

Sanford Springvale MAINE NEWS

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March 21, 2025

Tap Into Tradition Maine's Sweetest Celebration



Gile's Family Farm boils syrup (nearly 350 gallons so far) as Maine Maple Sunday approaches Photo: Gile's Family Farm Facebook page

By Brian Boisvert

With the arrival of spring, Maine welcomes its annual Maple Sunday Weekend, March 22 and 23. For 42 years, this beloved tradition has opened the doors of Maine's sugarhouses, inviting everyone to witness the magic of maple syrup production and savor delectable maple creations.

Maine Maple Sunday began in 1983 as a single-day event to promote local syrup producers. Over the years, it has evolved into a weekend-long celebration, attracting visitors from all over the state and beyond. The event not only highlights the labor-intensive process of maple syrup production but also showcases Maine's sugaring traditions.

Sanford and the immediate surrounding area offer a diverse array of activities during the weekend. Here are some of the top destinations to consider:

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Pictured standing are volunteers and staff with Adult Day Program Head Nicole Garrity leading the group of participants at a recent "St. Patrick's Community Café" Photo: Kristi King

Keeping Seniors Healthy and Vital

By Kristi King

The Southern Maine Agency on Aging located at the Anderson Learning Center in Springvale is a non-profit organization supporting seniors in York County. This agency is dedicated to planning and implementing social services for adults aged 60 and older, prioritizing people with the greatest economic and social needs. Its goal is

to offer valuable resources, services and information for older adults, adults with disabilities and their caregivers with a variety of programs that address social, financial, medical and personal issues along with providing direct service programs and advocacy. The wellness programs include an Adult Day Program in Springvale that is geared toward older adults with

dementias to support memory, depression and isolation concerns, while participant's caregivers are offered support services including workshops, support groups and respite care. The Agewell Fall Prevention program offers virtual wellness classes for all seniors along with other services including Medicare Counseling, Money Minders and Phone Pals. The Springvale

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JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER PRESENTS
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The sign outside Carll-Heald & Black will soon reflect a name change for the longtime funeral home. Photo: Lee Burnett

Only the Name is Changing

By Lee Burnett

There's a new name for Sanford-Springvale's only funeral home, reflecting an ownership change that happened five years ago.

The change is not yet reflected in the sign in front of 580 Main St., although website visitors are rerouted to the Conroy-Tully Walker Funeral Homes of Portland and South Portland. The new name of the business is Black-Heald Walker Funeral Home.

The name is the only change people will notice according to Adam Walker, who owns the business with his wife Caitlin.

"Nothing has changed, nor is it going to change," said Walker. The four-person staff of Dan Guillemette, Candis Lawrence, Mike Levasseur, and David Kahl, who have more than 75 years of combined experience, remains in place, he said. Former owners Lori and John Black have been valuable mentors in the transition since acquisition in 2020, he said.

The impetus for the sale was the approaching retirement of the Blacks and the ongoing consolidation within the funeral home industry. Finances are being squeezed as more families are opting for cremation over full-service burials, explained Walker.

"There's tons of consolidation going on, mostly with private equity and outside corporations," Walker said. "Some local families are selling to out-of-state or private equity. John and Lori could have done that and sold for a higher amount, but they chose to sell to a Maine-based family business.

"For us, we love funeral service... we have a passion to help people honor their loved ones. We were looking for others who share the same values," he said.

"Shared values" were the words that Lori Black used to describe their decision to sell to the Walkers.

"We were looking out for our families. We wanted to make sure they were going into good hands. We were talking to four suitors. They (Walkers) were the cream that rose to the top ... Shared values, that was the most important thing to us. Keeping the same staff, the people that others have come to know and trust. "They (Walkers) care, that's huge."

The acquisition enables the Walkers to achieve economies of scale by combining back-office operations and sharing two hearses among three businesses, Walker said. "Now that we're a bigger operation, we can hire someone and free us up to focus on care to families."

Walker said he welcomes the opportunity to address any concerns that people may have.

"I recognize any change is stressful," he said. "If you have any questions, give us a call." ■

Sanford Springvale NEWS

Public Hearing Notice



The Sanford Planning Board will hold a public hearing and receive written and oral comments at its April 2, 2025 meeting, starting at 6:30 pm, on an application for the following project:

- **File # R15-20A – 20 Renaissance Way – Conditional Use/Site Plan Amendment**– Added parking for storage of off-season trailered boats and campers/RVs, as well as stormwater management, to the rear of existing building on property owned by 20 Renway LLC at 20 Renaissance Way (Tax Map R15, Lot 20A).

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. 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.



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Sanford City Council Highlights from 3.18.25

By Kendra Williams

The Sanford City Council had a busy agenda on 3/18/25. Members of the council reported on Public Safety, Land Bank, Public Works and the Fire Station workgroup sub-committee meetings.

City Manager Steve Buck gave an update of legislative activities that relate to Sanford and complimented our representatives on their advocacy for our community.

