

August 30, 2024

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Sanford Schools Ready for a New Year

By Kendra Williams

Final preparations for the start of the 24/25 school year were the primary focus of the School Committee's meeting on Aug. 19. Since then, fall athletics have begun and schools have held open houses. New teacher orientation, a staff welcome and an in-service day have taken place. Several new professional staff positions were filled over the summer with what Superintendent Matt Nelson described as outstanding candidates. Maintenance and custodial staff have been hard at work performing annual cleaning and maintenance in all schools.

All is now ready for students' return after this Labor Day weekend. On Tuesday, Sept. 3, students in grades 1-9 will begin. On that same afternoon, there will be an open house



Students enjoy the playground at Sanford Pride Elementary during the school's recent Pops on the Playground event, a celebration of the start of school.

Photo: Sanford Pride PTA

from 5-6 pm for the Sanford Regional Technical Center's Pre-K Program.

The following day, Sept. 4, will be the first day for Pre-K, kindergarten and all

Cont'd on Page 2

Schools Consider Banning Student Cell Phones

The Sanford School Committee took a first step on Aug. 19 toward prohibiting student use of cell phones during the school day. It held a first reading on a proposal that still faces more discussion, surveys of students, parents, teachers and administrators, and a second reading before it can be approved.

If it adopts a ban, Sanford would be joining a growing number of districts restricting students' use of smart phones and smart watches. Parents' groups and others say the devices distract students and can lead to increased anxiety, addiction and

bullying. According to a recent report in the Portland Press Herald, some 30 districts around the state restrict or ban cell phones, and more are considering taking action. That includes schools in Bath, where the school committee adopted a no-cell phone policy in June for grades 6 to 12.

Last week's first reading of a new policy – approved by four committee members, with Melissa Simpson abstaining – means the proposal will move forward and could be amended before any vote is taken. ■

Community CALENDAR

Compiled by Lisa Blanchette

Visit our Events Calendar at

Sanfordspringvalenews.com for more details.

Saturday, Aug. 31

- Sanford Farmers' Market, 8 am, Central Park, 920 Main St.
- Annual Randall's Run/Walk for the Gym, 8:30 am, Nasson Center, 457 Main St., Spvl.
- Ride For Mercy, 10:30 am, Mercy Chapel, 1861 Main St.

Monday, Sept. 2 Labor Day

- Maine Attraction Labor Day Water Ski Show, 4 pm, Number One Pond, River St.

Tuesday, Sept. 3

- First day of school grades 1 to 9 and SRTC
- Salvation Army Food Pantry, 10 am, Salvation Army of Sanford, 871 Main St.
- Family Story Time, 10:30 am, Goodall Library, 1364 Main St.
- Free lunch at YCSP's Recovery Community Center, noon, 69 Brook St.
- York County Food Pantry, noon, YCSP, 5 Swetts Bridge Road, Alfred
- Red Cross Blood Drive, noon, Nasson Community Center, 457 Main St, Springvale
- Cribbage, 2 pm, Springvale Library-Williams Reading Room, 443 Main St.
- Knit Lits, 3 pm, Springvale Library
- Bingo, 4 pm (doors open) 6 pm (games start), Sanford Elks Lodge, 13 Elm St.

Wednesday, Sept. 4

- First day of school - kindergarten and Grades 10-12
- Lego Club, 2:30 pm, Goodall Library
- Legacy Foundation Dedication for Bruce Mackinnon, 4 pm, SHS, 100 Alumni Blvd.
- Fiber Arts Group, 5 pm, Goodall Library

Cont'd on Page 4

A spectacular curated talent showcase starring performers from Sanford and York County!

Saturday, September 14
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other students to grade 12.

Through a partnership with the YMCA and Sanford Schools, an additional P-K classroom with 16 spaces will be added this year, with before and aftercare for working parents. The new space, furniture and supplies are ready and waiting.

Breakfast and lunch will once again be free for all students. This follows the summer meals program where the Sanford Schools Food Services Program provided almost 23,000 free meals at public places.

Bus routes have been released. There will be an email on Infinite Campus for parents, who will be given a username and password. They will be able to log in to see the approximate time of the stop for their student. Parents with questions about their child's student ID number should contact their school. For further questions about bus routes, contact either the school or Ledgemere Transportation at 207-324-4888. For other transportation issues, contact Assistant Superintendent Steve Bussiere at 207-324-2810.

