

REPORTER

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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SANFORD



COURTESY IMAGE

Declaration of Emergency at Sanford's woolen mill

On Oct. 8, Sanford City Manager Steven Buck issued a Declaration of Emergency and ordered the temporary closure of a portion of Heritage Crossing, including the affected sidewalks, due to ongoing public safety concerns at the International Woolen Mill Complex.

The closure restricts unauthorized vehicle and pedestrian traffic between the crosswalks at the eastern and western ends of the complex, with access limited to emergency personnel and other authorized individuals. Concrete barriers have been placed to restrict access to the roadway, while purple paint markings and No Trespassing signs have been posted around the property. Under Maine law, purple paint markings serve as a legally recognized notice that access to the property is prohibited without authorization, reinforcing the No Trespassing signs posted around the complex.

At a Special City Council Meeting on Oct. 13, the Council voted to extend the declaration and continue the closure until public safety hazards have been sufficiently addressed.

Ongoing city efforts

The emergency declaration is part of months of ongoing efforts by the City of Sanford to address public safety concerns

(Continued on page 13)



Limerick Historical Society's witches will be at the old Congregational Church on Saturday, Oct. 31 from 3-5 p.m. Games, treats a small haunted rooms. Come if you dare! COURTESY PHOTO

Saco River Wildlife Center's new home

By CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

The Saco River Wildlife Center is a wildlife medical and rehabilitation center, located in Limington, caring for injured, ill and orphaned animals from the surrounding communities and sometimes across the state.

Saco River Wildlife Center began in 2015, in the basement of director Bethany Brown's house on River Road in Limington. By 2022, so many animals had been treated, Brown and her team realized that they just didn't have enough room at that location.

In 2023, they were able to purchase a house on Christian Hill Road, the former Runs with Wolves sanctuary, with 19 acres of land, giving them space to expand and grow. But the house, built in 1786, had fallen into disrepair, and needed a lot of work, having been left empty for some time. So cleanup and restoration began a year later, in 2024. The foundation needed to be fixed up with the original rocks and made watertight, Brown explained. The floor needed to be jacked up and poured. And lots of construction work was done. "We left as much of the original floor plan as we could," Brown said, "and maintained the original structure."

By July 2025, the first floor was complete and the center re-



Founder and Director of Saco River Wildlife, Bethany Brown caring for an injured skunk at the center. COURTESY PHOTO

ceived their occupancy permit and were ready for the center to move in. The second floor was completed in 2026. Each floor contains "crates" where animals

(Continued on page 9)

YORK COUNTY



COURTESY IMAGE

Habitat York County to break ground on largest-ever affordable housing project

Habitat for Humanity York County invites the community to celebrate the creation of a new five-home neighborhood on Island Avenue in Sanford at a free Community Lunch and Groundbreaking Celebration on Saturday, Oct. 24, from noon to 2 p.m. The project is being made possible with tremendous generosity and support from the City of Sanford, the State of Maine, and many individuals, volunteers, and community partners.

The family-friendly event will feature a hot dog lunch and Halloween goodie bags for guests, young and young at heart(!) in costume. At 1 p.m., neighbors, supporters, volunteers, and future homeowners will gather for a ceremonial groundbreaking to celebrate the five affordable homes planned for the site.

Construction is slated to begin in November. The development is Habitat York County's largest homebuilding project to date and will expand access to affordable homeownership for five local families.

Homeowners have been selected for two of the homes, and applications are open for the remaining three. Habitat homebuyers, earning between 50 and 80 percent of area median income, purchase their homes with affordable mortgages and partner with Habitat throughout the process, including helping build their

(Continued on page 3)



Delivering results for York County

- ✓ Saved regional food pantry
- ✓ Built regional public safety training center
- ✓ Constructing regional substance use recovery center
- ✓ Supplied deputies with body cameras & defibrillators

CommissionerChenette.com

PAID FOR & AUTHORIZED BY JUSTIN CHENETTE



Community CALENDAR



Email non-profit event listings to: news@waterbororeporter.com

COMING EVENTS

PARSONSFIELD SEMINARY'S HAUNTED HOUSE Oct. 24 6:30-9 p.m. at 504 North Road (Route 160) Parsonsfeld. Free parking and Snack Shack on site. We take cash and Venmo. We are a tax exempt nonprofit organization. FMI (207) 625 4449. Scare you there!

"NOT BEFORE BEDTIME," a Past-Times Theatre production of Victorian tales of mystery and suspense, Saturday, Oct. 24 at 4:30 p.m. at Mousam Lake Pavilion, 25 Back Road, Shapleigh. Tickets \$10 each; children 16 and under are free. As the nights draw in, beneath flickering oil lamps, our Victorian ancestors enjoyed nothing more than being read stories, taking them on a journey of mystery, intrigue and suspense! You are invited to join British Actor, Andrew Harris in his Dickensian portrayal of one of the greatest storytellers of all time. Presented by the Acton Shapleigh Historical Society. FMI and tickets, visit www.actonshapleigh.org.

PROGRAMS FOR NEW AND EXPECTANT MOTH-

ERS The Waterboro Public Library is hosting Mallory Gott, a physical therapist with Maine-Health Physical and Occupational Therapy in Waterboro. Join Mallory to learn about the following physical therapy topics related to child development. Thursday, Oct. 29 5:30-6:30 p.m. "Getting A-Head on Torticollis: Tips to improve your child's head movement" and learn about what torticollis and plagiocephaly is. Tuesday, Nov. 17 5:30-6:30 p.m. "Toe Walking Tips: helping your child walk with flat feet" and why it is important that they learn to walk this way. The library is located at 187 Main Street, East Waterboro. Programs are held downstairs in the Community Room. For more information, call 247-3363 or email us at librarian@waterborolibrary.org. All programs are free and open to the public.

Mayo Street Arts will host **HECK HOUSE'S SUPER SPOOKY HAUNTED HOUSE: LOST IN THE WOODS EDITION** in Portland from Friday, Oct. 30 through Sunday, Nov. 1. This Portland-based artist collective creates a unique and immersive experience for their audience by subverting the concept of a big box haunted house and creating a space full of handmade crea-

tures, sets, sounds, and characters that can't be found anywhere else. This haunt is proof that in an increasingly menacing world—where it seems like all we can be is scared—joy can still be found. Open from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 30, 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 31, and 5 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 1. Visit www.mayostreetarts.org for ticket links and more information.

SHAPLEIGH TRUNK OR TREAT Saturday, Oct. 31 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Shapleigh Community Center, 24 Back Road, Shapleigh.

Join us at the Lyman Community Library on Tuesday, Nov. 3 at 6pm for a **JIGSAW PUZZLE TOURNAMENT**. Teams of 2-4 people race against the clock—and each other—to see who can finish assembling their 500-piece puzzle first. 10 John Street, Lyman. Call the library at 207-499-7114 to pre-register.

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR The YMCA Trafton Senior Center is holding a holiday craft fair. Admission is free, and the event will feature local crafts, hot dogs, hot soup lunch, cookie boxes, and more. The event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 to 2 p.m. at the YMCA Trafton Senior Center, 19 Elm St., Sanford. For more information, call the Trafton Center at 457-0080.

ONGOING EVENTS

MAHJONG every Wednesday 10 a.m. to noon at the Acton Public Library, 35 H Road. Please bring a set if you have one. Open to new and experienced players.

CRIBBAGE CLUB Wednesdays, from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Lyman Community Library. All ages, all skill levels. FMI: 207-499-7114.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEWFIELD, 64 Elm Street in Newfield will be open every Tuesday in August from 10 a.m. to noon and then again from 5 to 6 p.m. for visitors.

WRITING GROUP opened to all levels and genres. Meetings first and third Fridays of the month, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Hollis Center Library, 14 Little Falls Road. Call 929-6817 FMI.

ACTON SEED LIBRARY Acton Public Library has its own seed catalogue. If you would like to donate some seeds or pick them up, you can stop by the Acton library at 35 H Rd.

ALFRED VILLAGE MUSEUM current museum display is Alfred Minutemen—250 years. Museum open Wednesdays and Saturdays, 2 to 4 p.m. through September. Any questions contact Bruce Tucker, Alfred Historical Committee, 324-5441.

ADULT COED VOLLEYBALL every Wednesday night at the Line School, 818 Water Street, West Newfield, from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. Questions? contact Dan McAllister at 247-8857.

CHESS MATES at Limerick Public Library, 55 Washington Street, Limerick. Play chess with old or new friends 2nd Wed each month at 6 p.m. **DROP-IN LEGO BUILD** every Tuesday at 3 p.m. and Sat. at 10 a.m. FMI-793-8975 or limericklibrary.org. Enjoy building a creation with our LEGO collection.