Alison Navia, airport manager, notified the council that there would be an aerobic practice of the New England Aerobic Club Chapter 35 at the Sanford Seacoast Regional Airport on Saturday, April 26 from 10 am to 5 pm. It will take place in the long-term aerobic practice area approved by the Council in 2023 with the authorization for these events delegated to the city manager. If members of the public would like to watch the practice, they may do so by going to the ballfields at the end of Baker Lane. The aircraft will be visible over the treeline to the east.

Public Hearings

The Council held a joint public hearing to discuss the proposed fiscal year 2025/26 municipal and school budgets and to take public comment. Sherry Baron, Sanford resident, parent and CJL School Principal was the sole person to comment. She spoke in favor of the school budget proposal. She said elimination of support staff in previous years has "rippled through the system and that further cuts would impact some of our most vulnerable students." She asked that the school budget be accepted as

it stands.

Members of the public may also submit comments via the City of Sanford website at <https://tinyurl.com/mv4b2czs>.

A public hearing was held on proposed ordinance amendments to the airport development zone. City Planner Erin Moriarty reviewed and explained the proposed changes which would expedite the technical site plan review for all development within the controlled access area of the airport. There was no comment either in favor or opposed. The first of two required readings to adopt the proposed amendments occurred later in the meeting.

A preliminary public hearing with the Maine Department of Transportation was held. Representatives from Sewell and Viewshed presented an overview of the proposed South Sanford Planning Partnership Initiative study. The purpose of the study is to develop safety and mobility improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists given the significant new development in South Sanford and the roundabout. The study area starts on Main Street at Mayflower Drive and continues to Patriots Lane. It also includes Route 4 from Country Club Road 1 to the roundabout and continues on route 4 to School Street and Gavel Road. It will be jointly funded by the city and DOT.

Members of the public and councilors were given the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions for the study as it proceeds. The DOT is also seeking input and encouraging

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NEWS notes

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan



Chief Eric Small of the Sanford Police Department welcomes Officer Sean Remick to the team.

Photo: Sanford Police Department

New officer joins SPD:

Sanford Police Department recently welcomed its newest officer, Sean Remick, who came from the Wells Police Department with over six years of law enforcement experience. Officer Remick brings a wealth of knowledge and training to the department as he holds certifications as a field training officer, Maine Criminal Justice Academy instructor, forensic phlebotomist (for Operating Under the Influence cases), and PepperBall instructor. The department called out his dedication to training and professional development.

COMMUNITY CAFE *Cont'd from page 1*

location also provides Meals on Wheels to fight food insecurity.

SMAA has a dedicated staff, partners, supporters, and many sponsors like Kennebunk Savings Bank, along with a large network of volunteers that work together to implement solutions to the increased health disparities found in our community, including senior isolation. Community Client Experience Ambassador Tamara Milliard organizes social interaction events for seniors including the monthly Community Café where seniors gather for a meal, games and conversation. Brenda Laflin, who attended the recent St. Patrick's Community Café said, "It just adds to the community we feel when we gather together." The social event included a hearty beef stew, Irish trivia run by Adult Day Program Head Nicole Garrity and over

Shipyard now allowed to hire new staff: Days after six civilian workers at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNSY) were laid off as part of broad federal spending cuts, the Dept. of Defense announced that the workforce at the shipyard, and at other shipyards across the country, would be exempt from the civilian hiring freeze. Last month, U.S. Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) sent a bipartisan letter to the Dept. of the Navy advocating for an exemption for PNSY employees from federal workforce reduction efforts. The letter stated that any reduction in the PNSY workforce would jeopardize national security by increasing submarine maintenance timelines.

Following the granting of the exemption, Collins and Shaheen issued separate statements on March 18 with Collins stating that

two dozen seniors actively engaged in comradery. Garrity noted, "People leave here, and you can see the joy in their eyes." Attendees wearing holiday green, colorful hand tattoos and pins commented on the festive tables and miniature "Pots o' Gold" with foil candies decorated by Decorations Volunteer Susan Bergeron who said, "It's nice to have this monthly gathering for everyone to look forward to." Resource Specialist Care Coordinator Alyssa Gilbert, volunteering on her day off, hand delivered meals and desserts prepared by Sarah's Kitchen, a local popular catering business. Milliard said, "This is just one of the events on the full monthly calendar of programs that is well attended." SMAA.org/events/ has a complete listing of their daily events whether in person or virtual. ■

she is thankful the Dept. of Defense elected to exempt the shipyards from the hiring freeze. Shaheen noted that she is glad it is now understood that the shipyard workforce is an essential component of the national defense and preparedness, but "it should have never come to this in the first place — and the uncertainty that has swept through shipyards in the last two months has done real damage."