Bus drivers and monitors are still needed. A sign-on bonus of \$5,000 for those fully licensed to drive a bus is being offered. For those who need training, the bonus is \$3,000 and for bus monitors, it's \$1,600. Starting pay for drivers has increased to \$26 an hour, with increases over time.

As always, there is a need for substitute teachers, ed techs, nurses, custodians and food service workers. Rates have been adjusted and increased effective at the beginning of the school year.

The next School Committee meeting is on Monday, Sept. 9.

Watch the full School Committee meeting at youtube.com

For more information on the school opening, go to the Sanford Schools website at sanford.org. ■

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan



Photo: Sanford School Department

Say cheese on SHS Picture Day: School pictures for Sanford High School freshmen, sophomores and juniors will be taken on Sept. 3 (freshmen) and Sept. 4 (sophomores and juniors) by Studio by the Pond, 75 Main St., Springvale. Online orders must be pre-ordered by Sept. 21. Use this link to the order form to order online or print an order: <https://tinyurl.com/mpr3dr2z>. The event access code is shsfallpictures24.

Flower fundraiser celebrates fall: The fall mum fundraiser at St. Thomas School is underway. Various colors and sizes are available. Forms and money are due no later than Sept. 19 with pick-up at the St. Thomas School parking lot on Sept. 20 from 3 pm to 6 pm. Pick up an order form at the school. St. Thomas School receives 100 percent of the proceeds from this fundraiser.

Bus routes for the new school year are available: The 2024-2025 bus routes for the Sanford School Department are now available on Versatrans (login required). Emails were sent to parents/guardians on Aug. 21 with transportation information and Student ID numbers. Anyone who did not receive an email should contact your child's school to verify your email address and obtain your child's Student ID number. Due to a bus driver shortage, some bus routes have been combined to begin the school year, resulting in longer ride times for some students. Anyone interested in becoming a driver or monitor should contact Ledgemere, the transportation provider, at 207-324-4888. Call your child's school directly with questions.

SHS schedules and counselor updates made available: Sanford High School (SHS) schedules went live on Aug. 26 on Infinite Campus. In addition, the SHS School Counseling Department provided updates on school counselor caseloads, and information regarding the adding/dropping of courses has been posted. FMI, go to the Sanford High School website or call 324-4712. ■

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NEWS NOTES

Compiled By Carolyn Cadigan



Some of this year's Summer Reading Program winners with their hard-earned Portland Sea Dogs tickets in hand. Photo: Sanford School Department

Top readers reap rewards: Goodall Library announced the winners of the 2024 Summer Reading Program. The top readers are: Beau W. (age 0-5), Calvin D. (age 6-12), Liam L. (age 13-17), and Jon B. (adults). There were also two raffle winners: Alice H. (Amazon gift card) and Lisa J. (book bundle). This summer's program attracted over 150 participants who read a cumulative total of 3,225 books. Pete Lieberman generously donated Portland Sea Dogs tickets to the program's top readers. To join the fun, keep an eye out later this year for information on the Winter Reading Challenge.

Beware of wet paint: The Department of Public Works (DPW) has been striping city streets, including crosswalks, arrows, stop bars, and more, in Sanford and Springvale since Aug. 20. Striping could continue through the beginning of September, depending on weather conditions. Please be aware of the crews and striping equipment in the roadways and watch for wet paint. FMI, contact the DPW at 207-324-9135.

Nasson works with local colleges and universities to help fill the health care void: Nasson Health Care is once again partnering with York County Community College in Wells in its Medical Assistant Apprenticeship program. Earlier in August, the nine-month program launched, aiming to give students valuable classroom and on-the-job training as medical assistants. Nasson welcomed Cristopher Mejia to their team as he embarked on his journey to become a medical assistant. This rigorous program is helping to fill a void in the health care system. Nasson is also partnering with the University of New England College of Dental Medicine and its preceptor program, supporting dental students' externship experiences. The program not only prepares future dentists, but also helps to

address the dental provider shortage in many communities.

Pass the beans, please: The Knights of Columbus will be hosting monthly bean suppers at St. Thomas School, with all proceeds benefiting the school. Kicking off Sept. 7, the suppers will be held the first Saturday of each month from 4:30 to 6:30 pm in the cafeteria. Dinners cost \$10 for adults, \$6 for children aged 6 to 12, and free for children 5 and under.



