

Sanford Springvale MAINE NEWS

Nonprofit newspaper produced with volunteers

Free

May 9, 2025

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City Braces for Hike in Homelessness Food Pantry gets last minute reprieve

By Lee Burnett

The homeless population in Sanford is expected to swell with the closure of emergency shelters in Sanford and Alfred.

Some 37 people faced eviction by Friday with last week's announcement by York County Shelter Programs. Agency officials and allied organizations worked feverishly this past week, looking for alternative housing and stopgap funding. By mid-week, temporary alternative housing had been found for these individuals.

At a Sanford City Council meeting on Tuesday, Mayor Becky Brink expressed alarm at the unfolding events, drawing particular attention to families with children.

"That's a very big concern. Where are they going to go? A lot of them have children. That's a scary situation, right now," she said.

Because of its proximity, Sanford is expected to shoulder the burden of the closures. Alternative housing has been found for emergency shelter residents in Alfred. Sixteen people at the family shelter in Sanford will not have to move currently and agencies have been approached to support the family shelter, and 12 at Layman Way Recovery Center in Alfred will remain there. Layman Way is funded by the county with support staff provided by YCSP.

Many of those facing eviction have been in contact with Becky Jackson and her mother



Ashley Oettinger, left, Journey and Joannie Polcaro serve free meals to 40-50 people at St George Episcopal Church Wednesday. Due to the closure of emergency shelters in Sanford and Alfred, Father Tim Higgins expects double the number of hungry people next week. "We're going to get mobbed," he said. "They're going to be trickling into Sanford, expecting a place to live and food."

Photo: Lee Burnett

Journey, who serve meals and provide socks and other basic necessities to Sanford's unhoused population.

"We're getting texts at all hours of the night, people are terrified," said Becky. She was at St George's Episcopal Church Wednesday afternoon serving hot meals through her organization It Takes a Village 207. She expects many facing eviction will head to Sanford, and she fears many will regress without stable housing and rehab services at the shelter. "It's going to be a travesty," she said. She estimates Sanford's unhoused population at 50 people at any one time and 100 over the course of a month. "They're living in tents, couch surfing or living in cars," she said. Many of them spend their days on their feet. "They're exhausted." Many of them are

also "on edge," dealing with recent deaths of two fellow unhoused residents, both in their 30s, she said.

"We lost two people, one through overdose," she said.

One shelter resident who is wrestling with undesirable options is Joanne Goodreau, 62. When reached by telephone

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Bleachers at Cobb Stadium are too costly to repair, school officials say.

Photo: Gail Burnett

School Committee Report Bleachers, P-K Enrollment, Curriculum Update and more

By Kendra Williams

At its May 5 meeting, the Sanford School Committee voted unanimously to remove the bleachers at the Stephen A. Cobb Stadium. Established in 1952, the stadium served as the primary athletic facility for Sanford High School for 66 years until SHS moved to a new campus with a state-of-the-art stadium in 2018.

However, Cobb Stadium

continues to host Sanford Middle School athletics and youth sports programs, such as those organized by the Sanford Springvale Youth Athletic Association. Increasing concerns about safety and code violations—along with insurers' unwillingness to cover bleacher-related claims—led to the decision.

The City of Sanford and the School Department explored

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NEWS notes

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan



The Springvale Fish & Game Club displayed Maine furs, antlers and outdoor equipment at the Sanford-Springvale YMCA's Healthy Kids Day on May 3.

Photo: Springvale Fish & Game Club

Donation to YMCA aims to make happy campers this summer:

The Springvale Fish & Game Club donated \$6,000 to the Sanford-Springvale YMCA on May 3 at the Healthy Kids Day event. The donation will help 25 local youth to attend Camp Muscatawa Great Outdoors Camp in Lyman this summer. Established in 1891, the Springvale Fish & Game Club is the oldest club of its kind in Maine. The organization has been conducting local fishing derbies and community events for decades.

Free spring event at the Little Theatre celebrates the arts:

The Sanford Arts Commission and Nasson Community Center and Little Theatre are hosting a free event, Spring Into the Arts, on May 24, 1 - 5 pm, to celebrate the arts. The event, offering an art show, music, poetry, a wine bar and more, will be held at Nasson Little Theatre, 457 Main St. in Springvale. Artists of all types are welcome to participate by having a space in the Little Theatre. If interested, email Emily at office@nassoncommunitycenter.com.

Free museum visits and a new book return date as of May 12:

Did you know that Goodall Library offers free admission to several museums in the area? Library cardholders can visit the Portland Museum of Art in Portland, Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth, Brick Store Museum in Kennebunk, Maine Maritime Museum in Bath, Wells Reserve at Laudholm in Wells, and Woodman Museum in Dover, NH. FMI, stop in at the library or call 207-324-4714.

Note that the library will be closed for the month of June as the staff prepares to move back to their newly renovated building. Due to the closure, as of May 12, borrowed books will be due back on July 7 and should be returned to 952 Main St. in Sanford at that time.

