virginia" to describe the region around Jamestown colony, he made note of animals known to the native Algonquin as "aroughcun," meaning "one who rubs and scratches with his hands." The peculiarities of the raccoon were further highlighted in 1714 by naturalist John Lawson, who wrote that the raccoon "is the drunkenest Creature ever living, if he can get any liquor that is sweet and strong." He also described how raccoons had been observed fishing for crab, using their long tails as bait.

Raccoons' pelts were a substantial part of the early fur trade, favored by the frontier folk. This led to a symbolism of sorts: Raccoon fur became ubiquitous and unpretentious among the colonists — an expression of rebellion and patriotism — representing their wild, untamed land, while the English elite preferred to maintain their high societal norms by avoiding raccoon in favor of the traditional beaver hat. Even as late as the early 1900s, the raccoon coat — made from about 30 pelts — was the dapper collegian's choice.

Our raccoon is a cute creature but will protect itself if provoked. Clever and



Photo: Patti Peterson via Creative Commons

curious, they're adaptable to many habitats and like to stay close to their homes in hollow tree cavities. Coyotes, bobcats, wolves, and large birds of prey eat them, and motor vehicles cause many deaths. Usually preferring solitude, some will live in small communities called nurseries, or gazes. Breeding season is from January to June. After mating with a boar and a two-month gestation, female sows have a litter of three to seven cubs, who remain with their mother for their first winter and leave in the spring. They live for three to five years in the wild but over 20 years in captivity.

Although raccoons lack opposable thumbs, their hyper-sensitive hands allow for the opening of doors, jars, bottles, and latches — and trash cans! Raccoons eat small animals, fish, frogs, insects, eggs, berries and fruit, and are known to dip their food in water, possibly enhancing their food awareness. They are great

swimmers and can run and climb up to 15 mph and can usually survive a 130-foot fall. Raccoons' intelligence rates are between monkeys and cats. They have been known to remember puzzle solutions for three years. These nocturnal creatures make over 50 sounds, like purrs, hisses and growls.

Raccoon was a common meat source for many Southerners. Vinnie Joyce of Nitta Yuma, Mississippi, a supporter of President Calvin Coolidge, sent him a live raccoon in November 1926, so that the first family could kill and eat it for Thanksgiving dinner. However, the family had other ideas: Rebecca the raccoon became an official White House pet, joining the Coolidges' dogs and canaries. Apparently, Rebecca had the run of the place, even accompanying the family on outings, and had an embroidered collar identifying her as the "White House Raccoon!" ■

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# SCHOOL NOTES

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan



Students board the bus to Sanford Pride Elementary School.  
Photo: Sanford School Department

**The wheels on the bus go right, left, right:** Three years into its journey, the Walking School Bus Program at Sanford Pride Elementary School continues to make strides in building a stronger community and improving attendance. What began as a way to ensure students arrive at school safely and on time has blossomed into an engaging morning routine for students, volunteers, and families. Every morning, Carol Lantagne, the program's coordinator, is joined by volunteers at the CVS parking lot on Main Street to begin their walk along Charles Street and State Street Court, gathering students from their homes along the way. They meet students at their households to walk them to the bus

stop. A key part of the program's success hinges on its volunteers, including staff members from counselors and health teachers to Assistant Principal Kristin Daly. They end at the intersection of Main and State Streets, where the school bus picks up the students. The school has realized several benefits from the program, including improved attendance and a greater connection with students and families.

**Students learn about BIW career opportunities:** Sanford High School students in the Jobs for Maine Graduates classroom had an interactive presentation on careers at Bath Iron Works (BIW) on Oct. 15, including an overview of the services BIW provides, such as onsite certifications. Students learned about different training opportunities available to them directly out of high school.

