

Sanford Springvale MAINE NEWS

Nonprofit newsletter produced with volunteers

Free

February 21, 2025

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Moon Machar films the challenges and successes of the evolving face of Maine

Photo: Maine Public Television website

LIMELIGHT: Sanford's Resilience Shines

By Brian Boisvert

The city of Sanford, once dubbed "the town that refused to die," is once again living up to its reputation. A new documentary, "I Come From Away: An Immigrant in Maine Part Two," chronicles the city's extraordinary response to the unexpected arrival of hundreds of asylum seekers in the spring of 2023. The film, by Nyamuon Nguany (Moon) Machar, premiered earlier this month in Portland and is scheduled for a special screening event in Springvale on Friday, February 21 before airing on PBS.

The documentary captures a pivotal moment in Sanford's history, showcasing the community's resilience and compassion in the face of an unprecedented challenge. When asylum seekers suddenly appeared at Sanford City Hall one Friday, the city sprang into action. With no immediate support from federal or state governments, local officials, community action workers, police, and volunteers rallied together to address the pressing needs of these new arrivals.

Moon, a refugee and immigrant activist, follows the story over several months, documenting the collective effort to find housing, provide food, and help the asylum seekers navigate their new lives in Maine. The film offers an intimate look at the experiences of individuals like Abel Nimi, who arrived from Angola. Nimi's journey from seeking asylum to obtaining a work permit is a testament to the opportunities and challenges faced by these new Mainers.

The documentary doesn't shy away from the complexities

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Union Advises Shipyard Members Not to Take Federal Buyout Offer



According to the Seacoast Shipyard Association, Portsmouth Naval Shipyard had a regional economic impact of over \$1.5 billion and employed 7,469 civilian workers in 2023.

Photo: AlexiusHoratius via Creative Commons

By Carolyn Cadigan

The Metal Trades Council, which represents approximately 3,000 workers at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY), has advised its members not to accept the Trump administration's buyout offer extended to federal employees, according to Seacoast Online.

On Feb. 11, U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) sent a bipartisan letter to Terence G. Emmert, acting secretary of the U.S. Department of the

Navy, noting that any reduction in the PNSY's workforce will jeopardize national security by increasing submarine maintenance timelines. "Our shipyards cannot afford to reduce their workforces," the letter reads. "In fact, PNSY needs to hire 550 workers annually just to meet Navy demand for the foreseeable future." The senators requested that the Department of the Navy work with the Office of Personnel Management to grant an exception for employees at PNSY and other parts

of the defense industrial base from the recently announced workforce reduction efforts.

A press release from Collins's office states that she and Shaheen have "long advocated for New England's shipbuilding industry and workforce, including through authorizing funding and workforce development for PNSY." Some recent efforts, through the National Defense Authorization Act, authorized projects at PNSY that will expand its "capacity to maintain America's

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THANK YOU GENEROUS SPONSORS!



STEP THE CREW

Saturday, March 1
7:00pm

Sanford Performing Arts Center
100 Alumni Blvd., Sanford, ME

www.SanfordPAC.org

Celtic THUNDER! The Step Crew dazdles! - Telegram & Gazette

Duck Boxes, Child Care Incubator, Police Dept Grants

City Council Meeting Summary 2/18/25

By: Kendra Williams

In his report, **City Manager** Steven Buck shared that he recently testified in Augusta in support of a bill to amend Maine's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) expansion for public safety facilities. Fire Chief Scott Susi and Director of the Sanford Regional Economic Growth Council Keith McBride also provided testimony. The proposed change would allow 100% of TIF revenue to be used for public safety infrastructure, removing the existing 15% cap. This would align it with other essential economic development expenditures and help to ensure adequate funding to support the continued economic growth of Sanford. Buck updated the council on pending legislation and the local efforts of the Homelessness Task Force, focusing on prevention.

The **city and school administration** recently toured the Lafayette School with professionals seeking pre-engineered examination of the cost to renovate the school into incubator childcare with potential living quarters on the 3rd floor for staff. A quote will be developed to determine the next best use of the building.

The **Land Bank** sub-committee met recently to discuss several dangerous buildings needing remediation. Buildings of concern are located on: York St; Pleasant St; Beaver Hill Rd; Gerrish Drive; Emerson St; Summit Ave and the A frame building on Main Street.



Photo: Ayn Hanselmann

Representatives from Great Bay Services presented two **wood duck nesting boxes** to the city. They were built recently in collaboration with SRTC Building Trades students. They'll go to Three Rivers Land Trust and Number One Pond where they will provide habitat for the wood ducks who can't build their nests on the ground. They also built about 30 bat houses that help with mosquitos.

Growth Council Director Keith McBride provided his final quarterly report for 2024 and outlined the 25-27 workplan



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with a focus on housing projects at the Stenton Mill Building, the Eagle Drive Industrial Subdivision and The GVS America Lease renewal.

Two **public hearings** were held. The first was to receive comments about the proposed permanent ordinance to regulate syringe service programs to a 1:1 exchange of hypodermic apparatus when operating within the City of Sanford. No comments from the public were received. The first reading of the ordinance was held with a second reading to be held at the first meeting in March at which time the City Council will vote on the ordinance.

