

Gorham Times

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Town Council Honors Angelo Sotiropoulos' Community Service

Gorham Times Staff



Photo credit: Kathy Corbett
The Gorham Town Council honored Angelo Sotiropoulos for his community service, and especially for founding the Reed Allen Community Fund after a fire nearly destroyed his GHOP (Gorham House of Pizza) restaurant in 2012. Named in memory of a Gorham police officer and a young cancer victim, the fund gives "love and support for families in crises." Councilor Suzanne Phillips presented Sotiropoulos with a commemorative certificate.

Art on South Craft Event



Photo credit: Roger Marchand
Community members moved around the twenty-five plus artists' booths during the fourth Art on South art and craft fair on Sept. 7. Sponsored by the Gorham Village Alliance the fair also had live music and face painting. Artists James Kucheman, Sarah Coughlin, and Molly Eaton had done paintings of different views of the village and prints and cards of them were available for purchase.

Town Council Approves Referendum Relocating Tennis Courts to GMS

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer

At the regular September meeting on Sept. 3, the Town Council voted to reconsider the referendum question approved in August that included relocating tennis courts from Gorham High School to Robie Park. They were able to amend the original motion for a bond request for capital improvements to school properties and new tennis courts at Gorham Middle School (GMS) by voting (5-2, Phillips, Gagnon) to approve two separate referendum questions to go before voters in November.

The first question is for two projects they agreed upon in August, \$9.3 million for improvements to GHS and \$460,575 for HVAC replacement at Narragansett Elementary School. The second referendum question will ask voter approval for \$2.4 million to build the tennis courts at GMS.

In proposing that the action taken in August be reconsidered, Councilor Virginia Wilder-Cross said that she had spoken to voters concerned about putting tennis courts in Robie Park in opposition to the Robie Park Master Plan and concluded the council had made a mistake. Other councilors also expressed regret over the earlier vote. Councilor Seven Seigel said, "We all make mistakes." Councilor Lou Simms thanked the public for expressing their concerns over the council's decision.

Councilor Phillip Gagnon, who had proposed locating the tennis courts to

Robie Park, voted against reconsidering the August decision. He opposed the GMS location because it was the proposed site for a new elementary school to be built in the future with state funds. Superintendent Heather Perry said that according to a study by CHA, a firm that surveyed locations of town and school buildings, there would be room for both tennis courts and an elementary school on the GMS site. However, the state would determine the location for the school built with state funds. Perry explained that the cost savings for building five courts instead of the six would be about \$165,000.

The \$2.4 million referendum proposal includes funds for lighting six courts. Tim Spears, GHS athletic director and Norm Justice, district facilities director, explained the difference between five and six courts, and agreed that lights would increase use, particularly by the public. Perry explained that a state approved project would require a year-long study "to determine where best to place a site."

Chair Suzanne Phillips joined Gagnon in voting against the two bond referendums, as she did on the referendum question in August, citing then that she did not agree on the amount. The total requested in the two new referendum proposals is the same amount requested in the one passed in August: \$12,035,825.

There will be a public hearing on these referendum questions in October.

Town Council and School Committee Candidates Running in November

There are four candidates running for two 3-year terms on the Gorham Town Council. They are James J. Hager, Jr., Newton Drive; Janet H. Kuech, Narragansett Street; George L. Vercelli, Brookfield Court; and David P. Willis, Old Dynamite Way.

The three candidates for two 3-year terms on the School Committee are Marilyn G.

Amoroso, South Street; Eric S. Thistle, Lincoln Street; and Nicole R. Yeo-Fisher, Little River Drive.

Profiles of all local candidates, including those running for State Legislature and State Senate, will be in the Sept. 26 issue of the Gorham Times. The Town Clerk will begin mailing out requested absentee ballots the week of Oct. 7.

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MACKENZIE HOLMES
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Policy on News from Augusta: The Gorham Times asked our three state legislators from Senate District 30, House District 109 and House District 110 to provide us with "News from Augusta." We publish their articles on a rotating basis. The submissions are devoted to updates of legislative and administrative news, proposed and passed bills and laws, and developments and events that are of interest and have an impact on Gorham residents. The Gorham Times reserves the right to edit the submissions and it further reserves the right to reject any submission, at its sole discretion.