May 3 shooting in Sanford is an ongoing investigation:

Sanford police officers and EMS responded to the duplex at 2-4 Dorrington Ave. on May 3 at 2:21 pm following a report of a person having been shot. According to the police, the victim was transported to the hospital and has been released. The shooting appears to be an isolated incident and the suspect is still unknown. Sanford Police asks that the community be patient as investigators uncover the facts of the case. Anyone who has any information is asked to call the department through the tip line at 207-324-9170, option 1.

Helping the animals: In honor of National Pet Month in May, Partners Bank is donating \$30,000 to local animal rescues in Sanford Springvale NEWS

each community it serves in Maine and New Hampshire. The Sanford and Springvale branches donated \$4,000 to Grammy Rose Dog Rescue & Sanctuary, on Route 109 in Acton. The South Sanford branch is giving \$2,000 to Another Chance Animal Rescue, a no-kill foster home for cats and kittens located on Country Club Road in Sanford. Both services take in rescued pets and keep them in home-like settings until they can find permanent homes.



Photo: Daga_Roszkowska from Pixabay

“It is an honor to work for such a great organization. Partners Bank recognizes the need in our communities and is always there to provide support,” Stacie Parker, market manager of the Sanford and South Sanford branches, said. “Our pets are an important part of our lives and to be able to give back to the facilities that care for them until they find their forever homes is a true blessing.”

Local Red Cross blood drives scheduled this month: The American Red Cross is running two blood drives in the area: May 19 at Mason Preble 143, 16 Elm St. in Sanford, noon - 5:30 pm, and May 20 at Kennebunk Masons, 159 Alfred Road in Kennebunk, noon - 5:30 pm. Several time slots are still available at each location. To schedule an appointment, go to American Red Cross and enter a zip code to find a drive and reserve a time. <https://tinyurl.com/yypys4sm>

Food drive in May refills YMCA pantry: For the month of May, the Trafton Senior Center is holding a food drive to support the YMCA Community Little Pantry. Easily consumable items (granola bars, peanut butter crackers, canned soup, crackers, oatmeal, pasta sauce, canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, etc.) can be dropped off at the Trafton Senior Center, 19 Elm St. in Sanford, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm, Monday to Friday. FMI, call 207-457-0080.

SMAA's Springvale café is expanding: Southern Maine Agency on Aging (SMAA) is adding Community Café dates in Springvale. In addition to its second Friday monthly lunch, SMAA will add a fourth Friday monthly brunch starting in May. While the May 23 brunch at noon is open to everyone, in recognition of Memorial Day, SMAA would like to honor the brave veterans of the community by celebrating their service and having them share their experiences and meet fellow service members. The suggested donation for individuals aged 60+ is \$8 per meal. For non-Maine residents and those under age 60, the price is \$10 per meal. Reservations are required by May 16, so be sure to call 207-396-6507 or email nutritionadmin@smaa.org to reserve a spot.

Silent auction celebrates decades of helping children: Marking their 27th year of keeping seriously ill children connected to their worlds, Grahamtastic Connection is holding a Silent Auction & Celebration on May 17, 4 - 7 pm, at The Lincoln Hotel, 17 Lincoln St. in Biddeford. In addition to the silent auction and raffles, the event offers live music by Tristin & Mike, complimentary hors d'oeuvres and desserts, a cash bar with adult and children's beverages, and more. All ages are welcome to attend the event at no charge, but donations are always welcome. Proceeds will enable the organization to continue providing free iPads, laptops, internet access, and tele-presence robotic devices to the children they serve. FMI, call or text 207-432-1228 or email info@grahamtastic.org.

YCCAC looking to pay qualified shipyard employees to drive coworkers: YCCAC Transportation is seeking qualified Portsmouth Naval Shipyard employees to transport their coworkers to and from the shipyard. They are recruiting employees who work shifts 6 am - 2:30 pm and 6:30 am - 3 pm. To qualify, drivers must possess a valid Class C driver's license, must be at least 25 years old, and must have a clean driving record, among other requirements. Training will be provided as applicable. Qualified employees may apply here. FMI, contact Kim at 207-459-2928 or email kim.engel@yccac.org. ■

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Notice of Public Hearings City of Sanford



regarding Credit Enhancement Agreement between the City of Sanford and J&J Whitney Properties, LLC relating to the "Sanford Airport Omnibus Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District"

May 20, 2025 at 6:00 PM In person at City Hall Council Chambers, 919 Main Street or remotely via Zoom

Notice is hereby given that the Sanford City Council will hold a public hearing for the purpose of receiving public comments on a proposed credit enhancement agreement between the City of Sanford and HB8, LLC, relating to the development of lots or parcels of land on or adjacent to Presidential Lane at the Airport and identified as Hangar W61, located within the Sanford Airport Omnibus Municipal Development and Tax Increment Financing District.

The public hearing regarding the proposed credit enhancement agreement is proposed pursuant to the provisions of the Development Program for the Sanford Airport Omnibus Municipal Tax Increment Financing District. A copy of the proposed credit enhancement agreement is on file with the City of Sanford Airport office at 9 Presidential Lane, Sanford, ME 04073 and can be viewed on-line at <https://www.sanfordmaine.org/>. A copy can also be obtained by calling (207) 324-3172 during normal business hours and requesting that a copy be mailed to you. All interested persons are invited to participate in the public hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard.