Congratulations to MJ and Doris, who won several gold medals at the Maine Senior Games Photo: Trafton Senior Center

Trafton seniors win cornhole gold: Trafton Center members absolutely rocked the Cornhole Tournament at the Maine Senior Games on Aug. 17. Congratulations to MJ and Doris who won several gold medals. Congratulations also go to participants Claire and Bobbi, who did well in the tournament. Cornhole is one of the many activities offered at the Trafton Center. FMI on their activities, call 207-457-0080.

YCCAC to collect fares beginning Sept. 9: York County Community Action Corporation (YCCAC) has announced the reinstatement of transportation fares, beginning Sept. 9. YCCAC has been operating fare-free since 2020 due to 100 percent federal funding from Covid Relief Acts passed by Congress. With those funds now expended, federal funding will cover only 50 percent of eligible operating expenses. Several reduced fare options are available, along with discounted monthly and multi-ride passes. In addition, YCCAC has instituted a mobile ticketing system, using the mobile phone app Token Transit. Riders will be able to download the app on their phones and then purchase, activate, and board a bus, using just a smartphone.

An exact-fare cash option and paper passes are also available. To purchase a transportation pass, visit the YCCAC office at 6 Spruce St., Sanford, or call 800-965-5762 or 207-459-9283 with questions. FMI on fares and payment options, go to: yccac.org/transportation.

Smitty's offers BOGO deal for public safety and military personnel: All police officers, firefighters and military members are eligible for a "buy one, get one free" deal on all movie tickets every Monday at Smitty's Cinema in Sanford.

Sept. 5 author talk at Goodall Library: Author Amy Safford will be at Goodall Library on Sept. 5 from 6 to 7 pm to discuss her debut novel, "Goode Vibrations of the Wrething Place," as well as the history of Maine's Malaga Island and what it means to "belong" in Maine. Free light refreshments will be served. This event will take place at the library's temporary location in The Center for Shopping.

Looking to fill families' homes with books: BeLoved, an outreach ministry of Mercy Chapel, is seeking board books for an upcoming event. If you have gently used board books, please drop them off at Mercy Chapel, 1861 Main St., Sanford. ■

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How Many Veggies Could a Woodchuck Chuck?

This summer, for the third time in six years, we had a woodchuck take up residence under our tool shed at the Sanford Community Garden. This character followed on the heels of a pair of hares that also decided to use the garden as their personal smorgasbord. These visitors were not at all frustrated by either the deer fencing or the rabbit fencing installed at the garden's birth. The hares disappeared by natural means shortly after a bobcat showed up near the garden. But it took a Havahart trap to oust the woodchuck.

Critters will navigate toward and live where the habitat is most optimal for their survival, so what better place for this pesky rodent than a burrow under a building, in the middle of a fenced garden? Even though we've relocated several of these vegetable-gnawers — and undoubtedly will do so again — there's obviously a trail sign somewhere advertising an available residence to other migrating woodchucks!

Woodchucks were called woodchoock, woodshaw, and wejack by some Native American cultures; to the indigenous Cree, they were wuchak. So that's probably how we came by their current name. Back in the day, folks called them earth pigs and whistle pigs, referring to the sound they make when startled. When threatened, their teeth chatter a warning. They're essentially giant ground squirrels and are the largest member of that family, usually growing to 10 pounds — up to 15 pounds prior to hibernation when they're all fattened up — and 2 feet long, with a 6-inch bushy tail. They'll live three to four years naturally, but up to eight years in captivity. They're rodents, not quite the largest (that's the beaver). The three or four baby woodchucks — chucklings, pups, or kits — born in April will migrate to their own foraging territories by July, during which time many fall prey to various canines and large raptors.

Woodchucks are good swimmers and can run 10 mph in short bursts. They forage within a half-mile range from their burrows, mostly along the ground in the morning and late afternoon, sometimes climbing shrubs and trees, eating the fruit, buds, leaves, and bark of plants, occasionally eating insects and eggs. They feed



A woodchuck forages in a field about 100 feet from its burrow under a wood pile.
Photo: Kevin McKeon

heavily in summer and early fall, growing fat reserves for their winter's sleep. Woodchucks are one of Maine's three true hibernators, along with jumping mice and bats. They retreat to one of their deeper burrows, curl into a ball, and their heart rate drops from 75 beats per minute to four. Other non-hibernating forest critters like skunks, opossum, raccoons, rabbits, weasels, and foxes will use woodchucks' shallower burrows for their winter shelters.