Working to Provide Meaningful Property Tax Relief

Rep. Mo Terry

It's no secret – rising property taxes here in Gorham and in towns across Maine are putting a squeeze on family budgets and making it harder for folks to pay their bills, save for their kids' education, afford basic necessities or just make ends meet. Last month, Republican legislative leaders in the State House came to Gorham to highlight this important issue, using the opportunity to paint Democrats as being solely responsible for – and not caring about – the recent increases and their impact on working families.

The truth is that these increases stem largely from broader factors and economic trends that are outside the ability of the Legislature to control. Despite this, my colleagues and I remain steadfastly committed to doing everything in our power to ease the burden of property taxes and ensure that they don't crush family budgets.

The Maine Constitution requires that every town accurately assess the property values within its borders. To do this, towns regularly undertake revaluations. Gorham's latest revaluation was in 2022, which found that many property values increased significantly as home values have risen in recent years from an increase in demand and lack of supply. As a result, property taxes have gone up.

However, revaluations are important because they ensure that households can receive the full value of state benefits that they are eligible for, such as the Homestead

Exemption and different veterans tax benefits. If a town is behind on its revaluation or assesses property at a lower amount than the market value, it results in a reduction in the actual amount that the state can send to households when they apply for these tax credits and benefits. Gorham did a good job of assessing its properties to ensure residents can get the full value of the benefits available from the state.

I know that for lots of folks, absorbing this increase has been shocking and made life more difficult. That's why I've continued to support policies that will help ease the burden on Mainers both directly and indirectly.

In 2022, for the first time in over a decade, Democrats voted to bring state revenue sharing up to 5%, giving more money back to towns and municipalities to help support critical local services while reducing the burden on local property taxpayers. We also continued to meet our obligation to fully fund 55% of public education costs, which means towns can rely less on property tax revenue to support our schools.

More recently, we expanded several relief programs to help directly offset high costs. Last year, we expanded the Property Tax Fairness Credit, which returns a portion of property taxes or rent paid by eligible Mainers each year as a credit on their state tax return. If the credit is more than the taxes you owe for that year, the extra amount will be refunded to you.

We also expanded eligibility for the

Property Tax Deferral Program, another tool to support older Mainers living on fixed incomes by helping cover the cost of annual property taxes. Additionally, if you haven't yet applied for the Homestead Exemption and you are eligible, I encourage you to do so. To learn more about each of these programs, call Maine Revenue Services at 207-624-5600 or visit their website at <https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxes/tax-relief-credits-programs>.

I know that the dramatic increase in property values and property taxes has had a significant impact on people in Gorham, and it's making it harder for folks to stay in this community that we love so much. Democrats in the Legislature have worked to pass measures that will help provide meaningful relief for Maine families, but this work is far from done – and we are committed to continuing to bolster these efforts in the future.



Rep. Maureen "Mo" Terry, D-Gorham, is serving her fourth term in the Maine House of Representatives. She is the House Majority Leader, where she serves as head of the Democratic caucus. Outside of her legislative work, Rep. Terry is a chef and small business owner. Contact her at maureen.terry@legislature.maine.gov.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be fewer than 300 words, signed with a first and last name, typed or e-mailed and include a phone number and hometown. The Gorham Times reserves the right not to publish letters that include personal attacks or inflammatory language. Letters are solely the opinion of the writer and not that of the Gorham Times. They are published at the discretion of the Gorham Times as space allows and are subject to editing.

Dear Editor,

I don't normally write letters to the editor, but the importance of this upcoming election compelled me to speak up. As a resident of Scarborough, I feel it's my responsibility to highlight the crucial role local representation plays in our community.

Senator Stacy Brenner has been a dedicated advocate for both Gorham and Scarborough in the State Senate. As Chairperson of the Environmental and Natural Resources Committee, her work has benefited our region tremendously. She deserves to continue serving District 30.

I've lived in Gorham and Scarborough for many years. My wife and I built a home in Eastern Village over 12 years ago, and we've been part of Scarborough's business community for over 25 years. We love Pine Point and the sense of community that thrives here.

