

Sanford Springvale MAINE NEWS

Nonprofit newsletter produced with volunteers

Free

September 20, 2024

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SANFORD ON STAGE

Sept 14, 2024

Photos: Jessica Rice

Sanford on Stage Sizzles with Song

By Kristi King

Local talent was on full display Sept. 14 at the Sanford Performing Arts Center as ten musical performances were showcased during the Sanford on Stage event hosted by the Sanford Arts Commission.

More than 100 audience members, including a huge following of family and friends, enjoyed the wide array of talented singers during a flawless production emceed by SPAC Director Brett Williams. Melissa Alipalo of the Arts Commission announced that the event had raised \$1,000

for the organization, which works to promote the arts and the community as an arts center.

The comeback story of the night belonged to Shaun Sadowski. He was performing for the first time in 20 years to the delight of his former junior high chorus teacher, Jane Kirton. His Aunt Mary said before the show, "I came down from Millinocket to support Shaun and his wonderful return to music." Well-known local music teacher Caleb Randall finished the night, hitting iconic notes with precision and drawing a gasp of pleasure from the crowd. . ■

Community CALENDAR

Compiled by Lisa Blanchette

Visit our Events Calendar at SanfordSpringvaleNews.com for more details.

Saturday, Sept. 21

- Sanford Farmers' Market, 8 am, Central Park,
- 3rd Annual Zumba Fitness Party Fundraiser, 9 am, YMCA, 1 Emile Levasseur Dr.
- Corner Cupboard, 10 am, Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church, 5 Lebanon St.
- Shaker Hill Apple Fest, 10 am, YCSP, 138 Shaker Hill Rd., Alfred

Cont'd on Page 3

Saturday, October 19
7:00pm

An exciting night of friendly competition, featuring some of Sanford's most notable figures in fun lip sync performances—all in support of a great cause!

SANFORD BACKPACK PROGRAM'S
LIP SYNC SHOWDOWN



100 Alumni Blvd. | Sanford, ME

www.SanfordPAC.org

NEWS NOTES

Compiled By Carolyn Cadigan

Free online tool helps find resources for older adults:

The Office of Aging and Disability Services launched a new pilot program, the Maine Access Navigator Tool (MANT), on Sept. 2. This free online tool helps older adults, their family members, and their care partners find services, resources and programs that are tailored to meet the older adult's unique needs. To find the best resources for each situation, MANT asks questions about a person's living situation, access to food, transportation, health care, ability to plan and prepare meals and personal safety. The tool gives users the option to have a trained specialist help them with applying for services, or alternatively, access and apply for services on their own, at their own pace. To access MANT: <https://tinyurl.com/2za98ept>

Your donation dollar can go further for children facing serious illnesses:

Grahamtastic Connection, has announced a timely opportunity for sponsors to boost their philanthropic power. A matching challenge is available from the Ellen Beaudoin Living Trust to double any sponsor's donation made to the organization's 2024 5K Run/Walk & BBQ. This year's event will be held Oct. 20 from 10 am to 1 pm, starting at the Nasson Community Center and ending at 21 Bradeen St., Springvale. Sponsorship includes each sponsor's name and logo printed on the race t-shirts. To sponsor, donate, or register for the race, email info@grahamtastic.org or call 207-432-1228.

Voting is open for Sanford woman's quest to be named USOA Ms. Maine:

Kristen Pelletier, 41, who grew up in Sanford, is competing for the title of United States of America Ms. Maine. Pelletier has been paralyzed from the waist down since suffering a spinal cord injury from a car accident when she was about to enter her senior year of high school. If chosen, Pelletier will be donating her prize to the Bridging Bionics Foundation (BBF). There is no limit to the number of times a person can vote. To vote for Pelletier (Ms. Sanford), go to usoamissmaine.com and select the number of votes you wish to donate. Each vote costs \$1.50 and is only payable by PayPal. A portion of the voting proceeds goes to BBF. The winner of the USOA Ms. Maine pageant will be awarded on Oct. 13.