The second public hearing was to determine whether a property at 254 Sunset Road is a dangerous building or nuisance and to determine a remedy. Special Counsel to TD Bank Stephanie Williams and Tony Cerco from the bank's field services, spoke and requested more time to complete the process of foreclosure and ongoing remediation before the city designates the home as dangerous. TD Bank has invested \$100,000 to date, believes the property is salvageable and wants to work with the city. Following the hearing, a motion was made outlining the description of multiple findings of fact related to the dangerous and nuisance conditions of the property. An order that the property must be secured within 24 hours and several other conditions must be met within the identified time frame as the process of foreclosure and remediation continues was unanimously approved.

Two **grants to the Sanford Police Department** were accepted and approved. The first was a \$10,557 federal grant for overtime reimbursement costs of officers who responded to the 2023 tragedy in Lewiston.

The second grant of \$5,760 from the Bureau of Highway Safety, with local matching funds of \$1,500, was for the purchase of ten in-car printers. The department will be outfitting its police patrol vehicles with "eCitation" which allows officers to print violation summons and complaints from their vehicles. It also ensures timely and accurate collection of citation data which is required under Maine's profiling law.

The council **approved Levesque Excavation** to be prequalified to bid on any Sanford projects finding they successfully completed the extensive application process available to contractors. Prequalification ensures they can perform the work and administrative requirements. It doesn't replace the bidding process but shows a good record of performance. Subsequent approval was given to begin an open discussion with Levesque Excavation for roadway reconstruction services on High Street from River St to North Avenue based on them being the low

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Guerrero Maya Sanford



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SANFORD'S RESILIENCE - Cont'd from

of the situation. City Manager Steven Buck candidly discusses the financial strain on Sanford's resources, with the General Assistance budget skyrocketing from \$150,000 to \$1.3 million. However, Buck also notes the positive aspects, such as the successful integration of children into local schools.

Sanford Police Major Matt Gagne provides insight into the crucial role of community education in easing tensions and fostering understanding. The film highlights how law enforcement worked to bridge the gap between long-time residents and newcomers, addressing concerns and promoting acceptance.

The documentary is a follow-up to Moon's earlier work focusing on asylum seekers arriving in Portland, which is being shown on Maine Public Television Saturday, Feb 22 at 2 PM and is also available to watch on-demand at pbs.org. The new installment brings the story closer to home for Sanford residents, offering a unique perspective on how a small city can respond to global issues with compassion and ingenuity.

The screening at Nasson Community Center and Little Theatre on Feb. 21 starts at 6 PM. Following the film, a panel discussion will feature key figures from the documentary, including Steven Buck, Jennifer Davie from York County Community Action Corporation, and Ndombaxe Pedro, a Community Health Worker.

As Sanford continues to navigate the complexities of

welcoming asylum seekers, this documentary serves as a powerful reminder of the city's strength and adaptability. It invites viewers to consider the broader implications of immigration in Maine and the potential contributions of new residents to the state's future.

Everyone is encouraged to see this important documentary (which airs on Maine Public Television on Feb 27+28 and March 20-22) to witness Sanford's story on screen and to join the conversation about how Maine can continue to grow and thrive in an increasingly diverse world.

Limelight - From Neil Degrasse Tyson via FaceBook...

Before electricity, quicklime was used to illuminate performers. This is where the phrase "in the limelight" comes from.

Theatres and music halls used to direct a flame fueled by oxygen and hydrogen onto a cylinder of quicklime (calcium oxide), producing a bright white light through incandescence and candoluminescence.

The technology revolutionized stage lighting in the 19th century, allowing performers to be more visibly highlighted during productions. Though quicklime has long been replaced by electric lighting, it played a crucial role in shaping theatrical presentation and visual storytelling.

Despite its obsolescence, the term "limelight" has endured, symbolizing fame and public attention.

Today, when someone is "in the limelight," they are at the center of attention, much like actors once illuminated by this brilliant stage light. ■



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SCHOOL notes

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan



Grade 2 students at Carl J. Lamb Elementary School celebrate ancient Greek culture and mythology.

Photo: Sanford School Department

Ancient Greece comes to life at CJL: Second grade students at Carl J. Lamb Elementary School transformed their classroom into a slice of ancient Greece during their special Greek Celebration on Feb. 14. After dedicating nearly a month to studying ancient Greek culture and mythology, the students, dressed in creative costumes representing various Greek gods and goddesses, presented their personally crafted books about Greek mythology, with colorful illustrations adorning their work. Classrooms buzzed with excitement as students took turns standing before their peers to share their stories and explain the significance of their chosen deity. The immersive educational experience featured authentic Greek food tasting and allowed students to demonstrate their understanding of ancient Greek culture and mythology.

School department posts letter about school-issued device policies: On Feb. 12, Kerry Hanson, director of technology at the Sanford School Department, issued a letter to parents and guardians regarding department policies on school-issued devices. The letter addressed policies for students in Pre-K through grade 12 related to devices that remain in the classroom as well as those that may be taken home. To read the letter, including tips on how to protect school-issued devices, go to sanford.org.