WRITERS GROUP: All levels and genres are welcome for readings and friendly discussions. From 2 to 4 p.m. on second and fourth Fridays of every month at the Limerick Public Library, Washington Street, Limerick.

RED HAT LADIES Women 50+ enjoy comradery, card games, meals out, bowling, mini golf, movies etc. Tuesday card games at 12:30 p.m.: Pay Me & Scat. Bring a snack to share. Take turns meeting at member's homes; you are not obligated to offer your home. FMI Diane Dunn 229-6135.

ARTISTS OPEN STUDIO on Wednesdays from 1-4 p.m. at the Parsons Memorial Library, located at 27 Saco Road, Alfred.

KIDS' CRAFTS AT THE LYMAN COMMUNITY LIBRARY Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 11 a.m. Upcoming projects: Painted Veggie Stones and Owl Pellet Dissection. Supplies provided, free to the public. FMI contact the library at 499-7114, 10 John Street, Lyman.

WEDNESDAY STORY HOUR The Acton Public Library holds Story Hour every Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. Come meet other caregivers while your children make new friends. The Acton Public Library is located at 35 H Road, Acton.

ST. VINCENT DEPAUL THRIFT SHOP Open Wednesdays 12:30-2:30 p.m. at St. James Hall, Biddeford (use South Street entrance). Monies raised help those in need in York County. FMI Bob 229 2551.

FREE MEN'S GROUP, every Wednesday beginning at 6:30pm at 114 East Shore Drive in Acton (The Kita Center). Stay; Man to Man Peer Support offers an open, confidential, and supportive environment for men to gather to discuss life's stressors. Peer facilitated, and comfortable. FMI visit www.stayforlife.org and click on programs

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS meets every Friday evening, 7 p.m. at the Waterboro Town Hall, West parking lot entrance. All are welcome.

BUXTON TOPS The Buxton Chapter (0175) of the non-profit group Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) Support Group meets every Thursday morning at 8:45 a.m. for weigh-in and meeting at Buxton Center Baptist Church (back door entrance), 938 Long Plains Rd., Buxton. FMI Christy 329-1020.

LIMERICK TOPS The Limerick Chapter 208 meets every Thursday at 4 p.m. at St. Matthew Catholic Church (rear entrance) at 19 Dora Lane, Limerick. Call Kathy Harriman at 727-3729 with questions.

LYMAN TOPS meets every Thursday night at 5 p.m. at Beacon of Hope Community Church, 1298 Alfred Road, (Route 111), Arundel. For more information email jjstearns@sacoriver.net.

SANFORD TOPS Chapter 0113 meets every Wednesday night at 5:30 p.m. at the Crossroads Church at 15 Grammar Road, Sanford. For more info call Linda Rose at 206-6234.

TOPS SANFORD 0207 at the Willard School 668 Main St. Weigh in from 9-9:45 a.m. on Fridays with the meeting to follow. For more info call Gloria Richer at 284-3748.

(Suppers listed on Page 11)

Keywood Manor Activities Council
CRAFT FAIR & BAKE SALE
Saturday, Nov. 7, 9am-2pm
85 Pools Crossing Rd., Alfred

**Francis Small Heritage Trust
Annual Meeting**

Guest Speaker: Maulian Bryant
Executive Director, Wabanaki Alliance

Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026 ~ 7:00 PM
Business Meeting starts at 6:30 PM
Kezar Falls Theater (home of Smooth Feather films)
21 Main Street, Porter, ME
Free and open to the public. All are invited to attend.
Also featuring a short Smooth Feather film about FSHT

LYMAN

Community Rides receives DRIVE-ME Mini-Grant to help launch a free volunteer driver program for eligible Lyman residents

Community Rides has received a \$5,000 mini-grant from DRIVE-ME, a statewide effort that supports volunteer ride programs across Maine. The grant will fund Community Rides’ launch and startup materials.

Community Rides gives free rides to Lyman residents aged 60+ and persons with mobility disabilities regardless of age. Volunteer drivers take riders to and from medical appointments, covering facilities from York to Portland.

With the grant, Community Rides will purchase necessities to launch the program, with a projected start in early 2027. These funds will help secure a dedicated web page, purchase office equipment and driver safety kits. We will also be focused on recruiting volunteer drivers and schedule coordinators.

“Aging in place means living with dignity, connection, and peace of mind,” said Katrina Randall, President of Community Rides. “This program isn’t just about driving someone to an appointment; it’s about removing barriers to healthcare and letting our neighbors know their community supports them every step of the way. We are extremely grateful for the support of Lifelong Maine and grant funding from DRIVE-ME.”

“Volunteer drivers help their neighbors get to the doctor or medical treatments,” said Chelsea Chapman, Program Manager of the DRIVE-ME project. “We are glad to support Community Rides and the drivers who make these rides possible.”

DRIVE-ME is a partnership between Maine’s volunteer transportation programs, the Governor’s Cabinet on Aging, Lifelong Maine and the University of Maine Center on Aging. It is funded through Rural Health Transportation Access funding. In 2026, DRIVE-ME awarded mini-grants to 24 volunteer ride programs across Maine.

To request a ride or volunteer, contact Community Rides at CommunityRidesME@gmail.com.

To learn more about DRIVE-ME, visit lifelongmaine.org/volunteer-transport.



Jigsaw puzzle tournament

There’s still room for a few more teams for the Nov. 3 Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament at the Lyman Community Library.

Teams of 2 to 4 people will all race to complete matching puzzles, and the winning team will

win an entirely different puzzle.

Doors open at 5:45 p.m. and the puzzling begins promptly at 6 p.m. Participants who sign up as singles/pairs may be matched with other singles/pairs.

Space is limited and pre-registration is required. For more information, swing by the library at 10 John Street, Lyman, or call 499-7114.

HABITAT

(Continued from page 1)

homes.

The application deadline is Friday, Oct. 30, 2026. For eligibility requirements and application details, visit www.habitatyorkcounty.org/home-ownership.

Application Info. packets: are available at many locations around York County, including Sanford’s Goodall Library, the Sanford branches of Kennebunk Savings and Light House Credit Union, and Partners Bank branch offices in Sanford, So. Sanford, Springvale, Buxton and Waterboro Branches,

Saco & Biddeford Savings Bank in Saco, Biddeford, and Old Orchard Beach, and at the Kennebunk Free Library, Libby Memorial Library in Old Orchard Beach and McArthur Public Library in Biddeford.

Qualified applicants can purchase a new, attractive, energy-efficient home featuring heat pumps, stainless-steel appliances, and full basements with monthly mortgage payments capped at 29–30% of household income, and may be as low as \$1,250/mo.

Since its founding in 1985, Habitat for Humanity York County has built 40 homes for partner families throughout York County. Habitat homebuyers purchase their homes through an affordable mortgage. HfHYC monthly mortgage payments are designed to be no more than ~ 29 % of household income. Homeowner partnership with Habitat York County also requires participation in home construction, known as “sweat equity,” and offers additional support including financial education. In addition, the organization offers (no-cost) essential home weatherization and safe mobility repairs and upgrades to low-income

homeowners 55 + and those living with disabilities. Habitat for Humanity York County believes everyone deserves a decent, affordable, and safe place to call home.

FAIR HOUSING: Habitat for Humanity York County is committed to the principles of equal housing opportunity. The selection of future homebuyers is conducted in a manner that does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, or familial status. All applicant information is treated as confidential and used solely for the purpose of determining program eligibility.

Contact me with any state related questions.

(207) 283-5729

John.eder@maine.legislature.gov

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SHAPLEIGH

Joanne Bargioni

joannebargioni@gmail.com

Shapleigh survey

The Town of Shapleigh is holding a Shapleigh Municipal Climate Vulnerability Assessment Survey. You can enter to win one of three gift cards to local area restaurants by taking the survey. To better prepare, Shapleigh is developing the Municipal Climate Vulnerability Assessment in partnership with Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission. The assessment will identify how climate, extreme weather, and other extreme hazards will affect Shapleigh in the future.

Go to the Town of Shapleigh website to take the survey and share your experiences, concerns, and perspectives on climate hazards in Shapleigh. It only takes a few minutes. Drawings will be held on Nov. 15.

Advertise:

ads@waterboro-reporter.com

SPRINGVALE LIBRARY NEWS

Springvale Public Library, 443 Main St., is hosting a Spree of Trees event and Craft Night on Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 5:30 p.m. The Spree of Trees runs from Dec. 3 - 6 at the Memorial Gym, 678 Main Street, Sanford, and the library is excited to get the tree ready. Join them in making book-page gingerbread house ornaments and a star garland. Make some and take some home for yourself. All supplies will be provided. Bring a friend if you wish.

Springvale Public Library is now accepting book donations. They cannot accept dusty books, musty books, or textbooks. You can drop them off at the front desk at Springvale Library, 443 Main Street.

