

Sanford Springvale MAINE NEWS

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Free

March 7, 2025



Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Photo: Naval Sea Systems Command

Job Jitters at the Shipyard

By Lee Burnett

Employees at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery are bracing for mass layoffs dictated by the Trump administration. No one yet knows the breadth of the job cuts, but directives have been coming from multiple federal offices.

"It's caused so much chaos and confusion," said Alana Schaeffer, president of the Metal Trades Council, the shipyard's largest union.

The shipyard is one of four remaining government-owned shipyards in the country and employs 6,850 civilians and 1,000 officers and enlisted personnel. Some 499 Sanford residents were employed at the shipyard in 2021, accounting for \$41.46 million in payroll, making Sanford the shipyard's largest

est sending community.

Originally, the federal Office of Personnel Management gave employees an order to explain their accomplishments in the prior week or risk firing, but the Department of Defense quickly instructed employees to disregard the directive. This past Monday, employees were instructed by DOD that they are now required to respond, explaining five things they did last week. Schaeffer said her members are complying with the directive as best they can, but many employees lack a computer or even an email address.

"That's a problem here," she explained. "It's not because people here aren't accountable... Our employees report to supervisors every single day. We have 3,680 members. They don't sit behind computers.

They're welders, pipefitters, machinists, not administrative assistants."

Supervisors are trying to accommodate the crush of employees who lack direct computer access.

"We might have one computer for 100 people," she said. "They're expected to wait in line behind 40 other people. It's inefficient and a waste of time and resources." She expected employees to comply. "It's not in their best interests to not comply."

Separate from the directive from the Office of Personnel Management, the shipyard is caught in a downsizing move to reduce the workforce by five to eight percent. At a press event last week, New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen said the shipyard needs to hire 550 employees a year to keep up with retirements and workload demands. But, Shaheen said, the Trump administration has plans to lay off 75,000 Department of Defense employees nationwide.

An employee recruitment fair slated for Tuesday of this week was canceled. ■

New Developer Takes on Old Mill

By Lee Burnett

A developer with a long track record of redeveloping historic mill buildings in New England has signed a purchase and sale agreement to redevelop the long vacant Stenton Mill on River Street.

Eric Chinburg, whose Newington, N.H.-based company is already redeveloping the Jagger Mill in Springvale, plans to develop at least 100 housing units, according to Keith McBride, executive director of the Sanford Regional



The Stenton Mill as it looked in 2021 File Photo

Economic Growth Council. There are no plans for first-floor commercial space. Chinberg has redeveloped mills in Biddeford and Saco as well as in New Hampshire communities of Portsmouth, Dover and

Exeter.

"He has a great portfolio of projects," McBride said.

Chinburg is the second company to propose redevelopment of the mill, which has been vacant for

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City Council Hears Initial Budget Proposals

By: Kendra Williams

City and school officials presented their proposed 2026 fiscal year budgets to the City Council on Tuesday, March 4, outlining priorities and considerations.

City Manager Steve Buck detailed the proposed municipal budget, which has undergone \$415,000 in reductions since its development began in November. The proposal includes no new staffing requests or position eliminations.

Municipal operations have increased, largely due to employee benefit costs including an increase in health insurance and a match requirement for the new Family Medical Leave Act that began this year. On a positive note, increased revenue sharing is helping to offset some costs.

The city budget proposal calls for \$21,189,498 to be raised by taxation for an increase of 7.98%.

School Superintendent Matt Nelson followed with an overview of the 2026 fiscal year school budget, which was formally approved by the School Committee the previous evening. The budget seeks to maintain current programs and services while navigating financial constraints.

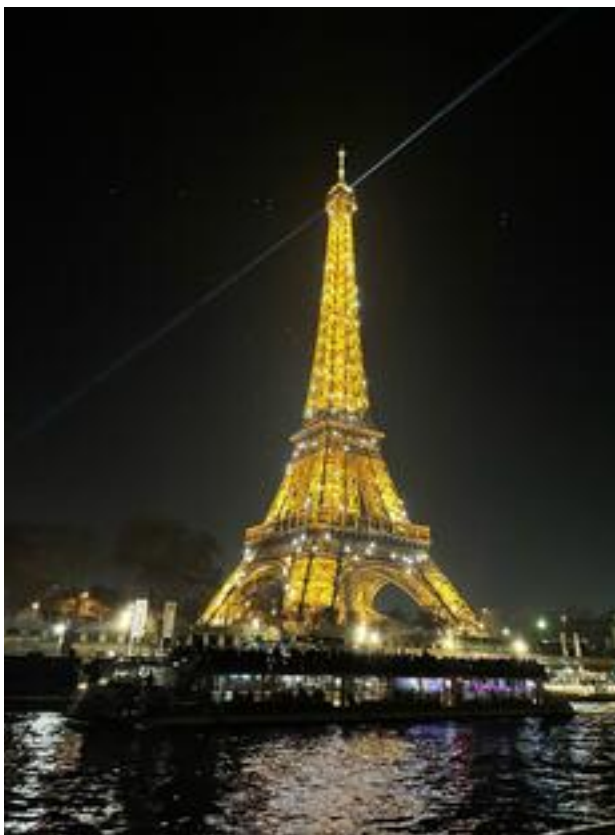
Like the city, the budget process began in November. Subsequently there's been an approximate \$500,000 reduction in expenses.