SMS students gain insight into law enforcement careers: Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG) students at Sanford Middle School had an insightful hands-on learning experience last week at the Sanford Police Department. Students got an inside look at law enforcement careers during their visit, where they engaged with local officers and learned about the important role police play in the community. They had an opportunity to explore specialized equipment and hear firsthand about what it takes to serve in law enforcement.

SHS senior combines coding and music to save musicians time: Through Sanford High School's Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) program, senior Quang Lam has discovered an exciting way to combine his love of music with his passion for computer programming to help musicians learn new songs more easily. Think of a musician trying to learn their favorite song by ear – listening to it over and over, writing down each note by hand. Lam is working on a computer program, which required him to learn a new programming language, that could perform this task more quickly. "I wanted to see if this process

could be automated," Lam explains. His program would listen to a musical recording and write down the notes, like how speech-to-text programs convert spoken words into written text.

Though the project proved more challenging than expected within the time constraints of his ELO, Lam's real achievement lies in his ability to tackle complex problems and learn new skills quickly. After all, this isn't his first time thinking outside the box. Last year, Lam conducted research on how weight training techniques could help trumpet players hit higher notes more easily. "Quang is a remarkable student," says ELO Coordinator Sally Quarles, "and I'm thrilled he had the chance to gain this experience through the Extended Learning Opportunity at Sanford High School with JMG's (Jobs for Maine Graduates) support." Read the full story at sanford.org.

A fun day, from the first puck drop to a post-game skate: The PTAs of Sanford Pride, Carl J. Lamb and Margaret Chase Smith Elementary Schools are teaming up with the Maine Mariners to offer students at the three schools discounted tickets to the game on March 23, 3 pm, at Cross Insurance Arena in Portland. This game will also celebrate the birthday of the Mariners' mascot, Beacon, with all kinds of mascots around the concourse as well as face painters and caricature artists. As an added bonus, people can bring their skates to participate in an hour-long open skate after the game. Get discounted tickets at fevo-enterprise.com.

Using math to solve real-world engineering challenges: Students at Sanford Middle School (SMS) got a real-world lesson on Feb. 10 during a special visit from transportation systems engineer Mark Love, founder of Engineers Teaching Algebra. Love worked with SMS's Algebra and Geometry students to tackle an engaging challenge: designing safe traffic intersections. The interactive session brought textbook concepts to life as students used algebraic reasoning to calculate optimal traffic light timing for both three- and four-way intersections. Working like real engineers, they applied proportional thinking and problem-solving skills to ensure safe traffic flow through their designed intersections. The session demonstrated that mathematics isn't just about memorizing formulas – it's about creative thinking and practical problem-solving. Students learned that while calculators are valuable tools, success in engineering and mathematics relies on their ability to think logically and approach problems creatively.

Score one for the ball teams: Athletes at Sanford High School (SHS) have a new scorer's table at the Partner's Bank Competition Gym this winter, thanks to the Sanford Schools Legacy Foundation. The nonprofit group recently funded the \$9,100 purchase, which had previously been cut in a tight school budget. Zack Lemelin, SHS athletic director, requested the new table as an opportunity to sell advertising, which supports the athletic department. "The scorer's table has been an excellent addition to the Athletics Department," said Lemelin. "We have the ability to post our game-day graphics, along with sponsorships for our local community. It has provided an awesome way to continue to promote our student-athletes and the local businesses that support our school." The Sanford Schools Legacy Foundation routinely provides additional resources to support educator requests for programs and equipment that are not covered by taxpayer funding. ■

Community CALENDAR

Compiled by Lisa Blanchette

ONGOING

- Winter Reading Program for Kids and Adults-Goodall Library, through March 3
- Bundle Up and Read @ the Springvale Library, through March 8

Saturday, Feb. 22

- Baby Blessings, 10 am, St. George's Episcopal Church, 3 Emerson St.
- Board Gaming @ Goodall Library, 1 pm, 1364 Main St.
- DaPonte String Quartet: Haydn & Korngold, 3 pm, Historical Society, 505 Main St.

Sunday, Feb. 23

- Sledding @ Gowen Park w/MCS Pride PTA, 1 pm, Gowen Park Dr.
- The Jam for Mental Health, 2 pm, Sanford Elks Lodge, 13 Elm St.
- Lecture-Banjoes, Bones & Ballads Jeff Warner, 3 pm, Historical Museum, 505 Main St.
- Homefront Peer Group meeting, 6 pm, Able Oak-469 Main St., Ste 201, Springvale

Monday, Feb. 24

- School Dept. Policy Committee meeting, 8 am, Superintendent's Office, 917 Main St.
- Baby Rhyme Time, 10 am, Springvale Library, 443 Main St. Springvale
- Sanford Food Pantry, 10 am, 1204 Main St.
- Red Cross blood drive, noon, North Parish Church, 893 Main St.
- Lego Builders Club, 3:30 pm, Springvale Library
- Sanford School Committee, 6 pm, Sanford City Hall, 919 Main St.

