

REPORTER

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Locally owned and independently operated.

VOLUME 22, ISSUE 25 PO Box 75, North Waterboro, ME 04061 • 247-1033 • www.waterbororeporter.com THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024

A giving Sanford couple partners with Habitat for Humanity for new home

Habitat for Humanity York County, supporters, donors, and volunteers gathered on June 18 to celebrate the completion of Habitat for Humanity's 35th affordable home in York County. During the dedication ceremony Diego and Eileen Gonzalez received the keys to their new home.

Addressing the crowd during the ceremony future homeowner Diego said, "You guys are family,

you are neighbors, you are friends, and we wouldn't have it any other way, we are thankful to have met all of you and participated in this project with you." Diego and Eileen will purchase the home through an affordable mortgage. Their mortgage will be no more than 29 percent of their household income.

Diego and Eileen have been residents of Sanford for over 15

years. For decades, Eileen served her community as a nurse and caregiver. She spent the majority of her career as a nurse and in home hospice care in Vermont. After college, Diego enlisted in the Navy in 1969. The Navy gave Diego the opportunity to serve our country and travel the world as a member of a flight control squadron for naval amphibious operations. Both

(Continued on page 5)



Eileen and Diego at the dedication ceremony of their new home. COURTESY PHOTO

Radio system valuable in emergencies

First responders look to expand use of GMRS in York County

If electronic communication isn't possible, then the ability to talk to family members who may be in a different town, conduct business transactions, or keep the public safe in an emergency, vanishes.

Society is accustomed to instant electronic communication – except when technology fails.

And it can happen.

Those who live near the salt water keenly remember the devastating coastal storms in January.

(Continued on page 4)



York County EMA Communications Team members Neil Tolman and Jim White, among others, are looking to expand the range of General Mobile Radio Service – commonly called GMRS, to communicate during emergencies if regular digital service fails. GMRS could be a boon to both first responders dealing with a disaster and to residents, looking to communicate with family and neighbors, proponents say. PHOTO BY TAMMY WELLS, YORK COUNTY GOVERNMENT.



Cody Payeur of Sanford constructs a fairy house, a recent activity at the Springvale Public Library. PHOTO BY JOANNE BARGIONI

Fairy houses

BY JOANNE BARGIONI

On June 21, Springvale Public Library hosted a build-your-own Fairy House with Anna Desmond for children aged 5-12. Desmond brought all the materials needed for the children to make their own Fairy House, including pinecones, burlap, moss, twigs, acorns, colored stones, and colored raffia. Desmond, who lives in Shapleigh, has taught constructing Fairy House classes at Massabesic Adult and Community Education in the past, and she was delighted to bring her expertise to the over 20 children and parents who attended the class.

Sheila Dube, Children's Librarian, began the class by reading a book entitled "Firefly Forest" by

Robin Frampton. It pictured fairy houses inside the book to inspire the children, and there were also a few other books available to check out of the library about fairy houses, such as "Fairy Houses and Beyond" by Barry and Tracy Kane.

Desmond began her instruction by asking the children, "Do you believe in fairies?" All the children said yes, and Desmond continued to explain that she would talk about four types of fairy houses. One type was a Quonset hut style that was made with tree bark. There were also pinecones that you could stack on top of each other and put a roof on top. There was the tent type of fairy house that used moss, twigs, pinecones, acorns, and mushrooms, and the fourth type was a log cabin type of fairy house. She left it up to the children to decide which type they would build.

The history of Fairy Houses goes back to ancient Ireland. Fairies are believed to be the original, magical, powerful inhabitants of the British Isles who were driven underground by warring invaders, according to fifthseasonsgardening.com. They stated that "in art and literature, garden fairies serve as powerful symbols of innocence, wonder, and the magic of the natural world." Moreover, fairies are known to bring good luck and happiness.

(Continued on page 4)

NEW EVERY THURSDAY!
 LOCAL news, events and faces
 from your LOCAL community.



DELICIOUS HADDOCK SUPPER BUFFET Saturday, June 29 at 5 p.m. at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child, \$20 Family. Takeout available.

BAKED BEAN & CHOP SUEY SUPPER at First Congregational Church, Kennebunkport Saturday, June 29 from 4:30-6 p.m. at the church, 141 North St., Kennebunkport. Suppers will be held on the last Saturday of each month through October. There

will be two types of home baked beans. One type of beans will be meatless for our vegetarian or vegan friends. There will also be American Chop Suey, macaroni & cheese, hot dogs, rolls, and cole slaw, topped off with a slice

of homemade pie. Adults and children age 12 and over \$10 per person, and children under 12 are \$5 per child. FMI Carol at 710-7060.