As reported last week, the employee health insurance bid came in much higher than originally anticipated. Since then, the increase, while still high, has been lowered through negotiations with the insurance carrier.

The school budget proposal calls for \$19,662,996 to be raised by taxation for an increase of 11.4%.

This budget meeting was the first of several that will be held by the City Council in the coming weeks. On March 11, there will be an in-depth review of the city budget proposal. On March 18, there will be an in-depth review of the school budget proposal with a public hearing to follow that same night.

The goal is for the City Council to approve the full budget by the beginning of April. Unlike the city budget, the finalized school budget, by law, will go to voters at a June referendum. ■



The Eiffel Tower at night from a Seine River cruise
Photo: Bradley Morin

Voyage en France

By Andrew Morin, SHS Student

Seniors of Sanford High School have just returned from our weeklong trip abroad to France. The trip, which occurred during February break, was an action filled adventure that explored much of north-western France. The students got to explore the landmarks and cultures of four distinct regions within France and had the chance to interact with the locals and eat the regions' different foods. In total, around 80 students, teacher chaperones and parents partook in the trip, making the experience one that was shared by many people.

On the first day of the trip, students landed in Paris, where they took a

walking tour of Paris and saw the charming Saint Germaine neighborhood, as well as the gothic Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris. The next day they got an opportunity for a bus tour of the city, where they saw various landmarks: including L'Hôtel des Invalides (the place where Napoleon's tomb is), as well as the Panthéon of Mount Saint-Geneviève. The students then had the opportunity to leave the bus and explore the Eiffel Tower and Arc de Triomphe on foot. Photography can truly not give justice to the magnificence of these colossi. To appreciate the full glory of the structures is something that one can only do in person. That day ended with a rather cold river cruise

along the Seine, where the students saw the breathtaking light show of the Eiffel tower. Many can now attest that Paris is truly The City of Lights.

The next region the students traveled to was The Loire Valley. The Loire Valley, known for its flat rolling landscape, wine and many châteaux, offered a wonderful cultural experience to me and my fellow travelers. Perhaps the most impressive of the structures the students saw in Loire was that of Notre Dame de Chartres. This Gothic Cathedral was perhaps more impressive than that of Notre Dame de Paris, due to it having its original stained glass. Students additionally had an opportunity to see the many ornate châteaux, including the Château de Chambord, which was partially designed by Leonardo Da Vinci, The Château d'Amboise, which holds his remains, and The Château de Chenonceau, which spans over the river Cher.

Students next had the opportunity to visit the region of Brittany in the very west of France. In this region the students visited the city of Saint Malo, which was a favorite amongst the students. Saint Malo, an old pirate city, offers a taste of Breton culture and food, as well as the rich nautical history of that region. The city's impressive coastal walls are some of the only things of the old city that remain from before the second world war and make for a breathtaking view of the ocean. The abundance of the impressive sights, and the many souvenir shops, made Saint Malo the most enjoyable and interesting place for many

of the students.

Next, the students had the opportunity to visit the region of Normandy, known for its cider and wide variety of cheeses. The students first got to visit the breathtaking abbey of Mont Saint Michel. The Abbey, situated on a piece of land that becomes an island during high tide, stands an impressive 302 feet tall from base to the tip of the Saint Michaels Statue's Sword. Next the students had an opportunity to visit Pointe Du Hoq and Omaha beach, both part of the Allied Landing Zone during WW2, as well as the Normandy American Cemetery, famous for its white crosses.

Finally, the students ended their trip by heading back towards Paris to admire the ornate decor of the Palace of Versailles. The Palace offered students a look into the lives of the French royals and helped many understand why the French people sought to start the Revolution. ■

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SCAM

E-Z Pass Warning

The Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA) continues to warn about an E-Z Pass smishing scam. The scam involves fraudulent text messages that resemble their website. The message falsely claims there's unpaid tolls from a recent trip and threatens an additional fee if the balance is not settled promptly. It provides a link to respond.

The MTA has confirmed that these messages are NOT legitimate. The Maine Turnpike Authority does not use text messages or emails to collect toll payments. Instead, any correspondence regarding violations is sent via U.S. Mail.