The Sanford City Council will hold the public hearing remotely using Zoom. Virtual meetings are allowed pursuant to 1 M.R.S. §403-B and Section 6-B of the City of Sanford City Council Rules and Order of Business.

Instructions for joining the meeting are found on the City's website at <https://www.sanfordmaine.org/meetings>.

Public comments will be taken at the meeting and written comments should be submitted to anavia@sanfordmaine.org. Written comments will be accepted until Noon on May 20, 2025.

CITY BRACES - Cont'd from page 1

Wednesday, she said she is still unsure where she would go. She decided against asking friends to take her in. "They have families. I would feel uncomfortable [asking]. Some of us here are looking at tenting it. I don't know if I could tent. I'm hoping I could stay in someone's camper until I figure it out ... I'm hoping something good will come."

Many agencies have mobilized to try to soften the impending crisis, among them York County Community Action Corp., Sanford Housing Authority, and United Way of Southern Maine.

Five people have been placed in permanent housing, and four people have been identified as eligible for help by the city's General Assistance Program, the city's emergency relief program, according to City Manager Steve Buck.

York County Commissioners voted Wednesday to maintain the shelter-run food pantry, which serves 6,000 people per month. It will cost \$25,000 to maintain operations through the end of the fiscal year and another \$100,000 next year to take over operations and hire staff. Without their support, the pantry would be forced to close, noted county manager Greg Zinser. The county already owns the pantry building at the corner of Swett's Bridge Road and Route 4 in Alfred.

The closures were precipitated in part due to chronic underfunding that has also plagued all emergency shelters in the state, according to York County Shelter. Board treasurer Kelli Deveau said the shelter receives \$7 per night per bed from the state, while nightly costs are \$102 per night. The agency's books were so out

of whack that interim director Barbara Crider was only on the job for four hours when she realized the agency couldn't afford to pay her. She resigned on the spot and offered to work for free. Buck told the council.

The Maine Legislature is considering an infusion of \$6.5 million to the state's 40 emergency shelters, which have been flat funded at \$2.5 million since 2016. The funding would increase the per night bed rate from \$7 to \$19.

Mayor Brink said she is "amazed" the state has not done more. "It's almost like they're looking the other way and hoping it will resolve itself, and it can't," she said. "It takes your breath away."

Gov. Janet Mills expressed support for those affected by closures, according to a letter signed by her and members of the York County's legislative delegation, Buck said, adding "I don't know what that support would look like. There's no money in the pipeline."

Buck said he and others have begun talking about reactivating the community-based response that developed two years ago when dozens of asylum seekers from African countries descended on Sanford almost overnight. Within three months, permanent housing had been found for them, although the population of asylum seekers has since swelled to around 200.

Longer term, Buck said he sees no viable way of reorganizing the finances at YCSP, "even if creditors were taken off their backs ... There's no cash." He issued a challenge to all communities and leaders in the region to step up.

"I envision that leadership within York County will have to recreate the [shelter] program," he said. ■



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At Springvale Public Library, substitute librarian Paula Demers sorts books in pouches, awaiting pickup by the van that shuttles loaned books between libraries.
Photo: Lee Burnett

Library Funding Unfrozen

By Lee Burnett

Sanford's two libraries received some good news this week: Federally funded interlibrary loans and internet service would be continued.

News came down that the Maine State Library had regained access to part of already budgeted \$1.5 million in funding frozen last month when President Trump signed an executive order declaring the Institute of Museum and Library Services unnecessary and targeted for elimination. In response to the executive order, the state library had laid off a third of its staff – 13 people – and announced closure while it reorganized.

The arrival of partial funding allowed the state library to rehire three people. It also retained two others by shifting the funding source for the positions. Furthermore, interlibrary loans, internet service and materials for the blind that had been threatened would be continued.

It was good news to Springvale Public Library Director Lesley Unger.

"It's heartening that our libraries are being supported," she said. "While [funding] is still in flux, I'm confident services will be supported." ■

York County Community Action Corporation is seeking quotes from qualified contractors to install:

- One 5'x10' bus passenger shelter on a 6'x11' concrete pad.
- Project includes installing a 3'x10' concrete apron between pad and existing pavement.

YCCAC will provide the bus shelter. Project is located in Springvale, ME. Quotes are due by 4:30 p.m. on 5/21/25. For information and project specifications, please contact Tom Reinauer at 207 459-2930 or thomas.reinauer@yccac.org.

Community CALENDAR

Compiled by Lisa Blanchette

Visit our Events Calendar at sanfordspringvalenews.com for details.

Ongoing

- Kindergarten registration, online @ www.sanford.org, 2/26-6/1
- National Pet Month @ Partners Bank 5/6-5/20

Saturday, May 10

- Sanford Farmers' Market, 8 am, Central Park, 920 Main St.
- 11th Annual Stepping Out for Seniors, 8 am, Trafton Senior Center, 19 Elm St.

Sunday, May 11

- Mother's Day Breakfast at Sanford Elks, 8:30 am, 13 Elm St.