The library is hosting an Ooey Goey Sensory Haunted House on Oct. 30 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Join them for after-school Halloween-themed activities featuring spooky sensory experiences and fun treats. Costumes welcomed. Suggested for ages 3-12.

Visit www.springvalelibrary.org for a full activities list.



Growth Zone and Road Funding

My name is David Mongeau. I am the unenrolled candidate for District 141 in the Maine State Legislature covering Springvale, Shapleigh, and Newfield.

One of the things that could dramatically affect the character of Towns like Newfield, and Shapleigh are the series of legislative decisions affecting development and density. Neither town meets the requirements for exemptions under the State rules for a Comprehensive plan, and that Plan must include a Growth Zone. That Growth Zone must allow a certain amount of density.

I would like to propose two specific ideas that would help small towns guide the process to maintain as much home rule over the process as they can.

Intermodal Transportation Hubs (Think parking garage meets the Jetsons)

One of the biggest constraints to development in cities and towns across America is “parking.” One of the key problems with the density rules proposed is it removes any parking requirements for developers. Instead of waiting for that to happen in every new growth zone across the State, I propose that the State help to develop a hub that is money making infrastructure owned by each city or town. This would be part of the town like a fire station or a town hall.

The business model of these hubs would be defined by the needs of the Comprehensive Plan, but here are some ideas. I know some of these things are not here yet, but they are coming, and helping our municipalities prepare for the future is how we are going to keep being a great place to live, and supply the housing we need to develop.

Road funding:

With density comes more traffic. One thing I support is adding a per mile tax to electric vehicles that is comparable to the gas tax so that the burden of road funding matches the use.

I believe we need to think of our roads as multi-level transportation corridors and apply a similar regime to drones, and flying taxis. Flying vehicles may not use the black top, but for the foreseeable future their services are going to be dependent on the data cables beside, or underneath the road, that can only be accessed by the road.

Right now the development plans are tied to water and sewerage infrastructure. I would like to add transportation infrastructure to that.

Business lines:

- Traditional parking spaces
- Charging stations for personal transit vehicles (bikes and scooter and...whatever’s next.
- Parking/Charging zones for driverless cars, delivery drones
- Landing/Storage/Charging zones for evtol vehicles (flying taxis and drones)

The two goals for this program are:

1. To remove a common constraint to development
2. To supply sources of revenue to maintain the structure.

Please check out my article on Protecting Mainers in the New Economy in the Sanford Springvale News and Check out my website for past articles. Next week I will have a summary of proposals that I will put in if I am honored by being your choice to represent us in Augusta.

DAVID R. MONGEAU • Candidate State Legislature District 141

Email: votefordave141@gmail.com • 207-432-4552

Learn more at www.votefordave141.com

This ad was paid for by the campaign to elect David Mongeau with MCEA funds.

LETTERS

Support for Tilburg

Before heading to the polls on Nov. 3, Hollis and Buxton voters need to be aware of the 2026 Maine Policy Blueprint. Published by the ultra-conservative Maine Policy Institute, this agenda lays out a deeply troubling wish list for how our state should be run – and it reads remarkably like a local version of Project 2025.

Among its core proposals are massive funding cuts to vital services we all rely on. It details plan to roll back water quality funding by 15%, eliminate adult and special education funding, and strip resources away from public schools in favor of charter programs. It slashes funding for cancer and heart disease research, repeals our paid family medical leave, and cuts back on Medicaid and food assistance. While cutting these critical safety nets, it prioritizes a tax rollback for single filers making over \$1 million.

We cannot afford to let this blueprint become Maine’s reality. In the race for House District 137, Charles Tilburg is running as a candidate who rejects these extreme ideas. Charles is a scientist and educator dedicated to protecting our natural resources and keeping our communities affordable. His Republican opponent represents the very party championing these cuts.

Please join me in voting for Charles Tilburg to protect the future of Hollis and Buxton.

– Jane Charron
Hollis Center

Vote ‘yes’ to appoint treasurer

Please vote “yes” on the referendum to abolish the part-time elected York County Treasurer position and allow York County Commissioners to appoint a treasurer.

An independent auditing firm recently gave our county an “A” grade and we can put that down to sound financial management on the part of our professional finance manager and staff, with oversight by county management and the elected board of county commissioners.

The county hired its first professional finance director in 2007, after the discovery of a \$1.2 million deficit. With a lot of hard work, the county’s financial problem was solved.

Commissioners at that time also established rules and requirements for fund balances, and made sure independent financial audits were conducted annually.

The elected York County Budget Committee, made up of a group of citizens and elected municipal officials, has the final vote on the annual budget. Decisions regarding investments and similar matters are made by the finance director in consultation with county commissioners and management.

Maine Title 30-A states: “The county commissioners have final authority over the operation of all county offices by elected or appointed county officials,” except in counties where there is a personnel board. The statute says the county treasurer acts with the approval of the county commissioners or with the advice and consent of the county commissioners.

The statute requires only that the part-time elected treasurer be a county resident. The statute does require that county treasurers who are appointed by county commissioners “be qualified in matters of business administration and finance.” Voters in Cumberland County, Androscoggin and Knox counties all appoint their county treasurers, having undergone the referendum process some time ago.

Commissioners in Franklin and Washington counties are also asking their voters to abolish the elected county treasurer position and allow commissioners to appoint a treasurer. We have a professional staff in place. York County undergoes annual independent audits.

There is oversight. The budget committee asks questions and gets answers.

The audits and budgets are online for all to see. You can find them at: www.yorkcountymaine.gov/finance.

– Richard Clark
York County Commissioner

Winds of change blow

Election Day is in under two weeks, including elections for Governor, among other offices. Candidates for Governor and ME Legislature have much to address, fix and resolve on numerous issues at the State level. Mainers have very important State level choices for Gubernatorial leadership. We need better Gubernatorial and Legislative leadership, with better executive and legislative oversight and management of ME State Government. The status quo of continued poor executive and legislative leadership and management isn’t OK nor acceptable. Meaningful changes are necessary, for the betterment of Maine people and our state. The Gubernatorial candidates vary in leadership experience, skills and management, including fiscal management, oversight and responsibility. We need performance audits, program reviews, etc. of ALL state-managed programs, with reorganization and improvements to deliverable services for Mainers, including deliverables of social services. Concurrently, we must address and root out fraud, misuse and theft of taxpayer funds. Failure to do so with the recurring status quo won’t meet these requirements.

Our State-Level politicians fell short of many expectations, including governmental bureaucracy issues. Maine’s issues and problems from this current State Administration need to be fully addressed, fixed and remedied. Examples include: unpaid, unresolved claims for social services and other support, including SNAP, unemployment, among others, during and after the COVID Pandemic. Also, worsening taxation with higher property taxes and others and declining quality of education, with

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be no political letters published on Oct. 29, the issue prior to the Nov. 3 election. Political letters run as space allows. The opinions expressed on these pages are not necessarily those of the Reporter or its contributors.

higher utility costs, are all important issues needing real solutions. This State administration and legislatures woefully failed Mainers, falling short of all expectations on State-level constituent services, including social services issues. That must be fully addressed. Additionally, State services and constituent services need major improvements. We still need program reviews for Government now. Who will support this and do so? It appears that Bobby Charles is the best candidate of choice. He has executive experience, including at the federal level, with problem solving experience and skills, and best understands governmental operations. Other candidates still fall short on this. Also, the other candidates had many opportunities and amble time to address, fix and remedy these State government issues. They failed to do so, falling woefully short of all expectations. Mainers can’t afford to have more of the same thing continuing to happen in Augusta.

In closing, the winds of change are blowing this election cycle. Meaningful changes are needed with improvements in governmental operations and state services to Mainers. “Failure is not an option”. We must elect a new Governor with experience and common sense vs. more of the usual bureaucratic nonsense. In addition, we must elect responsible representatives and senators for the Maine Legislature. Please carefully consider all of this prior to voting in November. Let’s fix Maine and make it a better state.

– David Hall
Cornish

ATTENTION ALFRED VOTERS
Important Municipal Referendum

Copy of the Official Ballot is available on the Town of Alfred website.

Vote YES on November 3, 2026 to:

Require the following meetings and public hearings be recorded, archived and made accessible for live and on-demand viewing. And, to appropriate \$5,950 for the cost of the service to implement these recordings, starting January 1, 2027

- The Annual Town Meeting and Special Town Meetings
 - Select Board Meetings and Public Hearings
 - Planning Board Meetings and Public Hearings
- Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings and Public Hearings

Alfred citizens deserve open access to town government to ensure that public meetings are truly public, anytime and anywhere.