Tuesday, Feb. 25

- Toddler Time, 10 am, Memorial Gym, 678 Main St.
- Salvation Army Food Pantry, 10 am, 871 Main St.
- Baby/Toddler Rhyme Time, 10:30 am, Goodall Library
- Pre-K Story Time w/Craft, 11 am, Goodall Library
- York County Food Pantry, noon, YCSP, 5 Swett's Bridge Road, Alfred
- YCSP's "To-Go" Lunch @ St. George's Episcopal Church, 2 pm, 3 Emerson St.
- Cribbage, 2 pm, Springvale Library
- Knit Lits, 3 pm, Springvale Library
- Sanford Elks Bingo, 4 pm Doors Open, 6 pm Games Start, 13 Elm St.
- Toddler Time, 5:30 pm, Sanford Memorial Gym, 678 Main St.
- Dulcimer Group, 6 pm, Goodall Library

Wednesday, Feb. 26

- Nason Health Care Patient Appreciation Day, 8:00 am-6:30 pm, 15 Oak St., Springvale
- Managing Anxiety & Fear Related to Climate Change (Webinar Series), 9 am, online
- It Takes A Village 207-Indoor Meal @ St. George's Church, 2 pm, 3 Emerson St.
- Lego Club, 2:30 pm, Goodall Library
- 25/26 Kindergarten Registration, 3:30 pm, Pride Elementary School, 708 Main St.
- Kindergarten Trail, 5:30 pm, Sanford Pride Elementary School
- Wednesday Night Bite Community Meal, 6 pm, Curtis Lake Church, 38 Westview Dr.

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Becoming a Beekeeper

By Lawrence Furbish

Have you ever thought you might want to keep bees? Do you want to know more about how bees pollinate, navigate, propagate and produce honey? The first step would be to come to a meeting of the York County Beekeepers Association (YCBA).



Worker bee in flight loaded with pollen

Photo: Maine State Beekeepers Association

The YCBA meets in-person four times a year for business meetings and educational talks and workshops. They meet at the Little Theater in Springvale at 6:30 pm. They also meet via zoom several times a year for Q&A and presentations from experts who don't live in the area. In the summer, they hold "open hive" sessions where members get together at someone's apiary for hands-on inspections and demonstrations. Membership is \$8 for an individual and \$16 for a household. More information is available on their website. <https://yorkcountybeekeepers.mainebeekeepers.org/>

There are usually 130-150 YCBA members per year, but as they are in the middle of membership renewal, there are currently 92 members. There are four beekeepers in Sanford and five in Springvale. There are probably more beekeepers than that in our area because not every beekeeper is necessarily a registered YCBA member. Statewide there are 1,300 registered beekeepers and 12,000 to 13,000 beehives.

At their meeting this past Tuesday evening, the speaker was Jennifer Lund, the Maine State apiarist, who is a terrific source of information, and helps beekeepers around the state. Her job

is to travel the state inspecting hives for disease, advising beekeepers and helping to educate the public about the importance of bees as pollinators necessary for healthy flowers, fruits, and vegetables. She spoke about biosecurity in the bee yard. One of the challenges beekeepers face is protecting their hives from a number of diseases and pests.

All bees are important in many ways. Bees pollinate one-third of the food we eat. Native bees pollinate many crops, including apples, strawberries, blueberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, squash and pumpkins. Squash and berry farmers in Maine depend heavily on native bees. It takes more than 45,000 honeybee hives to pollinate Maine's wild blueberry crop each year.

And bees produce honey!

For anyone interested in taking up beekeeping there are many classes offered around the state. Unfortunately, most have already started for this year. That includes the closest one in Kennebunkport offered and sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department and the YCBA. Information about how to get started and other bee classes can be found on the Maine Beekeepers Association website <https://mainebeekeepers.org/education/bee-schools/> ■



Photo: Barbara Sutcliffe

Winter Updates from DPW



DPW plows ready for the next storm

Photo: Lisa Blanchette

By Lisa Blanchette

Old Man Winter has been showing his face here in Southern Maine in the form of snow, sleet, ice, wind, and freezing temperatures. If you're as old as I am (and I'm not telling you how old that is!) you may remember this as normal for winters in this part of the country. I dare say we're a bit out of practice for this type of weather, so I thought I'd pay a visit to our local Department of Public Works and get some information to share with our readers.

The Public Works Department, under the supervision of Matt Hill, maintains approximately 185 miles of roads throughout Sanford and Springvale (there are also about 50 miles serviced by contract). The city is also responsible for the sanding/salting of all our roads.

When asked about staffing, Matt was pleased to report that after successfully completing 18 months of labor negotiations, he felt his department is now in a better position to offer wages more in alignment with those offered in the metropolitan areas like Portland than they have been in the past. To that end, he was able to share that once the two new hires' in-process are completed, there will be only one vacancy in the department. Having a fully-staffed department is

key to being able to serve our community.

Even though we have had several storms in February, because of the mild early winter Matt has no concerns regarding the 24/25 snow removal budget or availability of supplies.

We all know this scenario or one like it. Snow falls and a homeowner snow blows/shovels/plows their driveway; then DPW plows and the homeowner is furious because the driveway needs to be redone! I asked Matt what the most important thing he wanted to convey to residents regarding this issue and his answer was, "It isn't personal, and it is stressful." There are things residents can do to minimize plowing-related problems and help the city crews do the most effective job possible.

