

REPORTER

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally owned and independently operated.

VOLUME 24, ISSUE 15 • PO Box 75, North Waterboro, ME 04061 • 247-1033 • www.waterbororeporter.com • THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026

Local treasure hunter shares discoveries

By JOANNE BARGIONI

On Saturday, April 11, the Newfield Historical Society welcomed a full house for a special metal detecting program led by local enthusiast Werner Kabitzke of Newfield. Attendees gathered in the afternoon – many standing due to the crowd – to learn about the fascinating world of metal detecting and Kabitzke’s adventures uncovering history beneath their feet. Metal detecting is a relaxing and potentially profitable hobby. Kabitzke says beginners should choose detectors based on target goals for instance, if you’re looking for coins or you’re looking for gold, and look around hopeful locations, including beaches, parks, and old home sites.

Kabitzke, who has spent the last three years exploring York County with his metal detector, captivated listeners with tales of his discoveries. While he admitted that most of his time is spent digging up nails and pull tabs, the thrill of the hunt has kept him eager and engaged. Among his best finds are a metal shoe buck-



Pam and Werner Kabitzke demonstrate tools used in metal detection on April 11 in Newfield. PHOTO BY JOANNE BARGIONI

le dating back to 1750, a Civil War belt buckle, a gold ring, and various coins. These treasures, he explained, are reminders of the rich history hidden just below the surface.

During the program, Kabitzke shared practical advice for those interested in starting their own metal detecting journey. He highlighted the range of metal detec-

tors available on the market, noting that entry-level models start at about \$100, while more advanced versions can cost upwards of \$500. (Continued on page 5)

Restored funds ease increase to proposed York County budget

When York County Commissioners approved the proposed \$31.64 million county operating budget for the next fiscal year April 8 and turned it over to the York County Budget Committee – the next step in the approval process – they did so after learning that some state funds for Maine’s 15 county jails would not be forthcoming.

In the Legislature, not only was a bill designed to provide a more predictable annual county jail appropriation seemingly off the table, York County Commissioners learned the existing \$2.4 million state jail allotment would be reduced by more than \$400,000. Commissioners added the figure to the county budget to avert a shortfall, which put the proposed overall county budget increase at 10.6 percent from the prior year, rather than just over 9 percent.

Then, five days later, came welcome news. Commission Chair Richard Dutremble said he’d received word that the Legislature had found enough cash to restore state funding to current year levels – in York County, to the original \$2.4 million.

It is budget season in Maine – for counties that operate on a fiscal year, for municipalities, and the state Legislature. And while York County Government is in good financial condition, still, every penny counts, and county officials say, predictable receipt of revenue helps.

The restoration of the \$400,000 was good news at a time when expenses are increasing for everyone – electricity and other utility costs are up, as are insurance, food costs and other regular expenses – for individuals, families, businesses and governments – including counties. York County Government’s electricity costs are poised to increase by about \$600,000 in the fiscal year that begins July 1, following the expiration of a multi-year contract.

York County Manager Greg Zinser said that the current way the state pays a share of county jail expenses that began with the 2008 jail consolidation bill “is a band aid approach.”

(Continued on page 4)

Rocking for Ridlon School

By CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

On Saturday, April 11, over 50 people gathered at the Hiram Arts Center in Hiram Village for a benefit concert to raise money to rebuild the Ridlon Schoolhouse, a one-room schoolhouse built before Maine even became a state. It is the oldest one-room schoolhouse in Hiram, and one of the few of this age in Maine.

The Ridlon Schoolhouse was opened by the town in 1819, and was once located at 117 Brownfield Road. In July of 2023, the owner of the Schoolhouse no longer wanted it, and was going to demolish it. A coalition of the Hiram Historical Society, the Ossipee Valley Fair and Tear Cap



‘Archie’s Band’, from left, Bill Lenfest on keyboard, Lori Conway on guitar, Clay Neidlinger on harmonica and guitar, and Paul Mathieu on guitar. PHOTO BY CYNTHIA MATTHEWS

Workshops was formed and were given a year to remove it from the property. Unfortunately, according to Sally Williams, President of the Hiram Historical Society, the Schoolhouse could not be moved intact, but had to be deconstructed, taken down board by board. The

work was done in May of 2024 by Scott Campbell of Maine Mountain Post and Beam of Fryeburg, his son Jack, and Cliff Whitney, of Maine Hand Cut Granite, in Hiram, with lots of volunteers. The original post and beam timbers were meticulously labeled, and are

currently being stored at Tear Cap Workshops until the money can be raised to put the Schoolhouse back together at the Ossipee Valley Fairgrounds, not far from where the original Schoolhouse stood. The estimated cost of Re-construction

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PRINTED NEW EVERY THURSDAY
 and online at www.waterbororeporter.com
LOCAL NEWS, EVENTS AND FACES FROM YOUR COMMUNITY!

COMING EVENTS

AUTHOR TALK AND BOOK SIGNING with award winning author Kate Flora at Limerick Public Library on Sat. April 18 at 11 a.m. Located at 55 Washington Street, Limerick.