Vote YES on November 3, 2026

THIS ADVERTISEMENT PAID FOR BY SUE MESICK AND ELISSA BREWSTER

TOWN OF ALFRED
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

FOR: Gorham Sand & Gravel – Mark Curtis
939 Parker Farm Road, Buxton, Maine 04093
Tax Map 004, Lots 43, 45, 46, 60

PUBLIC HEARING: Monday, Nov. 23, 2026, at 7:00 pm
at York County Courthouse, 45 Kennebunk Rd, Alfred

An Application for Administrative Appeal has been submitted by the aforementioned applicant for Relief from the decision, or lack of decision, of the Planning Board in regard to an application for a permit. The complete application is available for review in the Code Enforcement Office at Alfred Town Hall during regular business hours and an electronic copy is available on the Town website, Boards & Committees, Zoning Board of Appeals, Public Hearings page. For more information, contact Code Enforcement Officer Steve Fortier at (207) 324-5872, x 206, or Holly Paquette at (207) 324-5872, x 210.

TOWN OF ALFRED
Absentee Ballots are available
for the November 3, 2026
STATE OF MAINE
GENERAL ELECTION &
MUNICIPAL REFERENDUM

Registered voters or immediate family members may request an absentee ballot in person, in writing, or by phone. Voters with an Ongoing Absentee Status will automatically get their ballots mailed to them.

If you are interested in this option, please call the Town Clerk for more information, or visit Alfredme.gov.
The last day to obtain an Absentee Ballot is Thursday, October 29, 2026 unless the voter qualifies for “Special Circumstances.”

POLLS WILL BE OPEN November 3, 2026
from 8:00AM-8:00PM at Alfred Elementary
School, 21 Sanford Road, Alfred.

The Registrar of Voters will be available M-Th 8:15-4:30 to register voters. You may also register on the day of election.
Please bring a photo I.D. and proof of residency.

SARAH HEWITT, TOWN CLERK
PO Box 850, 16 SACO ROAD, ALFRED, ME 04002
(207) 324-5872 x204 • Shewitt@alfredme.gov

Write
to us!



Send your
letters, recipes,
photos, poems
& stories to:

news@waterboro-reporter.com

Please include name, town and phone number (for verification).

WATERBORO

Tractor Supply Grand Opening Oct. 24

Rural lifestyle retailer offers extensive assortment of pet food, animal feed, power tools, lawn and garden center and apparel



Tractor Supply Company (NASDAQ: TSCO), the largest rural lifestyle retailer in the United States, today announced it will celebrate its Grand Opening in Waterboro from Saturday, October 24 through Wednesday, October 28. Starting Saturday at 8 a.m. there will be a mini donkey, cow and highland cow available for a meet-and-great! Throughout the weekend, customers can enjoy hot deals storewide, including 10% off their entire purchase, daily giveaways and more. “At Tractor Supply, we are passionate about serving the needs of those who enjoy the Out Here lifestyle. Homeowners, livestock and pet owners, gardeners, hobby farmers, ranchers, tradesmen and others rely on Tractor Supply for a wide assortment of products,” said the store manager of the Waterboro Tractor Supply store. “We’re excited to call Waterboro home and serve the community with the essentials you need to live life on your own terms. We’re proud to hire our customers as Team Members. As experts in the lifestyle, they bring more value to our custom-

ers with every interaction.” The Garden Center at the Waterboro store carries top brands including Scotts Miracle-Gro and Bonnie Plants, and features an expanded assortment of annuals and perennials, shrubs and decorative plants, fruit trees, vegetables and herbs. Expert gardeners with years of experience and balcony gardeners alike can find a full range of supplies to get started at the Garden Center. The Garden Center also has the tools to make gardening easier, including pots and planters, fertilizer, soil and gardening hand tools. Other items like greenhouses, lawn tools and equipment, mowers, trimmers, edgers and more can be found for landscaping projects. The new store comes equipped with a Pet Wash where pet owners can enjoy a convenient washing station stocked with professional grade equipment and high-quality products. The Pet Wash has elevated wash bays, grooming tables, specialty shampoos, use of brushes, combs and towels as well as a waterproof apron and professional dry-

- er, all for just \$9.99.
- Customers in Waterboro can now rely on Tractor Supply for:
- A wide range of products such as zero turns and riding mowers, equine supplies, power tools, fencing, welding and more.
 - Plants and flowers from leading brands like Proven Winners, Endless Summer Hydrangeas, Southern Living Plant Collection, Encore Azaleas and Knockout Roses.
 - An extensive apparel department featuring workwear and boots for Life Out Here from top brands such as Carhartt, Wrangler, Ariat and Muck Boots.
 - A variety of pet supplies and accessories with toys, beds, collars, leashes and pet food from brands including Purina, Blue Buffalo and Victor.
 - An assortment of exclusive brands that offer premium quality and great values including 4Health pet food, Ridgcut Workwear and Boots, Red Shed Décor, DuMor animal feed and more.
 - The exclusive battery-powered Greenworks Pro 60V outdoor tools and equipment and Porter Cable cordless battery tools.
 - A variety of top brands of grills like Pit Boss and Blackstone, and grill accessories.
 - Convenient shopping options including Curbside Pickup

and Same Day Delivery, while earning rewards with Neighbor’s Club.

The Neighbor’s Club Rewards program is free to join for new and current customers. Members earn points with purchases that can be redeemed for rewards, services and more. Members also receive exclusive benefits and offers. Learn more at NeighborsClub.com. For information on how customers can maximize their Neighbor’s Club rewards, visit TractorSupply.com/Credit to learn about the TSC Personal Credit Card.

In addition to being a dependable supplier of essentials for their customers’ lifestyles, the Waterboro Tractor Supply values community engagement and is delighted to have the opportunity to support youth education like area 4-H clubs and FFA chapters, along with local animal shelters and veterans. Tractor Supply brings its legendary culture to the Waterboro community, and anyone interested in joining the team can apply at TractorSupply.com/careers.

The Waterboro Tractor Supply store at 19 Dunkin Run East Waterboro is open for business now, from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. To learn more about Tractor Supply Company, visit TractorSupply.com.

ABOUT TRACTOR SUPPLY COMPANY: For more than 85 years, Tractor Supply Company (NASDAQ: TSCO) has been passionate about serving the needs of recreational farmers, ranchers, homeowners, gardeners, pet enthusiasts and all those who enjoy living Life Out Here. Tractor Supply is the largest rural lifestyle retailer in the U.S., ranking 290 on the Fortune 500. The Company’s more than 54,000 Team Members are known for delivering legendary service and helping customers pursue their passions, whether that means being closer to the land, taking care of animals or living a hands-on, DIY lifestyle.

As part of the Company’s commitment to caring for animals of all kinds, Tractor Supply is proud to include Petsense by Tractor Supply, a pet specialty retailer, Allivet, a leading online pet and animal pharmacy, and VIP Petcare, the largest provider of mobile veterinary care in the U.S., in its family of brands. Together, Tractor Supply is able to provide comprehensive solutions for pet care, livestock wellness and rural living, ensuring customers and their animals thrive.

As of June 27, 2026, the Company operated 2,463 Tractor Supply stores in 49 states and 209 Petsense by Tractor Supply stores in 23 states. For more information, visit www.tractorsupply.com and www.Petsense.com.

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FROM THE YORK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

YCSO welcomes longtime officer to command staff

A longtime law enforcement officer with roots in York County will serve as Major of Administration at York County Sheriff's Office.

Aaron Stacy of Kittery took the oath of office on Monday, Oct. 19 and will supervise the Criminal Investigation Division, oversee officer training and recruiting, school resource officers, and the fleet and garage, and is part of the accreditation team.

Stacy worked in various policing roles over his 26 year career, most with the Portsmouth, New Hampshire Police Department and later with Maine State Police.

"He brings a lot of diverse experience with him," said York County Sheriff William L. King Jr., as Stacy was sworn into office on Oct.19. "I believe Major Stacy will make the YCSO Command Staff stron-

ger because of his experience in Portsmouth. He brings a great work ethic and desire to promote public relations."

King said the sheriff's office has been searching for a new administration major for quite some time. The prior administration major, Paul Mitchell, retired this spring.

Besides conducting background checks and gathering related information that goes along with the extensive hiring process, King said he talked to a Portsmouth NH Police colleague who gave Stacy high marks, and with former YCSO Chief Deputy and Kittery native Tom Baran, who was equally enthusiastic about Stacy's abilities.

Stacy was born and raised in Kittery – Maine's oldest town, incorporated in 1647 – in Maine's oldest county, which dates to 1636.

In his years with the Ports-



Aaron Stacy, left, takes the oath of office as a York County Sheriff's Office deputy from York County Manager Greg Zinser on Monday October 19 and will serve as Major of Administration.
PHOTO BY TAMMY WELLS, YORK COUNTY GOVERNMENT MEDIA

mouth agency, Stacy was the police department's training officer, canine officer, dealt with personnel matters from managing disciplinary action to recruiting, served as a patrol officer and master patrol officer, and dealt with an array of con-

tract-related matters as former union president.