The best thing to do with these fraudulent texts or emails is to delete them immediately. Responding by clicking on the link will lead to scammers looking to steal your personal information and money. ■

MILL Cont'd from page 1

two decades. In 2017, one of two towers of the mill burned in spectacular fashion. WinnCompanies proposed and then abandoned redevelopment of the remaining tower in 2023 with significant financing from Maine Housing, which provides low-interest financing for projects that advance affordable housing goals.

McBride said he can't comment on Chinburg's financing package, except

to say Chinburg has used historic tax credits on prior projects and that could be practical in this case. The site is relatively clean from the city's investment of hundreds of thousands of dollars of EPA Brownfields funding to investigate and clean up residual industrial contamination, he said.

McBride said the redevelopment process is still early but he's "cautiously optimistic." ■



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Lanigan Enters Not Guilty Plea

By Kendra Williams

Maine State Rep. Lucas Lanigan pleaded not guilty in York County Superior Court in Biddeford on Wednesday, March 5, during an arraignment on domestic violence criminal charges. He was indicted by the York County Grand Jury on Jan. 8 and charged with one count of domestic violence aggravated assault Class B and a second count of domestic violence assault Class D.

After reading the charges and potential sentences for each charge if found guilty, the judge asked Lanigan if he had an attorney. Lanigan responded that he's representing himself "for the foreseeable future" because he's currently unemployed and is focusing on his position as a lawmaker. The judge encouraged him to obtain an attorney.

Lanigan also asked the judge to change his bail conditions and said he plans to file a motion to be allowed to return home, where he has not been allowed for the past four months. According to Lanigan, he did not accept a plea deal offered by prosecutors as he found the terms unacceptable and expects a dismissal. Without a plea deal, the case will go to trial.

On Oct. 25, 2024, Sanford Police Officer Jeremy Riddle responded to a complaint of physical violence by choking and strangulation perpetrated

by Lanigan on his wife. After investigating, an affidavit and request for an arrest warrant were issued based on what was learned.

Police were unable to find Lanigan for a few days, until he turned himself in to the York County Jail on Oct. 28. He was not allowed to post bail until a hearing.

At the hearing on Oct. 30, he was released on \$3,000 bail and a court date was set for this week. At that hearing, Lanigan's wife recanted statements she'd made to the police, which the judge at that hearing noted was not uncommon for victims of domestic violence. The case continued to move forward for prosecution by the state.

Less than a week later, in the Nov. 5 election, Lanigan, a Republican, and his Democratic challenger, Patricia Kidder, tied for the House District 141 race with 2,476 votes each. District 141 is comprised of Shapleigh, Newfield and parts of Sanford-Springvale. In a recount on Nov. 21, Lanigan was declared the winner by one vote. He has been serving his second term in the Maine House since January.

After the indictment in January, the House of Representatives voted to refer Lanigan's case to the Ethics Committee to investigate whether he violated the House's code of conduct. ■

Community CALENDAR

Compiled by Lisa Blanchette

Saturday, March 8

- Bundle Up and Read at the Springvale Library, ends today
- Spring Ahead Puzzle Tournament, 1 pm, Trafton Senior Center, 19 Elm St.

Sunday, March 9

- Daylight Saving Time starts, 2 am
- "Maine in the Civil War" lecture, 3 pm, Sanford Springvale Historical Society, 505 Main St.

Monday, March 10

- Baby Rhyme Time, 10 am, Springvale Library, 443 Main St.
- Sanford Food Pantry, 10 am, 1204 Main St.
- A Family for ME Live Q&A Session, noon, online
- Red Cross blood drive, noon, Sanford Christian Academy Gym, 25 Riverside Ave.
- Lego Builders Club, 3:30, Springvale Library
- A Family for ME Live Q&A Session, 6 pm, online

Tuesday, March 11

- Property Subcommittee meeting, 8:30 am, online
- Toddle 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
- Public Safety Subcommittee, 11 am, online
- York County Food Pantry, noon, YCSP, 5 Swett's Bridge Road, Alfred
- Zoning Subcommittee meeting, 1 pm, online
- 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 Water District Trustees meeting, 4 pm, Water District, 243 River St., Springvale
- Sanford Elks Bingo, 4 pm doors open, 6 pm games start, 13 Elm St.
- City Council budget meeting, 5 pm, City Hall, 919 Main St.
- Toddle Time, 5:30 pm, Memorial Gym, 678 Main St.
- Mental Health Conversation for Parents & Families, 5:30 pm, online
- Matthew Meal, 6 pm, St. Thomas School, 69 North Ave.
- Dulcimer Group, 6 pm, Goodall Library
- Sanford Schools Bandfest, 6 pm, Sanford High School Gym, 100 Alumni Blvd.