This web page is designed to provide information to help, and you can also use it to sign up for automated parking ban alerts https://www.sanford-maine.org/departments/winter_policies.php.

Some of the information you will find here is about winter parking, winter rubbish pick up, plowings/sanding/salting/and snow removal and the stages of the snow removal process. If you do not have access to a computer or printer stop by the DPW and ask for a copy.

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Protecting Open Space in Sanford

By Lawrence Furbish

The Mousam Way Land Trust (MWLT) has been actively working to expand its conservation efforts. Recently, we have acquired additional properties to protect them from development, established trails and parking for a key new addition, and continued our work at the Community Gardens on Blanchard Road. Although sometimes seeming to operate a bit under the radar, the Land Trust plays a vital role in preserving open spaces in Sanford.

How did it all start? In 1999, the Sanford Industrial Development Corporation had some additional land that it could not develop and the town planner at the time came to Hazen Carpenter, who had worked to establish the beginnings of the Sanford Trails system, and suggested that a Land Trust could take title to this land. Retired Nason professor Dr. Bud Johnston, Rick Stanley from the Chamber of Commerce and Hazen acted quickly and created the MWLT, named after the Mousam Way Trail. One of the earliest parcels the MWLT accepted was the Hall family land around Deering Pond.



Laying out a trail for the Mousam Way Land Trust

Photo: Don Jamison

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Historical Society Lecture Series

Historical Society Lecture Series

Banjos, Bones & Ballads

Presented by Jeff Warner

FEBRUARY 23, 2025
3:00 PM



Jeff Warner kicks off our lecture series with traditional songs, rich in local history and a sense of place and presents the latest news from the distant past. They help us to interpret present-day life with an understanding of the working people who built our country. Tavern songs, banjo tunes, 18th century New England hymns, sailor songs, and humorous stories about traditional singers and their songs highlight this informative program.

Sponsored by the Harry Mapes Foundation, Maine Humanities Council, Atlantic Federal Credit Union and Town and Country Credit Union.

NEWS notes

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan

Free Vietnam veterans event planned for Augusta:

The Travis Mills Foundation is hosting its annual Vietnam-Era Veterans Breakfast on March 26 at 9 am at the Augusta Civic Center. This free event is open to all Vietnam-era veterans and includes a complimentary breakfast for both the veteran and one guest. In addition to the full-service breakfast, the event will include military presentations, vendor booths and more. The Travis Mills Foundation team will be in attendance to express their gratitude and honor the sacrifices made by Vietnam-era veterans. The event takes place during Vietnam Veterans Week, coinciding with National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29. Tickets are required to attend and can be reserved online here. <https://give.classy.org/2025V-VBreakfast>

Nasson celebrates its patients with a Feb. 26 event:

As part of National Patient Recognition Week, the Nasson Health Care team is inviting their patients to join them on Feb. 26, from 8 am to 6 pm, at their Springvale Health Center for beverages, snacks and giveaway items. The event is Nasson's way of thanking their patients.

Competition invites pianists to tickle the ivories for a chance to win cash:

Time is running out to enter the 4th Annual Hanna Powell Memorial Piano Competition, to be held April 6, 3 pm, at the Sanford Performing Arts Center. The competition celebrates aspiring pianists and honors the memory of local pianist and music educator, Hanna Powell. Finalists in the competition, open to pianists ages 15 to 30, will compete for cash prizes of \$2,000 for first, \$1,500 for second, and \$1,000 for third place. Application videos from interested pianists are due by Feb. 28 at 11:59 pm. FMI, go to sanfordpac.org

Winter Food Distribution scheduled for Feb. 27:

Sanford Backpack Program's Big Winter Food Distribution, open to anyone in the Sanford/Springvale area, will take place on Feb. 27, from 3 pm to 6 pm (or until the food

is gone), at Sanford High School, 100 Alumni Blvd. The organization is looking for volunteers who can help with various tasks, such as building and staging boxes, distributing food, managing traffic, and more. Go here to sign up to help, or email Lori Williams at lori@strongersanford.org.

New code so your donation goes to the dogs:

Sanford Dog Park posted that they are experiencing some issues with their QR code that was used to make donations. They posted a different QR code on their Facebook page that is connected to their PayPal account. To make donations, go to their Facebook page to access the new QR code. ■



Veterans who attended last year's Vietnam-Era Veterans Breakfast, put on by the Travis Mills Foundation, were honored for the sacrifices they made. This year's event will take place on March 26.

Photo: Fred J. Field

PROTECTING OPEN SPACE - Cont'd from page 4

Since then, the MWLT has grown to 27 individual properties, and it also holds conservation easements on four additional parcels totaling almost 900 acres. Nearly all are in Sanford, but also include parcels in Alfred, Buxton, Lebanon and Shapleigh. Some are completely undeveloped open spaces while others have trails and other attractions.