Senator Brenner's support became personal for us after the storms in January and February devastated Scarborough's beaches and homes. Her leadership helped pull together state resources—including the Maine Marine Geologist, Bureau of Parks & Lands, and the Department of Environmental Protection—to meet with residents and find solutions. She ensured we had the guidance and assistance needed during those challenging times.

When Governor Mills and our Congressional delegation requested federal disaster relief, Senator Brenner helped keep the community informed about the process for seeking aid. Her commitment to us has been invaluable.

That's why I'm supporting Senator Brenner for re-election. Her leadership and dedication have made a real difference in our lives.

Thank you.

Mark Dresser, Scarborough

To the Editor:

My name is Christopher Jacques. I'm a resident of Gorham, and on Nov. 5 I'll be casting my vote for Ellie Sato as Gorham's next State Representative.

When I first met Ellie, she was a legislative aide in the State House. I was feeling lost in the issues I was facing as a first-time home owner here in Maine, and so I called my representatives, trying to see if there were solutions anyone could help me with. Senator Stacy Brenner's office was the only one to return my call. Ellie returned my call. To those of us not regularly involved in the legislative process, it can feel very daunting and even impenetrable to find answers to even the most basic questions. From the moment our conversation began, Ellie made me feel seen and heard. She listened carefully and imme-

diately made me feel assured that there was someone in our state government that was looking out for me and actively generating possible solutions. I felt safe, knowing someone else also saw the problems I saw; the pain in our communities, how hard it is to survive right now, and how the local government is struggling solutions for the changing world.

Ellie isn't just empathetic, she's also incredibly intelligent and laser-focused on issues that matter to Mainers. She has the experience and understands the nuance to legislation. She has impressed me in every way since the moment we first spoke.

Ellie showed me that as State Representative for District 109, she will be a dedicated and compassionate champion for the needs of all Gorham residents, as well as all Mainers. I have no doubt in my mind that Ellie Sato is the most qualified candidate, and I hope you'll join me in voting for her on Nov. 5.

Christopher Jacques, Gorham

To the Editor:

This November, Gorham will elect a new State Representative for District 109. I encourage you to join me in voting for Ellie Sato for State Representative.

Despite being several decades younger than her opponent, Ellie Sato is the more experienced candidate. Her ex-

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BRINGING THE NEWS TO ALL OF GORHAM
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October 30

perience working as a legislative aide in Augusta has uniquely prepared her for the role of representing Gorham, as she has worked closely with Maine State Senator Stacy Brenner on constituent services and legislation.

Before I became a resident of Gorham, I worked closely with legislative aides in Pennsylvania. Legislative aides are the backbone of the political system. Oftentimes, aides are the ones directly communicating with constituents and listening to their needs. Aides draft language for legislation, and they work with senators and representatives to advance bills through the political process. Ellie worked with Senator Brenner on numerous pieces of successful legislation that has helped all Mainers. Between her legislative experience and having grown up in Gorham, Ellie

knows the issues facing our town, and she already has robust experience talking with and listening to Gorham residents. Additionally, Maine legislators already know and trust Ellie. Simply put, she is the best candidate with the experience to get things done in Augusta.

In this world, there is no substitute for experience. Ellie possesses an intimate knowledge of how things work in Augusta, and she'll be able to hit the ground running without having to learn the ropes. Not only that, but Ellie will stand up for Gorham residents. Ellie aims to protect the environment, preserve and expand access to healthcare, and will work to make property taxes more affordable.

On Nov. 5, please join me in voting for Ellie Sato as Gorham District 109's next State Representative.
Joanne McCarthy, Gorham

Drained Pond Offers Glimpses of Presumpscot River's Past and Potential Future

John Ersek, Staff Writer

This summer, there were some significant, unplanned changes to the portion of the Presumpscot River that is directly upstream from Dundee Dam, which is located on the Gorham-Windham town line. This is an area where the Presumpscot's historic riverbed is usually submerged by Dundee Pond, upriver from Dundee Dam. Normally, in summer, Dundee Pond is a popular recreation spot for canoeists, kayakers, and swimmers, while also providing a scenic view for people picnicking at the town of Windham's Dundee Park. Nearby, lakeside residents usually enjoy access and views of the pond.