He has coached Little League and the Babe Ruth league in his hometown.

He graduated from Traip Academy and earned a degree in accounting from the University of Phoenix and at one time owned auto and general maintenance businesses.

"This position represents an opportunity to bring my leadership experience, administrative strengths, and community knowledge together to serve the county that I have always been proud to call home," Stacy wrote as part of his application.

Following the swearing-in ceremony, there was a moment to chat.

Stacy said he is happy for this new opportunity.

"I thought my skill set would fit well with this agency," he said.

Portsmouth Police Department Chaplain Jeff Pelkey was among those on hand to wish him well, and described Stacy as "one of my favorite people," relating that he first met Stacy when he was a boy who'd been hit by a car and Pelkey was an EMT. He noted Stacy's service as a Marine and in his many years at Portsmouth Police Department.

"He saw an opportunity to serve his local community here," said Pelkey. "And he's a very good cop."

– By Tammy Wells,
York County government media



Hi neighbors,
If we haven't met yet, my name is Nathan Burnett, and I'm running for our local state senate seat. I'm a teacher. I taught math and computer science at Sacopee Valley High School from 2012 until 2025.

FOCUS: AFFORDABILITY

I've visited over 6,000 homes and this is what voters are worried about: property taxes, cost of healthcare, heating costs, and how does the next generation get started and stay here in Maine.

MY MARCHING ORDERS:

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In Oxford County: Hiram and Porter.
In Cumberland County: Baldwin, Naples, Sebago, and Standish.
In York County: Acton, Cornish, Limerick, Limington, Newfield, Parsonsfield, and Shapleigh.



On November 3rd,
I'd be honored to have your vote.



Listen to what your neighbors have to say on Youtube: [@NateBurnettforME](#)

- Hats I wore:**
- MePERS Board of Trustees
 - Tri-County Teachers Association Vice President
 - Tri-County Negotiation Team Statistician
 - Sacopee District Leadership Team member
 - SVHS Math Department Chair
 - SVHS Junior class Quebec Trip Coordinator
 - SVHS Math Team coach
 - Pi-Cone South Math League President
 - Maine Association of Math Leagues Secretary

- Hats I still wear:**
- Francis Small Heritage Trust Board Member
 - Porter Grange #569 Treasurer
 - Ossipee Valley Music Festival Board Member and Front Gate co-coordinator
 - Hiram Conservation Committee Member

If you have questions or concerns, please reach out at: nate@nrlburnett.com or (207) 551-3381.

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MANIA: The ABBA Tribute brings the music and magic of ABBA to Sanford

Break out the bell bottoms, gather your fellow dancing queens and get ready to say “Mamma Mia!” Sanford Performing Arts Center will welcome MANIA: The ABBA Tribute, direct from London’s West End, at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 29.

Celebrating the music, glamour and infectious fun of one of the greatest pop groups of all time, MANIA has entertained millions of fans around the world and earned a reputation as one of the world’s leading ABBA tribute productions. With more than 3,000 performances in more than 35 countries, the internationally acclaimed show brings the unmistakable sound and spectacle of ABBA to the stage.

From the costumes and choreography to the musicianship and soaring vocals, MANIA recreates the excitement of an ABBA concert while delivering hit after irresistible hit.

Audiences can expect favorites including “Dancing Queen,” “Mamma Mia,” “Waterloo,” “Take a Chance on Me,” “Fernando,” “SOS” and many more songs that helped make ABBA one of the best-selling and most beloved musical acts in history.

Whether you danced to ABBA the first time around, discovered the songs through the blockbuster Mamma Mia! phenomenon or



COURTESY PHOTO

simply can’t resist a great pop anthem, MANIA offers an evening packed with nostalgia, energy and music that spans generations.

This is not a sit-back-and-watch kind of show. Come ready to sing along, clap along and — quite possibly — dance your way through one of pop music’s most joyful catalogs.

Tickets are \$30-\$60, with a 10% discount for seniors and military members and a 15% discount for subscribers. Ticket prices

do not include a \$3 per-ticket handling fee; all-in pricing is displayed when seats are selected through the ticketing system. For tickets and more information, visit [SanfordPAC.org](https://sanfordpac.org) or call the Sanford Performing Arts Center box office at 207-206-1126. Sanford Performing Arts Center is located at 100 Alumni Boulevard, Sanford, at Sanford High School and Sanford Regional Technical Center.

MANIA: The ABBA Tribute is not associated, affiliated with or endorsed by Polar Music or ABBA.

MANIA brings ABBA’s biggest hits, iconic costumes and infectious energy to the stage in an internationally acclaimed tribute made for singing and dancing along.

Visit <https://sanfordpac.org/mania> for tickets and more information.

SANFORD



There's Snow Time to Waste... our plows need names!

Put on your thinking caps, or should we say your favorite winter beanie! Sanford Public Works is adding new snowplows to its fleet, and we need your help naming them! We’re inviting community members of all ages to submit creative names inspired by Sanford, Springvale winters, or a clever snowplow pun. Have more than one great idea? Submit as many names as you’d like!

Once submissions close, Sanford Public Works will select three winning names to be displayed on the new plow trucks this winter. All submissions must be family-friendly and appropriate for display on a City vehicle. The deadline to submit your ideas is November 15, 2026.

Keep an eye out this winter. You just might see your idea clearing Sanford’s streets!

Submit your snow plow names at: https://www.sanford-maine.org/departments/snow-plow_naming_contest.php



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SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Scots make it seven straight wins

Bonny Eagle remained perfect winning their seventh in-a-row after topping visiting Exeter, NH 35-14 on Friday, Oct. 15. Lukas Klehn had four touchdowns for the Scots including three in the second quarter. Klehn had five touchdowns last week against Oxford Hills/Buckfield.

The battle of two unbeaten teams happens next week when the 7-0 Scots visit the 7-0 Thornton Academy Trojans. Bonny Eagle hosts Sanford (1-6) in their final regular season game the following week.

Mustangs outrun Blue Devils

Massabesic won its third game in four tries with a 41-0 thumping of visiting Lewiston on Friday, Oct. 16 at the Corral at Massabesic High School on West Road in Waterboro. The win put the Mustangs back in the win column (5-2) after falling to South Portland the week before. Against the Riots, Cooper Smith had 130 yards passing and two touchdowns.

Massabesic ends the regular season with a game at Scarborough followed by a home contest against unbeaten Thornton Academy (7-0) the week after.

— By Mike Deangelis
Sports Writer



Bonny Eagle Varsity Football beat Exeter 35-14 on Oct. 15. PHOTO BY AME PHOTOGRAPHY

YOUTH SOCCER

Massabesic U13 advances to championship

Massabesic United scored three first half goals and they added an insurance goal in the second half to help lift them to a 4-1 win in the U13 semi-finals on Sunday, Oct. 18 at Massabesic High School. The win moved the gang from RSU #57 to 10-1-1 and it sends them to the championship game at Fitzpatrick Stadium, scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 25 at 10 a.m.

Liam Gordon got the scoring started in the semi-final against

Saco for a 1-0 lead, but the visitors quickly tied it. Bryce Rossignol put Massabesic ahead to stay with a goal for a 2-1 lead and Jacob Azara boosted it to 3-1 with a strike before the first half closed.

Andrew LaSalle had the lone goal of the second half against Saco who had tied the hosts 4-4 back on Oct. 4. They also fell to Massabesic in the season opening contest, 4-3, way back in August on the 23rd.

Falmouth hosted MU13 on



Massabesic United's U13 soccer team will play in the championship game at Fitzpatrick Stadium on Oct. 25. COURTESY PHOTO

Sept. 27 in a game won handily by the visitors. In that game, Gordon, LaSalle and Rossignol each

had two goals in a 6-2 win.

— By Mike Deangelis
Sports Writer

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WILDLIFE CENTER

(Continued from page 1)

are kept while they are recovering/growing. On the first floor, there are two main rooms, a vet room where their veterinary partners can examine animals, and an isolation room, where animals who need a little bit more care can quietly recover.

At a recent visit to the center, there were two grey foxes in isolation, and a little skunk whose paw had been caught in a rat trap. “It’s important that this skunk regains the use of his paw,” said Brown. “Skunks need their paws to dig, and if they can’t use it, they will not be able to survive in the wild.” Brown continued, “We really discourage people using traps to catch animals, as any animal can be caught in them. Catch and release traps are much better.”