Alana Schaeffer, president of the Metal Trades Council, the shipyard's largest union, is still concerned despite the exemption granted to PNSY. Schaeffer fears the Dept. of Defense decision allows for very minor exemptions, which she said in a statement are "targeted towards a handful of positions the Dept. of Defense has deemed 'mission critical.'" Shaheen stated she looks forward to holding the Trump administration accountable, and noted, "...we now must ensure that [this exemption] is implemented properly and that the Administration reinstates the probationary employees that were wrongly laid off due to the lack of clarity from their directive."

Nasson patients, feedback is requested:

Nasson Health Care is inviting its patients to join a small focus group to help the organization understand the patient experience. Nasson aims to use the feedback to better serve its patients. The focus group sessions will be conducted at Springvale Library on April 28 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm, April 29 from 2 pm to 3 pm, and May 1 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. To participate in one of the focus group sessions, complete the registration form here. <https://nassonhealthcare.org/focus-group-registration>

Ready to bring some color back to the garden?

The Sanford Beautification Committee is hosting the

Sanford Garden Fair on March 29, from 10 am to 6 pm, at Memorial Gym. The event offers workshops, garden products, plants and vendor items. Admission is \$5 per person. Children 12 and under are admitted free.

New online resource for job seekers and employers:

The Work Source Maine Virtual CareerCenter is a new online platform that connects both job seekers and employers with essential workforce resources. The platform, launched by the Maine Department of Labor and local workforce boards, provides easy access to career services, hiring support, and training programs to benefit individuals and businesses across the state. In addition to providing guidance on a variety of topics, including unemployment benefits, disability services, and the job-hunting process, the site is a resource for job listings, training opportunities, workshops, hiring events and more. Access the Virtual CareerCenter here. <https://www.myworksourcemaine.gov>

Cornhole fundraiser aims to support the local community:

The Kiwanis Club of Sanford is inviting teams to sign up for its 4th Annual Toss for a Cause Cornhole Tournament, to be held April 12, from 6-10 pm, at Nasson Community Center. Proceeds from this fundraiser will benefit the local community by helping the organization provide food and clothing for underprivileged children, fund student scholarships, support nonprofit sports organizations and athletes, and more. Cash prizes will be awarded to top finishers. Registration costs \$55 for a team of two people. FMI and to sign up, go here. <https://www.kiwanisofsanfordmaine.org/event-details/4th-annual-toss-for-a-cause-fundraiser> ■

Community CALENDAR

Compiled by Lisa Blanchette

Ongoing

- Kindergarten registration, online @ www.sanford.org, 2/26-6/1
- March Madness Extravaganza online auction, It Takes a Village 207, 3/20-3/31

Saturday, March 22

- Microchip & rabies clinic, 9 am, Animal Welfare Society, 46 Holland Rd., Kennebunk
- Maine Maple Weekend, 9 am, Packy's Sugar House, 232 Harry Howes Rd.
- Baby Blessings, 10 am, St. George's Episcopal Church, 3 Emerson St.
- Big Kid Story Time @ Goodall Library, 10:30 am,

Sunday, March 23

- Maine Maple Weekend, 9 am, Packy's Sugar House, 232 Harry Howes Rd.
- Wit & Wisdom of 19th Century NE Humor, Jo Radner, Historical Society, 3 pm, 505 Main St.
- Sanford Schools PTA @ The Maine Mariners, 3 pm, Portland

Monday, March 24

- Baby Rhyme Time, 10 am, Springvale Library
- Sanford Food Pantry, 10 am, 1204 Main St.
- Red Cross blood drive, noon-5:30 pm, North Parish Church, 893 Main St.
- Lego Builders Club, 3:30 pm, Springvale Library

Tuesday, March 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, 11:00 am, Goodall Library
- York County Food Pantry, noon, YCSP, 5 Swett's Bridge Road, Alfred
- Cribbage, 1 pm, Springvale Library
- YCSP's "To-Go" Lunch @ St. George's Episcopal Church, 2 pm, 3 Emerson St.
- Knit Lits, 3 pm, Springvale Library
- Sanford Elks Bingo, 4 pm doors open, 6 pm games start, 13 Elm St.
- City Council budget meeting, 5 pm, Sanford City Hall, 919 Main St.
- Toddler Time, 5:30 pm, Memorial Gym, 678 Main St.
- Dulcimer Group, 6 pm, Goodall Library

Wednesday, March 26

- SMAA Springvale open house tours, 10 am, 21 Bradeen St., Springvale
- Coloring Fun at Goodall Library, 10:30 am
- It Takes a Village 207 indoor meal @ St. George's Church, 2 pm, 3 Emerson St.
- Lego Club, 2:30 pm, Goodall Library
- Fiber Arts Group, 5 pm, Goodall Library
- Wednesday Night Bite community meal, 6 pm, Curtis Lake Church, 38 Westview Dr.
- Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, 6 pm, online

Thursday, March 27

- Sensory Story Time, 10 am, Springvale Library
- St. Therese of Lisieux Food Bank, noon, Holy Family Church, 66 North Ave.

