

November 15, 2024

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Council Curtails Needle Exchange Program

By Quinnly Raducha, UNE Community News Fellow

The City Council on Tuesday voted unanimously to return to the pre-covid rate of handing out one needle for every needle turned in by drug users in the community. The emergency ordinance will be in effect for 91 days (about 3 months) while the state responds to the city's request for more help combatting needle waste.

The change was opposed by representatives of public health groups who said the city was moving too fast to move away from the state's allowance of up to 100 clean needles to users. One-to-one needle exchanges had been allowed for years to reduce infections, including hepatitis and HIV, that can be transmitted by dirty needles. That was changed in 2022 in response to the covid epidemic. According to supporters of the higher exchange rate, the return to the earlier rate will put drug users at greater risk.

But the council agreed with City Manager Steve Buck that the public is at risk from discarded syringes scattered throughout areas of the city. Syringes have been found in public parks, playgrounds and sidewalks.



Photo: Police Scotland Ayreshire

Councilor Peter Tranchemontagne said the needle exchange program seems to have created more problems than it has solved in the two years since it was enacted. "I was called down by a hair salon to see a homeless encampment, and I witnessed a needle exchange that was a free-for-all," he said. "No one was being helped, no names were being taken, it was a mess."

Councilor Robert Stackpole said the council has to put the majority of residents first. "The fundamental disconnect here is community safety," he said. "When I hear the people talking from the outside agencies, they talk about other

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Community CALENDAR

Compiled by Lisa Blanchette

Visit our Events Calendar at sanfordspringvale-news.com for more details.

Ongoing

- Partners Bank, Food Drive, through Nov. 25
- Trafton Center, Food Drive, through Nov. 30
- Partners Bank, Winter Coat Drive, through Dec. 14

Saturday, Nov. 16

- Corner Cupboard, 8 am-5 pm, Sanford Unitarian Church, 5 Lebanon St.
- 5K/10K Turkey Trot/1 Mile Dog Jog-Walk, 8 am-5 pm, Sanford Memorial Gym
- Christmas Craft Fair, 9 am-3 pm, Allied Career Training Institute, 890 Main St.
- Ashlee Ridlon Children's Author Book Reading @ SCAE, 11:00 am-12:30 pm, 668 Main St.
- Pork Loin Dinner, 4:30-6:00 pm, Sanford First Baptist Church, 905 Main St.

Monday, Nov. 18

- Baby Rhyme Time, 10 am, Springvale Library, 443 Main St.
- November Mom's Group, 10:00-11:30 am, Pleasant Street Free Baptist Church, 10 Pleasant St., Springvale
- Sanford Food Pantry, 10 am-noon, 1204 Main St.
- Lego Builders Club, 3-5 pm, Springvale Library, 443 Main St.

Tuesday, Nov. 19

- Municipal Operations & Property Subcommittee meeting, 8:30 am, zoom
- Toddle Time, 10-11 am, Sanford Memorial Gym, 678 Main St.
- Salvation Army Food Pantry, 10 am-noon, 871 Main St.
- Family Story Time, 10:30-11:30 am, Goodall Library, 1364 Main St.
- Public Safety Subcommittee meeting, 11 am, zoom
- Free Lunch at YCSP's Recovery Community Center, noon-1 pm, 69 Brook St.
- York County Food Pantry, noon-3 pm, YCSP, 5 Swett's Bridge Road, Alfred

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What's Happening at the Goodall Library

By Lawrence Furbish

Change is often hard and sometimes it can be very challenging. It seems fair to say that is what is currently happening at the Goodall Memorial Library. Discussion had taken place for several years about the need for an expansion/renovation of the library. Finally in 2021 the library director at that time presented such plans to the City Council which were approved.

A three-million-dollar grant from the Federal Housing and Urban Development Agency (HUD) to pay for this upgrade was obtained. A temporary space at Shaw's Plaza in South Sanford was rented for the restoration work to take place. Moving a whole library was a major



New Entrance to Goodall Library Photo: Lawrence Furbish

challenge. While the move was taking place and before construction began, the library director resigned to take a new position elsewhere. Following a lengthy search, a new director was

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In March, another challenge occurred when a leak in the roof of the rented space caused a lot of damage which required significant cleanup. Simultaneously, there were delays in receiving the federal grant money. The library used their own funds to keep construction going but ran out and work stopped in April. When the federal funds finally arrived, construction resumed in September. By then, cost increases had boosted the bottom line to four and a half million dollars.

In October the director resigned and this month the assistant director is leaving to take another position. A job posting for the library director position has not yet appeared. The Goodall Library Board is now considering an alternative administrative structure. One option would be to hire a business administrator rather than a librarian to run the library and leave the "library" decisions to existing staff. The library has a reference librarian, three library assistants and a cataloger, each with several years of experience. Several attempts to reach the board president for comments were unsuccessful.

Part of the issue with hiring a librarian as director is the ability to offer a competitive salary. For the last ten years, the library has received only one increase in its city appropriation...3% in 2017. It has stayed at that level since. The Maine State Library tracks statistical information for all 257 public libraries in the state. Looking at other comparably sized libraries, the amount of the city appropriation is significantly less than other towns and cities such as Gorham, Saco, Biddeford, and Augusta. The hourly wage for their director positions is also significantly higher.