Monday, May 12

- Baby Rhyme Time, 10 am, Springvale Library, 443 Main St.
- Sanford Food Pantry, 10 am, 1204 Main St.
- Baby Rhyme Time, 11 am, Springvale Library
- A Family for ME Live Q & A session, noon, online
- Lego Builders Club, 3:30 pm, Springvale Library
- A Family for ME Live Q & A session, 6 pm, online

Tuesday, May 13

- Property Subcommittee meeting, 8:30 am, online
- Salvation Army Food Pantry - nonperishable items, 9 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
- Zoning Subcommittee, 1 pm, online
- Cribbage, 1 pm, Springvale Library
- YCSP's "To-Go" lunch @ St. George's Episcopal Church, 2 pm, 3 Emerson St.
- Solid Waste Subcommittee meeting, 2 pm, online
- Knit Lits, 3 pm, Springvale Library
- Water District trustees meeting, 4 pm, Water District, 243 Water St.
- Sanford Elks Bingo, 4 pm doors open, 6 pm games start, 13 Elm St.
- Matthew Meal, 6 pm, St. Thomas School, 69 North Ave.
- Dulcimer Group, 6 pm, Goodall Library

Wednesday, May 14

- Land Bank meeting, 8:30 am, online
- Community Café, noon, Mayflower Place, 27 Mayflower Dr.
- It Takes a Village 207 - indoor meal @ St. George's Church, 2 pm, 3 Emerson St.
- Make it/Take it Spring Craft, 2 pm, Springvale Library
- Lego Club, 2:30 pm, Goodall Library
- Friends of Downtown meeting, 4:30 pm, Frannie's, 913 Main St.
- Fiber Arts Group, 5 pm, Goodall Library
- Wednesday Night Bite community meal, 6 pm, Curtis Lake Church, 38 Westview Dr.
- Middle School Grade 7/8 band/chorus concert, 6:30 pm, Performing Arts Ctr, 100 Alumni Blvd.

Thursday, May 15

- Sensory Story Time, 10 am, Springvale Library
- St. Therese of Lisieux Food Bank, noon, Holy Family Church, 66 North Ave.
- Southern Maine Garden Club meeting, 1 pm, Springvale Library
- YCSP's "To-Go" Lunch @ St. George's Episcopal Church, 2 pm, 3 Emerson St.
- Creative Connections, 2 pm, Trafton Senior Center, 19 Elm St.
- Free community meal, 5 pm, New Beginnings Christian Church, 181 Grammar Rd.
- Game Night @ the Library, 5 pm, Goodall Library

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OUT IN THE WOODS

By Kevin McKeon, Maine Master Naturalist

Garden Snakes Waking Up, Smelling the Critters

Fossil records show that snakes slithered into existence about 167 million years ago, descending from the 250-million-year-old lizards that managed to survive Earth's largest extinction event, sometimes referred to as "The Great Dying", an event comparable to current ongoing Earth conditions. Here's Dr. Lee Kump, Pennsylvania State University's dean of the Earth and Mineral Sciences College and professor of geosciences:

"The Permian-Triassic mass extinction provides a stark reminder of the consequences of rapid carbon dioxide emissions.... Today, we see human activities driving similar processes at an even faster rate. The geological record shows that once these tipping points are reached, the cascading effects on ecosystems can last for millions of years."

OK, now about snakes. Estimates vary widely, but scientists believe that there are about 3,500-4,000 snake species. Nine of those live in Maine. First, let's clear something up: venomous vs. poisonous. Venomous snakes inject their toxins via grooved or hollow fangs; a poisonous snake releases its toxin through an adversary either contacting its skin or eating it. No Maine snakes are considered venomous, poisonous, or even dangerous. But let's talk a bit about garter snakes.

Garter snakes are one of the least dangerous snakes in the world. When threatened, they'll release a foul-smelling musk and slither away rather than bite — posing little to no risk to humans in our area. Their mild venom serves to stupefy their small prey: slugs, snails, and small amphibians. But they can be considered poisonous due to the prey they sometimes eat, though not in

our area. This is where the rough-skinned newt, *Taricha granulosa*, adds an interesting story to the garter snake's allure.

The rough-skinned newt contains the same deadly neurotoxin in its skin as the puffer fish. Large quantities are present in this newt, and some garter snakes have the unique ability to safely ingest these newts. Garters can determine toxin levels of the deadly newt by partially swallowing the newt, detecting whether or not the toxic levels are manageable, and then either swallowing or releasing it! If the newt is eaten, the toxins accumulate in the snake's liver with enough toxicity to kill the unfortunate bird or mammal predator that eats it. Garter snakes are the only known animals that can eat a rough-skinned newt and survive.

But having said all this, almost all rough-skinned newts live west of the Cascade Mountains, in a small area along the northwestern United States Pacific coast, and not around Maine. The closest population of these newts to Mainers is in Idaho, probably the result of a pet release introduction. So, garter snakes around here are harmless to people.

In mid-April, snakes are beginning to awaken from their brumation, a type of winter dormancy, where they share body heat with other snakes — sometimes dozens of them — in an underground den called a hibernaculum. Since they do not dig, they find suitable dens in stone walls and piles, and in the homes of other critters, like woodchucks and chipmunks. Hibernacula are often re-visited for years and shared with other snake species. And because reptiles don't usually eat when their body temperatures

drop below 60° F, these winter homes are even shared among snakes that eat each other.