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SCHOOL notes

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan

CJL playground proves to be the sweet spot for hands-on learning: Students at Carl J. Lamb Elementary School (CJL) are taking part in a school-wide maple sugaring project that spans multiple subjects and a New England tradition. The project, which involves tapping trees on the CJL playground as well as on the grounds of Springvale Library, has students involved in every step. By drilling holes in the trees, inserting taps, collecting sap, measuring volumes, tracking data, and ultimately creating their own maple syrup, students are learning across disciplines — geography, math, science and literacy — as well as building community and life skills by working together and utilizing problem-solving skills. The maple syrup project, which has been years in the making, is the brainchild of teachers Kim Minchin and Robert Rothwell, who have transformed a New England tradition into a unique, hands-on, cross-curricular learning experience for the entire school. Read the full story here. <https://tinyurl.com/4zpj7xwh>

Band Fest showcases young musicians' journey from grade 5 to 12: The Sanford community came together on March 11 to fill the stands of Partners Bank Gymnasium at Sanford High School for the 36th Annual Sanford Band Fest Concert. The evening showcased the musical journey of over 200 Sanford student musicians from grades 5 through 12, highlighting their growth and dedication.

The fifth-grade band opened the evening, marking the first time many of these young musicians performed in a major concert. The sixth-grade band followed with two selections that showcased their developing technical abilities and ensemble skills. Both bands performed under the direction of Josh Hysong. The youngest musicians were followed by the seventh- and eighth-grade bands, which performed separately. They drew praise from Erica Scarano, their conductor, for their hard work and preparation. "Both groups had me dancing on the podium and I couldn't have asked for anything better," she said. The high school musicians, led by Hailey Francoeur, followed, demonstrating their impressive musical skill and enthusiasm.

The evening concluded with all the bands joining together for a final piece that showcased — for both the audience and the musicians themselves — the students' musical journey from beginner to accomplished musician. Hysong shared, "It's inspiring for our younger students to hear the high school musicians and envision their own musical futures." Read the full story here: <https://tinyurl.com/2h5umbtb>



Students at Carl J. Lamb Elementary School tap into nature for a school-wide maple sugaring project.

Photo: Sanford School Department

SRTC is honored with a quality award from SkillsUSA: Sanford Regional Technical Center's SkillsUSA Chapter was recognized by the Chapter Excellence Program (CEP) with a Quality Chapter Award. This first-level award honors chapters for achieving essential standards of excellence. The CEP is the best way to build a successful SkillsUSA chapter and recognizes achievement in integrating the SkillsUSA framework in the chapter's activities.

A little help here. Anyone? Sanford High School is hosting the Winter Percussion and Winter Guard Finals competition on March 23. To make for a successful event, Sanford Music Boosters are looking for food and beverage donations as well as volunteers to perform various tasks. To help, visit the sign-up page. <https://tinyurl.com/yaex2mz2>

April school vacation is right around the corner: The Sanford-Springvale YMCA is holding sign-ups for its April Vacation Camp, to be held April 21 to 25. Special activities, including a visit from Mike Piazza and his High-Flying Dogs, are planned for the week. FMI, email Jordan at jgodin@sanfordymca.org. Download the application here. <https://tinyurl.com/3vhmpe2e>. ■

Honor Society Students to Showcase Talents

By Grace Pearson,
Sanford High School Senior

Sanford High School's NHS is preparing for the annual variety show, this year titled, the "Spartan Showcase." The show will take place on April 16, at the Sanford Performing Arts Center. Money raised at the show will go toward funding for the NHS. Admission is \$5, or \$2 for students and seniors.

Students from the high school will perform to show off their special talents and skills and community members are welcome to attend. There will be 12 different performances, featuring a variety of acts from a jazz band ensemble to soccer tricks.

While the NHS advisors Elizabeth White and Heather English oversee the students' work, the showcase is run almost entirely by NHS students. They're broken up into committees, where they are given separate tasks to complete.

The concessions committee must find out how much concessions will cost, locate where to buy them and work at the concessions booth during the show.

The masters of ceremonies must make the show fun-ny and entertaining for the



audience. They have to come up with a script, create the program and introduce acts during the show. They will also have a variety of fun games and jokes for the audience in between acts.

Stage crew help the performers know when to go on stage, take care of props and work with sound and lighting.

The raffle committee has to pitch to local businesses to receive donations and set up the prize table during the show.

The auditions committee has to plan when and where to do auditions, recruit people to audition and collaborate with several other committees to plan for the show.

"NHS is bringing together a variety of incredible performances, making it a fun and family-friendly night for everyone. We'll have exciting raffles, and there are even some secret surprises in store! It's a great way to celebrate our school community's creativity, and we can't wait for everyone to come out and enjoy the show," said advisor Elizabeth White.

NHS is a student organization that selects juniors and seniors who do well in school, are leaders and give back to the community. ■



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OUT IN THE WOODS

By Kevin McKeon, Maine Master Naturalist

Winter Fleas Eat Bark, Don't Bite

During our winter walks along a warm, thawing snow-pack, we occasionally notice black specks that seem to be moving. A closer look will reveal that we're watching a swarm of snow fleas, a species of springtail and a common warm winter day sight.