**Giving a voice to their peers:** The Sanford School Committee welcomed two new student representatives from Sanford High School (SHS), juniors Matthew Melvin and Zachary Moores, bringing fresh voices and ideas to the table. Alongside current student representative, senior

Elsie Gendron, these students help the committee make important contributions to their school community. Moores brings valuable skills to his new role, including strong communication abilities and the confidence to share his opinions. Melvin, a three-sport athlete, brings experience from his involvement in SHS's student government and class leadership. Gendron, who has been a student representative since fall of 2023, shared wisdom for the new student representatives: "My biggest piece of advice would just be to learn what you can. It's a very cool opportunity to see the inner workings of something we otherwise may not get the chance to see."

**Your name can live on in Sanford's history:** The Sanford Schools Legacy Foundation invites you to name a seat at the Sanford Performing Arts Center. A seat in the new theater, inscribed with your name, a loved one's name, your business, or in memoriam, serves as a reminder of your commitment to the City of Sanford and the performing arts. For a one-time, tax-deductible donation of \$75, your name will be engraved on a nameplate and placed on the armrest of a theater seat, to remain in

*Cont'd on Page 11*



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# Romance Blooms at Final Art Walk

Anthony Paro and Marissa Glover got engaged to marry at the Oct. 11 Art Walk in downtown Sanford.

The Whitefield, ME couple had met on a “make friends” chatting app and had been thinking about getting married for two years, according to Sanford Arts Commission member Evelyn Nitzberg. He wanted to pop the question at an art event and learned about the art walk on the Sanford Arts Commission Facebook page. Paro was familiar with Sanford, having grown up nearby, and decided to enlist local artists in the event. He commissioned them to produce “Hello Kitty” artwork and T-shirts with the message “Will You Marry Me?”

Then the couple drove to Sanford and got stuck in traffic.

“The evening grew chilly as the sun set,” Nitzberg wrote. “Sixteen of us, including Marissa’s parents Mat and Anita, waited patiently, and at last, two hours later than planned, the bride and groom-to-be appeared in the dusk .... We witnessed Anthony on bended knee and a stunned Marissa sobbing in joy, cheers, tears and blowing of horns all around.”



Marissa Glover and Anthony Paro at the Oct. 11 Art Walk

Photo: Evelyn Nitzberg

This year, the Arts Commission held eight Art Walks on the second Friday of each month. Featured artists include Pat Adams, Max Adams, Grace and Jasmine Arsenault, Searra Canfield, Stephanie Gagnon, Emma Higgins, Dawn Luis, Bob Mongue, Jan Pomerleau, Georgia Renfroe and Kristin Thornton.

Art Walks will resume in the spring. In the meantime, local artists’ works are hanging around town at Downhill Bagel, Nasson Little Theater, Sanford Water District, Sanford Performing Arts Center, the Economic Growth Council window and Goodall Library. All works are available for purchase. Anyone interested in becoming a Sanford Arts Commission member can apply at City Hall. Membership is not limited to artists. ■

# School Spirit Was Alive For Homecoming




SHS Color Guard and Band lead the Parade  
Photo: Sanford School Dept.

The curtain has fallen on Sanford High School’s 2024 Homecoming Week. From October 9-14, the halls echoed with the sounds of Broadway as students, faculty, and staff came together to celebrate the school spirit in theatrical style, culminating in the high school’s annual Homecoming Parade.

Each class brought their chosen Broadway musical theme to life during the parade. Seniors transformed the school into Rydell High with their “Grease” theme, complete with leather jackets and poodle skirts.

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The juniors made a splash with “The Little Mermaid,” the sophomores took everyone “Back to the Future,” with creative DeLorean cutouts and 1950s-inspired decor, and the freshmen had “Hamilton”-themed displays and revolutionary spirit.

There were spirit days throughout the week, which encouraged students to dress in creative costumes each day to earn points for their grades. Monday was “Country vs Pop,” Tuesday was “Twin Day,” Wednesday students dressed as their Broadway musical, and Thursday was “Red and White” day.

There were also varsity home games each day and the student section was encouraged to wear the theme of the night. On Thursday, students were dismissed by grade to attend the Pep Rally. Each grade had its own student section in the competition gym. ■

## SCHOOL NOTES *Cont'd from Page 9*

place for the life of the seat. FMI and to name your seat, go to [sanfordschoolslegalfoundation.org/performing-arts](http://sanfordschoolslegalfoundation.org/performing-arts).