City addresses Sanford vs. Brunswick fire station questions:

To respond to the many online comments about the size and cost of the Brunswick fire station compared to the planned Sanford headquarters station, representatives from the City of Sanford spoke with the architects working on Sanford's new stations. The Brunswick station was designed by the same architects. Information that explains the cost differences, responses related to station size, effects of inflation and market increases, and differences in each building's design are available at sanfordmaineconnects.com.

Financial skills workshops for older adults:

Many older adults are struggling to pay their bills, follow a budget, and organize their finances. To help adults aged 60+ increase their financial literacy and boost their financial awareness, the Southern Maine Agency on Aging is offering one-hour financial skills workshops through its Money Minders program. The first workshop, Budgeting Basics, will be Sept. 26 from 10 am to 11 am via Zoom. Topics to be covered include money management attitudes and styles, setting goals, and steps for creating a spending plan. FMI, contact Susan Bergeron at sbergeron@smaaa.org or 207-396-6515. To register for the workshop, go to smaaa.org.

ISO: your input on transportation's future:

Today's decisions about what to prioritize and how to invest in transportation systems will shape our community for decades. Whether you drive, walk, or bike in Southern Maine, you can help guide these decisions by telling the Southern Maine Planning & Development Commission what matters to you. Take the survey at smpdc.org.

Gaining solid experience in the field:

Marissa Valliere, a Master of Social Work student intern in the University of Maine's Rural Integrated Behavioral Health in Primary Care training program, has joined Nasson Health Care until next May. During this time, Valliere will provide patient care and develop educational resources. The program gives students an opportunity to gain valuable experience while completing their course work.



Chris Boucher speaks about Bucky Lew at the Sanford-Springvale Historical Society.
Photo: Zendelle Bouchard

Programs rebounding: After a break for the past couple of years, programs are back at the Sanford-Springvale Historical Society (SSHS). On Sept. 12, author Chris Boucher was at SSHS to talk about Bucky Lew, the first Black professional basketball player, who played the first integrated game in Maine at the Springvale Town Hall (now the SSHS museum) in 1913. Keep your eye on the Sanford Springvale News for details on upcoming programs at the museum.

Sanford native is one step closer to heading Maine DHHS:

The Maine State Legislature's Health and Human Services Committee voted 10-2 on Sept. 16 to recommend confirmation of Acting Commissioner Sara Gagné-Holmes to serve as Commissioner of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). The nomination of Gagné-Holmes is now subject to confirmation by the Maine State Senate. Gagné-Holmes, who grew up in Sanford, served as DHHS deputy commissioner for the past five years, and has led the department in an acting capacity since June 1, following the departure of Jeanne Lambrew.

How do you like them apples?

The Shaker Hill Apple Festival, scheduled for Sept. 21, 10 am to 4 pm, and Sept. 22, 10 am to 3 pm, celebrates all things apple with many delicious foods and treats, including home-baked apple pies, apple crisps, apple cider, apple-filled donuts and much more. The festival also offers local vendors' hand-crafted items, pony rides, a barnyard petting zoo, children's activities, a silent auction, a giant barn sale, food trucks, and more. Visit the festival at the Brothers of Christian Instruction campus on Shaker Hill Rd. in Alfred. ■



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Council Grapples with Discarded Needles

By Zendelle Bouchard

At its Sept. 17 meeting, the Sanford City Council began discussions on a possible solution to the problem of discarded syringes that litter some areas of the city.