Another challenge facing Goodall Memorial Library is governance by the Board of Directors. It has long had a term limits policy with membership limited to two three-year terms. This can be positive in that it brings in new members with fresh ideas and keeps the same individuals from serving on the board for so many years that they become entrenched. The downside is the loss of institutional memory and the difficulty in recruiting new members. The library currently has five board members, including a new president, but two are scheduled to leave soon due to term limits and only one new member is scheduled to join the board. The Board is actively soliciting individuals who would be interested in becoming new members.

The Goodall Library assistant director and the City Manager have denied a rumor that there is a discussion of the City of Sanford taking over operation of the library. The city and the Sanford Library Association have a rather unique relationship dating back to the 1930s. The history of Goodall Library and its predecessor may be discussed in a future article. ■

Two Recounts Slated in Sanford Rep. Races

Ballots cast in two Sanford-area House District races are scheduled to be recounted by hand in Augusta Thursday Nov. 21, according to Maine Secretary of State's office.

In the House District 141 race, incumbent Republican Lucas Lanigan and Democratic challenger Patty Kidder tied with 2,476 votes each.

In the House District 142 race, incumbent Democrat Anne-Marie Mastraccio received 1,938 votes while Republican challenger Amy Bell received 1,874 votes, a 1.68 percent margin.

All ballots in each race will be inspected and verified by representatives from each candidate and from the Secretary of State's office, according to spokeswoman Emily Cook. The recounts are open public proceedings and will be conducted in the



Photo: Joe Hall via Creative Commons

Florian Room, 45 Commerce Drive, in Augusta.

Because the margin in the House District 142 race exceeds 1.5 percent, state law requires a deposit from the requesting candidate (Bell), however the deposit is returned if the apparent result is overturned. ■

Election Officials Relieved at Smooth Voting

By Lee Burnett

Voting proceeded smoothly Nov. 5, much to the relief of election officials.

"We got them in, we got them out. It was a smooth operation overall," City Clerk Sue Cote told the Sanford City Council Tuesday evening.

The anxiety level was high going into the election because of partisan tensions over the presidential election and because of fears of a backlash from some voters upset with the consolidation of voting locations from three to one.

Cote had made sure additional voting booths and additional staff were brought in. Deputy warden Lori Black had prepped poll workers to keep their cool if confronted by disgruntled voters. Hundreds of voters cast absentee ballots or voted early at City Hall. On Tuesday, some voters were apparently so eager to avoid unpleasantness that they started arriving by 5 a.m., two hours before polls opened at Sanford High School and Regional Technical Center.

When polls opened at 7 a.m., the line stretched out the door to the football field, according to deputy warden Ed Cormier. "We had that line completely gone by 8:15," he told city councilors. The longest wait was about half an hour, he said. Cormier said he received "good comments" from the poll watchers. He attributed the smoothness of the process to extensive planning. "The hours we put in to putting it together, I think, paid off."

One incident passed with barely a ripple. A phone call to the Sanford School Department of "an active shooter" at the high school was so quickly investigated and debunked as a nationwide swatting prank that Cote didn't even realize the School Department had issued

an alert until hours later when she received a text from a family member. It had no effect on voting, she said.

The biggest concern from critics of the consolidation of voting locations was that some voters were deterred from voting because they lacked transportation. The city clerk's office had mailed postcards to all registered voters about the voting change and included notice that York County Community Action Corp would provide transportation to anyone requesting it. Only 12 people took advantage of the transportation offer. In an interview Wednesday, City Councilor Jonathan Martell said he thinks notice of the bus service was inadequate and he remains concerned about what he considers voter suppression.

"Probably some people didn't vote because they didn't have transportation," he said.

Martell raised numerous other concerns at the council meeting, including a charge of "double counting of ballots," which was strongly disputed by Cote. "That is one hundred percent unfounded," she said in a telephone interview. She explained that the unofficial tally in the House District 141 race between Democrat Patty Kidder and Republican Luke Lanigan was corrected after "human error" was discovered. "I take a lot of pride in what we do. No laws were broken, there was no tampering of ballots."

Two other councilors praised the smooth voting process. Bob Stackpole spent some time at the polls in the early afternoon and later posted his satisfaction on Facebook. Mayor Becky Brink congratulated Cote at the City Council meeting.

"Sue, thank you for a tremendous job. It was excellent. It went very smoothly," she said. ■



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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NEEDLE EXCHANGE *Cont'd from Page 1*

things, and way down the list was keeping your community safe. Well, they got it backwards.”

Human Resources Director Stacy Howes discussed ways the city’s Homelessness Task Force is working to help the population on the street, including those with drug addiction. She said the Police Department’s approach – asking people if they need help rather than arresting them – has reduced the unhoused population from 250 to 50.

The council’s action is an emergency ordinance, in effect while state officials continue to study possible policy changes. Buck described Sanford’s change as a “test run” to see whether the state will offer any solutions. Mayor Becky Brink reminded people that for two years Sanford has followed the federal “19 Steps” to address homelessness and completed them. “This is the next step to keep our community safe,” she said. “We have 91 days to see if it will work and then revisit it.” ■

Thank You
Our heartfelt gratitude to the following recent donors:
*Carol Forbess
Connie Garber
*Lynn Serritella

* Donors who have made a monthly giving commitment.