Their name is a bit misleading: They don't bite, but like the bane of dogs, will jump admirably. We're more apt to see the common snow flea, *Hypogastrura nivicola* Fitch, which is a dull black. Less common is the snowmelt springtail, *Hypogastrura armata* Nicolet, which is a dull red. Both springtails are about 1/16 inch long.

There are about 3,600 springtail species that evolved from their 412-million-year-old ancestors. Although taxonomically listed in the insect order Collembola, they're not considered insects in the strictest sense. They differ in that springtail mouthparts are internal, and their molting process is different. Also, their ancient ancestors didn't have wings, nor do current springtails develop wings. (True insects are thought to have broken away from the evolutionary tree to develop wings, and some of those evolved to lose them!)



Snow fleas on a finger. Photo: Roy Lukes

Their ability to hop about in a springing action puts them in the Collembola order of small wingless, soft-bodied creatures with a forked structure that propels by a sudden springing action.

Springtails are omnivorous cryptozoa. They eat plants and animals and live in moist, dark places. This valuable combination allows springtails to contribute to healthy soil microbial communities by eating and recycling forest detritus {loose soil, decomposing tree bark, decaying leaves, moss, and dead microscopic soil plankton, fungi, and algae}. They move about mostly by crawling, but spring when agitated or excited. In advantageous habitats, their life cycles quicken, producing thousands of snow fleas per square foot and sometimes form a raft-like sight in puddles. With a bit of luck evading their predators — spiders, flies, beetles, ants, and tiny fish, frogs, and salamanders — they'll live for two years.

Snow fleas need not be of concern to homeowners: They can be annoying but do not damage food, clothes, furniture or property. They're harmless to humans and pets, and they don't bite or transmit disease. This is one of the few insects that occur in the adult stage during the wintertime. These creatures can survive in very cold areas due to the glycine-rich proteins in their bodies that act like anti-freeze, preventing ice crystal formation and cell damage. This particular snow flea protein is rather unique in that it easily breaks down as the temperature rises, so snow flea research is ongoing, focusing on a means to increase the viable storage time for transplanted organs — and, surprisingly, for improving the ice-free texture of ice cream. ■

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SPORTS notes

Compiled by Sam Bonsey,
Sanford Schools Communication Coordinator

Basketball Faceoff: Staff vs. First Responders

The Sanford Pride Elementary gymnasium was filled with excitement and community spirit last Thursday, March 13, as teachers and staff faced off against local first responders in a charity basketball game that brought together all three elementary schools in the district.

The annual Staff vs. First Responders basketball game drew an impressive crowd of students, parents, and community members who packed the bleachers to cheer on both teams. Players sporting red shirts (school staff) and navy shirts (first responders) with matching circular logos competed in a friendly but spirited match to raise funds for the elementary schools' PTAs.

"Raising funds for our elementary schools wasn't just a goal—it was a celebration of community," said Carl J. Lamb second-grade teacher Laura Houle. "In mo-



The Staff vs. First Responders basketball game drew an impressive crowd at Sanford Pride Elementary's gymnasium.
Photo: Sanford School Department

ments where we unite for a common cause, we don't just raise money; we lift spirits, strengthen bonds, and create memories that last a lifetime."

The game featured teachers and staff members from across Sanford's elementary schools competing against a team of local police officers, firefighters, and other emergency personnel.

Sanford School Resource Officer Joe Jourdain emphasized the broader impact of such events: "These events are important. It brings the community together, parents and students get to see first responders in another light and interact with them on a more personal level. The community sees schools and first responders working together to help raise money for families and to better school needs. Events like these help make the community come together, which makes a stronger bond for all involved."

"It was awesome to see the school communities of all three elementary schools come togeth-

er along with the first responders to help support the school PTAs. The game was competitive, and a lot of fun was had," Sanford Pride Elementary fourth-grade teacher Dan Fernandez said. "I am hopeful that this can turn into an annual event that brings people together for a good cause. Thank you to Officer Jourdain and the first responders for coming out and playing."

Carl J. Lamb Assistant Principal Kristy Richards expressed her enthusiasm for the growing tradition: "Staff vs First Responders has become a truly wonderful community event. It was great to see all the elementary schools come together with the addition of the Carl J. Lamb this year. Looking forward to next year!"

Funds raised during the event will support PTA initiatives across all three elementary schools, directly benefiting students through additional resources, activities, and educational opportunities throughout the year. ■

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MAPLE SUGAR SUNDAY *Cont'd from page 1*

Brookridge Boilers, Alfred: Here you will find free syrup samples and handmade French-Canadian favorites such as tire d'érable (a maple taffy also known as "sugar on snow") and sucre à la crème (maple fudge). They also have maple milk from BrookRidge Organic Dairy Farm and locally made maple whoopie pies. Watch syrup-making demonstrations or visit their dairy goats!