There are currently eight enclosures, including a bat enclosure that is set up with a blacklight, built outside by Vice President Kevin Peterson, who is working hard to build more. The plan is to have a total of 15. The enclosures incorporate trees and rocks of the natural landscape to make it more “real world” for the animals. The enclosures get them outside, giving them the exposure to the outdoors they need before they are released into the wild. The day after my visit, the center was vaccinating 15 raccoons, and getting them outside to an enclosure. Two skunks were also going outside the next day. “This is the most rewarding,” said Brown. “Well, next to release - that is the most rewarding!” The number of people allowed in the enclosure is limited, “We need to keep it wild,” Brown explained.

The Saco River Wildlife center helps many of Maine’s native mammals, including raccoons, foxes, fishers, bobcats, opossums, porcupines, skunks, bats, and more. At the time of our visit, there were 66 raccoons, 23 skunks, 3 woodchucks, 2 fishers, 3 mink, 9 porcupines, 2 grey foxes, 3 red foxes, opossums, 1 chipmunk, 16 grey squirrels and 1 red squirrel in care at the center or at sub permittees. A sub-permittee is someone who is licensed to transport, take home, and care for an animal. Some of the sub-permittees have enclosures at their home for the animals.

During my visit, Brown, Ian Plourde, a vet student intern from UMaine, and volunteers Larain Osman and Dalenda Estes were preparing the evening meal for all the animals, following the Feeding Guidelines for each species, a book with very specific recommendations and guidelines. Here are some examples: Some animals get veggies, some cooked, some raw, and cheerios. Skunks like frozen mice and rats. Some animals get meal worms and insects. Skunks and raccoons eat ground hornets and wasps nests, etc. It was fascinating!

This year, the Saco River Wildlife Center has rescued over 1,300 animals – more than any year before, and the year is not over yet! They are always looking for volunteers and often post on Facebook when they have Volunteer Training Sessions. They could especially use help in the



Dalenda Estes holding a young raccoon.
PHOTOS BY CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

morning, “the toughest shift,” Brown said. Every animal needs a deep cleaning, a bottle or syringe feeding and their medications. And speaking of Facebook, they are looking for someone to help take that over, providing more regular content.

They are also always looking for safe release sites - land trusts, large properties, “places where there is no trapping, with a water source, where the animals will be safe,” said Brown, who added that this is a cause of stress for her and the team. “After we’ve got them safe and healthy, we don’t want to release them into danger.”

Donations of supplies are always helpful: berries such as blueberries and cranberries, fresh fruit such as grapes and vegetables, frozen veggies such as broccoli and cauliflower, canned no salt vegetables, canned chicken and sardines, live small fish, mussels and crayfish (helps to teach raccoons to scavenge); and household/cleaning supplies such as paper towels and bleach. Gift Cards to Hannaford or Costco are always welcome! They also have an Amazon wishlist. If you’d simply like to donate, you can

make a donation online at <https://givebutter.com/sacoriverwildlife-center>. Their next big fundraiser will be their annual “Baby Shower” in the spring. Baby season begins in March or April and lasts until October.

If you find an abandoned or injured animal, always wear gloves and move it out of the road or stay with the animal and call the center’s Wildlife Hotline at (207) 637-5070, available from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. There are tips for what to do if you find an animal on their website at www.sacoriverwildlifecenter.org.

The mission of the Saco River Wildlife Center is: Rescue. Rehabilitate. Release. Educate. In the future, they hope to have an education center with an amphitheatre and interactive trails around that property, but for now, to protect the safety and well-being of the animals, the center is not open to the public for tours or visits. “Protecting our wildlife patients from unnecessary stress is always our top priority, and we appreciate your understanding.”

Brown educated me during my visit: “Never throw anything out of the car window, onto the



Larain Osman feeding a raccoon

road or the side of the road. Even if it’s biodegradable. Smaller animals will come to eat it, and risk getting hit by a car, or scooped up

by another animal or bird of prey.” I will no longer throw any banana peels or apple cores out the window. How about you?



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Fox Print Making

Thursday, 11/5, 5:30 - 8
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\$29

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Understanding AI

Thursday, 11/12, 6 - 7
Massabesic HS East Building
\$6

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Nashville Number System

Tuesday, 11/10 - 11/17, 6 - 8
Massabesic HS East Building
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Massabesic HS East Building
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WEEKLY SPECIALS

- LUNCH SPECIALS READY IN THE WARMER BY 11 AM
- DINNER SPECIALS READY IN THE WARMER BY 4 PM

MONDAY

LUNCH - AMERICAN CHOP SUEY \$8.00
BBQ RIBS WITH WHITE RICE \$8.00
SOUP - TRADITIONAL CHILI \$6.50
DINNER - CHICKEN SCAMPI \$10.00

TUESDAY

LUNCH - SHEPHERD'S PIE \$9.00
SOUP - PASTA FAGIOLI \$6.50
DINNER - BANGERS & MASHED \$9.00

WEDNESDAY

LUNCH-BBQ TOPPED MEATLOAF DINNER SERVED W/
CORN & MASHED POTATOES \$9.00
SOUP - WEEKLY ROTATING OPTIONS
DINNER - CHICKEN ENCHILADAS \$8.50

THURSDAY

LUNCH - TRADITIONAL LASAGNA &
CHICKEN SPINACH ALFREDO LASAGNA \$9.00
SOUP - CORN CHOWDER \$6.25
DINNER- POT ROAST W/ POTATOES & VEG \$10

FRIDAY

LUNCH - BBQ PULLED PORK SANDWICH \$6.25
SOUP - FISH CHOWDER \$8 MAC & CHEESE \$8.00
DINNER- BURRITO BOWL \$9.00

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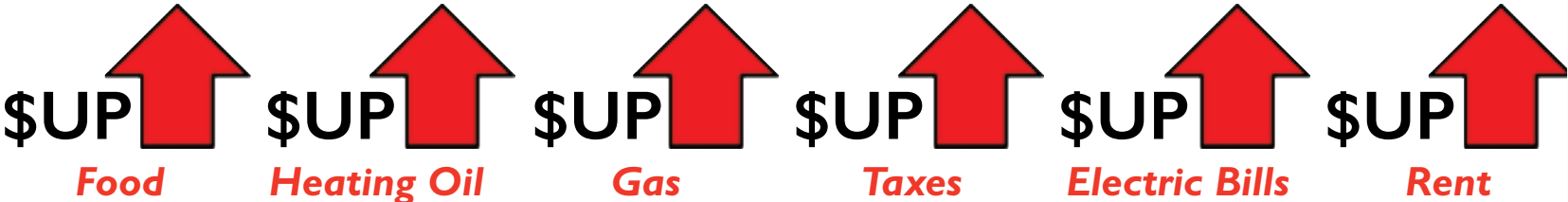
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MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD. YOUR BELIEFS, YOUR IDEAS AND VIEWPOINTS MUST BE REPRESENTED IN AUGUSTA. THE WAY OF LIFE THAT WE HAVE ENJOYED IS NOW UNDER ATTACK.
JANET MILLS AND DEMOCRAT POLITICIANS IN AUGUSTA ARE BRAGGING ABOUT A TAX SURPLUS, WHILE MAINERS ARE STRUGGLING TO MAKE ENDS MEET.
NOW MORE THAN EVER WE NEED PROVEN REPUBLICAN CONSERVATIVE LEADERS IN AUGUSTA THAT WILL FIGHT LIKE HELL TO KEEP YOUR HARD-EARNED MONEY IN YOUR POCKET.
LET’S MOVE MAINE FORWARD.

I would appreciate your vote on November 3rd! Thanks, Kim

PAID FOR & AUTHORIZED BY KIM POMERLEAU

LET’S EAT!

COMMUNITY SOUP AND SING Soup and Bread Potluck plus Singing Circle, Saturday, Oct. 24 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5 Lebanon Street, Sanford. Sponsored by The Center for Radical Transformation.

OCTOBER BAKED BEAN & CHOP SUEY SUPPER The First Congregational Church will be hosting its last of its monthly baked bean & American chop suey suppers for this year on Sat., Oct. 24 from 4:30-6 p.m. at the church, 141 North St., Kennebunkport. There will be two types of home baked beans, American chop suey, mac & cheese, hot dogs, rolls, and coleslaw, topped off with a slice of homemade pie. Adults and children age 12 and over \$12 per person,

and children under 12 \$5 per child. First Church baked bean suppers will resume in Spring 2027. Call Carol at 710-7060 if you have any questions.

TURKEY DINNER The Acton-Shapleigh Lions Club will host a turkey dinner on Saturday, Oct. 24 from 4-6 p.m. at the Shapleigh Community Center, 24 Back Road. The cost is \$10 per person and includes dinner with all the fixings, a drink, and dessert.

PUBLIC TURKEY DINNER on Saturday November 7 from 4:30-6:30pm at the St Thomas School cafeteria on 69 North Avenue in Sanford. Turkey, squash, mashed potatoes, stuffing, dessert and all the fixings. \$15 per person and \$10 for children under 12. POC Ray Sargent at 207-324-7589.