Emerging from brumation, snakes seek heat to bask their cold-blooded (ectothermic) bodies. Snakes basking can often be seen by observant, slower-walking trail users along sunny areas — especially on gravel sections of our trails, warming their bodies and increasing their mobility and foraging capabilities.

Snakes' sense of smell is centered in their tongues. A small notch in their lips allows their tongues to stick out and collect scents and small bugs. The tongue's fork then contacts the Jacobson's organ on the roof of the mouth — a sensory organ that acts like our

noses. Snakes also sense their surroundings through ground vibrations and can determine the size and location of either food or danger. Snakes are at home everywhere in Maine, on land and in water. They are carnivores, eating earthworms, small birds and rodents, insects, eggs, smaller snakes and fish. They play an important role in ecosystems, helping to control pests and ticks, protecting crops and mitigating diseases, while helping to sustain a biodiverse landscape.

In Northeastern Native American folklore, snakes hold significant symbolism, representing fertility and healing; snakes are also linked with water, rain, thunder, and lightning. Stone monuments



Garter snakes emerging from their winter brumation den under a stone wall
Photo: Kevin McKeon

are peppered throughout New England and the United States built by indigenous tribes to glorify these incredible creatures and are still occasionally found in the Maine woods. So, if you happen across a short, rather nondescript stone wall or structure while walking

along trails and among the woods, imagine the possibility of it being a sacred tribute to a snake, turtle, or other creature of our landscapes. ■

Winter dormancy: <https://sanfordspringvalenews.com/sleep-comes-in-many-forms/>

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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@smaa.org.



SPORTS notes

Compiled by Sam Bonsey
Sanford Schools Communication Coordinator



Nine people were inducted into Sanford High School's inaugural Hall of Honor last November.

Photo: SHS Athletics

Nominations Open for SHS Hall of Honor

Sanford High School announced that nominations are being accepted for the second annual Hall of Honor induction. The Hall of Honor recognizes distinguished alumni, staff, and community members who have made significant contributions to the school, community, or in their professional fields. Following the success of last year's inaugural class, the school is seeking nominations for individuals who exemplify excellence and have positively represented Sanford High School's values and tradition.

For more information on how to nominate someone for the Hall of Honor, head to <https://tinyurl.com/4smtrhsk> ■

Broadway Tunes Take the Stage in Sanford

Press Release

Step into the spotlight with "102 Years of Broadway," the highly anticipated sequel to last season's hit, "101 Years of Broadway," brought back by popular demand. Showtime is 7 pm, Saturday, May 31.

Organized by the acclaimed Neil Berg, this extraordinary musical revue celebrates over a century of Broadway's greatest hits with a cast of five Broadway stars. Enjoy iconic songs from legendary shows like Les Misérables, West Side Story, and The Phantom of the Opera, alongside the timeless music of Rodgers and Hammerstein, Cole Porter, George Gershwin, Kander and Ebb, and Andrew Lloyd Webber. Praised as "The very best Broadway concert ever!" and "A knockout from the very first song," this show promises a vibrant mix of unforgettable melodies and spectacular performances.

Immerse yourself in the magic of Broadway as Neil Berg's vision delivers a show described as "A Bruce Springsteen concert for the Broadway set." With brilliant choreography, dazzling costumes, and a cast that perfectly captures Broadway's rich history, "102 Years of Broadway" offers an extraordinary night of musical brilliance. Whether you're a lifelong fan or new to the stage, this revue provides a captivating journey through theater's enchanting world, celebrating both classic and contemporary Broadway.

Tickets are \$37-\$51, with discounts for seniors, students, military veterans and season subscribers. For reservations, call the box office at (207) 206-1126, or visit in person Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am-noon. For more information and online ticketing, go here: <https://sanfordpac.org/bway/> ■

SCAM Caller ID Can Trick You

Adapted from Consumer Reports

Beware of scammers accessing your money by using spoofing technology making it appear that a phone call or text is coming from your bank or government agency. Personal information such as Social Security or bank account numbers can be purchased on the dark web to convince you the caller is who they say they are.

Don't assume that the caller ID is showing you correct information. If you get a call from a bank or agency, don't act fast. Scammers will pressure you and tell you that a matter needs to be handled immediately or your money could be at risk. Or they may threaten you in other ways.

If you get such a call, slow down! Hang up and call the bank or agency back on their verified online number. It's also a good idea to have all unknown calls sent directly to voicemail.

Legitimate bank or agency employees should never ask for your username, PIN, one-time access codes or passwords. Instead, they would send you a one-time access code you enter yourself. ■

KIDS move out but left all their stuff behind?
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ELDREDGE

LUMBER & HARDWARE

Portsmouth Sanford York Portland

SCHOOL notes

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan



Sanford educators Terri Gerrish (left) and Kendra Marley (right) are recognized as "Outstanding Early Childhood Professionals" by the Maine Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services.