City Manager Steve Buck presented detailed information on the history of the state-licensed Syringe Service Program (SSP) in Sanford. The program, which operates in 13 communities across Maine, initially distributed syringes (needles) on a 1:1 exchange basis. If someone wanted a new syringe, they had to turn in a used one. But during the pandemic, Maine's Department of Health and Human Services used the emergency rulemaking process to change the 1:1 exchange to a 1:100 exchange in an effort to combat rising rates of hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV. (Maine has some of the

highest rates in the nation of these blood-borne illnesses.) DHHS' emergency rules were later converted to regular rules, and the current 1:1+ program allows SSPs to distribute boxes of 100 syringes even if a client has none to exchange.

Data from the Sanford SSP, Maine Access Points, shows that in the period from Nov. 1, 2022, to Oct. 31, 2023, 440,998 syringes were collected and 460,720 were distributed. Buck pointed out that leaves 19,722 syringes not turned in. During the city's cleanup of the Heritage Crossing homeless encampment in June, an estimated 14,716 needles were collected. That leaves more than 5,000 syringes unaccounted for just from that one-year period of distribution.

Buck has had several meetings with officials from the Maine Centers for Disease Control to

Cont'd on Page 5

Questions, Praise for RAISE Road Projects

By Lee Burnett, Submissions Editor

The upcoming massive reconstruction of downtown streets through a federal grant generated all sorts of comments at a public hearing last week.

Among the topics of concern were pedestrian safety near the Maine Health campus, adequacy of plug-in outlets for food trucks along Number One Pond, bicycle connectivity, disruptions to downtown businesses and on-street parking at the dog park.

The Maine Department of Transportation hosted the hearing to gather suggestions for fine-tuning designs before the \$31 million project goes out to bid. The project will be constructed in three phases beginning in 2026: Cottage Street (2026), downtown (2027) and Riverside Avenue-Oscar Emery Drive (2028). Development of a park and ride lot behind Cumberland Farms would be done at some point. The project is funded by the federal Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) program.

The session was facilitated by Ernie Martin, project manager for Maine Department of Transportation. Most of the speakers prefaced their comments with praise for the comprehensive scope of the project and couched their comments as tweaks rather than criticisms.

Mayor Becky Brink raised concern about the cost of maintaining new plantings of trees, shrubs and flowers. She also asked about the adequacy of power outlets for food trucks near the pond and sidewalks near the hospital.

Deputy Mayor Maura Herlihy asked for consideration of replacement of asphalt curbing with slipform curbing, the need for better pedestrian connectivity to and from the Maine Health campus, and the need for plug-in outlets along Mousam Promenade. She asked for better bicycle connectivity at the junction of the bike path and Oscar Emery Drive.



A federal grant will finance major infrastructure projects in Sanford over the next three years.

Photo: MTA Construction via Creative Commons

State Rep. Anne-Marie Mastraccio raised concerns about the adequacy of sidewalks along Cottage Street, the traffic disruption and impact on businesses, particularly along Main Street, and sufficiency of direct channels of communication about temporary traffic issues available to residents, particularly those not online.

Sanford resident Zendelle Bouchard asked to retain on-street parking at the dog park on Oscar Emery Drive, saying the lack of parking could be hazardous for dog park users, especially during winter months.

City Manager Steve Buck asked for better pedestrian safety measures at the corner of Washington Street and Main Street, where he said turning trucks are likely to ride up on curbing. He questioned the wisdom of replacing a blinking light with four-way stop signs at the intersection of Riverside Avenue and Winter Street. He asked for consideration of installing charging stations for e-bikes.

Sanford Sewerage District Superintendent Andre Brousseau urged close cooperation with affected property owners to ensure stormwater roof drains are separated from the sanitary sewer system. ■

CALENDAR *Cont'd from Page 1*

- Aerobatics Practice, 10 am, Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport, 9 Presidential Ln.
- 9th Annual Kite Fly @ Romac Orchards, 11 am, 1149 H Rd. Acton
- Apple "STEM" Experiment, 1 pm, Goodall Library, 1364 Main St.
- It Runs in The Family, 7 pm, Nasson Little Theater, 457 Main St., Springvale