RUMMAGE SALE June 29, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Sanford, 905 Main St.

Community CALENDAR

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

MEMOIR WRITERS GROUP West Buxton Public Library, Monthly on the 2nd Wednesday. Next meeting is July 10 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Via Zoom. No Fees thanks to a grant from the Narragansett Number One Foundation. Sign up via email: link-cabin@gmail.com.

19TH ANNUL VICTORIAN TEA Sunday, July 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. Come join us celebrate our 19th Tea with Rita Parisian she recreates a 1908 day at the beach. After the outside program, partake in a light repast elegantly decorated, 42 room building. Air-conditioned. \$30 pre-buy. (12 and under \$5) FMI: Jan Smith (603) 539-5233 or Marie Cobb (207) 625-8360. Hosted by: The Friends of Parsonsfield Seminary (friendsofparsem@aol.com) North Road, Parsonsfield (Route 160).

LYMAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING on Tuesday, July 16 at 6 p.m. at the Arion Lodge (the Masons) on Goodwins Mills Road.

The Original's present **PRIVATE LIVES, A PLAY BY NOEL COWARD** at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, July 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 at 7:30 p.m. and July 21 & 28 at 2:30 p.m. \$15 general admission: www.sacorivertheatre.org.

SUMMER THEATER CAMPS at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, Aug. 5-16. Join us for an enriching experience where children can explore their creativity and develop confidence through the theater. FMI, visit <https://www.sacorivertheatre.org/srt-jr>.

HAND CRAFTERS NEEDED The Alfred Shaker Museum is seeking Hand Crafters offering hand-crafted items for sale at the Shaker Hill Apple Festival being held on Saturday and Sunday, September 21 & 22. FMI call Jeannette Montgomery at (207) 289-9338.

ASTRONOMY CLUB A new and exciting program for children in grades 1-5. Come to Astronomy Club on the first Monday of each month from 4 to 5 p.m. at the Waterboro Public Library, 187 Main Street., East Waterboro. Children will explore astronomy and other topics in Space exploration with Gwendolyn from Ossipee Hill Farm & Observatory. *Also check out the Fiber Arts Group that meets every Monday, 2-3:30 p.m.*

Rain or shine, we will be holding this event inside. Use the Kimball Street entrance. Raffling off a corn hole board game with the Patriots logo on it at the end of the event. Come try your luck!

ADVENTURE AWAITS! Join the Hollis Center Library in their 2024 Children's Summer Reading Program. The theme this year is "Adventure Begins at Your Library." All children up to young teens are invited to embark on a journey filled with books, activities and events designed to inspire a love of reading and exploration. Program will run from July 1-Aug. 12 and is free. Registration will start on July 1, the day of the first Summer Reading Story-time. Visit their website at www.hollis-centerpubliclibrary.org.

Join us at Soldiers Memorial Library in Hiram for a **TURTLES FOR TOTS** program from the Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine on Tuesday, July 2 at 10:30 a.m. "Explore the world of turtles! Engage in dramatic play to act out a day in the life of a turtle, build a turtle habitat from textile and natural materials, and meet a live turtle that calls Maine home." Free to attend, geared toward children ages 2-5 but is open to all. This event is sponsored by M&T Bank/The M&T Charitable Foundation. Soldiers Memorial Library is located at 85 Main Street, Hiram.

YARD SALE at the East Parsonsfield Meetinghouse, 1637 North Road, East Parsonsfield July 5 & 6 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. All proceeds go to the restoration of this building. We are a 501c nonprofit. FMI contact Debbie Harrington at 415-0316.

PIE AND CRAFT SALE on Saturday, July 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. to benefit the South Effingham West Parsonsfield Citizens Organization, a non-profit which maintains the historical community church building. Held outside next to Ye Olde Sale Shoppe at 1543 Province Lake Road (Route 153 S) in South Effingham, just next to the border with Parsonsfield. Interested crafters/vendors call Patty at 603-539-7518.

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Limerick Public Library

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55 Washington Street, Limerick


The annual book/DVD sale will be held in the library during regular library hours, beginning **Saturday, June 22** and continuing through **Friday, July 5** (or until most books/DVDs are sold).

FILL A BAG FOR \$10⁰⁰!

Closing July 3 at noon and closed July 4.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday: 1-5p.m. • Tuesday: 9a.m.-6p.m.
 Wednesday: 9a.m.-12p.m. & 3-8 p.m.
 Friday: 1-5p.m. • Saturday: 9a.m.-1p.m.