Crooked Brook Farm, Wells: This cut-your-own Christmas tree farm has recently converted its sawmill into a sugarhouse, offering a unique blend of maple syrup production and festive atmosphere. Visitors can enjoy syrup samples, baked treats and candy, and activities like cornhole games and walks through the farm's thousands of trees. With limited seating available, "on-the-go"-type breakfast options are on the menu.

Gile's Family Farm, Alfred: A new post-and-beam sugarhouse features not only delicious syrup but also a variety of maple products, including homemade maple apple crisp, maple cider donuts, maple peanuts, maple butter, and maple cotton candy. If you're interested in trying your hand at making your own syrup, they also sell hobby sugaring supplies.

Michaud Family Farm, Lyman: Enjoy a pancake breakfast, take a tour of the sugar shack, and take home some homemade treats, including syrup, candy, maple butter, fudge and whoopie pies. Kids are invited to participate in making snow taffy, and the barn is open for people to pet the animals.

Packy's Sugar House, Sanford: Maple products for sale include syrup, whoopie pies, snicker doodles, nuts and cotton candy. They will also have maple needhams (potato candy) and maple fudge.

This is just a sampling of all the nearby fun. Visitors can also enjoy pancake breakfasts at Newfield Fire & Rescue (West Newfield) or Barn Lights (Acton), indulge in sweet treats at Thurston & Peters Sugarhouse or Hilltop Boilers (both in Newfield), or sample the unique offerings at the Harris Turkey Farm food trailer (Newfield), with a menu including maple slushies, maple pecan cheesecake, turkey pot pie, smoked turkey mac and more.

While Southern Maine offers a wealth of maple experiences, the entire state is filled with hidden gems. For those looking to explore further, the Maine Maple Producers Association provides a detailed map and list of participating sugarhouses, including their hours and activities at mainemapleproducers.com.

Maine Maple Sunday Weekend is more than just a celebration of maple syrup; it's a testament to the state's rich agricultural heritage and community spirit. Whether you're a long-time resident or just visiting, this event offers something for everyone—delicious local foods, educational tours, and a chance to connect with nature and the people who make Maine's maple syrup industry thrive. Mark your calendars and get ready to indulge in the sweetest weekend of the year! ■

Please Help Us Grow

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CITY COUNCIL *Cont'd from page 2*

residents to complete a survey by going to <https://tinyurl.com/2frh9fft>.

A license renewal request for Waypoint Maine for a fundraising event on June 7 was approved. Also approved was an off premises catering permit for Pilots Cove LLC for Sanford Mainers baseball games at Goodall Park.

City Manager Buck was authorized to finalize and implement an agreement with Ecomaine for a 30-year term for a solid waste and recycling management program. Sanford will become a participating municipality with ownership in the corporation of Ecomaine including voting privileges.

The Council voted to receive from the city treasurer five tax acquired properties due to the nonpayment of 2021/2022 real estate tax liens. The five acquired properties are located at 30 North St., 16 Andrew Ave., 299 Alfred St., 12 Marshwood Crossing and 58 Pleasant St. in Springvale.

Proposed rental fees and user group fees for the Memorial Gym were presented by Director of Parks and Recreation Brady Lloyd. It was tabled due to some needed clarifications.

Jennifer Parks was appointed to the Sanford Arts Commission for a three-year term.

The full meeting can be viewed here <https://tinyurl.com/2frh9fft>.



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Department of Public Works



City of Sanford/Village of Springvale Maine

Notice of Bids

FOR: CURBSIDE COLLECTION OF MSW AND RECYCLING

The City of Sanford, Maine will receive sealed bids for: Curbside Collection of MSW and Recycling until 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at the Public Works Office, 156 School Street, Sanford, Maine, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. The RFP is available at the Public Works Office and online at www.sanfordmaine.org under Businesses: Bid Opportunities.

REAL ESTATE Transactions

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan

3/7, 18 Rock Pond Rd., #18, 6-room Cape-style Condominium, 3 bed/2 bath, end unit, open concept kitchen and living room, bedroom on first floor, bonus room over garage, laundry on second floor, slab, attached 1-car garage, patio, built in 2024, \$389,900



12 Edmund St., Springvale (3/10 closing)
Photo: Google

3/10, 12 Edmund St., Springvale, 8-room Colonial, 4 bed/1.5 bath, den, hardwood floors, large attic, furniture included, unfinished basement, corner lot, built in 1900, \$303,000 (pictured)

3/10, 3 Marilyn Way, 4-room Ranch, 2 bed/1 bath, open concept kitchen/living area, unfinished basement, deck, level lot, intown, \$365,000