Seven of the properties have marked trails, a great addition to Sanford's city trail system. In some cases, the MWLT trails connect directly with the city trails. The properties with trails are the McKeon Reserve on Blanchard Road, the Fawcett-Goodwin and Browning Reserves on High Street, the Lowd Reserve on Oak Street, the Virginia Hurd Morin Reserve on School Street, the Hall Environment Reserve at Deering Pond and the Great Works Reserve on Great Works Drive. Maps for all these trails can be found on the MWLT website, see link below.

The McKeon Reserve is also the home of the Sanford Community Garden and its greenhouse. In the past it has been the site of the "Kids Can Grow" program. It is unclear whether this program will continue due to a lack of volunteer support. Currently, elevated handicapped accessible garden beds are being built. Members of the community can sign up and reserve a space for their own vegetable or flower garden. The garden is fenced in for protection from deer. Water for irrigation and other amenities are available.

Another major project the Trust has been involved in lately is the Virginia Hurd Morin Reserve on Lower School Street. This 100-acre property was a gift from Mrs. Morin and it includes a 1786 homestead, barn, outbuilding, and cemetery. The buildings and about five acres are leased to the Sweat Morin Homestead which has restored the house and barn and plans to open to the public as an historic site. It was the home of Reverend Moses Sweat, Sanford's first Congregational minister, a very interesting and important figure in our history. The house has become the headquarters of the MWLT. Trails have been laid out on the property and a trailhead with parking has been created.

The Mousam Way Land Trust is run by a board of 12 members, with Dr. Al Pollard as the current president. Several volunteers help with the work on trails and around the properties. More information can be found on the Trust's website <https://mousamwaylandtrust.org/>

We are always looking for new members and new volunteers to get involved. Sanford is a wonderful city and while we understand that development and much needed housing and business are necessary and inevitable, it is critical that we preserve open space making our community so much more livable and enjoyable. ■

SPORTS notes

Compiled by Sam Bonsey,
Sanford Schools
Communication Coordinator

Sanford High School Wrestling finishes 5th at State Championships

The Sanford High School wrestling team delivered a strong performance at the Maine State Wrestling Championships held in Lewiston last weekend, securing an impressive fifth-place finish overall.

The Spartans were led by sophomore Canton Hill, who claimed second place in the 126-pound weight class after a hard-fought final match. Senior James Chaplick added to Sanford's success with a third-place finish in the 190-pound division.

Alden Treadwell finished fourth in the 285-pound weight class, while Isaiah Phillips secured fourth place in the 120-pound division. Ricky Callis also earned a fourth-place finish in the 175-pound category. Jack Van Gieson placed sixth in the 144-pound class, and Richard Simpson took sixth place in the 175-pound division. ■

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CITY COUNCIL REPORT - Cont'd from page 2

bidder and the city's positive experience working with them.

Following a presentation by **Public Works** Director Matt Hill, the Council voted to adopt the recommended roadway acceptance standards for new city roads.

The City Manager was authorized to sign a **purchase and sales agreement** between the City of Sanford and the Sanford Sewerage District for property at 281 River St for \$340,000. Once the Sewerage District builds and moves to their new facility, the Parks Department will move there and be able to operate out of a much larger building and be more efficient in their work. The large garage bays will enable staff to work on equipment and store vehicles in the winter, eliminating wasted travel time to the DPW at the beginning and end of the day. It will increase storage space and there will also be separate space for office staff.

An application by the **Maine Attraction Water Ski Show Team** to use the Memorial Gym for their March 15 fundraising event was considered. A \$600 fee, including cleaning, was agreed to. Pilot's Cove LLC was granted an off premises catering permit for that event. While considering the request, a discussion ensued regarding the need to revisit and develop standardized charges for renting the facility given future maintenance and capital improvement costs to the facility.

Road closure requests for several 2025 events, as presented by Parks and Recreation Director Brady Lloyd, were approved. The events include: the Memorial Day parade; the July 3rd block party and 4th of July parade; Sanford Soccer's Pete Levasseur Fall Classic and Fall Festival; and the Holly Daze parade.

The council also approved closure of the **Recreation Area** at Holdsworth Park on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, for safety reasons, for 2025 summer camp.

Sanford Airport Manager Allison Navia presented proposed termination amendments to the agreement between The Sanford Fish and Game Protection Association and the City of Sanford. The Fish and Game and police shooting ranges are both currently on Airport property. The amendments prepare the property to be sold to them. Acceptance of the agreement was unanimously approved.

\$73,300 for purchase of a new heavy-duty pickup truck outfitted for frontline plowing response for the Airport was approved. Revenue will come from other currently available resources and not have an impact on the CIP or taxation.

The entire meeting may be viewed here: https://townhall-streams.com/stream.php?location_id=82&id=64993 ■



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'Kindergarten Trail' - 2025 Registration

By Sam Bonsey, Sanford Schools Communication Coordinator

The Sanford School Department is excited to welcome new students to the "Kindergarten Trail" - a series of fun and informative events designed to make each child's transition to kindergarten smooth and enjoyable.

The journey begins with a District-Wide Kindergarten Registration Night on Wed., Feb. 26, 2025, from 3:30 - 6:00 pm at Sanford Pride Elementary School (708 Main Street). Families will have the opportunity to meet staff from all local elementary schools, ask questions, and complete registration. Many local community providers will be present with information to support families during this transition. Current Pre-K students do not need to register but are welcome to attend.