Bonney Memorial Library in Cornish, is hosting a **FREE AUTHOR TALK AND BOOK SIGNING** on Saturday, April 18 from 1-2:30 p.m. "Making Do: Writing Childhood in Older Age" features Charlotte Fullham and Jessica Esch in conversation about Charlotte's debut book: "Zippo: Ventures of a Curious Child." **FREE** admission; refreshments; book sale and signing following the conversation.

MEET AND GREET WITH NIRAV SHAH, former head of National CDC is running for Governor. Hosted by the Sacopee Community Forum on Sunday, April 12 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Cornish Town Hall, Route 25. Doors open at 2:30 p.m.

The Historical Society of Newfield is hosting a **CHILDREN'S VICTORIAN TEA TIME** on Saturday, April 18 from 1 to 3 PM at 64 Elm St. Come and learn about Victorian tea times with your children. Join honored guest, Mrs. Ruth Durfee for tea and treats. Children must be accompanied by an adult. FMI contact 229-9245.

SHOP YOUR WINTER BLUES AWAY CRAFT FAIR on Saturday, April 18 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Alfred Parish Church, 8 Kennebunk Road. We will have 18 vendors and proceeds from table sales and raffles will be donated to Maine Children's Cancer Program.

BAR MILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH IS CELEBRATING 20 YEARS at 13 Hermit Thrush Dr. in Buxton, on April 19, during the 10 a.m. Worship Service. After the service a light lunch will be served, where we can reminisce about "old times" and renew our friendships. We hope you can join

Community CALENDAR

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

us. Any questions, email sjdyer@sacoriver.net.

Parsonsfield Seminary (Par Sem) will be holding the annual **YARD, BOOK AND BAKE SALE** Saturday May 2, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. rain date Sunday May 3, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at 504 North Road (route 160) North Parsonsfield. Nonprofit. All proceeds go to maintaining and restoring the buildings.

Hollis Center Public Library **BOOK, BAKE & CRAFT SALE** at Hollis Center Church, 388 Hollis Road, Saturday May 2, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Interested in participating, contact Heidi Lynch for more information: Helynch2@gmail.com or (207) 391-9727.

BOOK SIGNING Sean Grimes, a local author and member of our writing group, will be having a book signing on May 6, a Wednesday night, from 5-7 p.m. at the Hollis Center Public Library, 14 Little Falls Road, Hollis Center. For more info visit www.hollis-centerpubliclibrary.org or call 207-929-3911.

HISTORICAL PROGRAM WWII Maine soldiers buried in the Netherlands in the Margraten Cemetery are not forgotten. Soldiers' graves are adopted and cared for by grateful Holland citizens. Program hosted by the Limerick Historical Society on May 7 at the Congregational Church at 7 p.m.

The Buxton Garden Club is holding its **ANNUAL PLANT SALE** on Saturday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the parking lot of the Dennett, Craig & Pate Funeral Home at the corner of Rt 4A and Rt 202 in Buxton. There will be perennials, native plants and house

plants available for sale. New this year - Fairy Garden Kits.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF NEWFIELD ONLINE SPRING AUCTION May 12-18. Many great items and gift certificates for many of the local businesses. View the auction now and register to participate by visiting <https://HSon2026.auctria.events>. Your support will help with the maintenance of historic buildings and introduce technology so that they can record their presentations and catalog artifacts for ease of access. All are welcome and for more information you can email: NewfieldHistorical@gmail.com.

CALLING ALL QUILTERS. The Bar Mills Community Church is having their semi annual quilt show on Saturday, August 2 from 9-2. If you would like to display a quilt please call Judy @ 207-929-5555. There will be vendors and lunch that day.

LIMERICK HISTORICAL CRAFT FAIR July 18 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., vendors wanted. Space inside or outdoors available. For more information visit <https://www.limerickmainehistorical.org>.

CALLING ALL QUILTERS. The Bar Mills Community Church is having their semi annual quilt show on Saturday, Aug. 2 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.. If you would like to display a quilt, call Judy at 207-929-5555. There will be vendors and lunch that day.

COMMUNITY GARDEN BEDS AVAILABLE Would you like to grow vegetables or flowers but have no room or inadequate sunshine? Waterboro Community Garden has beds available for rent

for Waterboro residents. Applications available at Waterboro Town Hall. Email: garden@waterboro-maine.gov for more information.

LET'S EAT!

BEAN SUPPER On Sat., Apr 18, from 4 to 6 p.m., St. Matthew's Knights of Columbus will host a Bean Supper at 19 Dora Ln. Menu: beans (2 types), hot dogs, sliced ham, coleslaw, casseroles, bread, drinks & dessert. Adults are \$12; Children 6-12 are \$6; Children 5 & under are free; Families are \$30.

St. Thomas School, with the help of the Knights of Columbus, will host their **MONTHLY PUBLIC BEAN SUPPER** starting on Saturday, April 18 from 4:30-6 p.m. at the St. Thomas School cafeteria on 69 North Avenue in Sanford. Serving beans, ham, hot dogs, American chop suey, cole slaw, rolls, beverages and dessert. Cost: \$10 each or \$6 for children under 12 years old. Proceeds to benefit the school. FMI contact Ray at (207) 651-6636.

FREE COMMUNITY DINNER Public Welcome at Goodwins Mills Advent Christian Church, 503 Goodwins Mills Road on Route 35. Serving 4:30-6 p.m. **APRIL 18:** Shepherd's Pie, Cole Slaw and Macaroni Salad, rolls, fruit cups and chocolate chip cookies.