The Shapleigh Community Center, 24 Back Rd., is holding a **CHILI AND CHOWDER COOK-OFF** on Saturday, November 7, from 12 to 2 PM. Bring your best batch of homemade chili or chowder. Prizes will be awarded to the top three People’s Choice winners. The charge is \$10 per attendee at the door. Proceeds benefit the Shapleigh Fuel Assistance Fund. Contact Penny to register and enter your recipe at 207-636-2844 ext.5 or email at officeassistant@shapleigh.net.

OAK STREET BISTRO’S HALLOWEEN BASH The Oak Street Bistro, 3 Oak Street in Alfred, is hosting a Halloween Bash. All proceeds benefit elderly neighbors in need and winter heating assistance. The event will be held on Wednesday, October 28 at 5

PM with a \$20 donation per person. Appetizers and desserts are included. There will be a cash bar; costumes are optional.

WITCH’S BREW TEA The Lady Mary Inn, 2 Elm St., North Berwick, is hosting a Witch’s Brew Tea from Oct. 29 to Nov. 1. They invite you to celebrate Halloween with a festive holiday afternoon tea in the seasonally decorated manor; potions and spells are not included! Guests are encouraged to arrive in festive holiday attire to help celebrate the season.

The Acton-Shapleigh Lion’s Club **MONTHLY PANCAKE BREAKFAST** the first Saturday of every month (Next on Nov. 7). \$7 includes pancakes (plain or blueberry), scrambled eggs, sausages, toast, orange juice, beans, and coffee, tea, and milk. The breakfast

will be served from 8 to 9:30 a.m. at the Shapleigh Community Center at 24 Back Road, Shapleigh, next door to the Shapleigh Town Hall.

FREE COMMUNITY DINNER Public Welcome at the Goodwins Mills Advent Christian Church, 503 Goodwins Mills Road on Route 35 from 4:30-6 p.m. NOV. 21: Chicken/Turkey Casserole, Mashed Squash, Cranberry Sauce, Rolls & Pies.

COMMUNITY CUP Tuesdays 9 to 10 a.m. Free coffee, donuts and conversation at Southern Maine Agency on Aging at 21 Bradeen Street, Springvale.

COFFEE HOUR every Wednesday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at Hiram Arts Center, 8 Hancock Avenue, Hiram. Come for coffee, conversation, companionship, and community.

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SANFORD MILL

(Continued from page 1)

at the International Woolen Mill, including repeated unauthorized entry, illegal dumping, deteriorating building conditions, and fire safety hazards.

Back on July 21, the Sanford City Council declared the International Woolen Mill abandoned under State law, granting the City additional authority to enforce criminal trespass laws without transferring ownership or maintenance responsibilities to the City.

Despite significant City efforts to secure doors, windows, and other access points, unauthorized entry continues. Security measures have repeatedly been breached, including instances where individuals used metal grinders to cut through steel plates installed to prevent entry, making the property extremely difficult to secure.

The Sanford Public Works Department has also been working to improve conditions around the property by removing illegally dumped materials and large debris. The closure of Heritage Crossing serves as an additional measure to deter illegal dumping by restricting vehicle access to the area.

Recent Enforcement Action
On October 13, the Sanford Police Department conducted another coordinated enforcement operation at the International Woolen Mill, with assistance from the Maine State Police, Old Orchard Beach Police Department, York County Sheriff's Office, and Sanford Fire Department.

A total of 18 law enforcement officers participated in the operation. During the search, six individuals were located inside the complex. Three individuals were issued criminal trespass summonses and released, while three others were arrested and transported to the York County Jail for offenses involving criminal trespass, violations of conditions of release, and outstanding warrants.

This represents a 50% reduction from the 12 individuals located during the September 29 law enforcement operation at the property. While this is an encouraging development, unauthorized entry remains a serious concern.

The Sanford Police Department has increased patrols in the area as part of its ongoing enforcement efforts. However, the size and deteriorating condition of the complex present significant challenges. Conducting a thorough search of the buildings requires a coordinated law enforcement response, and officers are not expected to enter the hazardous structure alone at night unless there is an immediate threat to public safety.



Addressing fire safety risks

During the October 13 operation, Sanford Fire personnel identified significant structural and fire safety hazards throughout the complex, including areas of roof collapse, deteriorating structural supports, compromised flooring, and evidence of potential open-flame cooking.

These conditions pose serious risks to individuals entering the property, emergency responders, and surrounding areas. With colder weather approaching, concerns about warming fires and the potential for a major fire at the complex continue to grow.

In response to these risks, the Sanford Fire Department has developed a specific emergency response plan for a potential fire at the complex. This plan outlines coordinated response efforts and strategies to help protect surrounding properties, limit the spread of fire, and reduce risks to nearby areas.

Why Heritage Crossing remains closed

Heritage Crossing will remain closed while City officials continue to evaluate safety hazards and determine necessary protective measures. Once public safety concerns have been sufficiently addressed, the City Manager, with the concurrence of the Police and Fire Chiefs, may recommend that the City Council terminate the Declaration of Emergency and reopen the roadway.

Long-term efforts and future of the property

Addressing the long-term future of the International Woolen Mill Complex presents significant financial and environmental challenges. Due to the size, deteriorating condition, and potential contamination of the property, complete demolition would be an extremely costly undertaking.

The City Manager estimates that demolishing the entire complex could cost between \$35 million and \$40 million, a financial burden that would not be feasible for the City and its taxpayers to take on.

The City has been actively working with State and Federal partners to explore potential solutions for the property. On September 29, representatives from the Maine Land Bank Authority, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), environmental professionals, and private development interests participated in a site assessment to evaluate conditions and explore potential paths forward.

These discussions are part of ongoing efforts by City officials to address environmental

concerns and determine what resources and partnerships may be available to support the property's future.

Separately, the City has secured approximately \$5 million in federal EPA funding for demolition and environmental remediation work at the Boiler House portion of the complex. This project is currently moving through the necessary planning and engineering stages, with demolition anticipated in spring 2027.

The City of Sanford will continue working with public safety agencies, State and Federal partners, and other stakeholders to address the immediate safety concerns while exploring long-term solutions for the property. Updates will continue to be shared as additional information becomes available.

TOWN OF ACTON PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Pursuant to Title 22 MRSA 4305 the Municipal Officers of the Town of Acton, Maine, will meet at the Acton Town Hall on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of holding a Public Hearing to adopt the 2026-2027 General Assistance Ordinance with appendices, in its entirety. A copy of the proposed ordinance can be viewed at the Acton Town Hall during regular business hours or on the Acton website at: <https://www.actonmaine.org>.

— Board of Selectmen, Town of Acton

TOWN OF ACTON Voters Take Notice

INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 6:00pm

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 6:00pm
at Acton Town Hall – 35 H Road, Acton.

WARRANT ARTICLES:

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate **\$199,000** from the Unassigned Fund Balance for the purchase of land located at Tax Map 229 Lot 052.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to appropriate up to **\$32,064.72** from the Unassigned Fund Balance for the installation of a concrete pad and retaining wall at the Transfer Station.
*Estimate based on: \$2,500.00 for Conduit;
\$6,490.00 for Concrete; and
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— Acton Select Board

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TOWN OF ACTON Job Opportunity

The Town of Acton is currently accepting applications for a full-time **Transfer Station Superintendent and Maintenance Person**. This combined position will cover all aspects and responsibilities of the Transfer Station, in addition to miscellaneous Handyman services. Handyman services will include, but are not limited to, snow shoveling, minor construction/building work and general grounds maintenance as needed. The Town of Acton's Transfer Station has a budget of approximately \$475,000, the Superintendent will be responsible for the creation and managing of this budget with Selectmen oversight, therefore attention to detail is a must. This position is approximately 35 hours per week with a yearly salary between \$42,000 – \$46,000 depending on experience. The Town of Acton currently offers health insurance, earned paid time off, paid holidays and a longevity bonus.

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The Brothers of Christian Instruction in Alfred are seeking a **PAID ARCHIVE ASSISTANT** to help the archivist prepare the archive for closure and transfer to a permanent repository. Responsibilities include sorting, organizing, inventorying, and preserving historical materials such as images, maps, and manuscripts, as well as helping assess their historical value. The position is up to four days per week, is not benefits-eligible, and will continue until the archive has been safely transferred. Applicants should be familiar with Microsoft 365 and able to lift boxes weighing up to 40 pounds. Knowledge of French is helpful but not required. Mothers with school-age children are encouraged to apply.
For more information, contact Paul Garriepy at brothersarchive1931@outlook.com or 207-294-1776.

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NEXT ISSUE: Thursday, Oct. 29

DEADLINE: Tuesday, Oct. 27

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York Hospital celebrates joining MaineHealth

York Hospital and MaineHealth today celebrated the beginning of a new chapter as York Hospital officially joins the MaineHealth system and becomes part of its Southern Region.