Wednesday, March 12

- Land Bank meeting, 8:30 am, online
- Fire Station Working Group, 11 am, online
- It Takes a Village 207-Indoor Meal @ St. George's Church, 2 pm, 3 Emerson St.
- Make-It/Take-It Craft shamrock craft, 2 pm, Springvale Library
- Lego Club, 2:30 pm, Goodall Library
- Friends of Downtown, 4:30 pm, Regional Economic Growth Council, 919 Main St.
- Fiber Arts Group, 5 pm, Goodall Memorial Library
- Wednesday Night Bite Community Meal, 6 pm, Curtis Lake Church, 38 Westview Dr.

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Historical Society Lecture Series

Maine in the Civil War

Presented by Ashley Towle

MARCH 9, 2025
3:00 PM



FREE at the Sanford-Springvale Historical Museum, 505 Main Street, Springvale
For more information, visit SanfordHistory.org



While the experiences of famous men such as Hannibal Hamlin and Joshua Chamberlain are well known to many, this talk explores the lesser-known stories of white and Black Mainers who influenced the Civil War and Reconstruction. Attendees will learn about Civil War nurses, self-liberating refugees from slavery, idealistic reformers, and an imperiled Reconstruction Era governor.

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

Council Gives Green Light to Garden Show

By Quinnly Raducha, University of New England

Memorial Gym will be turned into a spring showcase on March 29 when area plant growers, landscapers and related businesses display their work in a combination garden show and plant sale featuring hands-on workshops.

The Sanford Springvale Beautification Committee is planning the event, which will raise funds to help revamp the Sullivan Memorial Garden at the Main Street Marketplace (formerly the Midtown Mall). City Councilors on Tuesday gave the committee permission to use the city-owned gym for the event.

“The money will be donated right back into the Midtown Mall stairs and the garden beds,” Parks and Recreation Director Brady Lloyd explained to the council.

Bridget Salantri of the Beautification Committee said improving the mall area fits the mission of the committee and its parent group, Friends of Downtown. “We are looking to fundraise specifically for the Sullivan Memorial Garden in Sanford. It is in the center of our business district, and it needs help,” she said. The program has contacted Matt Landry, who did the landscaping along Partners Bank, and he is willing to take on the project.

Salantri later said she expects the public will enjoy the show. “I love snow, but I’ve had enough,” she said. “By the end of March, people are going to be looking for something green.”

The program will include workshops on pollinator plantings, herbal skin salves, and beekeeping. Vendors who’ve signed up include Farm Fields in Lebanon and the Sanford Regional Technical Center.



Photo: Gerald Brazel via Creative Commons

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 29. Admission is \$5. For more information, contact Salantri at 267.261.2122 or bsalantri@gmail.com.

In other business on Tuesday, the City Council discussed authorization for the city manager to sign a purchase and sale agreement between the city and the Sanford Sewage District for the property at 281 River St. for \$340,000. The district hopes to break ground on a new office building near the sewage treatment ponds this spring, after which the city Parks and Recreation Department will use the current office building.

The city and the district had signed a memorandum of understanding for the purchase in December 2023. ■

SCHOOL notes

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan

SHS students and counselors look ahead to the new school year:

The scheduling process for the 2025-2026 school year has already begun for Sanford High School students entering grades 10, 11 and 12. In late February, the counseling department conducted credit audits in the Performing Arts Center for the rising students, identifying the remaining classes each student still needs to take. In the coming weeks, underclassmen will watch videos prepared by school counselors, while seniors will review their checklists to prepare for the coming months. Schedules for the new school year will be due on March 18. Read the full



Rising students at Sanford High School review credit audits in preparation for the 2025-2026 school year.

Photo: Amber Ouellette

story in The Spartan Times, including a list of counselors and their student assignments, at spartan-times.com

SHS Winter Guard season is underway: On Feb. 23, the Sanford High School Winter Guard kicked off their show season at South Portland High School and

turned in a strong performance, earning four out of five stars for their overall rating. The group performed a witchy tale, “Coven,” with music from “Agatha All Along.” Read the full story at spartan-times.com.

New advisor and upcoming event at SCAE: Sanford Community Adult Education (SCAE) recently welcomed Sue Zimmer to the team as its new Maine College and Career Access (MCCA) advisor. With many years of experience teaching and working with adult students, Zimmer brings a wealth of knowledge, compassion and empathy to the team.

On March 14, SCAE will host a Job Fair from 10

am to 1 pm at 668 Main St., Sanford. The event is being held in collaboration with the Springvale Career Center. Several top companies are scheduled to be in attendance, including Dearborn Construction, Goodwill NNE, Kittery Trading Post, Renewal by Anderson, and more.