HADDOCK SUPPER BUFFET - Saturday, April 25 at 5 p.m. at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child, \$20 Family. We will offer the option of take-out containers for those who do not want to come inside for seating.

The Acton-Shapleigh Lion's Club **MONTHLY PANCAKE BREAKFAST** the first Saturday of every month (Next May 2). \$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.

BEAN SUPPER Massabesic Lions monthly dine-in or take-out the 2nd Saturday of the month (next on May 9), 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Lions Regional Medical Center, 813 Main St. Waterboro. Adults \$10. Children 5 to 12 are \$7, kids 4 and under are free. Kidney and pea beans, chop suey, ham, hot dogs, coleslaw, "our homemade" biscuits and a variety of desserts.

WATERBORO COMMUNITY PANTRY 26 Townhouse Road, East Waterboro. Open the first Tuesday of month from 4 to 7 p.m. all other Tuesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. Donations needed!

NEWFIELD FOOD CUPBOARD AND VILLAGE FRIDGE are open and available to all 24/7/365 at the Newfield Community Church, 643 Water St. (Route 11), outside the side entrance facing the town office. Donations welcome. FYI 229-9245, newfieldcc@gmail.com.

The **CORNER CUPBOARD** which offers personal care, paper, cleaning, household, and baby items to anyone in need, is open the 3rd Saturday of each month at the Sanford UU Church, 5 Lebanon St., Sanford, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bring your own bag.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ at Southern Maine Agency on Aging, 2nd and 4th Friday, at 21 Bradeen Street, Springvale (Use the entrance on Bodwell Ct.) and the 1st and 3rd Wednesday at Mayflower Place, 27 Mayflower Drive, Sanford. Call 396-6500. Suggested donation \$8.

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SANFORD

Summer camp registration open

Sanford Parks & Recreation Summer Camp registration is now open, and families can choose from several engaging options:

- Carl J Lamb School Camp (Grades Pre K-3)
- Sanford Pride Elementary School Camp (Grades Pre K-3)
- Sanford Middle School Boys Camp (Grades 4-6)
- Memorial Gym Girls Camp (Grades 4-6)
- Outdoor Only Springvale Playground Camp (Grades Pre K - 6)
- Summer Jr. Camp Counselor Program (Ages 13-15 Years)

Each camp is unique in its own way and registrations includes one field trip and a camp day at Springvale Rec area each week. To learn more about each camp program, fees or to register visit <https://sanfordme.myrec.com>.

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

ST. THERESE FOOD CLOSET open every Thursday from 12 to 2 p.m. at 66 North Ave., Sanford, directly behind the St Therese Church in the gray trailer.

ST. MATTHEW CHURCH FOOD PANTRY at 19 Dora Lane, in Limerick OPEN every Tuesday from 10 am to noon and the first Monday of the month from 6 to 7 p.m. FMI call 793-2244.

ONGOING EVENTS

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.

NEWFIELD MUSIC JAMBOREE Town Hall, 23 So. Effingham Road, 1st Saturday of the month May-October. Winter hours 1 to 3:30 p.m. Free, open to public. Spectators welcome. All family friendly music. FMI call 468-1491.

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. We take turns meeting at member's homes; you are not obligated to offer your home. FMI Diane Dunn 207-229-6135.

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

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.

EMAIL NON-PROFIT LISTINGS TO: news@waterbororeporter.com.



Cleaning up the Sanford roundabout

Pictured at the South Sanford Roundabout are, from left, Lawrence Furbish, Bob Myott, John Stimmell To win a battle you need the right weapon. In this case, winning the battle of completing a South Sanford Roundabout clean-up the weapon of choice is a trash picker. Yes the four person clean-up team volunteers pictured above, including Bridget Salantri, are still smiling after a half hour of completing the Saturday, April 4, south Sanford Roundabout Clean-Up. Gone are the cigarette butts, plastic cups, papers, and even an automobile muffler! All was safely carted away to the Sanford dump.

With coordinated efforts from the Sanford Springvale Rotary Club and Sanford/Springvale Beautification Program, progress is underway to complete minor improvements such as providing a three foot wide mulch border around the Roundabout's perimeter to provide a neater noticeable difference enjoyed by residents. You can join the clean-up efforts to tidy up the Roundabout on Saturday, May 2 at 7 a.m. PHOTO BY BRIDGET SALANTRI

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TOWN OF ALFRED PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, May 4, 2026, at 6:30 pm at Alfred Town Hall, 16 Saco Road, Alfred

In preparation for the June 13, 2026, Town Meeting warrant, a public hearing will be held to address proposed ordinance changes which would add, amend or replace various provisions of the Code of the Town of Alfred regarding:

