

Sanford Springvale MAINE NEWS

Nonprofit newsletter produced with volunteers

Free

November 22, 2024

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Lanigan Wins Recount by a Single Vote

By Lee Burnett

Embattled State Rep. Lucas Lanigan was declared the winner in House District 141 Thursday following a recount of votes in Augusta.

Republican incumbent Lanigan received 2,478 votes while Democratic challenger Patricia Kidder received 2,477 votes, following a recount of ballots by hand. The two had tied with 2,476 votes each after the Nov. 5 election. The recount included examination of 426 ballots that were left blank, providing room for interpretation that some voters might have indicated their intent with marks that were not initially picked up by optical scanners.

Lanigan turned himself in to authorities on Oct. 28, eight days before Election Day, after a warrant was issued for his arrest on one count of domestic violence aggravated assault. He made his first court appearance two days later.

According to the initial police report, Lanigan's wife claimed he choked her during an altercation. But during Lanigan's court appearance, his wife claimed the incident was a misunderstanding. Following state policy, prosecutors said they are not dropping the charge.

The York County Sheriff's Office said Lanigan posted \$3,000 bail the day of his court appearance and was released. He is expected to make another court appearance in March.

Lanigan has shown no intention of resigning from office, and the Secretary of State's Office said he requested the recount.

In another Sanford-area race, a recount in the District 142 race between incumbent Democrat Anne-Marie Mastraccio and Republican challenger Amy Bell was canceled because Bell withdrew her request, according to the Secretary of State's office. The vote was 1,938-1,874 in favor of Mastraccio. ■

Council Passes Campground Ordinance

By Jack McAdam

After hearing from members of the public on the issue again, the City Council on Nov. 12 approved an ordinance on the development of new campgrounds in Sanford. The vote was 5 to 2, with councilors Nathan Hitchcock and Jonathan Martell opposed.

The ordinance requires a 75-foot setback from adjacent properties, which includes a 50-foot visual buffer that must be at least 8 feet high. The Planning Board will have the authority to decide what exactly constitutes a good enough buffer, giving developers



CabinPro Park Model Camper
Source: backyardoutdoorstructures.com

some flexibility to use plantings, berms or other features.

If a campground abuts a non-residential property, such as a vacant lot, field, com-

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Community CALENDAR

Compiled by Lisa Blanchette

Visit our Events Calendar at sanford-springvalenews.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. 23

- Farmers' Market-Annual Thanksgiving Market, 8 am, Central Park, 920 Main St.
- Annual Christmas Fair @ First Baptist Church of Springvale, 9 am, 429 Main St.
- CJL PTA Annual Holiday Shopping Fair, 9 am, CJL School, 233 Shaw's Ridge Rd.
- Baby Blessings- Postposed to 11/30
- Elks Giving Trees & More Festival, 10 am, Sanford Elks Lodge, 13 Elm St.
- MCS/SPE PTA Turkey Trot w/Touch-A-Truck, 12:30 pm, Cobb Stadium, 917 Main St.
- 12 Angry Jurors, 7 pm, Sanford Performing Arts Center, 100 Alumni Blvd.
- The Rodeo Ball, 7 pm, Downhill Bagel Co., 446 Main St., Springvale

Sunday, Nov. 24

- Elks Giving Trees & More Festival, 10 am pm, Sanford Elks Lodge, 13 Elm St.
- 12 Angry Jurors, 2 pm, Sanford Performing Arts Center, 100 Alumni Blvd.

Monday, Nov. 25

- Baby Rhyme Time, 10 am, Springvale Library, 443 Main St.
- Sanford Food Pantry, 10 am, 1204 Main St.
- Red Cross blood drive, noon, North Parish Church, 893 Main St.
- Lego Builders Club, 3 pm, Springvale Library

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Second Annual Homeless Summit Convenes in Sanford

By Lawrence Furbish

Last Thursday evening, the Sanford High School Performing Arts Center was filled with state legislators, municipal and town officials, and representatives of York County agencies and nonprofits working to improve the lives of those struggling to find or maintain a place to live. The summit, the second in two years, was held to outline for policy makers what they are trying to do and their requested priorities for the coming year.

The message to decision-makers: We need more housing of all kinds, more outreach to people on the streets, and more attention to groups experiencing high levels of homelessness, including children, older adults, and victims of domestic violence.

The evening opened with remarks from Carter Friend, chief executive officer for York County Community Action Corp. (YCCAC), and Jeremy Ray, superintendent of schools for Biddeford and Dayton. Emily Flinkstrom of Fair Tide, a support service for those experiencing homelessness, followed with a statewide perspective emphasizing that the issue is a continuum with the homeless on one end and people living in their own homes on the other. The middle is filled with those in shelters, subsidized housing, rentals, and other situations, but the key is there are shortages in all these categories.

Next came Megan Gean-Gendron, executive director of York County Shelter Programs. She spoke of the need for better funding for homeless shelters. All are underfunded, she said, and there are not enough of them. Her organization's shelter in Alfred is always full and there is always a waiting list. Despite the significant rise in the cost of living, the shelter has not received any increase in its support, Gean-Gendron said, and is in real danger of having to close. She also spoke of the importance of street outreach, case management, and support for those struggling with mental health issues and substance use disorder.