CALENDAR *Cont'd from Page 1*

- Zoning Subcommittee meeting, 1 pm, zoom
- Cribbage, 2-3 pm, Springvale Library-Williams Reading Room, 443 Main St.
- Knit Lits, 3-4 pm, Springvale Library
- Bingo, 4 pm (doors open) 6 pm (games start), Sanford Elks Lodge, 13 Elm St.
- Toddle Time, 5:30-6:30 pm, Sanford Memorial Gym, 678 Main St.
- Dulcimer Group, 6-7 pm, Goodall Library,

Wednesday, Nov. 20

- Land Bank Authority meeting, 8:45-10:00 am, zoom
- Tots and Blocks, 10:30 am, Goodall Library
- Community Café, noon-2 pm, Mayflower Place, 27 Mayflower Dr.
- Lego Club, 2:30-4:30 pm, Goodall Library,
- Fiber Arts Group, 5-7 pm, Goodall Library.
- Poetry Group meeting, 5-7 pm, Goodall Library
- Wednesday Night Bite Free Community Meal, 6-7 pm, Curtis Lake Church, 38 Westview Dr.

Thursday, Nov. 21

- Sensory Story Time, 10 am, Springvale Library, 443 Main St.
- Free Lunch at YCSP’s Recovery Community Center, noon-1 pm, 69 Brook St
- Food Bank at St. Thérèse of Lisieux, noon-2 pm, Holy Family Church, 66 North Ave.
- Free Community Meal, 5 pm, New Beginnings Christian Church, 181 Grammar Rd.
- Scrabble Night, 5-7 pm, Goodall Library,
- SMS PTA Crochet Tree Garland Craft Night, 6:00-7:30 pm, Sanford Middle School, 52 Spartan Dr.

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NEWS NOTES

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan



The Partners Bank program, Winter Coats for All, is led by Crystal Callahan, receptionist at the bank's main office.
Photo: Partners Bank

Make it a Marie Kondo closet cleanout:

Through Dec. 14, the Partners Bank office at 900 Main St. in Sanford is running its Winter Coats for All program to benefit the Salvation Army. Donate new or gently used coats, mittens, gloves, hats and scarves for adults and children by dropping them off at the donation table in the bank lobby. Last year, 251 winter clothing items were collected. This year, the team at Partners Bank aims to surpass that number.

A chance for your donation dollars to go further: The Center for Grieving Children has set a \$5,000 goal for its Fall Appeal to take advantage of a \$5,000 match pledged by a generous supporter. The organization is just \$2,000 away from reaching its goal. Give a gift today to help share the love, hope and care that The Center for Grieving Children brings to families at no cost. To donate, go to cgcmaine.org.

New VFW service officer to assist veterans:

Joseph Armstrong is the new service officer for VFW Post 9935 in Sanford. Armstrong has been doing service officer work for over six years. Check out Post 9935's Facebook page periodically for information on veterans' benefits and other subjects of interest to veterans and their family members. In the meantime, if you need help filling out Veterans Affairs forms or feel that you have a claim you would like to file, contact Armstrong at 207-490-2094.

Plan your date night or holiday shopping with the kids:

The Sanford-Springvale YMCA is offering a night of child-sitting on Nov. 30 from 4 to 8 pm. The Titans Swim Team and staff will take care of the kids, keeping them busy with swimming, crafting, watching movies, and even having a Nerf battle! This is a Titans fundraiser, with all proceeds going to the swim team. The cost is \$30 for the first child and \$20 for each additional child. Children must be potty-trained. FMI and to register, contact the Welcome Center at 207-324-4942.

New faces caring for residents at Pinnacle:

Several new members recently joined the Pinnacle Health & Rehab team in Sanford. Welcome aboard to Ellen McNair, housekeeper; Robert Bell, LPN; LaToya Bell, LPN; Faith Yates, CNA-MT; Nancy Michaud, RN; Tia Swain, LPN; Jenifer Espinosa, housekeeper; Bianca Brown, CNA; and Blake Ware, dietary aide.

Reflection and prayer leading up to Christmas:

St. Thérèse of Lisieux Parish has announced that Advent wreaths are being sold for \$25 by the Daughters of Isabella. Each decorated wreath includes three purple and one pink candle — one for each week of Advent, which begins Dec. 1 — along with a prayer card that can be used as the candles are lit each night. To order, contact JoAnn Pion at 207-468-1282 or joann.pion@gmail.com.

Early holiday shopping at the library: Support Springvale Library while picking up some books, book art, crafts, jewelry and more at the library's Annual Holiday Pop-up Shop, open during library hours from Dec. 2 to Dec. 7. All proceeds will help with new book purchases and the library's operating costs.

Springvale native steps up to top jail post:

Springvale native Lori J. Marks has been named administrator of York County Jail in Alfred. Marks, 53, an Alfred resident, has served as the jail's interim administrator since May. She replaces former jail administrator Nathan Thayer, who left in May to become warden of the Maine State Prison. Her appointment to the top jail position was approved by a vote of York County Commissioners on Nov. 6. Marks was named national Corrections Officer of the Year by the American Jail Association in 2022 and is a certified jail manager through the American Jail Association — one of two in Maine, according to Sheriff William King.

