

## **APPENDIX A10 CULTURAL FACILITIES**

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(September 10, 2002)

Cultural facilities for the performing arts have been an important part of Sanford and Springvale since the mid 1800s. In 1872, the Sanford Dramatic Club was permitted to "make an addition ... to the town house ... for 'entertainments'." Various other halls were also used for stage shows.

For many years, from the 1950s through the early 1980s, Nasson College provided the community with a wide range of cultural activities through its concert and lecture series. The closing of Nasson College put an end to these programs and left a cultural void in the community.

### **A. Performing Arts Facilities**

There are currently no significant performing arts facilities in the community. The Sanford High School music and drama clubs produce performances in the Memorial Gym, as well as the high school cafetorium. Neither of these facilities is designed as a performance center; acoustics and sight lines are poor and support space is limited.

Sanford's community theater, the Pine Tree Players, uses a privately-owned theater facility on Beaver Hill. The theater seats 160 people. For many years, the Pine Tree Players shared the theater with the Sanford Maine Stage Company, a professional summer theater, which went bankrupt in 1989.

### **B. The Goodall Mansion**

The Goodall Mansion was constructed by the Goodall family and sits on Main Street across from the Town Hall. The building serves as a focal point for the downtown area and is a psychological link with the history of the community. The mansion has generally been well maintained.

### **C. Libraries**

The Town of Sanford supports two public libraries; the Louis B. Goodall Memorial Library and the Springvale Public Library.

The Louis B. Goodall Memorial Library (12,950 square feet) is Sanford's central library. It has approximately 66,000 volumes (weeding material that is outdated or that does not circulate has recently brought this down from 70,000 volumes). It is staffed by five full-time and five part-time staff. The building was originally

constructed in 1936-37 and expanded in 1976. Space in the library is adequate, although the staff is beginning to consider a modest expansion of the children's area. Parking for staff is barely adequate, and patron cars are restricted to the street. There is no land available for expansion of the building or additional parking. The library is planning to replace its inadequate chairlift with an elevator, but funding has proven elusive.

The Springvale Public Library is located on Main Street in Springvale and, while it primarily serves Springvale, many of its patrons reside in Sanford. It is also used by a number of Acton and Shapleigh residents (who can use the library free of charge but must pay for a nonresident circulation card). The library has recently expanded from 6,000 to 12,000 square feet (a \$1.3 million project). Fourteen new computer terminals and a new community room supplement the library's 37,000 volumes and excellent genealogy research collection. The library runs numerous programs, including workshops, children's activities, and interlibrary loan. The library is staffed by eight librarians.

#### **D. Other Facilities**

The Sanford-Springvale Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in Springvale provides a variety of programs and activities to its members. The YMCA, in addition to other facilities, has a community meeting room with space to seat approximately 100 people. This space is used for several community events, including a toy drive, voting, and other community meetings.

#### **E. Issues and Implications**

- X The lack of a performance center hampers Sanford's role as a regional performing arts center.
- X Space in the town's libraries is adequate. The Goodall Memorial Library needs funding to improve its handicap access.