So why do these rodents show up around our gardens? Well, they dig — a lot — and the typical sandy loam soil in our gardens is prime digging territory. Their short, powerful legs, flattened feet and long, curved claws make great excavation equipment, and flaps on their ears can shut to keep out dirt. Their burrow system of tunnels can be 45 feet long, with the vegetative-lined nesting chamber deep inside, protected from their wolf, coyote, dog, bobcat, and bear predators.

So now for the big question: How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood? Well, a few years ago, Richard Thomas, a New York State wildlife expert, measured the volume of various woodchuck burrows, and converted that estimate into cubic feet. Using an approximate weight of a cubic foot of soil versus a cubic foot of wood, Mr. Thomas concluded that a woodchuck could chuck 700 pounds of wood a day — "...if a woodchuck could chuck wood!" Thank God someone finally settled that!

CALENDAR *Cont'd from Page 1*

- Wednesday Night Bite free meal, 6 pm, Curtis Lake Church, 38 Westview Dr.
- Family History Library, 6:30 pm, Church of Latter-day Saints, 25 Westview Dr.

Thursday, Sept. 5

- First day of school, pre-K
- 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.
- Free Community Meal, 5 pm, New Beginnings Christian Church, 181 Grammar Rd.
- Scrabble Night, 5 pm, Goodall Library
- Author Talk, "Goode Vibrations of the Wrestling Place," 6 pm, Goodall Library

Friday, Sept. 6

- Salvation Army of Sanford Harvest Table Food Pantry, 9 am, 871 Main St.
- Annual Springvale Library Book Sale and Fall Festival, 9 am
- Music on the Patio - Gus and Mary, noon, Springvale Library
- York County Food Pantry, noon, YCSP, 5 Swetts Bridge Road, Alfred
- First Friday Spaghetti Dinner, 5 pm, New Beginnings Church, 181 Grammar Rd.
- "Mary Poppins" auditions, 6 pm, Nason Little Theatre, 457 Main St., Springvale
- Sound Journey, 6:30-7:30 pm, YMCA, 1 Emile Levasseur Dr.

Saturday, Sept. 7

- Sanford Farmers' Market, 8 am, Central Park
- Mario Kart Tournament for Teens, 1 pm, Goodall Library
- "Mary Poppins" auditions, 2 pm, Nason Little Theatre, 457 Main St., Springvale
- St. Thomas School's Bean Supper, 4:30 pm, 69 North Ave.

Check Sanford School Department sports schedules at <https://tinyurl.com/cm4tz7vj> ■

Thank You

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

*Patricia Herrick
Rynep Vaneldik
Jenny Zaviskas

* Donors who have made a monthly giving commitment.

CITY COUNCIL - August 20 Meeting Summary

By Renee Morin & Zendelle Bouchard



Councilor Pete Tranchemontagne explains how to access information about the proposed new fire stations.
Photo: City of Sanford

The Sanford City Council discussed the Nov. 5 fire station referendum, approved a public safety policy and heard updates on homeless encampments, public works projects and other city business at its Aug. 20 meeting. All councilors were present.

Fire Station Proposal

The council formally approved the referendum question seeking approval of a \$42.5 million bond package for construction of two new fire stations. Mayor Becky Brink went over the costs of the proposal. According to Brink, owners of a home

valued at \$300,000 would see an average impact of \$238.42 per year (\$4.50 per week) in property taxes. If the construction were to be put off for five more years, the impact would increase to \$276.95 per year (\$5.32 per week). The bump in property taxes will last five years, from 2026-2031. The council is exploring ways to mitigate this.

Councilor Pete Tranchemontagne, reporting for the Fire Station Feasibility Group, noted that members of the public can access information about the stations on the city's Facebook pages, or YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@cityofsanfordmaine>. Channel 26 of the public stations also has information on the topic. The group is looking into hosting fire station tours. More information is also available at www.sanfordmeconnects.com/new-fire-stations.

Also, City Manager Steve Buck noted that a fire station referendum question and answer forum is scheduled for Oct. 2 at the Sanford Performing Arts Center. A presentation will precede a live Q&A session.

Homelessness Update

The Homelessness Task Force reported on several developments in the city's effort to work with other agencies to address unhoused people in the city.