Susan Giambalvo, executive director of Caring Unlimited, York County's domestic violence resource center, described the shortage of beds and the difficulty being unable to serve all of those in need. In the last fiscal year, there were 260 requests for emergency domestic violence shelter, and only 37 households could be sheltered. She



Homeless Summit at SPAC
Photo: Brett Williams

said that domestic violence is the number one cause of homelessness for women and their children.

The chief executive officer of the Southern Maine Agency on Aging (SMAA), Megan Walton, discussed the problem for senior citizens, pointing out that those over 50 are the most rapidly growing group dealing with homelessness. There was a 275% increase in calls to SMAA phone lines related to eviction, rental and tax assistance and homelessness between 2022 and 2023, she said.

Sanford Schools Superintendent Matt Nelson provided statistics for school districts in York County with 725 documented homeless students. Sanford schools topped the list with more than 200. Nelson said that two of the biggest problems are that the Essential Programs and Services (EPS) formula which allocates educational funding between the state and local gov-

ernment does not adequately take homeless statistics into account and that there are increased costs of transportation to keep students in their school of origin.

Friend, of YCCAC, presented a list of requests and recommendations for meeting these needs going forward into next year's legislative session. At this point, Rep. Traci Gere of Kennebunkport, chair of the Joint Select Committee on Housing, brought up the issue of statistics and said that legislators are looking for empirical information to guide their decision making to meet the most pressing needs. She mentioned the statistics presented at last year's summit. Apparently, they were based on a street assessment conducted by the Sanford Police Department's Mental Health Unit, and nothing similar has been done this year. The panelists promised to look into this concern. ■

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*Kendra & Paul Williams

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CAMPGROUNDS *Cont'd from Page 1*

mercial building or solar farm, the owner of that property can choose to waive the setback and buffer requirements. Such an agreement must be recorded with the York County Registry of Deeds. The specific underlying zoning of the campground property will determine the exact setback, which means the ordinance provides some variance based on location.

Setback requirements for campgrounds have been the subject of debate in the community and on the council since residents Bonnie and Michael Patterson proposed a campground with 29 RV sites, 15 cabins, multiple bathhouses and parking lots along Sand Pond in South Sanford more than a year ago. Some neighbors opposed the development, saying it would bring too much traffic into the area and endanger wildlife. An online petition opposing the development gathered 1,200 signatures. The Pattersons and others have defended the proposal as developing only three acres of a more than 100-acre parcel. The rest would feature walking trails. Others said that earlier versions of the proposed ordinance were too restrictive and could stop any new

campground proposal.

A public hearing on whether the city should extend its moratorium on new campgrounds earlier in last week's meeting drew a few comments. Both Pattersons spoke in favor of ending the moratorium, as did David Houle, manager of Apache Campground. "It's time to come to terms with this," Houle said.

The moratorium was enacted to give the city time to review its campground ordinance in response to the Sand Pond proposal and another Renaissance Faire campground/fairground project proposed in Springvale. The council's action means the moratorium will expire Dec. 6 and applications for campgrounds can move forward for city review. ■

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Sanford Springvale News

CALENDAR *Cont'd from Page 1*

Tuesday, Nov. 26

- Toddle Time, 10 am, Sanford Memorial Gym, 678 Main St.
- Salvation Army Food Pantry, 10 am, 871 Main St.
- Baby/Toddler Rhyme Time, 10:30 am, Goodall Library, 1364 Main St.
- Pre-K Story Time, 11 am, Goodall Library
- Free Lunch at YCSP's Recovery Community Center, noon, 69 Brook St.
- York County Food Pantry, noon, YCSP, 5 Sweet's Bridge Road, Alfred
- Cribbage, 2 pm, Springvale Library
- Knit Lits, 3 pm, Springvale Library
- Bingo, 4 pm (doors open) 6 pm (games start), Sanford Elks Lodge, 13 Elm St.
- Toddle Time, 5:30 pm, Sanford Memorial Gym, 678 Main St.
- Dulcimer Group, 6 pm, Goodall Library
- Police Citizen Advisory Group, 6 pm, Sanford Police Department, 935 Main St.
- City Council meeting, 6 pm, Sanford City Hall, 919 Main St.
- Sanford Elks Member & Guests Thanksgiving Bake Sale, 6 pm, 13 Elm St.

Wednesday, Nov. 27

- Sanford Department of Public Works Administrative Offices Closed Today
- Lego Club, 2:30 pm, Goodall Library
- Goodall Library Closing Early for Holiday Weekend (4 pm)

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NEWS NOTES

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan



Members of the Sanford Fire Department train to maintain certification for confined space rescues.
Photo: Sanford Fire Department

SFD completes confined space training:

All four shifts of the Sanford Fire Department recently completed the rigorous training required to maintain Confined Space Rescue Technician Certification. The certification ensures the team is fully equipped to respond to emergencies in hazardous, enclosed spaces — such as sewers, tanks, vaults or silos — where access is limited and specialized rescue skills are crucial. Confined space rescues are high-risk situations that require precision, training and the right equipment to safely rescue victims while protecting the first responders.