Having fun at this fundraiser is a slam dunk:

A night of basketball is scheduled for March 13 at 6 pm at Sanford Pride Elementary School, 708 Main St., as teachers and staff from Sanford’s three elementary schools take on a team of Sanford/Springvale first responders. Food and drink will be available at the concession stand for a

small fee, while supplies last. Attendees are invited to wear blue to support Team First Responders and red to support Team Elementary Staff. All proceeds from the evening will support the three schools.

A path to FAME and fortune is now available:

The Maine Legislature annually awards a scholarship to one student from each Maine county who is currently pursuing or planning to pursue education at a two- or four-year degree-granting Maine college or technical school. The award of the \$1,000 scholarship is made based on the student’s academic excellence, activities, financial need, letters of

recommendation, and 300-word essay explaining the student’s educational goals and intentions. Scholarship applications, now available online, must be submitted to the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) by May 1. FMI, and to apply, go to famemaine.com.

The school department launches a new look for newsletter:

This month’s edition of the “Sanford Spotlight” newsletter features a fresh, new design, making it easier for readers to stay informed about developments across the district. Read the March 2025 edition of the newsletter at <https://tinyurl.com/2kb936hr> ■

NEWS notes

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan

SBP food distribution showcases student leadership and community spirit: The Sanford Backpack Program (SBP) hosted its fourth annual food distribution event at Sanford High School on Feb. 27. Between 3 pm and 6 pm, volunteers distributed over 800 boxes of food to community members in need. Students from Sanford High School and Sanford Regional Technical Center spearheaded planning and execution of the event — from Fire Science, EMS and Law Enforcement classes managing traffic flow, volunteer stations, and a backup plan in case of inclement weather to Alternative Education students helping with box assembly and distribution to Life Skills classes assisting throughout the day. Multilingual learner students were onsite to ensure the diverse community was served, and Kitchen Basics students provided refreshments and dozens of homemade cookies throughout the day. In addition to the schools' students, 20 to 30 community volunteers assisted.

“This event takes a whole town, whole city to come together to make it happen,” said SBP’s Lori Williams. “From the homemade cookies to the detailed planning and follow through, to the support of the Sanford School District, especially administration at Sanford High and SRTC, we are so thankful to have so many that support the Sanford Backpack Program.”

For this year’s distribution, SBP received over 16,000 pounds of dry and canned items such as pasta, beans, instant potatoes, flour and diced tomatoes. Additionally, 14,000 pounds of fresh produce came from Good Shepherd Food Bank, which is the largest school food pantry in Maine.

Library author event explores sacred sites and ancient landscapes: Springvale Library is hosting “Walking Sacred Sites” with Maine author, Margaret Jones, on March 19 at 5:30 pm. Jones discusses places she has visited in Wales, Scotland, England, Ireland and Jordan. With compelling detail, Jones narrates a lesser known history of these sacred places by touching stones, kneeling before holy wells and sensing the more invisible forces around her. She hears the whispers of the ancestors



Students and volunteers prepare and distribute over 800 boxes of food to community members in need during the Winter Food Distribution at Sanford High School on Feb. 27. Photo: Sanford School Department

who once lived there and weaves magic into their deeper stories. Jones is an award-winning storyteller, workshop leader and travel guide. In her spare time, she performs, writes and continues her search for sacred places. FMI, call the library at 207-324-4624.

Test your luck, support free summer shows: For many people, summer in Sanford means watching water ski shows on Number One Pond. Spectators line the shore to watch in delight as water skiers with the Maine Attraction Water Ski Show Team perform human pyramids, jumps, spins and flips — just as they’ve been doing for more than 35 years. To help support the shows, the nonprofit organization is holding its only fundraiser of the year, a St. Paddy’s Benefit Dance and Auction, on March 15, from 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm, at Memorial Gym in Sanford. The event, for ages 18 and up, features over 100

items for bidding, live music from Hott Mess, a grazing appetizer table and a full cash bar. Go here to view the auction catalog and purchase individual and VIP table tickets. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/33evcknf>

Checking on a vehicle’s safety is free, easy, and it could save lives: March 3 - 9 marks Vehicle Safety Recalls Week, a nationwide initiative from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) that aims to protect drivers and passengers from preventable safety issues. The Sanford Police Department has posted information on how to ensure that a vehicle is safe to drive. Visit [NHTSA.gov](https://www.nhtsa.gov), enter the Vehicle Identification Number, and get instant recall information. The NHTSA website also has a link to its SaferCar app, which can be downloaded to have recall alerts sent directly to a user’s phone. For more: www.nhtsa.gov/recalls.