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Anna Desmond of Shapleigh helps Torin Larsen of Sanford choose from a selection of items for his Fairy House. PHOTO BY JOANNE BARGIONI

FAIRY HOUSES

(Continued from page 1)

Sometimes fairies can be mischievous, and we humans decided to make friends with the fairies by planting flowers that fairies favor, which would encourage them to behave. If a fairy were pleased by a flower or home, it was believed it would create a home underneath or inside it and bring happiness and luck to the people responsible for building it.

It was amazing to see that, without much instruction, the children ran up to grab their supplies and began building. They used their imagination after Desmond inspired them to create their fairy house. Younger children were assisted by their parents or grandparents. The fairies are going to love them!

The Fairy Houses will remain on the library grounds for all to see.

RADIO SYSTEM

(Continued from page 1)

They, and those living inland, recall the early April storm in that brought multiple inches of heavy wet snow and gusty winds, causing tree limbs to crash onto power lines and a twisted web of damage throughout York County. Many roads were impassible and for some residents, there was no electric power for several days.

Complicating matters, a part of the communication system first responders use went down for about 24 hours, members said, which meant cell phone service and mobile data terminals weren't working in those areas.

Such situations can be potentially dangerous – for first responders out in the storm attempting to find and monitor impassible roadways, emergency medical personnel caring for ill people and trying to get them to hospital, for power crews tasked with repairing the damage and for families cold in their dark homes.

For emergency managers, having a back up to the backup is a must. Sometimes, a third or fourth back up is necessary in this digital age – and the volunteer communications group attached to York County Emergency Management Agency has found one: an inexpensive radio system that can let you talk with your neighbor, and first responders with each other.

The radios are GMRS – short for General Mobile Radio Service. They are inexpensive, starting around \$30, and a 10-year FCC license, which is good for the entire family and doesn't require a test, is inexpensive as well, about \$35, said EMA communications team volunteer Jim White. He, along with some others, is heavily involved in the drive to adapt the

GMRS system for first responder and community use.

“(GMRS) a way to get the word out about emergencies but it's also a community thing,” said White. “We want people to know GMRS is available .. it could be helpful to anyone who needs to communicate.”

GMRS radios typically have a range of up to four or five miles – but with a system of nodes (think base stations) and a couple of repeaters, the range multiplies.

White and Dave Garriepy, a longtime Kennebunk first responder also engaged at the county level, along with YCEMA Communications Team Chief Neil Tolman, Kennebunk Fire-Rescue Chief Justin Cooper, and others are looking to expand the network, to provide another tool for safety during emergencies and for everyday use.

Cooper pointed out that emergency responders had more ability to communicate in the 1970s and 80s, using analog equipment, than do responders today. With GMRS, when cell service goes out, communication remains.

Proponents note that GMRS can be used in a variety of applications besides emergency situations – during parades, so organizers can talk with each other; during road construction, those pulling traffic duty for road races, as a method to communicate while snowmobiling, hiking and for wellness checks on a community's most vulnerable citizens.

Tolman pointed out he uses the GMRS system to communicate with his wife on their property, which is located in an area where cell service is poor.

GMRS can be a way for friends to communicate, just for fun, proponents say, and of course during emergencies.

Currently White and Garriepy are evaluating locations for nodes, and also for two repeaters, and Garriepy and Cooper have been talking with service clubs in Kennebunk outlining their hopes for the system and the ability to purchase the repeater equipment needed to fully operate it.

Each repeater, related gear and installation costs about \$7,000, they estimated, and team members believe two would cover the county.

In the presentation to the Rotary Club of Kennebunk, Garriepy noted the radio system is inexpensive for fixed-income families, is user friendly, provides users with peace of mind, and can provide first responders with information during an emergency.

Tolman said after the April storm, he talked to a man living on one of York County's many lakes. “There were three families there, they kept in touch (with GMRS) during the storm and discussed what roads were open and closed,” he pointed out.

“When all the systems go down you can talk with this,” White noted. And he pointed out, during storms, radio owners can turn on the weather alerts, can engage in conversation, or not. “If you're shy about talking, just listen in.”

“This is something the entire population of the county could use,” said Cooper.

The volunteers estimate that that there are about 250 GMRS licensed families in York County already – and they're looking to boost that number.

“(It's a tool) to help make sure our communities are safe,” said Garriepy. And he pointed out, if people acquire GMRS and use the radios regularly, when an emergency arises, they're better prepared.