Celebrate the season with Broose and Boomer:

Visit the Sanford Mainers this holiday season for their Christmoose with the Mainers event on Dec. 14, 10 am to 2 pm. Join in the fun at the front office and storefront for professional photos with Sanford's favorite moose, Broose and Boomer, hot chocolate, treats, and a special visit from Santa. Finish your shopping in-store with a 10% discount off your entire merchandise purchase.

Are you service-minded? Join the club: On Nov. 6, Altrusa of Sanford-Springvale welcomed Rita Cote, Altrusa District One governor, at their monthly business meeting to share information regarding Altrusa International and the programs that are supported by both the local club and the district. For over 30 years, Altrusa of Sanford-Springvale has supported local organizations, helping with scholarships to high schools, Stuff the Bus, the veteran's center, and York County Shelter Programs, among others. The club is always looking for new members. Meetings are held at the Trafton Center, 19 Elm St. in Sanford, on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 5:30 pm. FMI, contact Thea Murphy, membership chair, at altrusa-sanford@outlook.com.



Habitat for Humanity York County recently presented the City of Sanford with the 2024 Miles Freeman Award for Service. Accepting the award on behalf of the city is Maura Herlihy (left), deputy mayor. Photo: Habitat for Humanity York County

Sanford honored for supporting Habitat for Humanity's mission:

Habitat for Humanity York County recently presented the City of Sanford with the 2024 Miles Freeman Award for Service. The award, named after one of the organization's founders, is presented to select donors, volunteers and partners who exemplify Freeman's dedication to providing safe and affordable housing for York County families. The City of Sanford was recognized for its significant contributions since 2017, including working with Habitat for Humanity to facilitate the sale of affordable land for the organization's home ownership programs. Over the past seven years, Habitat for Humanity has acquired six lots in Sanford, supporting a total of at least 12 homes, four of which have already been completed, with another eight planned for the coming years. In addition, Sanford partnered with the organization to secure \$400,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding for the construction of six homes. Two other award recipients were also named — Beth Doty, honored for her tireless advocacy and service to the organization in various capacities since 2009, and Kennebunk Savings, honored for its volunteer teams' support at build sites and ReStore, its staff members' service on committees and the Board of Directors, and its overall financial support.

The Spree of Trees is fast approaching: As of Nov. 11, the Sanford Alumni Association had signed on 114 tree sponsors, leaving 11 more sponsors to go to reach their goal of 125 trees for the 6th Annual Spree of Trees, to be held Dec. 5 to Dec. 8 at the Memorial Gym Cafeteria. Contact Theresa Salls at gsalls@metrocast.net or 207-651-4969 to sign on before it's too late. ■

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Sanford Springvale News

Newspaper Founders to Depart

By Gail Burnett

Zendelle Bouchard never intended to make a long career of producing a weekly paper for her adopted hometown. In fact, she never intended to be a journalist at all. But after the pandemic derailed a project she and her husband Dave Rude were working on, they decided to try and fill the news gap that existed in town since the weekly Sanford News ceased publication in 2017.

The Sanford Springvale News website launched in June 2020, and the first print edition of the paper – about 300 copies, four pages entirely written by Bouchard, no ads – debuted a few months later. Covid was making everybody’s lives more difficult, but it actually helped make Bouchard’s thorough reporting possible. Instead of having to trudge to City Hall to watch municipal meetings as they were happening, she was able to watch them from home on her own schedule. She got to know city and school officials and tapped into online sources of information. Local marketing professional Liz Kilkenny volunteered to bring in some revenue by selling ads.

Now, four years after publishing that first edition and a year after a group of volunteers joined her and Rude to keep it going, she says they’ve decided it’s time to step down. “I always wanted it to be a group effort,” she said.

Bouchard grew up in the Boston area with “news junkie” parents. “Every Sunday morning, it was the Boston Globe and honey-dipped donuts,” she said. She later moved to New



Zendelle Bouchard holds a copy of the first print edition of the Sanford Springvale News from September 2020.
Photo: Gail Burnett

Hampshire, where for a while she and Rude published the Litchfield Bulletin community newsletter for that small town. News was never their main occupation, though. Rude worked in manufacturing and Bouchard, who describes herself as someone who gets easily bored, has had a varied career, including working as a CNA, home care aide, assistant bookstore manager and office assistant. For many years she has bought and sold collectible dolls through Etsy and other venues.

The couple moved to Sanford in 2010, but Bouchard’s family has deep roots here. Her mother grew up in the area and was descended from the Deering family, which gave its name to Deering Ridge, Deering Pond and other landmarks. Bouchard’s interest in history initially led her to the idea of an online calendar that would let people know about happenings at Maine’s historical societies and museums. When the pandemic hit and all events were cancelled, the couple revived the old Litchfield Bulletin format and went to work publishing local news instead.