Local nonprofit ISO auction items: Graham-tastic Connection is looking for donations of art, jewelry, restaurant gift certificates, destinations, gift baskets and other items for its upcoming Silent Auction fundraiser, to be held May 17, from 4 pm to 7 pm, at The Lincoln Hotel in Biddeford. The nonprofit provides free technology to children with cancer and other serious illnesses to support their education, as well as their social and emotional well-being. FMI, and to donate items, call 207-324-0888, ext. 209.

Are you an older adult with some small jobs on your To-Do list? Thriving in Place: Age-Friendly Sanford has announced its volunteer handyperson project, open to older adults who own their home in Sanford-Springvale. The project provides help with small projects and odd jobs. FMI, call the Trafton Center at 207-457-0080. ■

Laura Hodson Beauchesne, DPT, MS
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OUT IN THE WOODS

By Kevin McKeon, Maine Master Naturalist

Trail Tells a Story of Cattle Crossings Past

The heyday of railroad construction came to Sanford in the 1840s with the extension of the York and Cumberland Railroad to Springvale and continuing to Rochester around 1870. The tracks were abandoned and removed several decades ago, and the rail bed has since been used and lovingly maintained as the Sanford Rail Trail.

The topography and vegetation along the length of this trail running westerly from the trailhead at Hanson Ridge Road to the Sanford/Lebanon boundary suggests that the rail bed was built through an ancient beaver meadow created by centuries of beaver activity. Beaver-built dams slow the water in Branch River flowing from Deering Pond, causing sediment to settle and creating a highly productive, mineral rich soil that supports a biologically vibrant wetland, surrounded by open forestland — much of which is forever protected by local land trusts. All this has resulted in a diverse, wildlife-rich landscape for everyone to explore.

An interesting remnant of the railroad construction can be seen at the western boundary of Mousam Way Land Trust's McKeon Reserve, where Branch Stream flows into Branch River. Prior to railroad construction, local farmers would drive their cattle over farm roads, through the valley and beaver meadow, and over Branch River, where river-side road bridge abutments still exist out in the meadow. From there, the cattle were driven up to the top of Hanson Ridge to fatten up on acorns from what once was a huge oak forest — the source of the name Oak Street. But before the cattle ate their share of acorns, local women would gather (always in groups because of the bears also fattening up!) to collect, roast, and grind the nuts into flour.

Branch River supports the existence of a type of wetland called a fen; it's mapped by the State of Maine as an Inland Wading Waterfowl Habitat, protected as a Significant Wildlife Habitat, and given the colorful designation of IWWH #1887.

But the railroad construction created a barrier for these cattle drives, so cattle passes were built. In western states, cattle crossings were quite elaborate architectural



Cattle crossing along Sanford Rail Trail. Note the flat stones placed to aid cattle footing.

Photo: Kevin McKeon

structures. The cattle herds out there were substantial, and those folks wielded significant political influence. But around here, these crossings were relegated to rustic, "just good enough" affairs. When construction came about 100 feet from Branch Stream, a 5-foot by 55-foot

granite culvert was built. Large, flat stones — which are still there — were placed on the ground for better cattle footing. Upon reaching Branch Brook, the bed was built solid, damming the original stream flow. This forced the stream's flow to impound against the rail bed embankment, saturating the nearby soil to form the Branch Stream Fen. As the impounded water level rose against the embankment, it drained through the culvert, where the diverted flow eventually linked to Branch River, a headwater of the Little, Salmon Falls, and Piscataqua rivers. Beavers occasionally dam this culvert a bit, further enhancing wildlife diversity at the fen and surrounding landscape.

So next time you're forest bathing along the western portion of Sanford's Rail Trail walking along the McKeon Reserve's boundary toward Lebanon, take a right at the Reserve's trail sign at the cattle crossing culvert and walk north up the Fen Trail along a glacial ridge a couple of hundred feet to a placard at the Branch Stream Fen Overlook site. Check out the cattle crossing, and watch for heron, turtles, and the many songbirds living in and around this beautiful area. There's also another 2 1/2 miles of trails in the reserve to enjoy. ■