“It could save a life,” said YCEMA communications unit leader Dave Francoeur.

– By Tammy Wells, Media Specialist for York County Government



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OPINION

LETTERS

Very interesting mosh of thoughts in the Reporter lately.

Jon's jottings recently asked "what would Jesus do"? He doesn't have the answer nor do I.

David Barker suggested what Jesus cannot forgive.

David Hall reminds us how much social work isn't done.

Elaine Millenand and Dr. Greenleaf remind us fences set both boundaries and goals.

It's enough to make your head spin.

Barker pointed out the biblical times we live in, sometimes referred to as "end times." A time where right and wrong are reversed. A time where people are lovers of themselves before anyone else.

Even driving habits even reflect the "me first" attitude - in downtown Portland or West Newfield's metropolis. You get cut off or passed for going only 5 - over the speed limit.

Did Barker suggest we repent and ask to be forgiven, and really mean it?

How sick are we all when someone says Sorry and didn't mean it? I'm pretty sure God feels more disgust than me at selfishness.

Hall reminded us that poverty, homelessness, and substance abuse are subjects are both easy to discuss and ignore. That starts with Gov. Mills and trickles all the way down to city mayors and select boards. Elected officials have no answers except throw a little money towns and say, handle it. Homeless camps grow until bulldozed.

The boundaries and goals the Doctor and Elaine remind us about? We need both! But, without basic education skills goals nor boundaries will be achieved.

About a year ago I listened to a local teacher who lamented, "K through 1st grades are taught more about socialization skills than reading, writing and arithmetic. They are not learning basic education and can't read".

This "mosh" could only happen in a Constitutional republic. We have protected freedoms to our opinions and actions. The wolves can't tell individuals what to do unless we all allow it. And we are.

If only, we would listen to the small voice we all hear. Listen, care, act, be involved, confront without confrontation, lead and parent, and for Gods sake think of others not just self pleasure.

That would make America great again.

- Ed Stubbs
Newfield

Send your letters to:
news@waterboro
reporter.com

BUSINESS NEWS



Sanford/Springvale Chamber members, and others, helped Sebago Technics 'Cut the Ribbon' during a recent Open House at their new Sanford location. COURTESY PHOTO

Sebago Technics celebrates new Sanford office

On June 13, Sebago Technics, Inc. a Maine-based employee-owned engineering collective, hosted an open house and ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the relocation of its Sanford/York

County office to 15 Daigle Lane, Suite 103. The event marked a significant milestone in Sebago Technics' continued growth and commitment to serving the community and region.

The open house drew a diverse group of community members, clients, partners, and local officials who gathered to explore the new office space and meet the

Sebago Technics team. The event also highlighted the successful integration of Corner Post Land Surveying, which Sebago Technics acquired in 2022, further enhancing the company's comprehensive service offerings.

"We are thrilled to open our new Sanford office and to continue our tradition of providing exceptional service to our clients," said Mark Adams, President and CEO of Sebago Technics. "This new location represents our commitment to growth and to supporting the needs of the communities we serve."

The new office at 15 Daigle Lane, strategically located off Rt. 109, offers an enhanced workspace designed to foster collaboration and innovation. It will serve as a hub for Sebago Technics'

expanded team, which includes experts in engineering, surveying, environmental sciences, and more.

Sebago Technics is grateful to everyone who attended the open house and looks forward to continuing to build strong relationships within the Sanford and York County communities.

Sebago Technics, Inc. is a creative engineering collective comprising 110+ design professionals and technical staff. With offices across Southern, Western, and Midcoast, Maine, the firm offers comprehensive services covering all aspects of projects, from initial site assessment and design to navigating permitting and overseeing construction.

For more information, visit www.sebagotechnics.com.

A NEW HOME

(Continued from page 1)

Diego and Eileen have dedicated their lives providing aid to others.

Habitat for Humanity requires partner families to complete sweat equity volunteer hours before purchasing their new home. "Diego and Eileen completed over 600 volunteer hours with Habitat, surpassing the required 400 hours. Habitat

is excited to be a part of Diego and Eileen's homeownership journey," said Alana Shapiro Habitat's Program Coordinator.

Habitat for Humanity wouldn't be able to build homes without the support of the community. If you are interested in becoming involved with Habitat or donating, visit www.habitatyorkcounty.org for more information.