The celebration, held at York Hospital, brought together care team members, community leaders and elected officials to mark the milestone and recognize the collaboration that made the transition possible.

“For generations, York Hospital has been a trusted community institution, and today we celebrate both that remarkable legacy and the opportunity to build on it,” said Britt Crewse, president of the MaineHealth Southern Region in a statement prior to the event. “Joining MaineHealth gives York Hospital access to the resources, clinical expertise and infrastructure of an integrated health system while preserving what matters most — our shared commitment to caring for the people of York County close to home.”

Crewse said the integration will be a gradual process, with MaineHealth and York Hospital working together over the coming months to align operations, strengthen connections among care teams and identify opportunities to improve access and coordination.

Dr. Charles Morris, chief medical officer of MaineHealth Southern Region, said the partnership provides an opportunity to build on York Hospital’s strong tradition of community-focused care while connecting its clinicians and patients more closely with MaineHealth’s broader clinical network.

“York Hospital has a strong foundation of high-quality, community-focused care and a deep understanding of the patients and communities it serves,” Morris said. “Being part of an integrated system gives us an opportunity to build on that foundation, strengthen coordination and make it easier for patients to access the care and expertise they need — while continuing to receive as much care as possible close to home.”

The event also included remarks from Sen. Mark Lawrence, who serves on the York Hospital Board and represents the community in the Maine Senate, and Rep. Michele Meyer, House chair of the Legislature’s Health and Human Services Committee, as well as Rep. Holly Sargent, whose district includes York Hospital. All three lawmakers have been closely involved with supporting the partnership and its development.

“York Hospital has been an essential part of this community for generations. This partnership gives us an opportunity to preserve that legacy and ensure the hospital remains a strong, vital



Local public officials and leaders from MaineHealth and York Hospital. COURTESY PHOTO

resource for the people of York County for years to come,” said Lawrence.

“Today marks a pivotal milestone for healthcare in York County as we officially welcome York Hospital into the MaineHealth family. For generations, York Hospital has been a bedrock of far southern Maine — a trusted place where our children and our neighbors were born, healed, and cared for by the people they know and trust. As we take this step forward together, one thing remains absolute: preserving the vital presence of a strong, compassionate community hospital here in Southern Maine is essential. Healthcare is inherently local, and maintaining accessible, high-quality care right here in our community remains our top priority,” said Meyer.

“For over a century, York Hospital has been essential to our identity as a community in York. It has been a magnet for talented physicians, nurses and technicians. It has made York a safe place to grow a family, to spend a vacation or even spend your retirement. Everyone knew that quality health care was literally around the corner. The hospital has anchored this beautiful town and the partnership with MaineHealth allows this service and strength to continue and evolve. I know I speak for my fellow citizens in expressing

our gratitude for the vision, generosity and perseverance that has made this agreement possible,” said Sargent.

The integration follows state approval in August of York Hospital’s plan to join MaineHealth. The organizations have committed to maintaining inpatient care at York Hospital while strengthening primary care and expanding access to specialty care through MaineHealth’s broader network.

Crewse noted that the integration process will continue through 2027, with a focus on supporting care teams, improving coordination and ensuring continuity for patients and the community.

MaineHealth is a not-for-profit, integrated health system whose vision is, “Working together so our communities are the healthiest in America,” and is committed to a mission of providing high-quality affordable care, educating tomorrow’s caregivers and researching better ways to provide care. MaineHealth includes a Level 1 trauma medical

center, eight additional licensed hospitals, comprehensive pediatric care services, an extensive behavioral health care network, diagnostic services as well as home health, hospice and senior care services. With more than 2,000 employed providers and approximately 23,000 care team members, MaineHealth provides preventive care, diagnosis and treatment to 1.1 million residents in Maine and New Hampshire. MaineHealth hospitals include MaineHealth Behavioral Health at Spring Harbor in Westbrook, MaineHealth Franklin Hospital in Farmington, MaineHealth Lincoln Hospital in Damariscotta, MaineHealth Maine Medical Center in Portland, Biddeford and Sanford, MaineHealth Memorial Hospital in North Conway, N.H., MaineHealth Mid Coast Hospital in Brunswick, MaineHealth Pen Bay Hospital in Rockport, MaineHealth Stephens Hospital in Norway, MaineHealth Waldo Hospital in Belfast and York Hospital in York. MaineHealth also includes

MaineHealth Barbara Bush Children’s in Portland, MaineHealth Behavioral Health in Westbrook, MaineHealth Home Health and Hospice in Saco, the MaineHealth Institute for Research in Scarborough, the MaineHealth Medical Group and MaineHealth NorDx in Scarborough. MaineHealth affiliates include Maine General Health in Augusta and Waterville. It is also a significant stakeholder in the MaineHealth Accountable Care Organization in Portland and a joint venture partner in the New England Rehabilitation Hospital in Portland.

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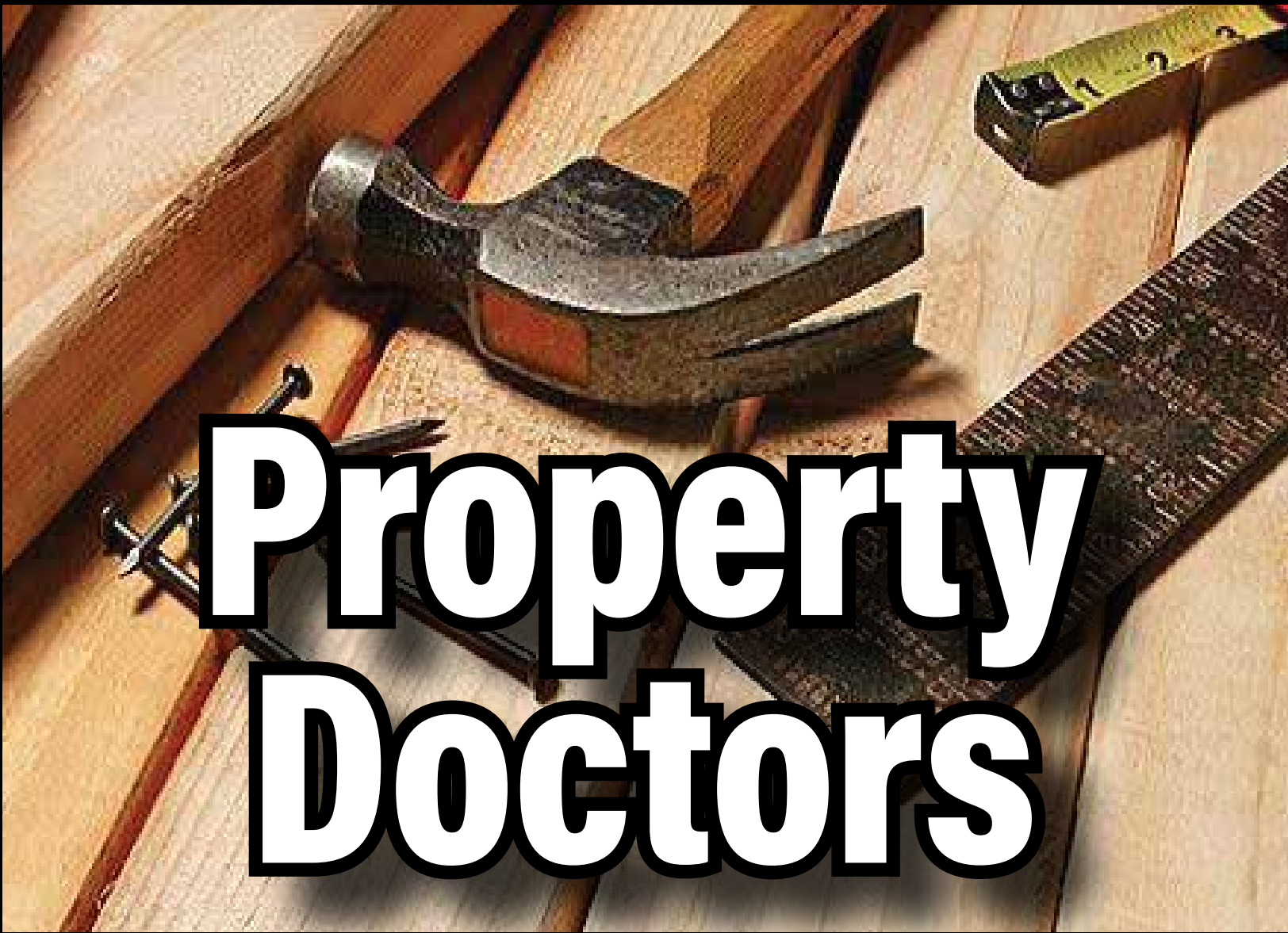


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