However, problems with one of the main sluiceways at the 1913-era Dundee Dam began surfacing this spring. These problems caused the dam's owners to lower the water level so that contractors could make necessary repairs. (The dam is owned by Dichotomy Power Maine, LLC; and Presumpscot Hydro, LLC, a subsidiary of Relevelate Power, LLC). After these initial repairs were completed, the water level was raised so Dundee Park could open as normal for Memorial Day weekend. But by mid-June additional problems with the dam's sluices required Relevelate to lower the water level once again.

Soon, the pond was almost completely drained, to low water levels that had not been seen in decades. This revealed many objects that had long been hidden by the deep waters of the pond: a large area of tree stumps, and many remnants of agriculture and small-scale industrial activities that local residents had carried out throughout the late 1700's and 1800's. Perhaps most importantly, the lack of water revealed the Presumpscot's original stream bed, including rapids, falls, and flat water sections, all of which had been formed over many centuries by waters rushing downstream from Sebago Lake to the sea. These changes also exposed the usually-submerged route of the Cumberland and Oxford Canal, which

ran alongside the river during the 1800's.

These unexpected changes to Dundee Pond caused varying reactions among residents of this area. Many people were disappointed and upset by the unplanned partial closure of Dundee Park's facilities, as they had planned to swim, boat, or go fishing at Dundee Pond. There has also been a noticeable odor throughout the summer, apparently from all the rotting freshwater mussels and underwater vegetation that was left high and dry by the receding waters.

On the other hand, advocacy groups such as Friends of the Presumpscot River have been pointing out the implications of the (temporarily) free-running river as it winds its way through its original stream bed. They also pointed to the naturally seeded plants which were starting to grow on the temporary "riverbank". These were seen as indications of what the area could look like in the future if the dam is someday decommissioned and removed.



Members of the Friends of the Presumpscot River, and other advocacy organizations, have stated that Relevelate Power's handling of the entire series of events has raised concerns about their lack of communication with local officials (especially in Windham) about the length of time that Dundee Pond would be drained during the summer months.

Recently, Relevelate Power has estimated that the problems with the sluiceway would be completely fixed sometime in early September, and the pond's level should be returned to normal by late September or early October.


Readers who would like more detailed information about Dundee Dam and other local hydroelectric operations can access these websites:
<https://data.indystar.com/dam/maine/cumberland-county/dundee/me00068/>

<https://lowimpacthydro.org/lihi-certificate-138-dundee-hydroelectric-project-maine/>

<https://www.presumpscotriver.org/>

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Photo credit: Courtesy of Friends of the Presumpscot River

Looking northward, these drone photos show the exposed riverbed and newly flowing river as a dark ribbon shape, while the rest of the drained Dundee Pond's exposed mud, gravel and rocks is a lighter color. The old canal route can also be detected.

CryptoVerse by A. Logophile

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SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

The Athlete's Corner

Stan Skolfield, ATC, CSCS

The landscape of sports performance has shifted dramatically over the years. Youth strength training, once frowned upon, is now recognized as vital for young athletes. But is it safe? The answer is a resounding yes, with crucial caveats.

Gone are the days when folks thought lifting weights would stunt a kid's growth. Now, we know better. Studies show that supervised strength training, done right, can prevent injuries and boost health. It's not just about getting stronger - it's about building better athletes from the ground up.

But here's the thing: you can't treat all young athletes the same. A 10-year-old needs different training than a high schooler. It's not rocket science, but it does require some know-how.

Elementary school athletes should focus on boosting gross motor skills and coordination, with exercises that build strength and enhance movement quality. Learning to master the basics like squat and lunge patterns, chin-ups, core variations, etc. Using age-appropriate apparatus like medicine balls, tidal tanks, bands, and kettlebells can get the job done.

Middle schoolers, navigating the challenges of growth spurts and puberty, need training that acknowledges and adapts to their evolving physical changes. Beginning introduction to resistance devices like dumbbells, barbells, sleds, and cable machines is a good start, but the focus should be on mastering technique vs huge amounts of weights. Additionally, given the center of gravity variability within these growth spurts, a focus on core body stability around the shoulders and hips is key.

For high school athletes, training can shift towards more sophisticated strength exercises. Athletes can be introduced to different exercise variations and increased loads now that they have mastered the basics. They can also shift their training emphasis to maximize muscle growth, speed, and explosive power, while still emphasizing flexibility and injury prevention. It remains important to pay attention to their needs surrounding flexibility vs stability depending on their body type.