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TOWN OF LYMAN PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

11 SOUTH WATERBORO ROAD, LYMAN MAINE 04002
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The LYMAN PLANNING BOARD will hold a PUBLIC HEARING on **Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 5:30 pm** at Lyman Town Hall, 11 S Waterboro Rd. This hearing is to present information and to allow for public comment on the proposed continued use of a single-family home for long-term rental on one lot and a new allowance for food trucks and eventually a beer & wine garden at 1301 Alfred Rd, Lyman.

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

Joseph Wagner, Chairman

TOWN OF HOLLIS PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE PUBLIC BE WARNED

The Hollis Zoning Board of Appeals will be meeting and holding a public hearing on **Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 6:00PM** at the Hollis Community Building, 35 Town Farm Road, Hollis, Maine for the following appeal:

A request by Van Hertel / Narragansett Builders LLC for an administrative appeal review for notice of violations of Map 4, Lot 2A issued by the Code Enforcement Officer, in accordance with Hollis Zoning Ordinance, Article 3.7.3.2.a. Administrative Appeals.

Any affected property owner or person with information about the lot may attend. Comments may be submitted prior to the meeting by writing to: Board of Appeals, 34 Town Farm Road, Hollis, ME 04042 or by e-mail to adminsecretary@hollismaine.org.

Bart Sughrue, Chairman

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NOTICES

NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS
Determination of Categorical Exclusion

TO: All Interested Persons DATE ISSUED: June 4, 2024

As required by Section 6 of the State of Maine Rules Relating to Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Chapter 230, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) staff prepared a "Justification for Categorical Exclusion" on behalf of Alfred Water District of Alfred, Maine to exempt a proposed project from the formal environmental review requirements.

The proposed action is to replace the water main on Waterboro Road, serving Alfred Water District.

The Drinking Water Program's review of the proposed actions has indicated that it meets the criteria of "Categorical Exclusion" listed in subsection c (II) of Chapter 230. The project is not likely to have significant effects on the quality of the environment. Specifically, the proposed action is replacement of existing water mains with new mains in the same general location.

Therefore, a Categorical Exclusion from formal environmental review as provided in Section 6 of the State of Maine Rules Relating to Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund Chapter 230 is being granted. This exclusion may be revoked at any time if 1) the project is altered and no longer meets the requirements of a categorical exclusion, 2) new evidence shows that serious environmental issues exist, or 3) a local, State, or Federal law is being or may be violated.

Project documents are on file and are available for public review at the offices of Alfred Water District and the offices of the Drinking Water Program. Comments relative to this decision may be submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services Drinking Water Program.

-ALFRED WATER DISTRICT

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EMPLOYMENT

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The Town of Acton is looking to hire an on-call person to support the Acton Transfer Station. Candidates must be flexible and willing to be called on short notice to provide support when needed. There is no guarantee of hours. Transfer Station Hours are Monday: 8am - 2pm; Wednesday and Saturday: 10am - 4pm; and Sunday*: Noon - 4 pm. (*June 1st - Labor Day, September)

If interested, please contact the Town Administrator, Jennifer Roux at 207-636-3131 or email her at jroux@actonmaine.org.

Local Calling Cards

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Obituaries 

Cheryl Ann Thomas

Cheryl Thomas, beloved mother to one child and many chosen, 65, of Lyman, passed away in Scarborough on June 16, leaving a void her family cannot fill.



Cheryl Ann Thomas

Cheryl was born in Portland in 1959 to John McLoy and Helen Morse.

Cheryl was a devoted mother to Shawn, her pride and joy. She always said his birth changed her life for the better, and he felt that in the love and support she provided. She also shared this love with many others who looked up to her as a mother as well.


Cheryl took special joy in loving on young mothers in her community by hosting weekly playdates and luncheons, and left us with fond memories of home-made halloween costumes and motherly wisdom she shared.

Cheryl was preceded in death by her parents.

Cheryl left behind her husband Philip Thomas, son Shawn Thomas and his girlfriend Maegan Cabana; her sisters Helen and Sandy along with Sandy's partner Deb; Cheryl was Aunt to Chad and his sons Keegan, Aiden and Elijah; Cheryl chose to be Ma Taunt to Laura Simpson and her husband Andrew along with their children Eli, Leo, Noa and Charlette. Cheryl also chose to be Mother to Dorie LaRose and her husband Kevin and Grammie to their children Veronica, Isabelle, William, Oliver Thomas, David, and the late Ella. She was a dear friend to Karen Andrews and her husband Carl.

A service to celebrate Cheryl's life will be held July 13, 2024 at 2 p.m. at GracePoint Church, 329 South St, Biddeford, Maine, 04005.

She will be dearly missed by all those who knew her.




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