Producing the Sanford Springvale News on their own proved so taxing that after about three years, Bouchard announced she was done. Kilkenny had moved on, and selling ads proved to be too much of a burden in addition to their other duties. Rude continued to compile the SSN’s events calendar, but Bouchard said it was time to call it quits. The announcement shocked the paper’s by-then thousands of readers, and a group, led by former School Committee member Kendra Williams, started working to turn the three-person show into the work of more than twenty volunteers. The print edition has grown to 12 pages most weeks, and the group maintains a website, Facebook page and E-newsletter with thousands of followers. The project is launched, and Bouchard is ready to move on to the next idea: a book based on the real-life diary of a 19th-century Acton farm boy.

She will take many things with her, she said, but probably the most important is that by producing the newspaper, she saw up-close the hard work and thought that goes into running our small city, from City Manager Steve Buck and the dedicated department heads to staff at all levels.

“I came to understand how lucky we are to live here,” she said. “It’s really made me appreciate what a great place Sanford is.” ■



Scan this with your camera to get our Weekly E-News sent directly to your inbox on Saturday mornings.

Or go to SanfordSpringvaleNews.com and go to the SIGN UP tab.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Sanford Planning Board will hold public hearings & receive written & oral comments at its November 20, 2024 meeting, starting at 6:30 pm, on

- File # L15-112 – 447 Main St. – District Courthouse Renovation – Sanford Housing Authority - Final Subdivision (Tax Map L15, Lot 112) – Adaptive reuse of existing vacant District Courthouse building in downtown Springvale into an 18-unit congregate care senior living residential facility.
- File # R15-61 – 14 Patriot Place – Subdivision Amendment – Avesta Housing – Subdivision Amendment (Tax Map R15, Lot 61) – Proposed addition of an accessory office building to the site, as well as minor changes to the parking and solid waste disposal areas.

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



Partners Bank Supporting Local Food Pantries



L-R: Captain Jim Downs of Sanford Salvation Army and staff from the Springvale branch: Charlene Conant, Rose Erwin, Kaylee LeClair and Kayla Foster. Photos: Courtesy of Partners Bank



L-R: York County Shelter Programs Executive Director Megan Gean-Gen-dron and Food Pantry Coordinator Robert Boyd. Market Manager Stacie Parker of Partners Bank Sanford and South Sanford locations.

This holiday season, Partners Bank is donating \$30,000 to food pantries in Sanford and other communities in their service area. “We want to give hope to those who could use a reminder that they are not alone and that someone cares about them,” said Bank President Blaine Boudreau.

Local recipients of the “Hopeful Holidays” donation include the York County Shelter Program and Salvation Army food pantries. In addition, employees will each receive a turkey. Some want to double the kindness by donating theirs to the YCSP Food Pantry. ■

Food Drives in Full Swing



Partners Bank South Sanford Food Drive box with employees Amber Tremblay and Emily Normandeau. Photo: Partners Bank

By Kristi King

Several Sanford organizations are working to gather items for the Thanksgiving season. **Partners Bank** is collecting non-perishable items and cash donations for their food drive at their Springvale, Sanford and South Sanford locations through Nov. 25 to benefit the York County Shelter Programs Food Pantry.

Sanford High School Peer Helper Thanksgiving Food Drive has collection boxes in the high school’s main lobby through Nov. 22 with the goal of 50 SHS families receiving a Thanksgiving basket.

Ted’s Fried Clams and Rockhouse Ice Cream is having a Thanksgiving food drive during the month of November. Bring in a non-perishable item for the local food pantry and get 10% off your bill.

The Y Trafton Senior Center on Elm Street is accepting donations for their food drive through Nov. 30th.

YCSP Food Pantry in Alfred also accepts food donations. Look for local businesses and churches that have food collection boxes for donations, too. ■



Strafford Wind Symphony with their Christmas hats on. Photo: Courtesy photo

Holiday Pops Kicks Off the Season

Experience the enchantment of the season with the Strafford Wind Symphony’s Holiday Pops show at 7 pm Saturday, November 30, at the Sanford Performing Arts Center. The night will be filled with a sparkling array of beloved holiday tunes that will warm hearts and create lasting memories for the entire family, plus the always popular sing-along.

With 55 dedicated musicians, the Strafford Wind Symphony is celebrated for its outstanding performances across Southern Maine and

Seacoast New Hampshire. Known for their exceptional music and professional presentation, they’re a cherished favorite at the SPAC, returning for their seventh performance on our stage.

Tickets are \$10-\$16, with discounts for subscribers, students, seniors and military veterans. For tickets and information, visit sanfordpac.org, call the box office at (207) 206-1126, or visit in person Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9-noon. ■

12 Angry Jurors

Press Release

Sanford High School Theater Company is set to captivate audiences with a powerful production of “12 Angry Jurors” at the Sanford Performing Arts Center from November 22-24, 2024. This classic courtroom drama immerses audiences in the intense deliberations of a jury in a homicide case, bringing personal biases and moral convictions into a gripping exploration of justice.

Students have been diligently working on “12 Angry Jurors” since September, developing their characters, refining the staging, and bringing this story to life with impressive dedication. In a nod to authenticity, the cast will be seated in the actual jury chairs on loan from the recently decommissioned York County Courthouse.