Public Hearing Notice



JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

City Council and School Committee

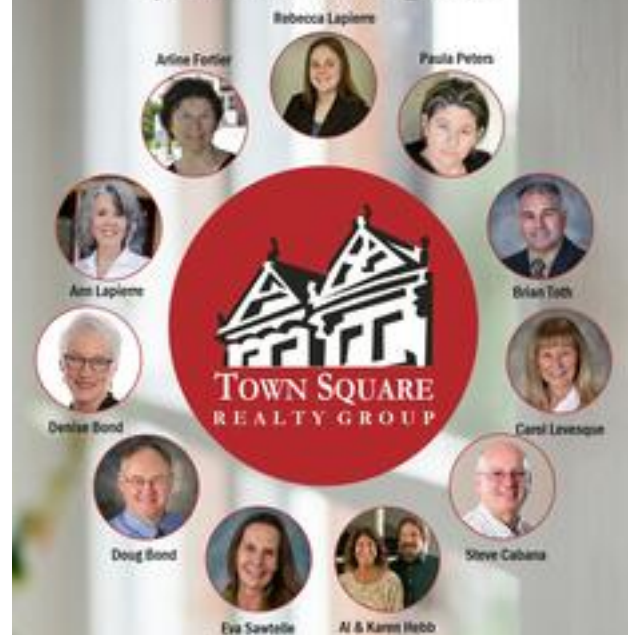
City Council Chambers and Via Remote Video and Teleconference Pursuant to 1 MRSA §403-B (2) (D) And Section 6 of the City Council Rules of Procedure, Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 7:00 PM

Notice is hereby given that the Sanford City Council will hold a public hearing at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 in person at City Hall Council Chambers, 919 Main Street, Third Floor, Sanford, Maine and via remote video and teleconference pursuant to 1 MRSA §403-B (2)(D) and section 6 of the Sanford City Council Rules of Procedure. The purpose of this public hearing is to discuss the proposed Municipal and School Budgets.

PROPOSED MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BUDGETS

- Municipal and School budgets and budget messages are available for inspection by the public on the City of Sanford's website at www.sanfordmaine.org. The School Department's budget is available on the School Department's website www.sanford.org.
- The Public Hearing will be held in the Third Floor Chambers and via teleconference on Tuesday, March 18, 2025 and live streamed at <https://townhallstreams.com/towns/sanfordme>.
- Members of the public may also submit comments via the City of Sanford website at www.sanfordmaine.org under government/city council/contact the council.

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SPORTS notes

Compiled by Sam Bonsey,
Sanford Schools Communication Coordinator

Sanford High School Athletics Hosts Winter Sports Banquet

Sanford High School held its Winter Sports Recognition Night at the Performing Arts Center on Tuesday, March 4, where coaches of each winter sport took the stage to reflect on their seasons and present individual awards to outstanding athletes.

During the ceremony, Girls Basketball coach Rossie Kearson recognized Mollie Puffer as Most Valuable Player, highlighting her multiple SMAA honors including Rookie of the Year. Boys Basketball coach Jake Mills celebrated Dylan Gendron as their MVP and SMAA AA South First Team selection, while Luke Gendron earned Rookie of the Year accolades.

Competition Cheer coach Catrina Woodard presented awards to Natalie Lam for Most Dedicated and Madison Osborne for Most Valuable, acknowledging their contributions to the SMAA First Team. Wrestling coach Nate Smith honored James Chaplick and Canton Hill as Most Valuable athletes.

Indoor Track coach Magnes Lewis recognized Isaac Pelletier and Mattea Peters as Most Valuable athletes, with Peters also being named an SMAA All Star. Throughout the evening, coaches also highlighted students who maintained academic excellence while competing, demonstrating Sanford's commitment to developing well-rounded student-athletes.



SHS Wrestling Coach Nate Smith recognizes James Chaplick and Canton Hill as the team's Most Valuable athletes
Photo: Sanford School Department

The event provided a fitting conclusion to the winter sports season, celebrating both individual achievements and team accomplishments in front of proud families and community members.

Bowl-A-Rama Afterschool Junior Bowling League

Bowl-A-Rama is now accepting sign-ups for its annual Afterschool Junior Bowling League. The 8-week program is open to kids ages 8 and up. Participants bowl once a week, either Tuesday or Thursday after school, with two bowlers per team. Call 207-324-2401 with questions or visit Bowl-A-Rama at 1217 Main St. in Sanford to sign up. ■

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR - Cont'd from page 3

Thursday, March 13

- Senior food distribution, 10 am, Crossroads Methodist Church, 15 Grammar Rd.
- Sensory Story Time, 10 am, Springvale Library
- St. Therese 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.
- Dodgeball tournament, 2:30 pm, Sanford High School Gym, 100 Alumni Blvd.
- Free community meal, 5 pm, New Beginnings Christian Church, 181 Grammar Rd.
- Game Night @ the Library, 5 pm, Goodall Library
- Elementary staff vs. first responders basketball game, 6 pm, Pride Gym, 708 Main St.
- York County Stamp Club, 6:30 pm, Preble Lodge #143, 16 Elm St.