- Zoning 160-14 Definition – Amend language for: Adult Day Care Program. Home-Based Business, Rock Quarry, Removal of Automobile Graveyards/Junkyards and Subsurface Sewage Disposal System
- 160-119 Delete all language within Section 160-119 Automobile Graveyards/Junkyards
- 160-145 Land Use Permit Required – Add language related to outstanding violations on property.
 - Land Use Table – Rock Quarry not allowed in any district
- Ordinance to Amend Various Provisions of the Code of the Town of Alfred to Remove Board of Appeals' Jurisdiction to Review Planning Board Decisions and to provide a Direct Right of Appeal to Superior Court
 - Readoption of the Code of the Town of Alfred, as previously adopted by Article 9 of the June 22, 2005, Special Town Meeting; along with all ordinances and regulations of a general and permanent nature adopted since that date; together with a change of numbering, formatting and stylizing thereof and incorporation of revisions indicated in the Code Adoption Ordinance and Schedule A, and the entire text of which is set forth in the Final Draft of the Code of the Town of Alfred
- Subdivision – Amended Ordinance: The Town of Alfred shall not accept any new road or right-of-way created through the subdivision process as a public way. This applies only to new subdivisions approved after June 13, 2026

Additional information regarding the proposed changes is available for review on the Town's website at www.alfredme.gov and at the Town Clerk's Office in the Alfred Town Hall during regular business hours.

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Property Doctors

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RIDLON SCHOOL

(Continued from page 1)

is \$25,000. The Historical Society needs \$10,000 to start. The stored timbers will rot if not used soon! They are exposed and need to be protected. So far, the Historical Society has raised over \$3,000 from various activities, such as fairs, and other donations, but needs your help!

One of the volunteers for the deconstruction was Clay Neidlinger of Hiram. Neidlinger is a good friend of Cliff Whitney's. He initially heard about the project from an ad in the Shopping Guide, and signed up to help. "I stayed, and helped take it down until it was done," Neidlinger said. Neidlinger had been running Open Mic Nights at Archie's Strike and Spare in Parsonsfield, and Williams approached him about doing a concert. Neidlinger reached out to some of the musicians he knew and pretty soon, "there were not enough slots for all the musicians!" He asked a few friends to form a band with him, to lessen the number of slots and maximize the number of musicians. Because they knew each other from Archie's, they decided to call themselves, "Archie's Band!"

Neidlinger was the MC for

the evening, and told that story to the audience to get things started. "Most of these folks are used to people talking while they're playing," he told the crowd. He then introduced Williams, who explained that during the deconstruction, it was discovered that the Schoolhouse, "which we all knew as a red building, was, in fact, white!" There was evidence that the Schoolhouse was built before 1819, and "must have been part of someone's home." In fact, it was originally designated as the "Stanley's" school district, and had 6 students. William Stanley, a mill builder, died in 1822 at age 46. Samuel Ridley (Ridlon) was his successor – and that's how the Ridlon Schoolhouse got its name! In 1916, a "new" school was built, which is now the Hiram Town Office. Now that you know the history, you can appreciate why they want to rebuild this iconic building.

Williams thanked Scott Campbell, his son Jack, and Cliff Whitney, who were all in the audience, for their dedication and hard work. She also thanked "all the musicians here tonight, who have donated their time and talents."

The concert then began, with each musician given a 30 minute set. First up was Carlton Ming

on keyboard. Ming started with "It's alright to have a good time" by Curtis Mayfield and the Impressions. He played a couple of instrumental pieces as well. He told the audience he was originally from Bermuda, and has been living in Maine for 60 years! "I'm still not a real Mainer" he said. His last song had an island feel to it, "One Day", an anti-war song by Matisyahu, expressing hope for an end to violence and a prayer for peace and understanding.

Next up was rhythm guitarist Pedro Pereira, whom Neidlinger says "gets people pumped up." Pereira currently lives in Silver Lake, New Hampshire, but is originally from the Azores. He played a few cover songs, such as "Fly me to the moon" – "with all the talk about the moon" – and a couple of original tunes, such as "Died a Happy Man" and "You Shine," which included the line, "You are the light in my dark world." – "I thought I'd do a sweet song for this fundraiser," he said. He ended his set with his own, powerful version of "I still haven't found what I'm looking for." Very interesting and unique, it had the audience captivated.

Guitarist Stephen Tremblay followed, whom Neidlinger described as "playing folk with his

original stamp on it." Tremblay himself said, "I'm used to singing in places where people aren't really listening, like at Archie's – people are bowling, yelling to each other across the room, etc." He told the audience he likes to do cover tunes in his own style. He played, "Tied to the Whipping Post" among others, and a couple of originals. There were a lot of heads bobbing and foot tapping happening while he played.

The concert ended with Archie's band, made up of Lori Conway on guitar, Bill Lenfest on keyboard, Clay Neidlinger on guitar and harmonica, and Paul Mathieu on guitar. They started with an original, composed by Neidlinger, "Right Here in Hiram." In the song, Neidlinger mentioned many features of the town – the Narrow Gauge Railway that stretched from Hiram to Harrison, Hussey Mill and store, apples, the cotton store, Hiram Hills, the river and River Road, Hiram Falls, and of course, the Ridlon Schoolhouse! Neidlinger explained, "We each picked a couple of songs, and will support each other," Neidlinger said. Conway was next with "Me and Bobby McGee" by Janis Joplin, then Lenfest, who loves Hank Williams according to Neidlinger, sang, "Move it on

Over." Neidlinger picked it back up with "The Night they drove old dixie down." Mathieu then sang, "Country Roads" with much audience participation. Neidlinger then sang "Can't Hurry Love," and Mathieu ended the night with "I shall be released" by Bob Dylan.