Turkeys needed for YCSP Thanksgiving baskets:

York County Shelter Programs expects to give out as many as 1,000 Thanksgiving meal baskets this year and is working hard to fill them. However, the organization needs turkeys. If you can donate turkeys or, alternatively, either a gift card or money to purchase them, contact Rob Boyd, Food Pantry coordinator, at robertb@ycspi.org or 207-324-1137.

Small Business Saturday is right around the corner:

Friends of Downtown Sanford wants to know what local businesses are doing for Small Business Saturday, Nov. 30. Running a special? Offering gift cards? Having a door prize giveaway for the first “so many” customers? Get in touch with Friends of Downtown Sanford and make it a special day for your customers looking to support local businesses.

Two new SFD promotions: At the City Council meeting on Nov. 12, the Sanford Fire Department swore in two newly promoted lieutenants. Lt./Paramedic Ben Wildes and Lt./Paramedic Zac Storey were recently promoted after the retirement of two long-serving lieutenants. Congratulations to both!

Holiday assistance for Sanford families:

Several local organizations in the San-

ford area are stepping up to ensure every family can celebrate this holiday season. For Thanksgiving, York County Shelter Programs will have meal baskets, including a turkey with all the fixings, available for pickup at 5 Swetts Bridge Rd. in Alfred on Nov. 25, 26 and 27, from 9 am to 3 pm. FMI, contact Rob Boyd, Food Pantry coordinator, at robertb@ycspi.org. For holiday gift giving, registration for Toys for Tots is open until Dec. 8. All applications must be completed online. To apply, go here.

FMI, email springvaleft@live.com or call 207-408-0321. The Press Herald Toy Fund, which helps children from birth to age 16, has a Dec. 1 deadline. For a mailed application, email toyfund@pressherald.com with your full name and address.

Interested in a career with kids but not sure where to start? United Way of Southern Maine is offering a free Careers with Kids Workforce Summit & Career Fair on Dec. 7, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, at Sanford Community Adult Education. Learn how to start a career as an early childhood educator and apply for jobs with local providers. Free breakfast, lunch, childcare and transportation are available. Registration required. FMI, go to: www.careerswithkidsme.org

Help an angel get their wings: The Salvation Army needs bell ringers this holiday season. If interested, stop by the office at 871 Main St. in Sanford and fill out an application. All Red Kettle donations stay local, so your time and energy will help to provide meals, warmth and hope for those in need right here in the community.

Book your appointment now: Through its Community Spotlight Program, Marc Motors will donate \$5 to the Sanford Backpack Program for each oil change it performs during the month of December.

You're invited (ugly Christmas sweaters are optional): The Sanford-Springvale Historical Society is hosting a Christmas Party on Dec. 5, from 5 pm to 7 pm, at the Sanford-Springvale Historical Museum, 505 Main St., Springvale. Wear your favorite Christmas attire, sample festive fare, and get in the holiday spirit. The Sanford Chamber Singers and Select Treble Choir will perform holiday music at 5:30 pm. This event is free to the public. FMI, call 207-651-1980 or email info@sanfordhistory.org.



Improvements in progress along Springvale Farm Trail
Photo: Jim Roux

Mud holes fixed: A long muddy stretch of trail in Springvale was made dry recently, thanks to efforts by Southern Maine Sno-goers snowmobile club. The club built a base of porous stone and covered it with soil, seed and mulch on a 425-foot stretch of Springvale Farm Trail, a feeder trail off the Rail Trail. “During the winter, there were a couple of waterholes that didn’t freeze very well, which created a muddy ride,” explained club president Jim Roux. “Now, with the base we put down, it should be passable year-round with minor maintenance, opening it up to hikers, walkers and bicyclists.” The club had hauled in 82 cubic yards of stone tailings and 80 cubic yards of conservation mix, at a total cost of \$4,826, according to Roux. The Sanford Trails Committee contributed \$2,500. Contributing labor were club members Chris Letourneau, Dan Thayer, Don Allaire, Jim Roux, Paul Haven, Stephen Givens Jr., Don Roux and Calvin Hilton. Businesses that supported the project were Shawn’s All Season Sports, DW Excavating, MD Rental, Jeff Simpson Inc. and Genest Concrete.

Deadline extended for affordable housing opportunity: Habitat for Humanity is looking for two families who meet its guidelines to purchase homes in a four-unit subdivision on Beaver Hill Road in Springvale. Two of the homes have already been sold. The remaining two are expected to be built in the fall of 2025. The deadline for applying has been extended to Dec. 6 at 5 pm. This year, three families moved into Habitat homes in Sanford, with four to five additional homes planned following construction of the Beaver Hill project. FMI or to apply, go here, or email program@habitatyorkcounty.org with questions.