Sunday, Sept. 22

- Shaker Hill Apple Fest, 10 am, YCSP, 138 Shaker Hill Rd., Alfred
- It Runs in The Family, 2:30 pm, Nasson Little Theater, 457 Main St., Springvale

Monday, Sept. 23

- Baby Rhyme Time, 10 am, Springvale Library, 443 Main St.
- Mom's Group at Springvale Park, 10 am, 3 Edmund St.
- Sanford Food Pantry, 10 am, 1204 Main St.
- Red Cross blood drive, noon, Preble Lodge #143, 16 Elm St.
- Lego Builders Club, 3 pm, Springvale Library,

Tuesday, Sept. 24

- Salvation Army Food Pantry, 10 am, Salvation Army of Sanford, 871 Main St.
- 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, 443 Main St.
- Knit Lits, 3 pm, Springvale Library
- Bingo, 4 pm (doors open) 6 pm (games start), Sanford Elks Lodge, 13 Elm St.
- City Council Housing Workshop, 6 pm, Sanford City Hall, 919 Main St.
- Police Citizen Advisory Group, 6 pm, Sanford Police Department, 935 Main St.
- Dulcimer Group, 6 pm, Goodall Librar
- Toss-for-a-Cause Cornhole Tour., 6 pm, Nasson Community Ctr., 457 Main St.

Wednesday, Sept. 25

- Lego Club, 2:30 pm, Goodall LibraryPoetry Group Meeting, 5 pm, Goodall Library
- Fiber Arts Group, 5 pm, Goodall Library,
- Wednesday Night Bite Free Meal, 6 pm, Curtis Lake Church, 38 Westview Dr.
- Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee mtg, 6 pm, Sanford City Hall, 919 Main St.

Thursday, Sept. 26

- Sensory Story Time, 10 am, Springvale Library, 443 Main St.
- 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.
- Vaccine Clinic, 1 pm, Trafton Senior Center, 19 Elm St.
- Splash of Summer Hiring Event @ SCAE, 2:30 pm, 668 Main St.
- Golden Hour @ McDougal Orchards, 4 pm, 201 Hanson Ridge Rd., Springvale
- Sanford-Springvale Historical Society Annual Meeting, 5 pm, 505 Main St. Springvale

Cont'd on Page 5

September 20, 2024

City Council Sept. 17 Meeting Summary

By Zendelle Bouchard

New Assistant

At its regular meeting on Sept. 17, the Sanford City Council voted to confirm City Manager Steve Buck's appointment of Michelle LaBree to the newly created position of assistant city manager. Buck said LaBree was chosen from a field of 22 applicants. She has more than 20 years of experience in local government and most recently worked as deputy county administrator and human resource director for Penobscot County. She has extensive experience in emergency management as well. Mayor Becky Brink and Deputy Mayor Maura Herlihy participated in the interview process. Herlihy said LaBree stood out with her desire to take on challenges.

Sanford Police K-9

The council voted to accept the grant of \$32,000 from the Stanton K-9 Foundation to add a dual-purpose dog to the force to assist officers with patrol duties as well as drug detection. The grant covers the \$9,000 cost of the dog, which Detective Kyle Cutler said will be around 10-12 months old and will come with obedience training. Other expenses the grant covers include \$6,000 for cruiser conversion, \$3,000 for a kennel and \$850 for a K-9 bulletproof vest. Vet care and dog food for three years are also covered. The only cost to the city for the first three years will be the overtime for the dog's handler, who has not been chosen yet, to do the specialized training and to care for the dog. Assistant Police Chief Eric Small said the K-9 will help keep officers safe and can also bring money into the department when items like cash and vehicles

are seized along with drugs. The dog will also be a public relations tool for the SPD, he added.