3/11, 11 Boyd St., 5-room Ranch, 2 bed/1 bath, open concept living area, bonus

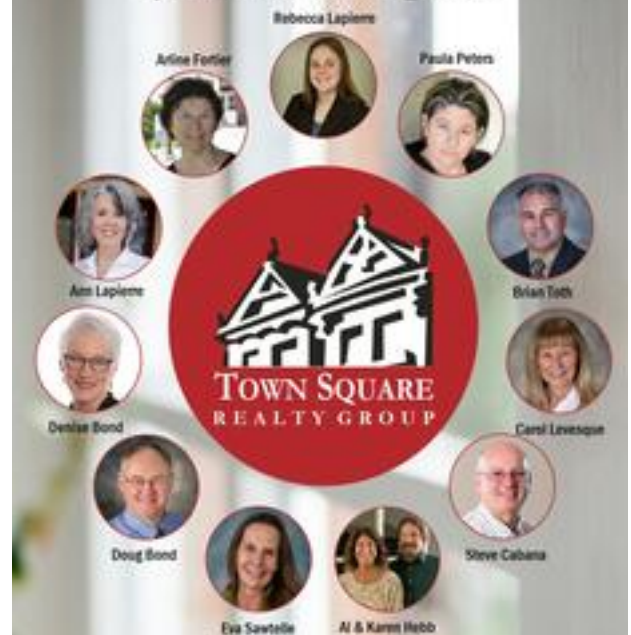
room, unfinished walk-out basement, deck, intown, \$285,000

3/12, 20 Pinetree Dr., .15-acre corner lot, no electric, no well, deeded access to Estes Lake, \$32,000

3/13, L128 M49 Island Ave., .28-acre level lot, 150-foot road frontage, electric on site, public sewer and water, \$37,500

3/14, 15 Pearl St., 5-room Bungalow, 3 bed/2 bath, two bedrooms on first floor, full basement, deck, intown, \$372,000 ■

Reach out to us today and discover how we can help you achieve your real estate goals.



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Extending a Helping Hand

By Jennifer Davie

Ellen Fecteau doesn't wear a cape, but as organizer of North Parish Congregational Church's free store, she qualifies as a hero. For about 12 years, she and a dedicated group of volunteers have been helping community members fill household needs that might otherwise go unmet.

The North Parish Community Cares Free Store began as part of the Community Cares Day event that occurs every October on Indigenous Peoples Day. At first, the program distributed coats and cold weather gear to those in need only on this weekend. As the need in the community grew, clothing was permanently set up in the North Parish Dow House, giving the Police Department and School Department access to cold weather resources as needed.

Fecteau notes that the effort has never been exclusively hers, or her church's.

"It takes a village to support this level of need in our community," she said. "Many local churches, businesses, and individuals have provided the resources necessary to sustain this mission of love and commitment."

In 2020, Fecteau and her helpers moved the store to its current location in two large rooms in the North Parish Robie building. Community members were invited to make appointments to come to the store to obtain what they needed – everything from blankets and coats to toiletries.

The need for the Free Store dramatically increased in 2023, when new Mainers from Angola, Haiti and the Democratic Republic of Congo began moving into Sanford/Springvale. The Free Store began collecting items that could help families set up a new household, including gently used furniture, curtains and kitchenware. What began as serving a specific demographic has since morphed into serving any household in need when a referral is made through a provider.

The police and school departments, General Assistance Office



L-R: Eduardo Silva, Ellen Fecteau, Kamba Lussala
Photo: Jennifer Davie

and York County Community Action make referrals to Fecteau and her team. Most are for people who are transitioning into stable, long-term housing after being unhoused. Without this help many families would be sleeping on the floor in their new homes and without items such as pots and pans to enable them to prepare food.

Fecteau also works tirelessly to make sure unhoused people have access to hygiene items, including soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and toilet paper. The store provides clean and dry clothing, with no questions asked. Items like tarps and sleeping bags can also be accessed for people who sleep outside.

Fecteau notes that volunteers and donations for the Free Store come from her congregation and from the community at large. Donations are especially welcome in these categories: clothing, shoes, and cold weather gear; blankets, sheets and towels; household items like dishes, silverware and pots and pans; baby's and children's clothing and toys; new toiletries and cleaning supplies, gently used furniture in excellent condition. Financial donations are also welcome. To make a donation, call the church office at 324-7090 or call or text Fecteau at 420-7090. ■

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To place an ad with us:
Contact adperson@sanfordspringvalenews.com

COMMUNITY CALENDAR - Cont'd from page 3

- YCSP's "To-Go" lunch @ St. George's Episcopal Church, 2 pm, 3 Emerson St.
- Free community meal, 5 pm, New Beginnings Christian Church, 181 Grammar Rd.
- Game Night @ the Library, 5 pm, Goodall Library
- The 207 Collective Podcast Takeover @ River Junction Brewing, 6 pm, 1491 Main St.
- York County Stamp Club, 6:30 pm, Preble Lodge #143, 16 Elm St.