The York County Shelter Program has been invited to apply for a \$50,000 grant from the Cohen Foundation. The money would go toward vehicles and equipment for outreach workers. The shelter is expected to receive assistance from the US Interagency Council on Homelessness to close funding gaps for the shelter, federal funds for outreach workers, and further guidance from the USICH.

Buck said land purchases for a Housing First project should be completed by early September. A land swap is also planned to gain a more favorable location for the project building and infrastructure. Housing First is a program that places homeless people in housing quickly, without preconditions, and provides 24/7 services.

The city is continuing to monitor the Maine State Housing Authority's (MSHA)

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Passages - Norman J. Bergeron

Norman Joseph Bergeron, 77, of Houston, Texas passed away on Saturday August 17, 2024.

He was born in Sanford, Maine on October 3, 1946, son of the late Joseph and Lucille (Croteau) Bergeron. He married Rita P. Tebbetts on January 21, 1967. He graduated from St. Ignatius Catholic High School in May 1964. He joined the Air Force on August 12, 1964 and was stationed in Okinawa, Japan; Homestead AFB, Florida; Eglin AFB, Florida; England AFB, Louisiana; Holloman AFB New Mexico; and Myrtle Beach AFB, South Carolina. He spent his career ensuring flight simulators were properly maintained enabling pilots of different aircraft to receive the best training. He retired on September 30, 1984, as a Training Devices Superintendent.

He held several jobs after his military career. He used his electronics experience for a company that made pacemakers, spent some time as a big rig driver and finally as a middle school math teacher.

His passion for learning and teaching was never ending. He obtained his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of South Carolina in 1982 and Master of Business Administration from the University of Houston, Clear Lake in 1988. He could fix almost anything, worked on car engines, barber chair hydraulics and remodeling homes. If he didn't know how, he could find someone to show him. He used his knowledge to teach his three girls to be strong independent women, to love life, try new things, and learn in everything they did. He supported them in each endeavor though some only lasted a summer or school semester.

He enjoyed woodworking, building cabinets, shelves, turning bowls and knickknacks. He pored over plans for baby cradles. Each of his girls received a wooden cradle he had made for his grandchildren.

His love for Rita was always in the forefront. It was common to see them holding hands. They were childhood sweethearts, together since he was 12 and she was 11. At her passing, they had been married for 48 years.

He was preceded in death by his wife Rita Bergeron, brother George Bergeron, parents and second wife Monique LeMay.

He is survived by his sister Theresa Bergeron and his three daughters, Christine and husband Brian Sapp; Denise and husband Mark Savrick; and Michelle and husband David Horacefield. Grandchildren Alyssa Sapp and fiancé Jeff Siglinger; Anthony and wife Katy Sapp; Evan Gardner; Jill Gardner and fiancé Jackie Housewirth; Kaitlin Horacefield; Scott Horacefield; Connor Horacefield; Zachary and wife Marissa Savrick; Carson and wife Katy Savrick; and 5 great grandchildren. He had a great extended family including 2 sisters-in-laws, a brother-in-law, their spouses, many nephews and nieces and their children.

Norman will be buried with Rita at Southern Maine Memorial Veterans Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Heart Association <https://www.heart.org/> or Lewy Body Dementia Association <https://www.lbda.org/>.

PAID NOTICE

SPORTS NOTES

By Sam Bonsey
Sanford Schools
Communications Coordinator

The Sanford High School Athletics Hall of Honor Committee recently announced its first class of inductees.

The inductees are Paul Belanger (Class of 1977), Kevin Bougie (Class of 2000), John Caramihalis (Class of 1949), Michael Caramihalis (Class of 1980), John Cochin (Class of 1955), Roland Cote (Class of 1961), Tony Matoin (Class of 1979), Nicholas C. Scaccia (Class of 1967), and Jennifer (Roberts) Zarkoskie (Class of 2010).

The nine inductees will be honored in a ceremony on Saturday, November 30, 2024, at 1 p.m. in the Sanford Performing Arts Center.

For more information about the inductees, head to Sanford High School's online newspaper, The Spartan Times. <https://spartan-times.com/2024/08/19/hall-of-honor-announces-first-class-of-inductees/>



Pixabay

SMS Fall sports still open for registration

Registration for Fall sports at Sanford Middle School are still open. The middle school offers boys' and girls' soccer for 7th and 8th grade, cross country for 6th, 7th and 8th, and field hockey for 7th and 8th.