Pre-Approval Process for Cleanups

Public Works Director Matt Hill made a presentation on the process for citizens to use the transfer station at no cost to dispose of trash collected during community cleanups. He stressed that this process is only available when the area being cleaned up is in the public right-of-way or on city property. Trash on private property is "technically somebody's stuff," he said. There is a form for groups or individuals to fill out if they are interested in doing a cleanup, but someone planning the cleanup must speak with a member of Public Works staff to ensure that the proper procedures are followed and the transfer station has sufficient capacity at the time of delivery.

New Fire Stations

Mayor Brink talked about the need for the two new fire stations and gave some details on the design and cost of the facilities, which she called "crucial for the safety of our city." She pointed out that as fire departments have transitioned to providing more emergency medical services, different types of facilities are needed that include medical treatment rooms. Communications Coordinator Jordan Wilson gave an update on public outreach on the fire station projects and talked about the community forum scheduled for Oct. 2 at 6 pm in the Sanford Performing Arts Center. The evening will include informational videos, presentations from Chief Scott Susi, the station designers, City Manager Buck plus Q&A time for residents. Questions may be submitted

on the City's Facebook page and on the Sanford Connects website. Councilor Pete Tranchemontagne said the Fire Station Feasibility Committee will be meeting with seniors at the Trafton Center and senior housing communities to educate them about the fire station proposal.

Snowplowing Contract

The council approved a one-year snowplowing contract expansion with the city's plowing contractor, C.A. Plante, for the 2024-25 winter season. Public Works Director Hill said his department is currently short seven first-line responders for storm management. The contract expansion will authorize Plante to plow 26 miles of roads in south Sanford, in addition to the east side and west side routes they already plow. City officials expect that contract negotiations with public works staff, which have just begun, will result in higher pay to attract more applicants.

Subcommittee Reports

Councilor Nate Hitchcock reported that the Solid Waste Subcommittee is discussing possible new waste disposal companies as well as the pros and cons of using automatic pickup of trash bins. Mayor Brink noted that the automated system in Kennebunk costs taxpayers considerably more than Sanford's manual pickup system and doesn't negate the need for special bags.

Deputy Mayor Maura Herlihy said the Zoning Subcommittee has been discussing new legislation regarding medical cannabis offices (see our previous story). She said Sanford's Planning Department has come up with proposed ordinance changes that will allow caregivers to continue to meet with patients while staying within the new law. The amendments will go to the Planning

Cont'd next page

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Sanford Planning Board will hold public hearings & receive written & oral comments at its October 2, 2024 meeting, starting at 6:30 pm, on

- File # L15-112 – 447 Main St. – District Courthouse Renovation – Sanford Housing Authority - Preliminary Subdivision (Tax Map L15, Lot 35) – Adaptive reuse of existing vacant District Courthouse building in downtown Springvale into an 18-unit congregate care senior living residential facility.
- File # J30-47 – Heritage Crossing- 10 International Drive – Sanford Housing Authority – Preliminary Subdivision (Tax Map J30-47) – Construction of a 30-unit congregate care residential building and the associated parking and site improvements.

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.



NEEDLES *Cont'd from Page 3*

stress the problem of inappropriately discarded needles in our city parks, trails and parking areas. "We have failed to get the recognition from the CDC that there is a public health hazard out there from these needles," he said. He is looking for an acceptable solution that will protect intravenous drug users from blood-borne pathogens while also addressing the danger to the general public from discarded syringes. He noted that Portland, Bangor and Waterville are also dealing with similar issues.

Mayor Becky Brink agreed. "We have to protect the people on drugs, but we can't let it interfere with others. We have to find a balance," she said.

Councilor Pete Tranchemontagne called for a vote as soon as possible to get the needle

exchange program removed from Sanford completely. "The citizens don't want this... the CDC is not working with us," he stated. "I want it out." Councilor Ayn Hanselmann agreed that the greater public is now in harm's way due to the new exchange rate.

Councilor Nate Hitchcock pointed out that the state controls where SSPs are located, so the city may not get to decide if the program can operate in Sanford, but he advocated for a return to the 1:1 exchange system to balance the two health crises.