To be eligible for kindergarten, children must be 5 years old by Oct. 15, 2025. Parents and guardians should bring their child's birth certificate, proof of residency, immunization records, and a parent/guardian photo ID to registration.

Families will then be invited to participate in several welcoming events throughout the spring and summer. On April 3, families can attend Kindergarten Exploration to visit classrooms and meet teachers, and on May 8, children can participate in the Playground Exploration event and meeting future classmates.

During the summer, families will schedule a screening appointment where vision, hearing, and developmental milestones will be assessed. The journey culminates with an orientation and classroom open house before the first day of school.

For more information, call 207-324-1810. ■

DPW - Cont'd from page 4

During the last storm, over 100 cars had to be moved or towed because they didn't comply with the parking ban. This creates issues for plowing and safety. Please remember, there is no overnight parking in Sanford/Springvale from November 15 to April 1. Please remove your car from the street as soon as you are aware of a storm warning.

Another helpful document created by DPW can be found at Sanfordmaine.org. This has reminders about mailboxes, driveways, sidewalks, fire hydrants, winter driving, using salt vs. sand, overnight snow removal, and other topics of interest. Again, if you do not have access to a computer or

printer stop by the DPW and ask for a copy.

There have been stories of residents feeling disrespected by plow drivers as the snow is redeposited back into their driveways. This is a highly tense situation and should not be personal, but if you ever feel you have been disrespected by a city employee you should, of course, report it. Every employee is held accountable for their actions.

Don't forget you can get sand at the DPW on School Street. Just bring your own 5-gallon pails and a shovel to scoop it up with. Residents are allowed two 5-gallon pails per storm. Stop by Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. ■



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Sanford Springvale
News

Public Hearing Notice Tuesday, March 4, 2025 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, Cole Legacy LLC, DBA Teds Fried Clams, 890 Main Street, Suite 200B, Sanford, Maine for a NEW Liquor License with Malt 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.

TDD/TTY users may call local TTY number or 711. If you are physically unable to access any of the City's programs or services, please call Larisa Ricketts at (207) 324-9173 so that accommodations can be made.

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LeClair Foundation for Technology on a Mission

By Kristi King

The LeClair Foundation for Technology is a non-profit that supplies important technological services to the community of Sanford and surrounding area. This foundation has three important services. First, there's the Public Technical Assistance Program for elderly people over 55 years old, veterans, disabled and low-income persons for no cost. It assists people with any difficulties they are experiencing with their computer. "This targeted technology assistance is important in these times because of the quickly advancing technology such as AI," said founder Corie LeClair adding, "There's a lot of scams that can confuse people nowadays, too." The foundation also



Corie LeClair
Photo: Kristi King

refurbishes donated laptops, upgrades them to working condition and donates them back into the community to students, veterans, low-income and disabled persons to ensure they can stay connected to family and friends with technology that works effectively. "That's our core mission of caring," stated LeClair.

The Foundation also has a cost-free electronic recycling program that covers the Sanford area with the mission of e-waste

recycling, something that's especially important for the well-being of our community. LeClair said that this way, "Electronic waste stays out of local landfills where it could pollute the water and soil," adding, "Electronic waste has very toxic components." LeClair aims to make e-recycling easier for busy people by offering convenient free curbside pick-up in Sanford on Thursday, Friday and Saturday during his 3 days off from his full-time job. "It's so expensive to take e-waste to a recycling center or transfer station, and they often suggest the electronics be thrown away," explained LeClair. He believes that electronics should be recycled to keep their toxic components out of the trash and landfills. "It's wasteful to throw away electronics that can be repurposed, redistributed and reused," said LeClair. Finally, the LeClair Founda-

tion for Technology also provides small businesses and nonprofits with cost-free technology, web design and setup along with consulting services. "I feel I'm helping all the local people and vital places that support our community."

When asked why he provides all these services for free, LeClair said he feels that this is his mission and that he's qualified to do this type of community enhancement. "Together we can support the people, businesses and non-profits in our Sanford community and curb toxic e-waste from landing in our environment," he explained. Currently, this is a one-person operation run by LeClair that is not grant supported and is looking to add board members to help increase personnel and services. People can contact him for further information and assistance through their website at LeClair Foundation.org. ■

METAL TRADES UNION - Cont'd from page 1

fast-attack submarine fleet" as well as authorization of more than \$400 million for the Dry Dock #1 construction project and \$28.7 million for power plant resiliency improvements at the shipyard.