The audience offered a raucous round of applause. Smiles were everywhere, and several folks lingered to chat with each other or the musicians. It was a great evening for a great cause.

If you were not able to attend but would like to contribute, go to the Historical Society's website, <https://www.hiramhistoricalsociety.org/ridlon-schoolhouse> and print out the form or donate online. You can also mail a check to HHS, PO Box 101, Hiram, ME 04041.

Interested in volunteering to rebuild the Schoolhouse when the time comes? Call Cliff Whitney at 207-625-8241. For more info about the Schoolhouse, or to volunteer, contact Sally Williams, Hiram Historical Society President and Town Historian, at 207-615-4390 or visit the Historical Society's website, www.hiramhistoricalsociety.org.

This Schoolhouse will be used as an educational resource for all, according to Williams.

COUNTY BUDGET

(Continued from page 1)

"Because (the state funds) are contingent on special appropriations; it is not a guaranteed, predictable source.... It is wholly dependent on the will of the Legislature," said Zinser.

York County Commissioners – and the Maine County Commissioners Association, among others, had hope for LD 2232, which would have provided a regular amount of annual state jail funding to the counties, but, Dutremble noted, while legislators he spoke with said they realize a solution should be found, that apparently won't happen this time around.

In the fiscal year that begins July 1, York County will contribute \$12.5 million to run York County Jail, in addition to the \$2.4 million state contribution.

And because it wasn't until several days after commissioners transmitted the spending plan to the York County Budget Committee that it was learned the \$400,000 in state funds would be forthcoming, the budget board will deal with that matter in their upcoming meetings, with times and dates to be announced.

With the funds restored, the overall proposed budget increase is poised to be slightly more than 9 percent – about four percent less

than the 13.64 percent increase in the prior year, even with a county appropriation of \$1.85 million for the York County Recovery Center, which is poised to open gradually in late 2026 or early 2027.

The budget includes one new position in the facilities department; it is a full time post, but the worker would not be hired until halfway through the fiscal year.

It also includes a new, \$20,000 allocation to aid a York County Community Action transportation program aimed at providing bus rides for senior citizens and veterans to medical appointments

and grocery shopping in 13-14 York County municipalities. Another piece of the program provides rides to medical appointments for York County residents through volunteer drivers and some YCCAC buses, primarily to those who do not qualify for MaineCare. The allocation, said YCCAC Transportation Director Tom Reinauer, would draw down \$40,000 in federal funds.

Commissioners approved the request in a 3-2 vote, with commissioners Donna Ring, Robert Andrews and Justin Chenette in


favor, with Richard Clark and Dutremble voting against.

Clark said he respects the work YCCAC does and what they're trying to do, but not the process for approving such requests. He noted that a dozen years ago, York County removed social service requests from the budget – a move Clark said he wasn't happy with. The question now, he said, is how commissioners determine who among the needy get funding.

– By Tammy Wells,

York County government media

Join me May 12th, 6pm @ Alfred Town Hall.
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 Receive the Reporter in the mail each week for \$100 per year. The Reporter is published on Thursdays, 50 weeks per year.
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Distributed weekly in Acton, Alfred, Buxton, Cornish, Dayton, Hollis, Lebanon, Limerick, Limington, Lyman, Newfield, Parsonsfield, Sanford, Shapleigh, Springvale and Waterboro.

WEEKLY CIRCULATION 8,000

METAL DETECTING

(Continued from page 1)

For beginners, he recommended watching instructional YouTube videos and seeking guidance from experienced hobbyists.

Kabitzke emphasized the importance of ethics and respect when metal detecting. While permits are not required, he urged everyone to always ask permission before searching on private property and to ensure they leave no trace of their activity. "When you finish," he said, "it should look like you have never been there."

The event also brought together seasoned and aspiring treasure hunters. Penny Hanson and her husband Victor, from Parsonsfield, shared their enthusiasm for the hobby and attended the program in hopes of picking up a few pointers. The sense of camaraderie and curiosity was apparent as the audience exchanged questions, stories, and tips.

After a long Maine winter, Kabitzke remarked that metal detecting is a wonderful way to get outdoors, enjoy the fresh air, and connect with local history. The Newfield Historical Society's program proved a hit, inspiring attendees to embark on their own adventures and perhaps unearth the next piece of the past.

If you are interested in metal detecting and would like to get in touch with Werner Kabitzke, you can reach him at 207-793-4006.



Some of the finds that Werner Kabitzke unearthed in the local York County area. Attendees of the April 11 event admired the artifacts and asked many questions. PHOTO BY JOANNE BARGIONI

SANFORD

Watch the Aries public forum on youtube

On Thursday, April 2, Aries Clean Technologies hosted a public forum at the Sanford Performing Arts Center to share details about the proposed project and respond to questions and concerns from attendees. A recording of the forum is now available on the WSSRTV YouTube channel for those interested in learning more and hearing the full discussion.

The event begins with a formal presentation covering key topics, including biosolids management, a PFAS overview, the proposed Aries project, community health considerations, air and water quality, odor and noise control, environmental protection measures, and information about the Linden facilities and finances. This is followed by a public question-and-answer session.