Water council highlights regional collaboration across southern Maine: Keith Levasseur, Sanford Water District engineer, and Mike Cummons, Maine Water Company vice president, recently represented Southern Maine at the New England Water Works Association's Water Resources & Sustainability Symposium. Their presentation showcased 20 years of collaboration through the Southern Maine Regional Water Council (SMRWC), where seven water utilities work together to improve services and cut costs through joint purchasing and shared resources. The SMRWC supports water systems serving 350,000 Mainers — about 25% of the state's population. Both Levasseur and Cummons are SMRWC directors, with Cummons currently serving as president.

And a partridge in an Angel Tree: The Salvation Army of Sanford announced that its Angel Trees are up at Walmart and Partners Bank. Participants can help bring joy to a child this Christmas by adopting an Angel Tree tag and purchasing the item(s) listed. For those who would like to help children in need this Christmas but are unable to get out to shop, consider purchasing a toy online from the Salvation Army of Sanford's 2024 Wishlist at the Walmart Registry. www.walmart.com

Lift up your voices this Advent season: The musicians at Saint Thérèse of Lisieux Parish are starting to prepare the music for Advent and Christmas. Anyone interested in singing in the choir this Advent season should contact Brandy at 207-324-2420 or join the choir rehearsals, held every Saturday at 2 pm.

Congratulations, Nasson Health Care: The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) has again recognized Nasson Health Care as a Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) practice. They earned this recognition for their commitment to providing high-quality care that places their patients at the forefront of what they do. Practices that earn recognition have made a commitment to continuous quality improvement and a patient-centered approach to care. NCQA's program is the most widely adopted PCMH evaluation program in the country. ■

There's much more to explore in our weekly E-Newsletter. Subscribe by scanning this QR code.



Sanford Vocalists Shine



L: Hope Abbott-Eaton
R: Claire Davie
Photo: Courtesy

Two Sanford student vocalists won honors recently at the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition at Bates College.

Hope Abbott-Eaton, Sanford High School senior, received first place in both Musical Theater Division III, and Classical Division III. Her classical repertoire was comprised of works all written by female composers Lori Laitman, Isabella Colbran, and Clara Schumann. Abbott-Eaton plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in vocal performance and has multiple college auditions on the horizon.

Claire Davie, Sanford 8th grader, placed first in Classical Division I, and took third place for Musical Theater Division I. Davie, the youngest classical competitor, sang Italian art songs and spirituals by Steven Sondheim and from Les Misérables.

Both students study with Caleb Randall, voice teacher at Atlantic Harmonies Studio. ■

CALENDAR *Cont'd from Page 3*

- Wednesday Night Bite-Free Meal, 6 pm, Curtis Lake Church, 38 Westview Dr.
- Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee meeting, 6 pm, City Hall, 919 Main St.
- Sanford Elks Member & Guests Thanksgiving Bake Sale, 6 pm, 13 Elm St.
- Thanksgiving Eve w/Got It Covered-Mill Towne Tavern, 8 pm, 898 Main St.

Thursday, Nov. 28 Thanksgiving Day

- City of Sanford Public Offices Closed Today
- Goodall Library Closing Early (4 pm)
- Pilots Cove Thanksgiving Brunch Buffet and Dinner, 9 am, 199 Airport Rd.
- Free Thanksgiving Lunch, 11 am, Ted's Fried Clams, 890 Main St.

Friday, Nov. 29

- Goodall Library Closed for Holiday Weekend
- Salvation Army of Sanford Harvest Table Food Pantry, 9 am, 871 Main St.
- Salvation Army Staples Box Distribution, 9 am, 871 Main St.
- York County Food Pantry, noon, YCSP, 5 Swett's Bridge Road, Alfred

Saturday, Nov. 30

- Goodall Library Closed for Holiday Weekend
- Baby Blessings, 10 am, St. George's Church, 3 Emerson St. (Postponed from 11/30)
- Intro to the Sound Temple, 10:30 am, Super Nova Energetics, Bradeen St., Springvale
- Holiday Pops Strafford Wind Symphony, 7 pm, Performing Arts Ctr, 100 Alumni Blvd.

Visit our Events Calendar at sanford-springvalenews.com for more details. ■



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Social Media Marketing Training



Photo: Rosaura Ochoa via Creative Commons

Sanford Regional Economic Growth Council is offering free training in social media marketing to interested businesses and organizations.

The sessions will be held in person at Goodall Memorial Library at the Center for Shopping from 3:30 to 5 pm on Monday, December 2 and Monday, December 9. Participants should bring a laptop or phone with them to practice as they are learning.

The sessions will explore platform options, how and when to post, best practices, creating content with photos and video, narrowing in on an audience and more.

The instructor is Mike McKeen, a graduate of Temple University. His business, Tiger Funk Productions, specializes in producing video and audio content for small business owners. He has experience with social media management, coaching, consulting and producing podcasts for clients and organizations. ■

Experience a Victorian Christmas at the Goodwin House



The Sanford Springvale Historical Society is urging folks to take a break from holiday shopping this year and experience “Jingle and Mingle,” a simpler Victorian-era Christmas at the Goodwin House.

The Goodwin house at 503 Main Street in Springvale, right next to the Historical Museum, will be open for free tours from 10 am to 2 pm December 7, 14 and 21.