To access the online registration, head to this link: <https://students.arbitersports.com/sanford-high-school-and-middle-school/sanford-middle-school-athletic-registration-fall-2024>

In addition to completing the online registration, a current physical must be submitted to the middle school nurse's office. ■

PASSAGES

Compiled by Rev. Susan Murphy

Linda Kay Knight, 64, formerly of Sanford, died Aug. 9 at her home in Allentown, NH. No services are planned at this time. For more information, go to BlackFuneralHomes.com.

Norman Joseph Bergeron, 77, of Houston, Texas, passed away on Aug. 17. Norman will be buried with Rita at Southern Maine Memorial Veterans Cemetery at a later date. For more information, see full obituary on page 5. ■



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Public Hearing Notice

The Sanford Planning Board will hold public hearings & receive written & oral comments at its September 4, 2024 meeting, starting at 6:30 pm, on



- File # K14-35 – Jagger Lofts – Preliminary Subdivision (Tax Map K14, Lot 35) – Major Site Plan and Preliminary Major Subdivision for the proposed redevelopment of the Jagger Mill in Springvale into residential apartments, and the associated parking and site improvements.
- Proposed changes and updates to the City Ordinance regulating Campgrounds.

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.sanford-maine.org. Questions or written comments should be directed to the Planning Office at 324-9150 or jlbabcock@sanfordmaine.org.

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CITY COUNCIL *Cont'd from Page 5*

\$18 million Pilot Rent Relief Program, which will provide rental assistance of up to \$800 a month. Information on who will be eligible and how to apply for assistance is expected to be released soon.

The city's Annual Housing Forum is scheduled for Sept. 24 at 6 pm. The public forum will be a hybrid in-person/online event in the City Council Chambers. The plan is to both educate the public and receive feedback on the ongoing efforts to address homelessness in the community. The input will also be used to inform about the continued development of the city's updated comprehensive plan.

Also, the Sanford Performing Arts Center will host the second annual Homeless Forum for state and local elected officials on Nov. 13. This forum will focus on the resource needs both locally and from the state to assist the current unhoused population and prevent homelessness in the future. The forum also seeks to increase cooperation and coordination both with the state and the surrounding towns. Organizers hope that information gathered in the forum can help legislators draft and propose legislation before the next legislative deadline.

Public Works

Consulting Contract: The council voted unanimously to award a consulting contract to the James W. Sewall Company of Portland to study pedestrian and multi-modal connectivity near the South Sanford roundabout, including future trail connectivity. Public Works Director Matt Hill said traffic movement on Patriot's Lane may be studied as well. The consultant will work with MaineDOT on a plan to guide future development and investment in the area.

Prequalification Process: The Council voted unanimously to approve a proposal by Public Works Director Hill to implement a prequalification process for contractors who seek to do work for the city, in accordance with MaineDOT guidelines. The prequalification process will be added as an amendment to the city's purchasing policy. Hill said contractors who apply will be vetted by his department, approved by the council and must be recertified annually. The process will allow contractors to be selected by quality of work, schedule

and availability in addition to pricing, which he said will foster a more equal environment and allow smaller contractors to better compete for projects. "By having this process, we can capture more local dollars for our local companies," he said.

Safety Policy: The council voted unanimously to adopt a public safety policy as follows: "The City of Sanford recognizes that even one traffic-related serious injury or fatality is too many. Therefore, given the resources available, the Sanford City Council commits to a goal of reducing or eliminating said accidents for all road users (including people walking, biking, using transit, and driving) by January 1, 2028, in accordance with the Sanford Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Action Plan. Reduction or elimination of serious injuries and fatalities shall be guided through the Sanford SS4A Safety Action Plan as discussed and overseen on a monthly basis by the Public Safety Subcommittee of the Sanford City Council. The meetings are open to the public for equitable engagement and shall aim for routine participation from all stakeholders."

Having a policy in place allows the city to compete for Safe Streets for All (SS4A) grants from the Federal Highway Administration. Hill said one possible grant the city could apply for would pay to install midblock sensors along Main Street between Lebanon Street and the roundabout, with adaptive technology to better control the flow of traffic. (The new traffic signals being installed now have advanced traffic control, but not adaptive control, which requires the midblock sensors). Hill explained that adaptive control means drivers who go at or below the speed limit will encounter fewer red lights, keeping traffic flowing more smoothly. Adoption of the public safety policy does not commit the city to apply for or accept any grant money.