Friday, March 14

- Harvest Table Food Pantry, 9 am, Salvation Army, 871 Main St.
- Toddler Time @ SCAE, 9 am, 668 Main St.
- Salvation Army staples box distribution, 9 am, Salvation Army of Sanford, 871 Main St.
- Homeschool Group-Library Skills by Age, 10 am, Springvale Library
- York County Career Center hiring event @ SCAE, 10 am, 668 Main St.
- Kids Free to Grow playgroup @ SCAE, 11:30 am, 668 Main St.
- York County Food Pantry, noon, YCSP, 5 Swett's Bridge Road, Alfred

Saturday, March 15

- What's the Buzz on Bees @ Eldredge Lumber, 2 pm, 1787 Main St.
- Rolling Thunder buffet for veterans, 4:30 pm, VFW Post 9935, 1 Hutchinson St.
- Corned beef and cabbage dinner, 4:30 pm, Sanford First Baptist Church, 905 Main St.
- Maine Attraction water ski team St. Patrick's Dance-Auction, 6:30 pm, Memorial Gym

Sunday, March 16

- "NE Colonial Meeting Houses" lecture series, Historical Society, 3 pm, 505 Main St

Check Sanford School Department sports schedules at <https://www.mpschedules.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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photo of the week



Late afternoon light casts long shadows at St. Ignatius Cemetery.

Photo: Josh McPhail

Fall Back, Spring Forward:

The Eastern Time Zone returns to Daylight Savings Time (DST) at 2 am on Sunday, March 9, so it will be time to turn clocks forward one hour. Many people bemoan losing that hour, often at the expense of their sleep, but appreciate gaining the added daylight. Although there has been some discussion among politicians of ending Daylight Savings Time, there has been no official federal action to eliminate it. ■



Pixabay

REAL ESTATE Transactions

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan

2/21, 16 Proulx Court, Springvale, 5-room Ranch, 3 bed/1 bath, basement crawlspace, intown, \$169,900 (pictured above)



16 Proulx Court, Springvale
(2/21 closing, listed left
Photo: Google

2/28, 39 Prescott St., 7-room Colonial, 4 bed/2 bath, attic, unfinished walk-out basement, porch, generator, corner lot, intown, built in 1910, \$275,000

basement, corner lot, intown, \$375,900

2/28, 111 High St., 2-story Colonial, two rental units: one 2 bed/1 bath and one 3 bed/1 bath, laundry in each unit, detached 2-car garage, screened porch, unfinished

2/28, 7 Thompson St., 2-story Duplex, two rental units: 3 bed/1 bath each, full walk-out basement, deck, spacious backyard, intown, \$395,000 ■

Lee Chase, 75, of Sanford, died peacefully on Feb. 24, 2025, at Southern Maine Health Care Biddeford. He was born on June 29, 1949, in Presque Isle to Roy and Capitola (Reynolds) Chase. Visiting hours were held on Wednesday, March 5, at Bibber Memorial at Autumn Green in Alfred.

Carl H. Johnson, Jr., 87, of Sanford died peacefully on Feb. 26, 2025, at York Hospital. He was born on Jan. 9, 1938, in Stonington, CT, to Carl and Margaret (Keen) Johnson. Visitation will be from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 8, at

PASSAGES

Compiled by Rev. Susan Murphy

Bibber Memorial at Autumn Green, 47 Oak St., Alfred. Memorials to the American Kidney Association may be made in lieu of flowers.

Joyce Goodwin Lessard passed away peacefully on Feb. 23, 2025, at home surrounded by her family, after a brief illness. Joyce was born in Sanford in October of 1945 to Roland and Hazel Goodwin. A time of visitation was held on Monday, March 3, with a mass of Christian Burial celebrated on Tuesday, March 4 at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish,

Holy Family Church in Sanford. Burial will take place at St. Ignatius Cemetery in the spring.

Judy Knight, 89, formerly of Sanford and a longtime resident of Alfred, passed away peacefully on Feb. 20, 2025, with her loving family by her side. Judy was born on Oct. 16, 1935, in Sanford, the daughter of William (Phil) and Mary Ellen (Ellie) Mitchell. A graveside service will be held in the spring at the Evergreen Cemetery in Alfred.

Irene G. Melanson, 100, of Sanford, died Wednesday, Feb. 26, 2025, just three days shy of her 101st birthday. She was born on Feb. 29, 1924, in Sanford, born to Stanislas and Marie Anna (Guillemette) Belanger. Visitation was held on Thursday, March 6, at Carll-Heald & Black Funeral Home. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Friday, March 7, at St. Therese of Lisieux Parish, Holy Family Church in Sanford. Interment will take place in the spring at St. Ignatius Cemetery in Sanford.

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New Adult Day Program in Springvale!



SMAA's Adult Day Programs are geared toward older adults with Alzheimer's and other dementias. For more information or to schedule a tour of our Biddeford or Springvale locations, contact us at **207.396.6508** or ngarrity@smaaa.org.