The Historical Society was inspired to organize the holiday event because the Victorian era was when modern Christmas traditions such as gift giving and decorating Christmas trees started. Visitors are invited to snap photos of Victorian decorations and historic toys and games while enjoying holiday carols.

After your visit, stop in at the Historical Society’s Museum and make reindeer puppets with Executive Director Patricia Violette-Adams. There will also be readings of “’Twas the Night Before Christmas.”

Free admission. For more information, please call 207-490-1028 ■

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

Capping Off a High School Career

By Andrew Morin
Sanford High School student

The Sanford High School and Regional Technical Center is one of the newest and most impressive high schools in the state. In addition to amenities like the grand Performing Arts Center and well-equipped athletic facilities, SHS offers many academic programs that most other schools don't. One of these is the Advanced Placement-Capstone program.

Advanced Placement, or AP, is an academic program offered and administered by the nonprofit College Board that aims to help students challenge themselves and develop critical skills for the future through in-depth research, experimentation and analysis of scholarly material. While many schools offer AP classes, Sanford is one of only 14 high schools in the state to go a step further and offer the AP Capstone program.

With the Capstone program, students take AP Seminar classes – in-depth courses that help develop their analysis and

critical thinking skills – and AP Research classes. These classes require students to research existing knowledge about a subject and then do their own research and experimentation. Areas and methods of research can vary widely among students. Possible topics may include biology, history, sociology, or art. Methods of research may be as simple as a survey or as complex as experimentation with animals. The goal of AP Research classes is to give students the skills to effectively research and come to their own conclusions on topics.

Students who take both Seminar and Research classes and an additional four other AP classes are eligible to receive a special AP Capstone diploma. This is challenging, says senior Rishi Patel, who will graduate this June.

"It's not easy to do, but it's worth the hustle if you do the program," said Patel, who credits the program for helping him develop such skills as time management, critical thinking and responsibility that can be useful later in his education and



Rishi Patel says the Capstone project is worth the extra work.
Photo: Sally Quarles

career. Also, he values the program for allowing him to take college level courses early, meaning he will not have to take them when he's in college.

Patel said he would recommend the program to others. "I think it helps develop necessary skills for later in life," he said, "and on top of that, it looks good at graduation and to potential employers and college admission committees." ■



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OUT IN THE WOODS

By Kevin McKeon, Maine Master Naturalist

A Derailment Gave Sugarloaf Hill its Name

In 1794, Eli Whitney developed the cotton gin, which both increased production and enabled the use of lower quality, short-stapled cotton. This latter item led to the great expansion of southern cotton fields that supplied slave labor-produced cotton to his child labor-run mills in New England. He became known as the “Father of American Industrial Revolution,” and it’s this era that necessitated an advancement in transportation.

From pulling our stuff by foot in wagons, we evolved to the “Carriage Era,” and its many problems within burgeoning settlements. The budgets of city sanitation departments were being strained by the removal and disposition of dead horses by the thousands and manure by the tons. Roads had weight limitations and canals froze, thus transportation of heavy industrial machines and goods was exceedingly expensive and time-consuming. A mode of transportation for the increasingly growing manufactured goods sector was badly needed.

Beginning around 1820, railroads began their growth to become America’s big business, moving relaxed, socializing people and manufactured goods at a break-neck 15-20 mph to places inaccessible during the era of horse-powered transportation. Thus, the railroads came to Maine in 1836 with the Bangor to Old Town line, and in 1846 to Sanford via the York and Cumberland, the Portland and Rochester (1865), the Boston and Maine, and the Sanford and Eastern (1949) railroads.

Sanford’s Rail Trail is built on top of that rail bed, and what many folks may not realize is that this trail sits in the center of a 6-rod-wide parcel of land for most of its length. Some places are a bit narrower and some are wider, depending on what the railroad company needed and what the landowners were willing to part with. A rod is 16 ½ feet long, making the 6-rod width 99 feet, so the Rail Trail extends generally 49½ feet to either side of the center of the trail. Along Sanford’s beloved Rail Trail, there are many remnants, areas of interest, and stories relating to the historic railroad days.

A previous SSN article recalls the rail car that sank in Deering Pond’s peat bog in the spring of 1871. Another rail car sank too, within a couple of hundred feet of the



Sugarloaf Hill, as seen from Boivin Way Trail, 100 meters from the Sanford/Lebanon boundary.

Photo: Kevin McKeon

Sanford/Lebanon boundary — and it’s a sweet story! This short account relating to the naming of Sugarloaf Hill was supplied by Nelson Ross and can be found in the Lebanon Historical Society’s 1992 publication, “The Railroad, Lebanon, Maine; In Retrospect.”

“When Nelson Ross was a young boy, Albert Goodwin told him that years ago a railroad car loaded with sugar tipped over in the bog area beyond the overpass near Wilbur Woodman’s, where it sank out of sight. That, Goodwin said, was the reason why the large knoll near this spot, thereafter was called Sugarloaf.”

The “overpass near Wilbur Woodman’s” was called Goodwin’s Bridge. There are no apparent remnants of this bridge, which according to the above publication was located at the intersection of what is now Red Smith Road and Blanchard Road. Modifications to the bridge were required

to provide clearances for the brakemen, who rode on top of rail cars.