Performance Dates and times:

- Friday, November 22 at 7:00 PM
- Saturday, November 23 at 7:00 PM
- Sunday, November 24 at 2:00 PM



*Tensions run high in the jury deliberation room between Jurors 3 and 8, seen here in rehearsal played by Ben Terril and Jack Van Gieson, respectively.
Photo: Brett Williams*

Tickets range from \$10 to \$13, with discounts for seniors, military, and subscribers.

To further encourage community support, all students can attend free of charge, allowing more young people to experience this thought-provoking production. ■

CALENDAR *Cont'd from Page 3*

Friday, Nov. 22

- Salvation Army of Sanford Harvest Table Food Pantry, 9-11 am, 871 Main St.
- Toddler Time at SCAE, 9-11 am, 668 Main St.
- Salvation Army Staples Box Distribution, 9 am-3 pm, 871 Main St.
- York County Food Pantry, noon-3 pm, YCSP, 5 Swett's Bridge Road, Alfred
- Elks Giving Trees & More Festival, 1-7 pm, Sanford Elks Lodge, 13 Elm St.
- Stand-Up Comedy Show Jack Lynch @ Smitty's Cinema, 7-9 pm, 1327 Main St.

Saturday, Nov. 23

- Sanford Farmers' Market-Special Annual Thanksgiving Market, 8 am-noon, Central Park, 920 Main St.
- Annual Christmas Fair @ First Baptist Church of Springvale, 9 am – 1 pm, 429 Main St.
- CJL PTA Annual Holiday Shopping Fair, 9 am-2 pm, CJL School, 233 Shaw's Ridge Rd.
- Baby Blessings, 10 am-noon, St. George's Episcopal Church, 3 Emerson St.
- Elks Giving Trees & More Festival, 10 am-7 pm, Sanford Elks Lodge, 13 Elm St.
- MCS & SPE PTA's 4th Annual Turkey Trot with Touch-A-Truck, 12:30-3:00 pm, Cobb Stadium, 917 Main St.

Sunday, Nov. 24

- Elks Giving Trees & More Festival, 10 am-3 pm, Sanford Elks Lodge, 13 Elm St. Visit our Events Calendar <https://sanfordspringvale-news.com/events/> for details on these events and on events to come. ■

Public Hearing Notice

**Tuesday, November 26, 2024
6:00 PM - City Council Meeting**



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

An application submitted by, Golden Crust LLC, DBA OTTO Pizza, 1299 Main Street, Unit A, Sanford, Maine for a NEW Liquor License with Malt, Spirituous and Vinous, privileges.

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

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Community Gathers to Honor Veterans



Photos: Lisa Blanchette

Community members gathered at 11 am on Monday, Nov. 11 – the day designated as Armistice Day, by President Woodrow Wilson at the end of World War I – to pay tribute to those who have served our country.

Participants in the Veterans Day ceremony at the Veterans Memorial Gym included Sanford High School history teacher Paul Auger; members of the Sanford High School Honors Wind Ensemble and their director, Hailey Francoeur; Isabella Gibson and members of Scout Troop 323, Will Laviolette, Ralph Bedard, Jessica Peck, Jim Divel, and Mark Lessard. Many state and local officials and other residents also attended.

Guest speaker Jessica Johnson spoke briefly about her time of active service and in the reserves. She said that shortly before she lost her mother to cancer, she made a promise “to do good in the world.” She made good on that pledge by joining the Army. Since ending active duty, she has embraced her calling as a bugler, playing “Taps” at military funerals. She called the song “not a melody but a profound call, a 24-note tune that words fail to capture.”

The Veterans Day event was organized by The Sanford Veterans Memorial Committee, led by Gordon “Gunny” Kendall. The committee has representatives of all local veteran organizations including Maine National Guard, Amvets, VFW, American Legion, Military Vets, DAV, Rolling Thunder, and Patriot Riders. Meetings are held monthly at the Amvets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7 pm. These meetings are open to all. The next event they are planning will be a Pearl Harbor Remembrance. The committee can be reached via email at amvetspost3sanfordme@gmail.com. ■



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Free Thanksgiving Community Meal!

Ted's Fried Clams in Sanford will be open on Thanksgiving from 11am to 2pm to provide a FREE Thanksgiving Dinner to Anyone Who May Not Have a Place to Go on Thanksgiving Day! www.tedsfriedclamsmaine.com for More Information

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OUT IN THE WOODS

By Kevin McKeon, Maine Master Naturalist

Witch Hazel

The cool autumn weather beginning in October brings witch hazel into bloom. The persistent spidery yellow blossoms belong to one of those rare plants that also hold buds and fruit simultaneously. It was sometimes referred to as the “witch-of-the-woods” because it bloomed out of cycle with most other plants and shrubs.

Its flowers can persist for several months, curling up in the cold but unfurling under winter’s sun, when a rare wisp of fragrance can be enjoyed. Witch-hazels grow to be 10’-20’ tall shrubs looking like a young, multi-stemmed tree with a wide-spreading form almost as wide as it is high. They’re found from south-central Canada, down to Florida and east to Nova Scotia. It’s a fortunate treat for us trail walkers that the habitat favored by this beauty is common along trail sides, so we get to ponder these delicate bloomers quite often. Look for the small, yellow blooms among the tall bushes you pass by.

