

ANIMAL REFUGE

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wolf, an animal it's illegal to keep, but can live out the rest of its days in safety at a non-profit, registered organization like Samsara.

"I can't imagine doing anything else," said Lynn Stark. "What else would I be doing? It's hard work, yes, but I can't imagine not doing it."

All these creatures, however, require lots of care and feeding, and especially require space — outdoor, as well as indoor, the latter of which is in high demand at Samsara.

Presently, only the smallest creatures are housed inside, while the big animals are kept outside year-round. There's also no place to store large amounts of hay and other feed, which means Samsara has to constantly restock its supply of food during the colder months.

That's why Samsara will host a fundraiser on Sunday, Feb. 21 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Old Town, to raise money to build a proper barn at the refuge, as well as supplement the refuge's food and medicine supply.

The "barn" dance will be held from noon to 7 p.m., with bands performing including 5 Wheel Drive, the Ian Black Band, the Tyler Healy Band, the Allison Ames Band, the Barn Dogs, Country Boots, the Rick Carter Band and Country Camo. The suggested donation will be \$10; there will also be a bake sale and silent auction.

"For a lot of years they didn't need a barn, but now that they have two llamas, three alpacas, goats, horses, a donkey, well, they just have to have one," said Randy Blevins, a longtime family friend of the Starks that is helping to organize the fundraiser. "It's going to take about \$10,000 to build it. They'll be able to store the hay and the water and better shelter the big animals. They had to turn away a camel last year. It just about broke Lynn's heart."

Samsara is open to the public by appointment only; those that wish to visit the refuge can call 852-4372 to set up a time.

If you are unable to attend Sunday's fundraiser, Samsara also has a GoFundMe page online at www.gofundme.com/rbe2bpb8.

Bike, kayak rental business coming to downtown Bangor

BY NICK MCCREA
OF THE NEWS STAFF

BANGOR, Maine — A business setting up shop in downtown Bangor will rent bikes, kayaks, paddle boards and skis to help locals and visitors explore the community in new ways.

Jamie McDonough hopes to open Explore Bangor about mid-March in the storefront at 25 Hammond St. next to Giacomo's.

"I'm targeting people who say they haven't ridden a bike since they were kids," McDonough said during an interview Thursday.

The first floor will serve as a retail space, selling accessories that people might need for their adventures, socks from McDonough's family's business based in North Carolina, candy and more. The store also will have information about attractions and suggestions of where people can go and what they can do while they're out and about. Upstairs will be storage for the modes of transportation.

McDonough's business will organize guided tours of the area. For example, groups might paddle up the



GABOR DEGRE | BSN

Jamie McDonough's new business Explore Bangor will rent kayaks, bikes, x-country skis, and more, and provide guided tours and other options for people who want to explore the area.

Kenduskeag Stream canals or along Bangor's waterfront down to the Hampden Marina for a picnic. Tours will be arranged at times when the tides are best for paddling.

Those who rent bicycles might ride around town,

along the Kenduskeag Stream trail, or on the Bangor waterfront and across the bridge to Brewer's waterfront path.

"It will be around the same cost as going to a movie, but it will be a more

enriching experience," McDonough said.

McDonough hopes the rentals will be popular not just for tourists visiting Bangor, but also for locals who don't have bikes or kayaks of their own who want to

get out and get active.

Explore Bangor also is working with the city in hopes of building a kayak and canoe storage facility on the waterfront.

Tanya Emery, Bangor's economic development director, said Friday that the discussion is in the early stages, but that a proposal for a public boat storage building could be brought before the City Council once Explore Bangor is up and running.

"I think it will be a really good fit, and I think it's the right time for something like this," Emery said.

McDonough and her family moved to Bangor from South Carolina in 2013 after her husband, Robert, who is director of research and development for Johnson Outdoors Watercraft, was transferred to Maine.

She has two sons, one a sophomore at Bangor High School and the other in the eighth grade.