“Where said Railroad cuts through Highway over Smith’s Hill (Smith Road) in said town, there shall be built by said (railroad company) a bridge over said Railroad not less than 18 feet wide. The Northeast corner of the Bridge shall be of sufficient width to make a proper turn for the crossroad, (Blanchard Road) and the fill at the South end of the bridge shall be of equal width with the Bridge, and said Bridge and filling shall be properly railed, and grading and filling shall be sufficiently done for public travel. (Goodwin’s Bridge), near Wilbur Woodman’s”.

Another reference for Sugarloaf Hill is available at Mousam Way Land Trust’s description of its property, Boivin Way, an extension of the Rail Trail beginning at the Sanford/Lebanon boundary:

“Near the end of the 1800s, a freight car loaded with sugar derailed and sank out of sight in a bog at the Sanford-Lebanon line. A conical knoll of rocky glacial till just within Lebanon marks the spot and has come to be known as “Sugar Loaf Hill.”

So, as we walk along the Rail Trail, about 130 feet into Lebanon, a gander to the southeast will offer a view of Sugarloaf Hill, and somewhere in the reeds lies a sweet rail car! ■

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:

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SCHOOL NOTES

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan

The sky's the limit when discussing career possibilities:

On Nov. 12, Ed Cormier, an analyst with the Aviation and Space Education Program at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), visited the students at St. Thomas School for the second time. Cormier discussed careers as a pilot as well as opportunities for young people in southern Maine, including summer camp at Sanford Airport. Third through eighth-grade students even had a chance to experience hands-on work with flight simulators. Cormier will provide a total of six lessons to the students since the school is an "adopted school" under the FAA's Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Aviation and Space Education Program. Through the program, the FAA helps students learn more about civil and commercial aviation as well as the critical role that STEM plays in aeronautics.



St. Thomas School students gain hands-on experience with flight simulators with the guidance of Ed Cormier, FAA analyst.

Photo: St. Thomas School

MCS music teacher wins national award:

Heather Hastings, music teacher at Margaret Chase Smith Elementary School, has been named winner of the prestigious 2025 Commission Competition by Women Band Directors International (WBDI). Hastings' original compositions for the concert band, submitted in August, emerged victorious — over 53 other submissions — after two rounds of blind judging. As the winner, she will create a new musical piece honoring Gladys Stone Wright, the trailblazing founding president of WBDI. The new composition will debut at a special world premiere performance. As part of a consortium project, multiple ensembles across the country will then present regional performances. Hastings will receive her honorary WBDI membership at a ceremony next winter in Chicago, where she will also attend the premiere.

SMS students learn about the dangers of vaping:

Nationally recognized youth advocate Rob Holla spoke to Sanford Middle School's seventh- and eighth-grade students on Nov. 8 about the serious health risks of vaping and the importance of resisting peer pressure. Holla discussed

the health impacts of e-cigarettes and vaping while keeping students engaged with powerful real-world examples and interactive elements. Key points from his presentation included the dangers of believing unverified information about vaping; the fact that vaping can cause inflammation of airways regardless of nicotine content; the link between vaping and increased risks of stroke, heart attack, and cancer; and information about free, confidential resources for students who want to quit vaping. Holla encouraged the students to make independent decisions rather than following the crowd. Holla's message was clear: students don't need "alternatives" to smoking if they never start in the first place.

Winter gear needed for SPE kids:

Throughout the month of November, Sanford Pride Elementary (SPE) PTA is hosting a Winter Gear Clothing Drive for students, collecting any new or gently worn winter gear, including coats, ski pants, boots, hats, and gloves. Items can be dropped off in the SPE lobby between 8 am and 3 pm.

SMS food drive to help Sanford students and families:

The Sanford Middle School Holiday Food Drive Competition ends Dec. 6. Items needed are instant potatoes, canned fruit, cranberry sauce, gravy, stuffing, peanut butter, rice, canned soup, pie crusts and filling, mac-n-cheese, desserts, boxed cereal, oatmeal, granola bars, and snack bars. All food items collected will benefit Sanford students and families.

Helping local families enjoy a warm holiday meal:

The Sanford High School Peer Helpers Thanksgiving Food Drive benefited from a \$1,000 donation from Eastern Propane — a generous act in this season of giving. ■

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The City of Sanford Announces the Following Openings for Boards & Committees in 2025:



The Airport Advisory Committee has three openings: two for residents of Sanford or of other communities in York County who may or may not hold a pilot's certificate; and one for a person who holds a valid pilot's certificate and who operates an aircraft based at Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport and who may or may not be a Sanford resident. This committee studies, researches and develops all aspects of the Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport and advises the Airport Manager.

The Board of Appeals has four openings, each for a three-year term. This board hears and decides administrative and dimensional variance appeals and works closely with the Director of Planning and Code Enforcement.

The Board of Assessment Review has four openings, each for a three-year term. The Board reviews and rules on appeals duly filed in writing by taxpayers regarding any tax assessment made by the Tax Assessor.