Councilor Jonathan Martell asked for more information on the city's legal options with regard to the SSP, so councilors can vote on the direction they want to pursue. Mayor Brink said they will get that info and have another discussion that will be open for public input. ■

CITY COUNCIL *Cont'd from Page 4*

Board for review and a public hearing before coming before the council.

Other Items

In his report, Buck said the council's housing workshop on Sept. 24 will include Q&A time for the audience and participants. He stressed that the workshop is about housing development, not homelessness.

Deputy Mayor Herlihy reminded viewers that candidates' nights are Oct. 8 for City Council, mayoral and School Committee candidates and Oct. 9 for State House and State Senate candidates. The moderators will be Shawn Sullivan and Tammy Wells. Residents who want to suggest questions for the moderators to ask should email them to tbwells207@yahoo.com.

The council and candidates will not know the questions in advance.

Buck reported that the date for the Homeless Advocacy Forum at SPAC may be Nov. 13 or 14, as city officials are coordinating with representatives of York County government who also want to make a presentation to our state legislators. Look for more details in a future issue.

The council approved allowing St. Thomas School to use the Veterans Memorial Gym for the cost of cleaning only for their Mingle Jingle event on Nov. 2 and the Spring Fever Fair May 4.

The council adopted a proclamation declaring Nov. 1 "Extra Mile Day" to recognize people and organizations who are creating positive change in the community through extraordinary efforts in volunteerism and service. ■

CALENDAR *Cont'd from Page 3*

- Free Community Meal, 5 pm, New Beginnings Christian Church, 181 Grammar Rd.
- Scrabble Night, 5 pm, Goodall Library An Evening with Spirit: Psychic Medium Raylene Sousa, 6:30 pm, Smitty's, 1327 Main St.

Friday, Sept. 27

- Waypoint's 13th Annual Golf Tournament, 9 am, Country Club, 588 Country Club Rd.
- Salvation Army of Sanford Harvest Table Food Pantry, 9 am, 871 Main St.
- Salvation Army Staple Box Distribution 9 am, 871 Main St.
- York County Food Pantry, noon, YCSP, 5 Swett's Bridge Road, Alfred
- It Runs in The Family, 7 pm, Nasson Little Theater, 457 Main St., Springvale
- The Flying Ivories-Dueling Pianos, 8 pm, Smitty's Cinema, 1327 Main St.

Saturday, Sept. 28

- Sanford Farmers' Market, 8 am, Central Park, 920 Main St.
- Wrestling Clinic-Getting Funky in Maine, 9 am, Sanford High School, 100 Alumni Blvd.
- Baby Blessings, 10 am, St. George's Episcopal Church, 3 Emerson St.
- Smitty-Con, 4 pm, Smitty's Game LAB,
- Studio Two: The Early Beatles Tribute, 8 pm, Performing Arts Center, 100 Alumni Blvd.
- It Runs in The Family, 7 pm, Nasson Little Theater, 457 Main St., Springvale

Sunday, Sept. 29

- It Runs in The Family, 2:30 pm, Nasson Little Theater, 457 Main St., Springvale ■

PASSAGES

Compiled by Rev. Susan Murphy

Vernon Nelson Bowden, 49, passed away on Aug. 26, 2024, in Sanford. No service is planned at this time.

Rita Cecile Normand, formerly of Sanford, passed away at The Lodges Care Center on September 14, 2024, at the age of 91. A Mass of

Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am on Sat., Sept. 21 at St. Thérèse of Lisieux Parish located on North Avenue with a luncheon following at the Carll-Heald & Black Funeral Home located at 580 Main Street in Springvale. Interment will be held at 10:00 am on Tues., Sept. 24 at the Southern Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery. ■

We have several more stories that wouldn't fit this week.