If you were unable to attend but want to learn more about this project and the broader biosolids challenges facing Maine, you are encouraged to watch the recording of the event at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KoeLD-iSPA-A>.

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Home dedication ceremony planned for two of Habitat York County's newest homeowners

Habitat for Humanity York County staff, volunteers, and project partners will gather on Friday, April 24 at 9 a.m. to dedicate two new homes and celebrate the completion of the development located at 3 Beaver Hill Rd. in Sanford. The event program will include recognition remarks, the official presentation of keys, and a new home tour. The public is encouraged to attend to help welcome the homeowners to the neighborhood.

According to Habitat York County Executive Director Jeff Hassel, "This is an opportunity to bring together the whole community to celebrate the devotion, hard work, and generosity of so many individuals and businesses (including the new homeowners) that partnered with us and the City of Sanford to make this dream of homeownership come true!"

April Tardiff, one of the two Habitat York County homeowner partners whose homes are being dedicated, shared this message of gratitude: "We are incredibly grateful to Habitat for Humanity, the volunteers, and partners who made this possible—this home is truly a future for our family. A special thank you to John Roberts, Habitat for Humanity's construction manager, whose leadership kept everything running smoothly, and to the Springvale and Sanford communities for supporting families like ours. Seeing the pride in our four-year-old reminds us every day that this experience has changed our lives, and we will carry that gratitude with us always."

The completion of this project marks the conclusion of the organization's tribute-build honoring President Jimmy Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, in recognition of their lifelong commitment to furthering the mission of Habitat



April Tardiff with Matt and son.

for Humanity.

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 30 % of household

income. Homeowner partnership with Habitat York County also requires participation in home construction, known as "sweat equity," and offers support throughout the process, including financial education. Habitat for Humanity York County believes everyone deserves a safe and stable place to call home.



Buffy and Jeff Hassel. COURTESY PHOTOS

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Dawn Potter appointed as Maine's next Poet Laureate

Governor Janet T. Mills and the Maine Arts Commission has announced poet and educator Dawn Potter as Maine's next State Poet Laureate, recognizing her distinguished body of work and her longstanding commitment to advancing poetry and literary engagement across the state.

Potter was selected from a slate of candidates who submitted applications. Following a thorough review process, finalists were recommended to the Governor by the Maine Arts Commission through an advisory selection committee. Potter will serve a five-year term as State Poet Laureate from July 2026 through June 2031.

Established in 1995, the Maine State Poet Laureate is an honorary position created to promote appreciation of poetry statewide, recognize an accomplished Maine poet, and encourage public engagement through readings, educational programs, and community partnerships. The Poet Laureate participates in initiatives such as Poetry Out Loud and collaborates with organizations and communities across Maine to foster deeper connections to poetry and the written word.

"I am pleased to announce Dawn Potter as Maine's Poet Laureate, and I congratulate her on this special honor," said Governor Mills. "As someone whose moth-

er taught English in the public schools, I learned early in life that poetry can create connections with people, ideas and cultures different from our own and help us understand our world and the people in it. Maine has long inspired and attracted poets who have enriched our lives and made our state what it is today. As an accomplished poet and educator, Dawn Potter is well-prepared to connect Maine people of all ages with this timeless art form."

Potter will succeed Julia Bouwsma, who has served as Maine's Poet Laureate since 2021.

"Serving as Poet Laureate has been a tremendous honor," said Julia Bouwsma. "Traveling across Maine to visit schools and libraries, support community poetry projects, and connect with poets and readers has reminded me that poetry is deeply communal work. I'm grateful to everyone who shared their stories and love of poetry with me along the way. Maine is an extraordinary place to be a poet."

"I'm deeply grateful to be standing alongside the poets who have held this position before me," said Dawn Potter. "All six of my predecessors have been a part of my education in poetry. All have shown me what it means to be an ambassador for the art, and I hope I can carry their example forward."

As of 2024, the Poet Laureate receives an annual honorarium of \$5,000, with dedicated administrative and programmatic support from the Maine Arts Commission.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dawn Potter as Maine's next Poet Laureate," said Amy Hausmann, Executive Director of the Maine Arts Commission. "Her work reflects the depth, curiosity, and generosity of Maine's literary community, and we look forward to partnering with her over the next five years to celebrate poetry, amplify voices, and help people across the state feel seen, heard, and connected through the power of poetry."

In celebration of National Poetry Month, the Maine Arts Commission hosted the second annual Poetry Celebration at the State Capitol's Hall of Flags on April 3. The event featured readings by more than thirty Maine poets, appearances by the outgoing and incoming Poet Laureates, and performances by 2026 Poetry Out Loud State Champion Meghan Rivard (Maine Arts Academy), runner-up Pax Horn (Hall-Dale High School), and finalist Cole Hickey (Gardiner Area High School).

ABOUT DAWN POTTER: Dawn Potter directs poetry and teaching programs at Monson Arts and offers online poetry classes through *The Poetry Kitchen*. She previously



Dawn Potter will assume the duties of Maine's Poet Laureate on July 1. COURTESY PHOTO

led poetry and teaching programs at *The Frost Place* for more than a decade and has served as a visiting writer at the Solstice MFA Program, Smith College, Endicott College, and numerous other institutions. In addition to teaching, she works as a manuscript consultant and freelance editor for literary and academic presses.