Strength training isn't just about building muscle. It's about creating better athletes. It improves coordination, reduces injury risk, and boosts confidence, because the reality is, confident kids perform better.

Strength training is a valuable piece of a well laid out sports performance development program. Strength training is one element in building a strong athletic foundation. A well-rounded program should also include speed training (acceleration and top speed), change of direction (agility), power, balance, endurance, flexibility, injury prevention, nutrition, and self-confidence.

Dispelling the misconception that resistance training poses a high risk for young participants is crucial, as most injuries are preventable with diligent coaching focused on safety and proper technique. Claims that strength training stunts growth or is inherently dangerous lack evidence; observing the weights children carry daily in their activities on playgrounds reveals forces far exceeding those in supervised gym settings.

What is very clear is that the true danger to a child's development is the pursuit of a single sport activity at a young age. If you want to guarantee injury and loss of interest in sports at a young age, go ahead and enroll your son or daughter in one sport and have them play that sport year round. The research is overwhelmingly clear on this topic.

So, what's the bottom line? Youth strength training isn't just good, it's necessary. It builds better, healthier, more confident athletes when done right. No shortcuts. Just smart, safe training that sets kids up for success.



Stan Skolfield, owner of Skolfield Sports Performance, a comprehensive athlete training facility dedicated to getting athletes to the next level.

He has been training athletes from 7 years old to the pro's for over 25 years.

LETTUCE BE HEALTHY

Cauliflower Salad

- 1 large head cauliflower; cooked al dente, cooled
- ¾ cup avocado mayonnaise
- 1 ½ Tbs French's Mustard
- Salt & pepper to taste
- Kale shake seasoning
- Umami seasoning, few shakes
- 3 hardboiled eggs, chopped
- ¼ cup each: chopped onion, celery, carrots
- ¼ cup chopped dill pickles
- 1 cup fresh or frozen/thawed edamame (substitute peas if you like)

Chop cauliflower into bite size pieces.
Add all ingredients EXCEPT mayonnaise.
Add mayonnaise last; mix to desired 'wetness.'
Note: Recipe can be easily doubled. Enjoy!

Questions about the recipes can be e-mailed to Barbara Schneider at btsme21@gmail.com

Gorham Native Helps Family-Owned Saco Farm Become 100% Solar-Powered

Lucia Holloway, GHS Intern

Andrew Robitaille, Gorham High School 2005 graduate, is now the proud owner of Solar Power New England. Robitaille recently completed a project in Saco, Maine for the Dupuis Farm and owners Lynne-Marie and Bruce Dupuis.

The farm started with her father, Raymond R. Dupuis and they continue to care for the large farm located off Buxton Road by raising and caring for retired racehorses, quarter horses, and raising cattle for the local market. The farm also hays their fields for their own horses and also for other farms in the area. The Dupuis' commitment to their farm allowed them to continue to grow amidst the many farms shutting down throughout the country.

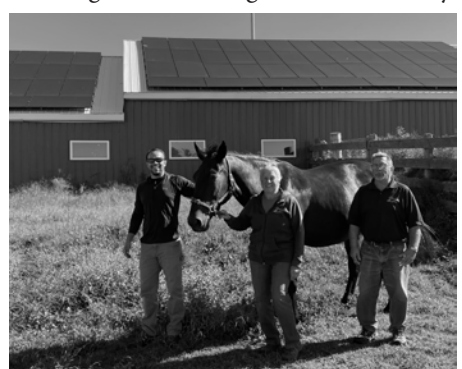


Photo credit: Andrew Robitaille
(Left), Lynn-Marie and Bruce Dupuis(right), along with a couple of their horses Spirit (left), and Oasis (right) on the farm in front of the solar array.

Robitaille was able to complete a 71-panel solar array on unused roof space atop their "cattle barn." The solar array, made with American components, was designed and installed by the company and allowed for the Dupuis farm to obtain 40% tax credit.

The system was made even more affordable by Robitaille and his company, Solar Power New England in assisting the Dupuis' with a grant through the USDA. The grant from the USDA is part of The Rural Energy For America Program. This grant is specifically for renewable energy projects, farms and other rural businesses and covers 50% of the total system cost making the project not only affordable but ensuring a significant return on their investment.