Although the tiny, seed-sized nuts are edible, witch-hazel does not refer to the nut-producing shrubs that give us delicious hazel nuts or filberts. Those two plants belong to the birch family, whereas witch hazels are in — you guessed it — the witch hazel family. The botanical name, *Hamamelis virginiana*, refers to the fact that the plant can have both flowers



A Witch Hazel branch, showing both blossoms and nut capsules, at the McKeon Reserve.

Photo Credit: Kevin McKeon

and fruits (“melon”) appear at the same time. This is called “hama”, a somewhat rare feature among plants. The virginiana relates to the Virginia settlers who used the branches dousing for water sources which is a possible reason for the “witchcraft” of dousing...thus witch hazel. Also, witch hazel’s pliant wood was similar to that of the Scottish Wych elm.

Another possibility of its name is that the essential oil extracted from its bark had “magical” or “bewitching” powers.

According to an August 1894 Good House-keeping publication, “People do not buy it by

the four or eight-ounce bottle now, but by the quart or gallon, and every medicine chest is not properly equipped unless it has a liberal supply...”

Native Americans used it as a sedative as a balm for sprains, burns, bruises, and inflammations, as a relief to the bites of insects and mixed with oil as a beauty product for the skin.

Witch hazel nut capsules hold two black seeds and turn from green to light brown, becoming woody at maturity. Since the nuts take two years to mature, a rare sight is often seen. It’s possible to see the blossom, pre-mature fruit and mature nut living next to each other. This shrub deploys an interesting seed dispersal method, probably best described by Henry David Thoreau: “I heard in the night a snapping sound, and the fall of some small body on the floor from time to time. In the morning, I found it was produced by the witch-hazel nuts on my desk springing open and casting their seeds quite across my chamber, hard and strong as these nuts were.” This is called dehiscence and happens after the seeds overwinter in their capsules, ripening in the fall. As they ripen, the capsules contract and tighten, then violently burst open, throwing their seeds up to 45 feet away, giving the shrub another name: snapping-hazel. ■

Editor’s note: Did you see something unusual last time you were out in the woods? Ask our “Out in the Woods” columnist Kevin McKeon. He’ll be happy to investigate and try to answer your questions. Email him directly at: kpm@metrocast.net.

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SCHOOL NOTES

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan



In Veterans Day events, students at Sanford's elementary schools thank and honor those who served. Pictured are celebrations (clockwise) at Carl J. Lamb, Sanford Pride, and Margaret Chase Smith elementary schools. Photos: Sanford School Department

Students at Sanford's three elementary schools honor those who served: The gymnasium at Margaret Chase Smith Elementary School was filled with pride, gratitude and patriotic spirit on Nov. 7 as students and staff welcomed dozens of veterans, who spanned generations from various military branches, for their annual Veterans Day breakfast celebration. Students spent weeks preparing special performances to honor their special guests — from sharing important facts about Veterans Day to reading a touching poem expressing appreciation for veterans' sacrifices to sharing insights about veterans' impacts on

our country. Following breakfast and the performances, families gathered around the "Our MCS Heroes" wall, which displayed a tribute of military photographs showcasing students' family members beneath service branch emblems and decorative stars.

At Carl J. Lamb Elementary School, students, staff and community members gathered for a Veterans Day celebration that combined patriotic music, student performances, and special recognition of local veterans. The school's cafeteria was transformed for the occasion with red, white and blue balloon arrangements, patriotic banners, and American flags held by students. Concluding the celebration was an educational flag-folding demonstration involving 20 students who participated alongside a military chief. Each precise fold of the flag was explained, representing values such as honor, courage, and sacrifice that are fundamental to military service. The celebration not only honored the veterans but also taught the next generation about service, sacrifice, and the sacred traditions that help us remember and respect those who have served our country.

Grade four chorus students from Sanford Pride Elementary School visited Pinnacle Health & Rehab on Nov. 8 to honor veterans living at the Sanford facility. The chorus students, who began rehearsing in September, performed two selections, "Thank You to Our

Veterans" and "On Veterans Day," focusing on themes of gratitude and recognition of service. The staff at Pinnacle incorporated the performance into the facility's Veterans Day social event and invited other community members. Through this experience, the students gained a deeper understanding of the vital role veterans have played in our nation's history.

Keeping the art of letter writing alive:

Seventh- and eighth-grade students from St. Thomas School paired up with their pen pals at the Trafton Senior Center for the first time this year, kicking off their monthly correspondence program. In addition to chatting and visiting with each other, the pairs enjoyed refreshments and played several rounds of the game Mind Trap. This is the fifth year of the school's pen pal partnership with Trafton.

Scholarship opportunities abound: Sanford High School now has a school counseling scholarship website, which includes a scholarship database and other helpful resources. Since the database will be updated throughout the school year as more scholarship opportunities become known, be sure to check back often. ■

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Public Hearing Notice Notice of Intent to File

Please take notice that RED LLC, P.O. Box 1917, Sanford, ME, 207-651-4529 is intending to file a Stormwater Law permit application with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the provisions of 38 M.R.S.A. § 420-D on or about August 29, 2024.