Potter is the author or editor of ten books of prose and poetry, most recently the poetry collection *Calendar*. She was a finalist for the National Poetry Series, and her memoir *Tracing Paradise: Two Years in Harmony with John Milton* received a Maine Literary Award in Nonfiction. Her work has appeared in *Beloit Poetry Journal*, *The Sewanee*

Review, *The Threepenny Review*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, and many other publications. She has received grants and fellowships from the Elizabeth George Foundation, The Writer's Center, and the Maine Arts Commission. Potter lives in Portland, Maine, with her husband.

ABOUT THE MAINE ARTS COMMISSION: The Maine Arts Commission is an independent state agency that supports artists, arts organizations, and communities across all 16 counties, strengthening Maine's cultural life and creative economy. Through grants, partnerships, and statewide initiatives, the Commission fosters public participation in the arts and advances Maine's rich artistic heritage.

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Obituaries

Anita Louise Boyes

Anita Louise Boyes, age 88, of Limerick, passed away on April 12, 2026, at Pinnacle Health and Rehab. in Sanford.



Anita Louise Boyes

She was born on July 9, 1937, in Limerick, a daughter of the late Elmer and Beatrice (Morin) Nason and graduated from Manchester High School in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Shortly after graduation, Anita enlisted into the United States Air Force and proudly served our

country. During her enlistment while stationed in San Antonio, she met and married Walter Earl Boyes Jr.

She enjoyed handcrafts such as quilting, knitting, crocheting, making hats and mittens, playing computer games, reading and traveling. She also enjoyed bowling and traveled throughout the country in tournaments. In her late 70's, she even tried white water rafting.

Anita is predeceased by her husband Walter Boyes Jr.; and a daughter Tammy Lynne Boyes.

She is survived by her children: Earl Boyes and his wife Barbara of Myrtle Beach, SC; Gale Boyes of Mesa, AZ; Kenneth Boyes and his wife Dora of Newport News, VA; Gloria Poole of Limerick; Suzanna Boyes of Limerick; and Scott Boyes of Indian Gulch, AZ. She is

also survived by siblings Lorraine Gilman of Alfred and David Nason and his wife Shelly of WV; eight grandchildren; sixteen great grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

A private graveside service will be held at the Highland Annex Cemetery in Limerick with USAF Honors.

Online condolences can be submitted at the Chad E. Poitras Cremation and Funeral Service, East Waterboro, website, www.maine-funeral.com.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Pinnacle Health and Rehab. for the Resident Council, 1142 Main St., Sanford, ME 04073.

Theresa E. Parsons

Theresa E. Parsons, 92, of Springvale, died on April 5, 2026, at Gosnell Memorial Hospice House in Scarborough, Maine, where she had been a patient for a short time.



Theresa E. Parsons

Theresa was born Jan. 20, 1934, in Hanover, Massachusetts, the daughter of Professor John Nelson Everson and Theresa Marie Verlin. The family moved to Amherst, Massachusetts, when Theresa was 2 years old.

Theresa graduated from Amherst High School and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, obtaining a degree in zoology. She was a member of the Sigma Kappa sorority.

Theresa married Donald S. Parsons on Aug. 25, 1956. The family moved to Springvale in 1972, and she had resided in the same home since that time. Besides the full-time job of raising four children, Theresa worked in various positions related to the medical field, including becoming an EMT and an Audiology Technician, as well as different secretarial positions.

"Terry," as she was affectionately called by family and friends, had a special interest in wildflowers and birds. She loved to hike and to travel and was proud to have been to 48 states and Canada. She enjoyed singing throughout her life, participating in church choirs, community choruses, and theatre groups. Terry was active as a Den Mother for Boy Scouts of America when her boys were young, the local Garden Club, the Trafton Senior Center, and with the Sanford, Maine, Stage Senior Theatre group.

Theresa was predeceased by her husband and three sisters, Laura Kelley, Marcia Moss, and Margaret Everson. She is survived by her four children, sons David and his husband Terry Turner of Sanford; James of Casco, MI; Richard and his wife Christine of Derwood, MD; and daughter Sharon and husband Paul Flanagan of Fayetteville, NY. Theresa also leaves behind 11 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Calling hours will be from 5-7 p.m. on Friday, May 15, at Bibber Memorial at Autumn Green (47 Oak St.) in Alfred. Funeral Service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, at the Alfred Parish Church. Burial will be at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 18, at North Amherst Cemetery in Amherst, MA. Memorial contributions may be made to Wells Reserve at Laudholm Farm or the Trafton Senior Center.

The family would like to thank the staff from Arcadia and Hospice of Southern Maine who helped her stay home as long as possible, and especially the staff at Gosnell House, who treated Theresa and her family with such care and compassion.

To share a memory or leave a message of condolence, visit www.bibbersautumnngreen.com.

Arrangements are in care of Bibber Memorial at Autumn Green 47 Oak St, Alfred, ME 04002.

LETTERS

ICE took my tenant

On Aug. 25, 2025, ICE agents detained Hossam Mohamed in our backyard in Kennebunk. A legal Egyptian asylum seeker, Hossam moved into my apartment in May 2023. He had recently fled Egypt where he was beaten by authorities and a close friend committed suicide. Hossam and his friend had been protesting Egyptian government oppression of LGBTQ+ individuals.