The Design Review Committee has up to five openings, each for a two-year term. The committee advises the Planning Director, the Planning Board, the Code Enforcement Officer, the applicant, and may make recommendations concerning project design proposals.

The Land Bank Commission has one opening for a five-year term. The Land Bank oversees the City's rental housing licensing, inspection, and enforcement program, and it purchases, acquires, holds, and disposes of real property. The Commission also makes recommendations to the City Council regarding dangerous buildings and abandoned properties, and regarding property remediation.

The Planning Board has one opening, for a three-year term. The Planning Board's responsibility is to review and act upon all subdivision requests; to hear and decide "conditional use" permit requests; to help draft new or amend relevant land use ordinances; and to review and assist in developing policy, goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Recreation Advisory Board has four openings, each for a two-year term. This board acts in an advisory capacity to the Parks and Recreation Director.

The Sanford Arts Commission has up to six openings, each for a three-year term. The commission focuses on identifying, strengthening, promoting, and broadcasting Sanford's cultural assets, infrastructure, and artistic treasures and facilitating community involvement in the arts.

The Sanford Housing Authority Board of Commissioners has two openings to fill unexpired Member at Large positions with terms ending 12/31/25 and 12/31/26. The SHA Commissioners are responsible for overseeing the operations of the Housing Authority and expenditures of federal monies, helping direct the management of programs that benefit the community and ensuring the provision of quality services to the residents of their housing properties.

The Trails Committee has up to five openings, each for a three-year term. The committee coordinates with the Parks and Recreation Director and assists in the development, funding and maintenance of a community-wide trail system.

The deadline to submit applications is Thursday, December 19, 2024 at 5:30 PM. Appointments will be made January 7, 2025.

Applications and committee descriptions are available by contacting the Sanford City Manager's office at (207) 324-9173 or by email at sancommittees01@sanfordmaine.org, or by visiting the City's website at www.sanfordmaine.org under Government/Boards & Committees to download a fillable application form.

FDA Orders Cleanup at Tom's of Maine

The Federal Drug Administration is threatening to withhold export certificates and take other punitive measures against Colgate-Palmolive if it fails to fix a raft of significant health violations at its Tom's of Maine plant in south Sanford, according to the agency.

The FDA issued a warning letter to the company Nov. 5 outlining dangerous bacterial contamination in water recovered at various stages of the manufacturing process. The investigation encompassed written documentation that Tom's of Maine self-reported in 2021 and 2022 as well as a plant inspection that FDA conducted this May.

An FDA investigator observed a "black mold-like substance" in three locations in the plant. The letter cited that the bacteria *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, which can cause blood and lung infections, was found in multiple water samples collected by the company from June 2021 to October 2022. This water was used to manufacture Tom's Simply White Clean Mint Paste, and for cleaning equipment. The FDA indicated that none of these incidents were investigated by the company

to assess product impact and water system performance. Other types of bacteria were also found.

The FDA said the company response has been inadequate to date. The FDA is requesting a comprehensive remediation plan for the design, control, and maintenance of the water system, as well as more complete investigation of sources of contamination, tougher oversight processes and more rigorous complaint investigation.

"The violations cited in this letter are not intended to be an all-inclusive list of violations that exist at your facility. You are responsible for investigating and determining the causes of any violations and for preventing their recurrence or the occurrence of other violations," according to the letter from Francis Godwin, director of manufacturing quality in the office of compliance for drug evaluation and research.

According to Maine Public and other news sources, Tom's of Maine spokesman Rob Robinson said the company has put in new safeguards since the inspection and that it always tests its products and is confident they are safe. ■

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan



31 Guillemette St. (11/13 closing, listed below)

Photo: Google

11/13, 31 Guillemette St., 8-room Raised Ranch, 4 bed/3 bath, primary bedroom with ensuite, family room, 2-car garage under, deck, patio, porch, shed, in-ground pool, fenced-in backyard, .4 acres on cul-de-sac, \$475,000

11/15, 42 Jagger Mill Rd., 4,300 sf Freestanding Building, 4 drive-in doors, metal cladding, metal roof, slab, second structure currently leased, 21+ parking spaces, industrial business zone, 2.4 acres, \$700,000 ■



Do you want to own your own home?

Habitat for Humanity York County is currently selecting homebuyers for two affordable homeownership opportunities in Sanford

Applications are due December 6th at 5:00pm



Minimum Income of
\$44,000



Modest Down
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Interested applicants can see program qualifications and download an application at
www.habitatyorkcounty.org

Email Habitat with any questions at program@habitatyorkcounty.org



PASSAGES

Compiled by Rev. Susan Murphy

Theresa “Terry” (Plante) Hilton, 90, of Brooksville, Florida, formerly of Sanford, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, November 13, 2024, surrounded by her loving family. Calling hours will be held on Friday, November 22 from 4-7 pm with a funeral on Saturday, November 23, at 10 am at Carll-Heald & Black Funeral Home.