The family has always been active cyclists and paddlers. Robert McDonough was a professional kayaker, according to his wife.

"This is our passion, this is what we do," she said.

Sidewalk construction slated for Hogan Road

More than three years after a bad accident on Hogan Road, a \$211,000 construction project will bring pedestrian facilities to the busy road that has seen more foot traffic in recent years.

Bangor city councilors voted Feb. 8 to allocate \$35,200 in local tax increment financing money to fund the local share of the project. The Maine Department of Transportation is covering the remaining 80 percent.

The sidewalk will start at Springer Drive and extend to Stillwater Avenue, a distance of about 1,900 feet. A trio of crosswalks also will be installed at intersections along that stretch, one at the Bangor Mall entrance, another at the Stillwater intersection, and the third at the Longview Drive intersection.

In late 2012, two Canadian sisters on a shopping trip in Bangor were struck by a van when they attempted to cross Hogan Road near Olive Garden. Both sisters survived, though one was listed in critical

condition after the crash.

That crash sparked a call for new pedestrian infrastructure on the road, which to this point hasn't had any. Pedestrian traffic has increased in the area in recent years, primarily from tourists and shoppers walking from hotels to restaurants and stores.

The project was backed by city councilors, and the city was awarded a federal grant in 2013 to put toward the construction project.

City Engineer John Theriault said he hopes to complete the project this summer, but may have to push it to next summer if it takes longer than expected to get state approvals. Construction should take about six weeks, he added.

The project has sat idle, despite being added to the state's work plan in 2013, because state construction funding didn't become available until this year.

In other business, the council approved a sublease that will allow the owner of Harvest Moon Deli, a sandwich shop with locations in Orono, Bangor and Brewer, to set up shop in a building

shared with Union Street Athletics at 366 Griffin Road.

Keith Manaker, owner of Harvest Moon, said he hopes to set up a 20-25-seat restaurant in the 925-square foot space attached to the gym. The restaurant will have its own entrance and a similar menu to the other locations, he said.

He said the shop would offer people who work in the area or people hitting the gym an option other than fast food or sit-down family restaurants, and he hopes to open in early May.

Brewer prepares for phase two of waterfront trail system project

The city is preparing for phase two of its waterfront trail system, which will extend the 1,900-foot path from its current ending at the Chamberlain Bridge upriver to the Penobscot Bridge, and will add two stone chess tables to get things started.

"We expect construction [on the trail] to start in the fall and continue through the spring of next year and be

completed in the fall of 2017," D'arcy Main-Boyington, Brewer's economic development director, said recently.

The Maine-made stone chess tables should be installed in the next couple of months.

Greater Bangor Association of Realtors issued Brewer a \$2,000 grant, which was accepted at last week's council meeting, to pay for the chess tables along the waterfront trail near the Children's Garden.

Main-Boyington searched for a Maine company to build the tables and found Aron Buterbaugh, owner of Beachstone Sustainable Products in Portland.

Beachstone uses recycled glass that comes from three Washington County communities - Lubec, Machias and Eastport - and seashell products from other local sources to make concrete products, Buterbaugh said.

The chess board will be made with 2-inch square tiles colored in "Penobscot Blue" and "Katahdin Pearl" embedded in the concrete with seats that are topped with northern white cedar from Maine.

This first phase of the shoreline stabilization, a 600-linear-foot area in front of the High Tide restaurant and the old Bangor Box Factory on South Main Street, was completed in 2003. The second phase of Brewer's waterfront trail will connect that portion to Freedom Park, which is located just north of the Penobscot Bridge and features a statue of Joshua Chamberlain and of a slave emerging from an Underground Railroad tunnel, Main-Boyington said.

Betton Street was moved to align with Parker Street in 2010 in the Downtown Development District, which is a two-block area between Betton Street, Center Street and State Street.

The Weekly Picture from the Past worth a thousand words



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