Other Public Works Updates

Buck reported that work continues on the Route 202/Lebanon Street culvert. The additional message boards and signs that have been erected in the area have improved the efficiency of the traffic flow. MaineDOT expressed its thanks to the city for this.

New curbing and poles will be installed at the intersection between Route 4, School

Street, and Gavel Road. Paving at the intersection scheduled for after Labor Day is anticipated to cause significant delays to traffic. The plan is to begin work after school begins for the day and to pause work to allow for students to be picked up from school.

Replacement of the city's traffic lights, courtesy of the Build Grant Award, continues. Work on the overhead lights is nearly complete, with the next step being to add raised bump indicators at crossings for blind residents. More improvements to pedestrian crossings are coming later this year, utilizing the Heads-Up Safety Grant.

Other Business

Asst. City Manager: Buck announced that Michelle LaBree has been chosen as the new assistant city manager. She currently serves as deputy county administrator for Penobscot County and has over 22 years of experience in local government. LaBree is scheduled to start Sept. 9 and will be formally introduced at the Sept. 17 City Council meeting.

How to Vote Absentee

The Maine Secretary of State's Office is reminding residents that any registered voter may cast an absentee ballot instead of voting in person on Election Day, and that they don't need a reason to do so. Ballots can be requested online.

Printed ballots will be sent to municipal clerks at least 30 days before the Nov. 5 election. Absentee ballots can be mailed to voters and must be returned to the city clerk by 8 pm on Election Day. Voters can also go to the clerk's office to vote without filling out an application.

State election law now provides that a voter who will be at least 65 by the next election, or who self-identifies as having a disability, may apply for ongoing absentee voter status. Otherwise, a request for early voting must be made for each election.

To request an absentee ballot for the Nov. 5 election or to check the status of your absentee ballot, go to maine.gov. ■



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REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan



27 Riverside Ave. (8/16 closing, listed below)
Photo: Carolyn Cadigan

8/16, 27 Riverside Ave., 8-room New Englander, 3 bed/1 bath, sunroom, walk-in pantry, unfinished walkout basement, detached 1-car garage, porch, deck, shed, hot tub, 67-foot frontage on Number One Pond, private dock, intown, \$399,900 (pictured above)

8/19, 25 Phillipstown Lane, #25, 4-room Townhouse Condominium, 2 bed/1 bath, hardwood floors on first floor, laundry on first floor, basement crawl space, \$190,000

8/19, 36 Whitman St., 7-room Cape, 3 bed/1 bath, two bedrooms on first floor, mudroom, hardwood floors, arched doorways, unfinished basement, attic, attached 1-car garage, shed, fenced-in backyard, corner lot, intown, \$315,000

8/19, 6 Arthur St., 7-room New Englander, 3 bed/1 bath, many updates, unfinished basement, covered porch, patio, electric car charger, fenced-in yard, \$339,900

8/20, 83 Country Club 2 Rd., 6-room Cape, 3 bed/2 bath, bedroom and laundry on first floor, sunroom, hardwood floors throughout, unfinished basement, attached 2-car and detached 2-car garages, porch, fenced-in backyard, .97 acre, built in 2001, \$499,000

8/20, 20 Grant St., Springvale, 5-room Ranch, 2 bed/1.5 bath, bonus room, hardwood flooring, partially finished basement, attached 1-car garage, deck, shed, fence, irrigation system, intown, \$380,000

8/21, 135 Milton Ave., 8-room Colonial, 3 bed/1.5 bath, primary bedroom with ensuite, laundry on first floor, den, finished basement, attached 2-car garage, deck, patio, fenced-in backyard, in-ground saltwater pool, .42 acre, \$450,000

8/21, 16 James Ave., 6-room Ranch, 3 bed/1.5 bath, family room, hardwood floors throughout, partially finished walk-out basement, attached 1-car garage, deck, \$402,000

8/23, 31 Tanguay St., 6-room New Englander, 3 bed/3 bath (one full, two half), many improvements, bedroom and laundry on first floor, 3-season porch, partially finished basement, attached 1-car garage, corner lot, intown, \$300,000

8/23, 1 Middle St., Multi-level Colonial, two rental units: 2 bed/1 bath each, full basement, off-street parking, corner lot, intown, \$405,000

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