- **Limelight**
- **Real Estate Transactions**
- **Out in the Woods**
- **Kitty Korner**
- **Sports Notes**

Scan here to go to our website for full stories.



Studio Two: The Early Beatles Tribute



September 28th ~ 8pm

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www.sanfordpac.org

Thank you to the event sponsors, Seacoast Oldies, Sanford Sound, Marc Motors, Kennebunk Savings, & Rev. Sue Murphy

SCHOOL NOTES

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan



Tracy Gibson, Sanford High School principal
Photo: Lexi Hayward, The Spartan Times

Getting to know you, getting to know all about you: In her debut article for The Spartan Times, writer Lexi Hayward sat down for a conversation with Tracy Gibson, the new principal at Sanford High School. Gibson, who started out years ago as a classroom teacher in Sanford, discusses her career, family, interests, and goals for the school year.

Free, nutritious food to help students fill the meal gap: Spart Mart, the free food market for Sanford High School students, is back. The market is open Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2 pm to 3:30 pm for students to select nutritious food to take home.

YMCA suspends Wednesday Teen Drop-in: To keep its program safe, effective and responsible to all participants, the Sanford-Springvale YMCA announced that there will be no Wednesday afternoon Teen Drop-in until further notice. FMI, call 207-324-4942.

Be in the know with the school district's mobile app: To stay informed with news and updates from the Sanford School Department, download the school district's mobile app. Users can choose the school(s) they want to get notifications from and access the live feed, see sports schedules, check out the dining menu, access important documents, receive emergency notifications, and more. To get the app, search for Sanford School Department, ME, in your app store.

USDA grant provides fruit and veggie snacks to elementary kids: Sanford's three elementary schools were awarded a Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program (FFVP) USDA grant for the current school year. The grant is administered through the Maine Department of Education and coordinated by the Sanford School Nutrition Program. A free fresh fruit or vegetable snack will be served outside of meal times to all students at Carl J. Lamb, Margaret Chase Smith, and Sanford Pride elementary schools every day. The program introduces students to a variety of produce that they otherwise might not have the opportunity to sample. Children will be encouraged to try the fruit or vegetable snack each day.

They're leavin' on a jet plane: Sanford High School (SHS) students in the Class of 2026 learned from their Abroad Advisor, Kelly Foley, that their senior trip would take them to

Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris, and London during February break of their senior year. To learn more about the trip, parents and guardians of interested Class of 2026 students must RSVP to attend the parent information meeting to be held Sept. 23 at 6 pm in the Performing Arts Center. A parent or guardian must accompany an interested student traveler to the meeting.

Let the spotlight shine on you: The Sanford School Department is starting a new Alumni Spotlight for the district's newsletter and social media. If you're an alumni who has made strides in your career, contributed to your community, or achieved a personal milestone, the department wants to hear from you. Selected spotlights will be featured on the department's social media channels and district newsletter. To be considered for an Alumni Spotlight feature, fill out the form here. ■

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CITY OF SANFORD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS



Regarding

“The Seventh Amendment to the Sanford Downtown Omnibus Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District” and the designation of a Municipal Tax Increment Financing District to be known as the “Roberts and Main Apartments Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District”

Notice is hereby given that the City of Sanford (the “City”) will hold two public hearings on

October 1, 2024
remotely via Zoom or in person
at 919 Main Street Sanford, ME 04073
The Public Hearing will be at 6:00 p.m.

The purpose of the public hearings are to receive public comments on the following items pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 206 of Title 30-A of the Maine Revised Statutes, as amended:

1. The Seventh Amendment to the Sanford Downtown Omnibus Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing TIF District and Development Program which was first designated in 2006 seeks to remove certain parcels that will become the Roberts & Main Apartments project and a new TIF district; and
2. The designation of the Roberts & Main Apartments Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District and adoption of a development program. The District consists of approximately .883 acres of property more specifically identified as Tax Maps/Lots K30-7, K30-8 and K30-55. The program authorizes the City to enter into Credit Enhancement agreements with the Developer as listed in the Development Program.