This application is for Development of a 1.9 acre parcel into a new 5-lot residential subdivision and 2 private ways at the following location on Clarke Ave. and Camp Street (paper streets), east of Boothby Ave. in Sanford, Maine.

A request for a public hearing or a request that the Board of Environmental Protection assume jurisdiction over this application must be received by the Department in writing, no later than 20 days after the application is found by the Department to be complete and is accepted for processing. A public hearing may or may not be held at the discretion of the Commissioner or Board of Environmental Protection. Public comment on the application will be accepted throughout the processing of the application.

For Federally licensed, permitted, or funded activities in the Coastal Zone, review of this application shall also constitute the State's consistency review in accordance with the Maine Coastal Program pursuant to Section 307 of the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1456.

The application will be filed for public inspection at the Department of Environmental Protection's office in (Portland, Augusta or Bangor) during normal working hours. A copy of the application may also be seen at the municipal offices in Sanford, Maine.

Written public comments may be sent to the regional office in Portland, where the application is filed for public inspection. MDEP, Southern Maine Regional Office, 3 I 2 Canco Road, Portland, Maine 04103

SPORTS NOTES

By Sam Bonsey, Sanford Schools Communications Coordinator

Sanford High School held its fall sports recognition night on Tuesday, November 12th, in the Performing Arts Center to recognize student-athletes and their teams' accomplishments.

The event began with SHS Athletic Director Zach Lemelin recognizing student-athletes who maintained a cumulative GPA of 92.5 or higher. The school's Leadership Council members, who attended 70% of weekly Wednesday meetings, were also honored for their dedication.

Following the leadership recognition, each fall coach had the opportunity to share their season highlights and present team awards.

In **Golf**, Head Coach Rossie Kearson highlighted the team's progress throughout the season. "While the season didn't necessarily go as well as I would like, I can honestly say there's a lot of progress made," he said. Brayden Baron earned Second-Team All-SMAA Conference honors and was named Sanford's Most Outstanding Golfer, while Ethan Burns received Most Improved Player recognition for his dedication in his first year of golf. Noah Corliss earned the Coaches' Award for his positive attitude and perseverance.

Cross Country Head Coach Nate Smith celebrated significant milestones for his team, including the boys' team winning the Class A Sportsmanship Banner for the first time in program history. The team achieved 42 personal records and met 23 personal and team goals. Team captains Sophie Therrien, Eliza Allen, Gabe Waterman, and Jack Van Gieson were recognized for their "superlative leadership."



*Student-athletes line up on stage during Sanford High School's fall sports recognition ceremony at the Performing Arts Center. The evening celebrated their achievements and contributions to the school's athletic programs.
Photo: Sanford School Department*

In **girls' soccer**, head coach Dave McCall said leadership led the team to steady improvement throughout the season. "Our varsity team was very competitive. We played against the top teams in the league and were right there with everybody," McCall shared. Sophie Olivo, Savannah Knight, Kya Duprey, Ava Hudson, and Adeline Fiandaca each received conference honors.

Despite facing the third toughest schedule in Maine, according to head coach Mark Boissonneault, the **Football** team showed tremendous heart. Rhylen Avery was named the team's Offensive MVP, accumulating 1,022 yards on 164 carries. Brady Boissonneault was named Defensive MVP, recording 63 tackles and demonstrating exceptional leadership as linebacker.

Volleyball head coach Ryan Geary praised the team's growth and resilience throughout their challenging schedule. Emmy Chase was recognized as Most Improved Player, while

Samone Gallagher was named Most Valuable Player.

Field Hockey head coach Marti Kane celebrated the program's continued improvement, noting the team's best regular season record in recent years at 10-4. The team had five players earn All-Conference recognition, with Audrey Payeur receiving First-Team honors and consideration for All-American status. Hailey Payeur, Paige Sevigny, Sadie Sevigny, and Linda Rose Krol received the other conference recognitions.

Boys' soccer head coach Bill Puffer maintained optimism despite a challenging season. "I'm extremely proud of all the boys, all the hours that they put in, the hard work and the dedication." Puffer celebrated a few standout players with Levi Mann earning Defensive Player of the Year and All-Conference recognition for the second consecutive year. Cole Adawadkar and Gavin Hebler were also highlighted for their commitment and dedication.

Cheerleading head coach Catrina Woodard recognized several outstanding members through awards voted on by the squad. Amelia Walker earned Most Improved Player, transforming from a timid sophomore to a confident athlete willing to try new skills. Madison Osborne received the Most Spirit award for her enthusiasm and energy, while Natalie Lam was voted Most Valuable Player. Taylor Coffey earned the Coaches' Award for going "above and beyond for the football players, for cheerleaders and for me and literally everybody," including taking a leadership role during homecoming week. ■

Public Hearing Notice

Tuesday, November 26, 2024

6:00 PM - City Council Meeting



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

An application submitted by RL2 LLC, DBA Friendly Fire Recreational, 72 Emery St, Unit 105, Sanford, Maine, for a Renewal Adult Use Retail Marijuana Store License.

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

Public comments may be submitted via email to info@sanfordmaine.org in favor or against the requested license.

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