The exact impact of a PNSY workforce reduction on the regional economy and national security is unknown. However, according to the 2023 Report on the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard published by the Seacoast Shipyard Association, the shipyard had a regional economic impact of over \$1.5 billion and employed 7,469 civilian workers. Sanford/Springvale residents made up the largest slice of the payroll pie at \$45.9 million and represented the largest number of employees (520) from Maine. (Data for 2024 has not yet been released.) ■

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - Cont'd from page 3

Thursday, Feb. 27

- Sensory Story Time, 10 am, Springvale Library
- St. Thérèse of Lisieux Food Bank, noon, Holy Family Church, 66 North Ave.
- YCSP's "To-Go" Lunch @ St. George's Episcopal Church, 2 pm, 3 Emerson St.
- Big Winter Food Distribution, 3 pm, Sanford High School, 100 Alumni Blvd.
- Free Community Meal, 5 pm, New Beginnings Christian Church, 181 Grammar Rd.
- Game Night @ the Library, 5 pm, Goodall Library
- York County Stamp Club, 6:30 pm, Preble Lodge #143, 16 Elm St.

Friday, Feb. 28

- Class of 2027 Basketball Fundraiser, final game at 6 pm, SHS, 100 Alumni Blvd.
- Harvest Table Food Pantry, 9 am, Salvation Army, 871 Main St.
- Toddler Time @ SCAE, 9 am, 668 Main St.
- Salvation Army Staple Box Distribution, 9 am, Salvation Army, 871 Main St.
- York County Food Pantry, noon, YCSP, 5 Swett's Bridge Road, Alfred
- R-Rated Hypnotist @ Smitty's, 8 pm, 1327 Main St.

Saturday, Mar. 1

- Beginners' Painting Class-Children, noon, Goodall Library
- St. Thomas School Bean Supper, 4:30 pm, 69 North Ave.
- The Step Crew, 7 pm, Sanford Performing Arts Center, 100 Alumni Blvd. ■

Check Sanford School Department sports schedules at <https://www.mpaschedules.org/public/genie/1142/school/73/>

Visit our Events Calendar <https://sanfordspringvalenews.com/events/> for details on these events and on events to come.

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REAL ESTATE Transactions

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan



13 Grandview Ave.
(2/10 closing, listed below)
Photo: Carolyn Cadigan

8/28, Lot 13 Redwood Lane, wooded lot in cul-de-sac neighborhood, septic and well needed on site, rural setting, 3.37 acres, \$40,000

2/10, 13 Grandview Ave., 11-room Cape, 4 bed/1.5 bath, primary bedroom on first floor, pantry, family room, two bonus rooms in basement, finished walk-out basement, attached

2-car garage, patio, fenced-in yard, \$360,000 (pictured above)

2/12, 37 Marsh Brook Crossing, 5-room Ranch, single wide manufactured home, 2 bed/1 bath, pantry, laundry room, slab, detached 1-car garage, deck, shed, generator, irrigation system, Marsh Brook Estates 55+ community, \$135,000

2/14, 27 Wilson St., 5-room Cape, 3 bed/2.5 bath, primary bedroom with ensuite on first floor, open concept living, unfinished walk-out basement, intown, .61 acre, built in 2024, \$399,900 ■



Budget Season Begins

By Jack McAdam

On February 11 and 12 each department head presented their program budget requests for fiscal year 26 to the City Council.

On February 11, the City Council heard from:

- Human Resources – Stacy Howes
- Planning Department and Code Enforcement – Jamie Cole,
- Land Bank Authority – Jamie Cole and Michelle LaBree
- Economic Growth Council – Keith McBride

- Information Systems – Bill Botting
 - Assessing – Ben Thompson
 - Treasurer/City Clerk, Voter Registration – Erin McMann
 - Police Department, School Crossing Guards and School Resource Officers – Eric Small
 - Fire Department – Scott Susi
 - Sanford Regional Communications Center – Bill Tower
 - Municipal Facilities, Emergency Management and Mousam Watershed Dam Coalition – Alex Hammerle.
- February 12 the City Council heard from:
- Department of Public Works and Environmental Services – Matt Hill

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* Denotes donors who have made a monthly giving commitment



photo of the week

Pileated Woodpeckers love suet feeders Photo: Terrence McCarthy

PASSAGES

Compiled by Rev. Susan Murphy

Sharon King, 57, of Sanford, left us peacefully on February 2, 2025 surrounded by friends and family. No services planned at this time.

Susan Frances Elizabeth Gonneville Nichols, 74, of Sanford, unexpectedly went home to be with the Lord on February 12, 2025. A Celebration of Life potluck will be held from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 22, 2025, at the Massabesic Lions Club Den in Waterboro.

Michael M. Cozzone, 81, of Sanford, died peacefully on Thursday, February 13, 2025, in Kennebunk. A time to remember and celebrate Mike's life will be held at the Carl-Heald and Black Funeral Home, 580 Main Street in Springvale on Saturday, February 22 at 1:00 pm. ■

- Public Protection – Ronni Lynn Champlin, Matt Hill, Brady Lloyd and Scott Susi
- Recreation, Parks and Oakdale Cemetery – Brady Lloyd
- General Assistance – Vicki Martin
- Airport – Alison Navia
- City Council, Administration, Legal Services, Property & Casualty Insurance – Ronni Lynn Champlin
- Employee Benefits and Insurance – Steven Buck
- Goodall Memorial Library – Julie Norsworthy
- Springvale Public Library – Lesley Unger-Mochrie.

A date hasn't been set yet for the next budget meeting.

The most recent Sanford School Budget meeting was held on February 10. ■

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