A copy of the relevant materials relating to the proposed Seventh Amendment to the Downtown TIF and the proposed Roberts & Main Apartments TIF will be on file with the City and a copy can be requested from the Sanford Regional Economic Growth Council (“SREGC”) by calling Mary Hastings at (207) 324-9155 prior to the public hearings. All interested persons are invited to attend the public hearings and will be given an opportunity to be heard at that time.

Members of the public may join the meeting by Zoom or by phone. Agenda and joining instructions can be found on the meeting calendar at sanfordmaine.org/meetings. Members of the public may also submit comments via email to info@sanfordmaine.org. Comments may also be submitted in writing to: SREGC, Keith McBride, 917 Main Street, Ste. D, Sanford ME 04073 at any time prior to the Public Hearing. TDD/TTY users may call 711. If you are physically unable to access any of the City’s programs or services, please contact Lorisa Ricketts at (207) 324-9173 so that accommodations can be made.

Elementary Schools Off to a Strong Start

By Kendra Williams

On September 16th, the School Committee heard from the principals of the P-K to grade 4 elementary schools and the special ed director.

Sanford Pride School: Current enrollment is 384 students in 22 classrooms. Principal Susan Inman noted the year is off to a positive beginning. New this year will be after school clubs on Tuesdays for third and fourth graders. Also new will be a student leadership team giving students a voice and a mentoring program for students in grade 3. Three trained service dogs will be returning. This will be the second year for the First Ten early childhood grant. One focus of the grant will be connecting early learning centers to kindergarten transition. Another is a Basics campaign for parents with children birth to age 3 with tips about developmental levels. Pride Elementary now has its own PTA, which is actively planning events.

Margaret Chase Smith School: Current enrollment is 393 students, 16 of whom are at the SRTC Pre-K Program. Principal Tracie Hallissey shared that tours were conducted for new parents and an open house was well attended. Some Girl and Boy Scouts attended a PTA meeting as a way of making connections outside of school. Eight fourth graders, who want to help improve the school, helped to welcome younger students. Challenges are being offered to students for academic goals. For the first time, the Fresh Fruits and Veggies program, where students are given the opportunity to try

new foods, will be at MCS. Some new playground equipment has been added.

Carl J Lamb School: Current enrollment is 419 students, with 20 regular and 10 special education classrooms. Principal Sherri Baron welcomed new Assistant Principal Kristy Richards, as well as several new teachers, ed techs, a literacy coach and an IEP coordinator. The Pre-K program has been successful with students from last year transitioning to kindergarten. Baron expressed appreciation for food service, custodial and technology staff for their summer work and for the bus company and drivers for their efforts. She also thanked Brian Richards, who painted the large clock face on the front of the school. The playground has continued to have many improvements made possible by the donation of \$50,000 from the Gerard and Gertrude Genest Foundation. Baron welcomed the returning and new PTA leaders.

Special Education: There are currently 865 students in all grades receiving special education services. Special Education Director Stacey Bissell reported that's an increase of 130 students since last spring, 80 of whom are kindergartners.

The Bridge program, which provides specialized programming that helps students to be successful and prevents out-of-district placements, is now serving middle, elementary and high school students. An open house is being planned for families and the public at their 668 Main St location (the former Willard School). ■



The Mission of the Sanford Springvale News is to produce a free weekly publication that provides current and factual information about what is happening in Sanford and Springvale.

News and stories are published in print, electronically and posted on Facebook.

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Our fiscal agent, Strategies for a Stronger Sanford, is a registered 501c3 non-profit.

The advertisement for Eldredge Lumber & Hardware features a green banner with the company name and logo at the top left. Below the banner, there are circular images showing stacks of lumber and potted plants. The bottom of the ad is divided into four columns, each representing a store location with its address and phone number.

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