Photo: Sanford School Department

Two Sanford early childhood educators honored: Terri Gerrish of Sanford Pride Elementary School and Kendra Marley of Carl J. Lamb Elementary School (CJL) were recently recognized as "Outstanding Early Childhood Professionals" during the Week of the Young Child, a celebration highlighting the importance of early childhood education and the professionals who nurture children during this critical developmental stage. The recognition comes as part of a joint initiative between the Maine Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services to honor dedicated professionals who make a meaningful impact on young children and families.

Gerrish's journey through early childhood education has included roles as a preschool teacher, kindergarten teacher, before/after school teacher, home visitor, classroom supervisor, and Pre-K educational technician. Her first 30 years were spent at Head Start, where she was once a student herself during the program's early days. "I wanted to be someone else's light, and I still do," Gerrish explained, noting that her own educational path was influenced by several remarkable teachers, including a great grandmother who taught in a one-room schoolhouse.

Marley joined the Sanford School Department with nine years of teaching experience from a local Head Start program. CJL Principal Sherri Baron highlighted Marley's growth as an educator: "Our district staff and Maine Department of Education - Early Childhood Education team quickly recognized Ms. Marley's natural aptitude for preschool education. We have had the privilege of witnessing her development into a skilled and influential leader both within our district and throughout the state of Maine."

CJL calls in the professionals for Career Day: Students at Carl J. Lamb Elementary School had the opportunity to learn about various careers from a diverse group of local professionals on May 2 during Career Day. The schedule had presenters rotating among different grade levels throughout the day, ensuring that students could learn about multiple careers. The presentations were interactive, allowing children to ask questions and learn about the education, skills, and daily responsibilities required for each profession.

School Resource Officer Joe Jourdain from the Sanford Police Department spoke with Pre-K and first grade students about law enforcement. He discussed not only his job, but the variety of positions in his profession, including being a detective and solving crimes. Brett Williams, managing director of

the Sanford Performing Arts Center, engaged kindergarten students with an interactive presentation about careers in the performing arts. He discussed many different roles — songwriters, singers, actors and dancers as well as behind-the-scenes people who work with lighting and props. Mayor Becky Brink spoke to second-grade students about city government and leadership. Sam Brink discussed nonprofit leadership and her work with Jobs for Maine Graduates.

Also presenting were Rick Smith from the Sanford Fire Department, Andrew Button from Southern Maine Aviation, Allie McCarthy from the Animal Welfare Society, and many others. Students even participated in virtual sessions with Stephen Crowley from Facebook, who discussed coding and video game design with third and fourth graders. Read the full story here. <https://www.sanford.org/article/2186826>

Dance to the music: Grayson's Legacy is holding a Kids/Adult Dance for children in Pre-K through fifth grade on May 17, 4 - 6 pm, at the Acton Elementary School, 700 Milton Mills Road in Acton. Children from all towns are invited, including those who are homeschooled. Attendees can enjoy snacks, water and juice at no charge, and dance to kid-appropriate music. Tickets cost \$10 for two tickets and \$15 for a family of four. The organizers want everyone to be able to attend and ask that people contact them if ticket costs are a barrier to participation. Purchase tickets here via PayPal or Venmo. A cash option will be available at the door.

Latest news from First 10 Sanford: The May newsletter from First 10 Sanford is now available. It includes tips and ac-

tivities to boost early brain development in children ages 0 to 4 years as well as updates on its Spring Play and Learn series and the May Family Calendar from The Basics. The newsletter connects families with valuable early childhood opportunities.

Sanford Rotary honors SRTC Student of the Year nominees: Thirteen students at Sanford Regional Technical Center (SRTC) were celebrated during a breakfast hosted by the Sanford Springvale Rotary Club in the SRTC café. The event honored nominees for SRTC's Student of the Year award, giving Rotary members the opportunity to meet them. Each student received special recognition from the Rotary Club, including cinema passes and tickets to a Sanford Mainers game. SRTC Director Matthew Petermann introduced each nominee with personalized comments from their instructors.

The breakfast showcased student accomplishments, including SkillsUSA competitors like Brianna Keller, who placed 22nd nationally in video production and helped raise nearly \$20,000 for SRTC students to attend competitions in Atlanta. Also featured was Brian Graffam, a local SkillsUSA officer who shared his personal growth through the program. Sanford High School (SHS) was well represented among the nominees. Natalie Green, a senior in the EMT program, exemplified the impact of SRTC's programs. Green earned her Firefighter I & II certification and has already secured a job with the Gorham Fire Department. SHS senior Connor Rice was recognized for his exceptional drive in the Academy of Business program. Rice plans to pursue a degree in business with a focus on music after graduation.

Cont'd next page

Notice of Public Hearings City of Sanford, Maine



MAY 20, 2025
U.S. EPA BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANT
INTERNATIONAL WOOLEN CO. BOILER
HOUSE

On Tuesday May 20, 2025, the City Council of the City of Sanford will hold a public hearing on a United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Brownfields Cleanup Grant at the International Woolen Co. Boiler House, Sanford, Maine site (Tax Map Parcel J29-24). The grant funds will be used for abatement and demolition of the boiler house, cleanup of contaminated soil and/or groundwater, and stabilization of the Pioneer Avenue retaining wall to facilitate the cleanup. A draft Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives (ABCA) has been prepared for this project, which is currently being reviewed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MEDEP) and the U.S. EPA, a requirement of the U.S. EPA Brownfields Cleanup Program.

The meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 919 Main Street, Sanford Maine and can also be accessed by remote methods, pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 403-B(2)(D) and Section 6 of the City Council Rules of Procedure. The draft ABCA detailing the proposed cleanup activities as well as video and teleconference remote login information to participate by remote methods will be published on the City website at www.sanfordmaine.org/meetings with the City Council meeting agenda package on and not necessarily before Saturday May 17, 2025.

Written comments on the draft application can be sent to Keith McBride, Executive Director of the Sanford Regional Economic Growth Council, prior to the hearing by email at kmcbride@sanfordmaine.org.

The meeting will be broadcast live on local cable channel 26, YouTube and Town Hall Streams and archived at www.townhallstreams.com/towns/sanfordme.

PUBLIC NOTICE: NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE

Please take notice that: **Nick Garcia who can be contacted at: 207.727.2302, 1413 Main Street Sanford ME 04073, ngarc0924@gmail.com** is intending to file a Beverage Container Redemption Center permit application with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to the provisions of Manufacturers, Distributors and Dealers of Beverage Containers 38 M.R.S. §§ 3101-3119, 06-096 ch. 426 Responsibilities under the Returnable Beverage Container Law, and 06-096 C.M.R. ch. 2 Processing of Applications and Other Administrative Matters on or about: 05-12-2025.

The application is for a new Redemption Center to collect beverage containers and redeem deposits in the town of: Sanford, Maine at the following address: 1413 Main Street Sanford, Maine 04073.

A request for a public hearing in accordance with 06-096 ch. 2 § 7 must be received by the Department in writing no later than 20 days after the application is deemed complete and accepted for processing. A public hearing may or may not be held at the discretion of the Commissioner.

The application will be filed for public inspection at the Department of Environmental Protection's office located at 28 Tyson Drive, in Augusta. A copy of the application may also be seen at the municipal office located at 919 Main Street Sanford Maine 04073.

Public comment on the application will be accepted throughout the application processing period. Written public comments may be sent by email to BubbleBill.DEP@maine.gov or by mail to: Maine DEP, Bottle Bill, 17 State House Station, Augusta, Maine 04333-0017.

For more information on how to submit public comments with the DEP, please see: <https://www.maine.gov/dep/comment/index.html>.

Honored as the 2025 SRTC Student of the Year was Devenny Brickett, a junior at Massabesic High School (MHS) and in the SRTC Health Occupations program. Her journey toward earning her Certified Nursing Assistant license has been marked by punctuality, kindness and time management skills, according to Brickett's Health Occupations instructor Jenna Holmes. Brickett later participated in a statewide recognition ceremony on May 3 at Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor. She joined 26 other Student of the Year recipients — one selected from each of Maine's 27 Career and Technical Education centers — being honored while her parents, MHS Assistant Principal Scott Lavertu and SRTC's Petermann watched on from the audience. Read the full story here. <https://www.sanford.org/article/2185850>

Sanford school happenings: For more news from the Sanford School Department, including student achievements, educator recognition, and other school activities, read the latest edition of the Sanford Spotlight Newsletter here. <https://tinyurl.com/5t-4jhe69> ■

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PASSAGES

Compiled by Rev. Susan Murphy

Frank Roy Marshall Noble, 67, of Sanford, passed away unexpectedly on April 27, 2025, at his home. Frank was born in Lewiston on Aug. 4, 1957, to Ellsworth Noble and Shirley Camacho. He was preceded in death by his parents and three sisters, Brenda Jean Mccollough, Julie Ann Byron, and Irene Karen Perez. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. ■



SCHOOL COMMITTEE REPORT - Cont'd from page 1

several options for replacing the bleachers, but the cost proved too high to be absorbed by either the municipal or school budget. Committee members acknowledged the stadium's historical significance and expressed regret, while noting the prohibitive expenses. Chairwoman Amy Sevigny said she believes it would take an extensive, community-led effort not only to replace the bleachers but also to upgrade the deteriorating track.

The city is now considering replacing the bleachers with landscaping, allowing spectators to bring their own chairs. The School Department may seek funding for a smaller section of bleachers to accommodate Sanford Middle School's needs. Despite the changes, the goal is for Cobb Stadium to remain a valuable community and school asset.

Also at the May 5 meeting: Changes at SRTC:

Sanford Regional Technical School Director Matt Petermann presented an integrated pathways plan for partner schools at the SRTC. A new law allows students to earn core credits while attending SRTC programs. Standards have been developed that enable students to earn credits over two years in their tech-

nical program as well as core subjects. Previously, some students could not return for year two because they needed to earn more core credits for graduation.

Also, Petermann proposed adding a nail technician program at the SRTC. Recently, 59 applications were received for only 16 spots in the current two-year cosmetology program. If the School Committee approves, the State of Maine would accept an application for another program for the 26/27 school year. If that application is approved, a subsidy would be provided up front for the first three years with enrollment determining continued reimbursement thereafter. The nail technician program is a one-year program with the potential of doubling the capacity in cosmetology to 32 students a year. The School Committee unanimously approved pursuing the application.