Friday, March 28

- 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, 871 Main St.
- Kids Free Kids Free to Grow Playgroup @ SCAE, 11:30 am, 668 Main St.
- York County Food Pantry, noon, YCSP, 5 Swett's Bridge Road, Alfred
- Spaghetti dinner, 5:30 pm, York County Shelter Program, 138 Shaker Hill Rd., Alfred
- GameLab of Thrones, 6 pm, Smitty's GameLAB
- Nasson Youth Theater Spring Show, 7 pm, 457 Main St.
- SHS Theater Production of "Grease," 7 pm, Performing Arts Center, 100 Alumni Blvd.

Saturday, March 29

- Sanford Garden Fair, 10 am, Memorial Gymnasium, 678 Main St.
- SHS Theater Production of "Grease," 2 pm, Performing Arts Center, 100 Alumni Blvd.
- Nasson Youth Theater Spring Show, 7 pm, 457 Main St., Springvale
- SHS Theater Production of "Grease," 7 pm, Performing Arts Center, 100 Alumni Blvd.

Sunday, March 30

- SHS Theater Production of "Grease," 2 pm, Performing Arts Center, 100 Alumni Blvd.
- Nasson Youth Theater Spring Show, 2:30 pm, 457 Main St., Springvale
- Cemetery Sleuthing w/Erin Moulton at Historical Society, 3 pm, 505 Main St., Springvale
- Homefront Peer Group, 6 pm, Able Oak, 469 Main St., Heritage Place, Suite 201 Springvale

Visit our events calendar at sanfordspringvalenews.com for details on these and other events.

ELDREDGE
LUMBER & HARDWARE
Portsmouth Sanford York Portland



The T-Birds perform *Greased Lightnin'*. L to R: Lydia Treadwell, Jakob Bendel, Tim McGee, Austin Glidden, Josh Fogarty, Jack VanGieson, Ben Terril, Oakley O'Keefe. (Missing: Braeden Landry)

Sanford HS Theater Presents 'Grease' March 29-30

Press Release

Sanford High School Theater Company is bringing the electrifying energy of *Grease* to the stage at the Sanford Performing Arts Center! Join us for a rockin' good time as we travel back to the 1950s with this beloved musical, packed with unforgettable songs, high-energy dance numbers, and a few surprises along the way.

The production stars Ben Terril as Danny Zuko and Ava Fagan as Sandy Dumbrowski, with Sanford High School Principal Tracy Gibson in the role of Ms. Lynch. SHS Senior Hope Abbott-Eaton, starring as Rizzo, is also the show's principal choreographer. Under the direction of Brett Williams, this production features spectacular sets, dazzling costumes, and a few surprises that will make for an unforgettable theatrical experience!

This special school edition of *Grease* is slightly abridged but still delivers all the fun, music, and nostalgia that have made it a favorite for generations. Featuring timeless hits like *Summer Nights*, *Greased Lightnin'* and *We Go Together*, this production is suitable for younger audiences while retaining the spirit of rock 'n' roll rebellion.

Public Performances: Friday, March 28 – 7:00 PM, Saturday, March 29 – 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM, Sunday, March 30 – 2:00 PM

Don't miss your chance to experience the Pink Ladies and T-Birds in action—get your tickets now and be part of the excitement! Tickets are \$12 - \$15 and may be purchased online at www.SanfordPAC.org or in person at Sanford Performing Arts Center (open Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9 AM–Noon, and one hour before each performance). For more info, call 207-206-1126. ■

PASSAGES

Compiled by Rev. Susan Murphy

Theresa B. Cormier, 92, of Sanford, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at Gosnell Memorial Hospice House. A mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Friday, March 21.

Barbara Gallant, a devoted wife, mother, sister, and aunt, passed away peacefully on March 14, 2025, at Gosnell Memorial Hospice House in Scarborough. A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday, March 19 at St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Holy Family Church. Burial will take place at the Southern Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery in the spring.

Thomas Freeman Penney, 90, passed away peacefully on March 12, 2025, at the Gosnell Memorial Hospice House, surrounded by his loving family. A time of visitation was held on March 18, with a funeral service that followed at Black-Heald Walker Funeral Home, 580 Main Street, Springvale.

These shortened notices are published free of charge for all decedents who have lived or worked in Sanford/Springvale. For more info about this or to purchase space for an expanded obituary with picture, contact adperson@sanfordspringvale-news.com. ■



photo of the week

'Tis the season for pothole repairs. Department of Public Works employee Nolan Lowery spreads asphalt on John Street in Springvale. Photo: Lee Burnett

Historical Society Lecture Series

Wit & Wisdom:
19th Century New
England Humor

Presented by Jo Radtner

MARCH 23, 2025
3:00 PM



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

Whatever did New Englanders do on long winter evenings before cable, satellite and the internet? In the decades before and after the Civil War, our rural ancestors used to create neighborhood events to improve their minds. Community members male and female would compose and read aloud homegrown, handwritten literary “newspapers” full of keen verbal wit. Sometimes serious, sometimes sentimental but mostly very funny, these “newspapers” were common in villages across Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont and revealed the hopes, fears, humor and surprisingly daring behavior of our forebears.

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



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, posted on Facebook and on our website.

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

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.