*National Art Honor Society students from Sanford High School visit art museums in midcoast Maine.  
Photo: Sanford School Department*

**SHS students visit the Midcoast Maine art scene:** Sanford High School’s National Art Honor Society students took a field trip to Rockland and Cushing on Oct. 4 to visit multiple venues where they could experience Maine’s diverse art scene. At Rockland’s Farnsworth Museum, they explored the legacy of the renowned Wyeth family, examining works spanning three generations. They also discovered how Maine’s landscape, particularly Monhegan

Island, has influenced numerous local artists. The Center for Maine Contemporary Art, also in Rockland, provided an interactive experience where students engaged with works by three contemporary artists. Students participated in hands-on art-making activities and meaningful discussions about modern artistic expression. The day concluded with a stop at the historic Olson House in Cushing. While interior access was restricted, students captured photographs of the house and the surrounding landscape. The students were led by Margaret Warner, art teacher, and Sally Quarles, Extended Learning Opportunities coordinator.

**Fire safety instruction at MCS:** Kindergarten students at Margaret Chase Smith Elementary School enjoyed a special visit from Sanford Fire Department firefighters in honor of Fire Safety Month. The firefighters gave a fun and informative presentation on staying safe during a fire, what signs to look for, and the important gear the firefighters wear. The students were excited to learn about fire safety and got a firsthand look at the brave work the firefighters do. ■

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**Chicken Fingers (6) with pickle and 2 SIDES** \$ 16.<sup>95</sup>

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Smoked pulled chicken or pork, Romaine lettuce, swiss cheese, cashews, craisins, pears, Gala apples, & homemade lemon poppyseed dressing. \$ 19.<sup>95</sup>

## Sides

Included with Meal or Sandwich

- Chips & Pickle** \$ 2.<sup>95</sup>
- Beans** \$ 3.<sup>95</sup>
- Cole Slaw** \$ 3.<sup>95</sup>
- Cornbread** (grilled w/ butter & honey) \$ 4.<sup>95</sup>
- Cheesy Potatoes** \$ 4.<sup>95</sup>
- French Fries** \$ 4.<sup>95</sup>
- Sweet Potato Fries** \$ 4.<sup>95</sup>
- Mozzarella Sticks** \$ 6.<sup>95</sup>

## Sandwiches

Choose 1 Side

**Smoked Pulled Pork with 1 SIDE** \$16.<sup>95</sup>  
on a buttered, grilled bun with BBQ or Carolina Sauce on the side.

**Smoked Pulled Chicken with 1 SIDE** \$15.<sup>95</sup>  
on a buttered, grilled bun with BBQ sauce on side, chips and pickle.

**Char-Grilled Angus Burger with 1 SIDE** \$16.<sup>95</sup>  
Double patty burger with cheese, on a buttered, grilled bun, chips and pickle.

**Grilled Hot Dog** \$ 6.<sup>95</sup>  
On Brioche bun with fries

**Grilled Cheese with 1 SIDE** \$ 6.<sup>95</sup>  
On Sourdough bread with fries

## Kids Kid Meals include Chips & Pickle Add \$1.<sup>00</sup> for French Fries

**Grilled Hot Dog** on white bun \$ 5.<sup>95</sup>

**Grilled Cheese** on white or whole wheat \$ 5.<sup>95</sup>

**Chicken Fingers (4)** \$ 7.<sup>95</sup>

**Cheeseburger (Angus Beef)** \$ 8.<sup>95</sup>

## Just Meat

Sides Not Included

**1/2 Rack Baby Back Ribs** (about 6 or 7 ribs) \$21.<sup>95</sup>

**Full Rack Baby Back Ribs** (about 14 ribs) \$34.<sup>95</sup>

**Pulled Pork (cup)** \$19.<sup>95</sup>

**Pulled Chicken (cup)** \$18.<sup>95</sup>

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