Athletics: Athletic Director Zach Lemelin reviewed the winter sports season and provided a comprehensive look at the spring season and the participation numbers for each sport. He also provided an overview of upcoming events for the athletes and their families.

Superintendent Matt Nelson congratulated Lemelin for re-

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ceiving the Rising Star Award by the Maine Interscholastic Administrators Association. It's a statewide award recognizing outstanding leadership. Committee Member Paula Cote expressed appreciation for Lemelin bringing his ideas, such as the Hall of Honor, to fruition and for hosting regional events here in Sanford.

P-K enrollment: Assistant Superintendent Steve Bussiere provided an update about pre-kindergarten enrollment. He said 109 of the children who were invited to register for the lottery in April have been enrolled. There is now a waiting list of 42 children for the remaining three slots. Some are from the original lottery and others have signed up since then. Enrolled students have been invited to attend a P-K exploration event at the school they will attend.

Curriculum updates: Curriculum Director Beth Lambert gave an overview of the summer school reading and math programs as well as the special education extended school year program. Both will run from July 7 to July 30, 8 am to noon, four days a week. Breakfast and lunch will be served, and bus transportation is available.

The full May 5 School Committee meeting may be viewed here: <https://tinyurl.com/yubp4yh7> ■

REAL ESTATE Transactions

Compiled by Carolyn Cadigan

4/24, 12 Central Ave., 6-room New Englander, 3 bed/1 bath, high ceilings, new floors, unfinished basement, off-street parking, covered porch, small deck, shed, \$310,000



12 Central Ave (4/24 closing, listed left) Photo: Google

4/28, 1 Boothby Ave., 5-room Ranch, double-wide manufactured home, 3 bed/2 bath, primary bedroom with ensuite, new windows, unfinished basement, deck, off-street parking, sheds, fenced-in backyard, \$307,900

whole-house generator, on quiet cul-de-sac, .94 acre, \$465,000

4/29, 13 Redwood Lane, 4-room Ranch, 3 bed/2 bath, primary bedroom with ensuite, laundry on first floor, crawl space, attached 2-car garage, deck, fenced-in yard,

5/2, 22 Leo St., 4-room Ranch, single wide manufactured home, 2 bed/2 bath, laundry room, slab, off-street parking, Guillemette's Mobile Home Park, built in 2021, \$128,000 ■

COMMUNITY CALENDAR - Cont'd from page 7

Friday, May 16

- Toddler Time @ SCAE, 9 am, 668 Main St.
- Salvation Army Food Pantry - produce, meats, breads, pastries, 9 am, 871 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
- 2nd Annual Spring Fling Luau Dance, 5 pm, Sanford Elks, 13 Elm St.

Saturday, May 17

- Sanford Farmers' Market, 8 am, Central Park, 920 Main St.
- Vendor craft fair @ St. George's Episcopal Church, 9 am, 3 Emerson St.
- Corner Cupboard, 10 am, Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church, 5 Lebanon St.
- Grahamtastic Auction & Celebration, 4 pm, The Lincoln Hotel, 17 Lincoln St., Biddeford
- Rolling Thunder May Buffet, 4:30 pm, VFW Post 9935, 1 Hutchinson St.

Sunday, May 18

- Franco-American singer Josée Vachon @ Sanford Springvale Historical Society, 3 pm, 505 Main St., Springvale

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



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photo of the week

Downtown Sanford on a cloudy day Photo: Josh McPhail

Send your local photo for consideration to submissions@sanfordspringvalenews.com.

We especially like bright photos with people living life.

Be sure to let us know where the photo was taken, who the photographer is and who is in the picture.

Correction:

We apologize for a few errors in last week's story about Becky Jackson receiving one of Hannaford's "Outstanding Women" awards. Becky and her mother, Journey, co-founded the organization, It Takes A Village, together. Also, Journey's last name was incorrect as she does not use a last name. Linda Fairbrother's last name was also incorrect.

Enjoy Traditional Franco-American Music

Press Release

Franco-American singer Josée Vachon will be performing French Canadian rhythm and songs at the Sanford-Springvale Historical Museum, 505 Main St., Springvale, on Sunday, May 18 at 3:00 pm. Doors open at 2:15 pm.

Born in Québec and raised in Maine, Josée Vachon shares her Franco-American upbringing through traditional and contemporary folksongs from Québec and Acadia and through her own compositions. With 12 solo recordings to her credit, Ms. Vachon continues to perform and record the music that best represents her love of Franco-American culture. You won't want to miss this concert!

The Museum is located at 505 Main Street in Springvale and is handicapped accessible. Tickets are \$20.00 for ages 18 and up. Children are admitted at no charge. They may be purchased at josee-vachon.eventbrite.com. They may also be purchased at the door just prior to the event or during museum hours (Fridays 10:00 am – 4:00 pm and Saturdays 10:00 am – 1:00 pm), or by calling 207-651-1980. ■

Josée Vachon
 FRENCH-CANADIAN
 RHYTHM & SONGS

May 18, 2025
 3:00 PM

Sanford-Springvale
 Historical Museum

505 Main Street, Springvale, ME
 SanfordHistory.org