Thank You

Our heartfelt gratitude to the following recent donors:

- *Heidi Baker
 - Barbara Crider
 - *Kevin McKeon
 - Julee Supan-Mathieu
 - *Kendra & Paul Williams
- * Donors who have made a monthly giving commitment**

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Downtown Prepares for Holly Daze

Crews from the Sanford Parks & Recreation Department this week erected a Christmas tree in Central Park and began hanging decorations downtown in preparation for the annual Holly Daze parade on Friday, Dec. 6.


“I just hope we have a really nice turnout and some good weather for people to kick off the holidays” Sanford Parks & Rec Director Brady Lloyd said on Thursday.

The lineup for the parade begins at 4:40 pm on Dec. 6 on Emerson Street between Main Street and Shawmut Avenue. The parade is set to step off at 5:30 pm and proceed along Main Street to St. Ignatius Street. The tree lighting is set for 6:15 at Central Park. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in attendance to pose for photos with kids.

Friends of Downtown is organizing a kids’ crafting activity at Knots & Bolts Creating Company at 911 Main St. Other downtown businesses are expected to be open to serve refreshments, too.

The registration deadline for the parade is Tuesday, Nov. 26. All applications and waivers, driver’s licenses, vehicle registrations and insurance information must be turned in to the office by this date. There is a \$25 registration fee to enter the parade.

Organizers stress that no one is allowed to throw candy from vehicles during the parade. Each float/group must have walkers alongside their group to help keep the public out of the street, and they may hand out candy. ■



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Dozens Trot for Annual Parks & Rec Event

The Sanford Parks and Recreation Department's 38th Annual Turkey Trot Road Race was held Saturday, Nov.16 - one of the warmest days ever for the event.

A total of 52 participants came out for the event, held under clear skies with the temperature in the 60s. The youngest runner was 7 and the oldest were 71. The longest participant was an Oscar Mayer Wiener that ran the 5K.

All 5K first-place winners received a \$50 grocery gift card and second-place finishers a \$25 grocery gift. A Sanford Parks and Rec beanie went to the third-place finishers. First-place finishers in the 10K received a \$35 gift card for second-place finishers \$20 grocery gift card. Third place winners received a Parks and Rec beanie.

Overall winners for the 5K race were: Isaac Peters (13-17 yr) 18.59, Laurie Gaudreau (50- 59 yr) 20.48. Second place went to Tristan McCann 19.42 (40-49 yr) and Annalise Stimmell (13-17 yr) 24.24. Third place winners in the 5K were Jack



Caption: The Oscar Mayer Wienermobile made a guest appearance for the Turkey Trot.
Photo: Sanford Parks & Recreation

Stimmell 20.18, Isabella McCall 25.18 (both 13-17 yr) In The 12 and under group, first place went to Bennett McCann 26.09, second to Jonah Williams 32.40 and third to Anna England with a time of 48.04.

In the 10K, overall first-place winners were Quin Dijkstra (13-17 yr) 40.56 and Chelsey Shively (30-39 yr) 62.22. Second place for the 10K went to Mark Smedberg

(30-39 yr) 45.42 and Taylor Brochu (18-29 yr) 66.53. Third place to Nicolas Febvay (30-39 yr) 46.03 and Shirley Sheesley (60+) 78.40. The department congratulated all who entered and thanked the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile for providing fun selfies. ■

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Public Hearing Notice

The Sanford City Council will hold a public hearing and receive written and oral comments at its December 3, 2024 meeting, starting at 6:00 pm, regarding:

- File # R9-63 - 137 Shaw Rd – Sanford-Springvale Soccer Association – Zone Change - Request for a Zoning Map Amendment to change lots R9-63 and R9-64 from Rural Residential Zone to Urban Zone to allow a year-round food truck park in the existing gravel parking lot, in conjunction with the continued use of youth sport programming.

The hearing 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. The meeting will be broadcast on cable channel 26 and online at <https://town-hallstreams.com/towns/sanfordme>. Comments may be submitted in person, via mail, email, or at www.sanfordmaine.org under Email City Departments/City Council. 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.





SSNews Volunteers Gather

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 Sanford Springvale News Board of Directors hosted a casual potluck dinner last week to honor the dedicated volunteers who generously devote their time to bring you this weekly news publication.

Pictured: Sanford Springvale News Board of Directors
L-R Front: Connie Garber, Carolyn Cadigan, Michelle McCarthy, Gail Burnett, Zendelle Bouchard. Back: Kendra Williams, Lisa Blanchette, Lee Burnett, Rev. Susan Murphy, Barbara Sutcliffe, Jack McAdam.

Photos: Terry Jellerson



Sanford Springvale News Delivery Volunteers
L-R Kendra Williams, Katie Ireland, Bernice Chadwick, Ryne VanEldik, Vicky Lynn, Rev. Susan Murphy

The volunteers at Sanford Springvale News are very grateful to you, our loyal readers and wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

In order to allow our many volunteers to enjoy the holiday with family, we will not publish the newspaper next week (11/29).

We will resume publishing on Dec. 6.



Dave Rude and Zendelle Bouchard, founders of the Sanford Springvale News, receive a thank you gift from SSNews Board President, Rev. Susan Murphy as they retire.



Brett Williams, lively MC, kept the crowd entertained while they enjoyed a delicious pot-luck dinner.

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