Despite struggling with PTSD, Hossam is a dynamic young person and quickly became a beloved community member. He volunteered at New School in Kennebunk, sharing his passion for teaching history. He worked in several businesses in town; Wallingford Farm, Smoke BBQ and Hannaford Supermarket.

Since his abduction and disappearance, Hossam has been in 6 detention facilities across 5 states and has had 4 judges. His sponsor and attorney have been feverishly working to fulfill the court's requirements. One challenge occurred on the morning of Feb. 11 (his court date) when ICE agents moved Hossam from Rhode Island to Texas without court permission. This has left the court uncertain how to proceed, as the merit hearing already took place in Boston, a different jurisdiction.

Hossam has now been held in a detention center for eight months. His health has suffered. He is in constant fear for his life since deportation to Egypt would likely be a death sentence. His friends try to buy his spirits via zoom whenever a judge considers his case. It is hard to imagine my own fellow Americans treating people like this. Yet my home in quiet Kennebunk has been invaded and a dear friend who seeks only asylum from inhumane treatment is locked away in a distant cell.

- Ellen Callaway Kennebunk

NOTICE

TOWN OF ACTON Invitation to Bid - Brush Removal and Chipping

The Town of Acton is currently accepting sealed bids for brush removal and chipping at the Acton Transfer Station, 1114 H Road, Acton, Maine, 04001.

For bidding purposes, bidders can view the brush pile by contacting the Transfer Station Superintendent, John Rouleau, during normal business hours. (Transfer Station Hours are Mondays from 8:00 am to 2 pm; Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm; Saturdays from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sundays from 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm (June 1st - Labor Day).

Bids must be hand delivered or mailed to the Town Hall/Town Administrator's office, 35 H Road, Acton, Maine 04001, ATTN: Chipping Bid by Wednesday at 4 pm on May 6, 2026. No bids will be accepted at the Transfer Station. The winning bidder must provide proof of liability insurance and also workers comp insurance, if applicable.

Bids will be reviewed at the Select Board's meeting that same evening; you do not have to be present for your bid to be considered. The Select Board reserves the right to reject any and or all bids.

EMPLOYMENT

TOWN OF ACTON JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Town of Acton is currently accepting resumes for an Assistant Office Clerk. This position will serve as an Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector and an Office Assistant to the Administrator. Duties will vary day-to-day, as needed, in an office environment. The ideal candidate will have strong Word and Excel skills. Additionally, the chosen person will have strong organizational skills. The position will be 36 hours per week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday 8am - 5pm and Thursdays 10am - 7pm. Compensation will be between \$22.00-\$24.00 an hour. The Town of Acton offers a variety of benefits, which can be found in their personal policy on their website at www.actonmaine.org. Resumes should be delivered to the Town Administrator, either in person or by email at jroux@actonmaine.org.

The Town of Acton is an EOE and reserves the right to reject any and all resumés. Position shall remain open until a suitable candidate is selected.

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Thank you for reading!

OPEN HOUSE Saturday, April 18, 11am - 1pm



202 Beaver Brook Rd., Limerick, Maine

Wonderful lakefront ranch on 1.6 acres with 680 feet of owned frontage in private cove. Open concept kitchen - living - dining rooms, large carport, generator and metal roof. Very well maintained and PRE-INSPECTED! **\$519K**



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OPEN HOUSE Saturday, April 18, 1:30 - 3:30pm



59 Crescent Dr., North Waterboro, Maine

Beautiful Colonial on level lot right to the shores of Lake Arrowhead. Soaring ceilings, multiple sliders with fabulous lake views and a primary suite you will LOVE. Three beds, 2.5 baths, docks and all appliances. Granite kitchen, family room and lots of storage. **\$659K**



FROM YORK COUNTY AUDUBON



Piping Plovers.
 COURTESY PHOTO BY MAINE AUDUBON

Shorebirds in Maine

Protecting our beach-nesting Plovers and migratory birds

York County Audubon invites the community to a special program at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, when Laura Zitske will present the incredible progress that's been made in protecting our shorebirds. This program will be held in the Mather Auditorium at the Wells Reserve and will also be streamed via Zoom.

Each spring, endangered Piping Plovers and Least Terns return to nest and raise their young on southern Maine beaches. They are two of Maine's most iconic and threatened bird species. For more than 35 years, Maine Audubon and our partners have worked with local residents, landowners, and visitors to ensure that endangered birds, wildlife, and people can safely share the beach.

In this talk, Laura will highlight some of the project's successes and challenges over the past 45 years, including Maine's exciting increases in the Piping Plover population. She will explore what makes plovers such remarkable birds and discuss the collaborative successes of Maine Audubon's work with partners. Although Maine's Piping Plovers are currently in a good place, there is always more work to be done to protect them and other migratory shorebirds. Learn about the incredible journeys of some species that stop along our coastline and how we can work together to help protect some of our most vulnerable feathered friends. For more information, visit <https://maineaudubon.org/projects/plovers-terns>.

This program will be free and open to all ages, and no registration is required for attending the program in person. It will also be live-streamed via Zoom. To view it via Zoom, you'll need to register in advance at www.yorkcountyaudubon.org. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

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