The components offered by Solar Power New England carry 30-year manufacturer's production warranty and the Dupuis system should pay for itself in less than 5 years.

Solar Power New England operates throughout southern Maine and provides services to both residential and small commercial clients. Robitaille hopes to connect with more farms in the future to create a more sustainable future for farms and local businesses in the face of increasing energy costs, financial pressures, and increasing stresses on the environment.



Photo credit: Andrew Robitaille

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Gorham EMTs Provide Essential Services

JoAnn Leib, Staff Writer



Photos credit: JoAnn Leib

Car crashes and emergency extractions, structural fire attacks and medical crises, to more routine medical intervention and transports are all in a day's work for a Gorham EMT, but it hasn't always been so. Prior to 1970 there was no nationally organized system for what is now referred to as the EMS/EMT, a pre-hospital role in response to a 911 call.

The acronym EMS stands for Emergency Medical Services, and EMT for Emergency Medical Technicians. In our town EMTs travel with equipment like defibrillators and medication and staff like nurses and paramedics. They are experts at assessment on the scene, both of the crisis and the patient, and they can make decisions that save lives. These on-site decisions determine the steps that will be taken from the home or accident scene to the hospital, and training is critical to positive outcomes.

In Gorham the EMT training can evolve over a lifetime, but more practically takes three to four months to complete. And completion means 120 class hours, two nights a week and some Saturdays. Class hours are only part of the program; an outstanding male or female EMT candidate should be able to lift 125 pounds and crawl on uneven ground, take hazardous materials training, confined space instruction, live burning education and flooding and water rescue and more. They often know the medicine routinely taken by a local citizen. That there is a nationwide shortage of such folks should come

as no surprise. Still, there are guidelines for what is often a part-time modestly paid job, one closely connected to the role of firefighter in our town.

You have to go back to the late 1960s in Pennsylvania and 1970 in California to find the complex history of EMT programs. Prior to that time ambulances were basic transportation from the scene of mayhem to the scene of medical attention—the hospital. Paramedical training grew into its current role after trained EMTs were recognized for the value they provided. Training now varies by town and state, and the mean age of an EMT nationwide is 35 and even that figure varies.

EMTs in Gorham are admitted into what begins as a three-month probationary period marked by reviews and monthly duty time. There is field training, crucial to the success of the Gorham team candidate, who is issued pre-employment gear and who incurs pre-hire administrative and training costs paid for by the Town. This is when the commitment begins to feel real for any rookie. There are continuing reviews and another 3-month trial period. The stress can be high, and once they are hired, the work hours for many EMTs can be irregular and long. Understandably, even these hard-working, compassionate, physically capable people can have doubts.

"However," says Lieutenant Wendell Howard, "there is no more fulfilling career. Every day is different, and we are always there to bring about a positive outcome." Howard is a firefighter and 35-year member of the Gorham Fire Department and part of an experienced and dedicated team of firefighters and EMTs led by Fire Chief Kenneth Fickett.

Lt. Howard smiles as he talks about his family and his work life. He is the son of a Gorham 38-year veteran firefighter and father to a young son of his own who is now on the force, a third generation following in the elder Howard's footsteps. When it comes to his life, Howard agrees with the EMT motto: Make every second count.



Photos credit: JoAnn Leib

Fiscal Sustainability Committee Report

Kelli Deveaux, Staff Writer

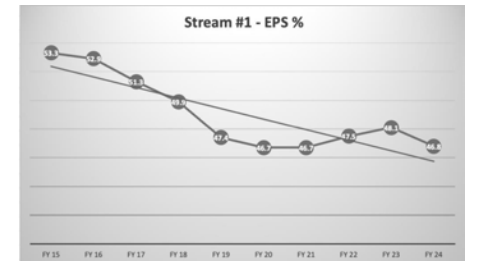
On Aug 27, Gorham's volunteer Fiscal Sustainability Committee held their fourth of eleven scheduled meetings. Jointly developed between the Gorham Town Council and School Committee, the group is composed of community members, business owners, elected officials, and both municipal and school department staff. Their work is guided by a professional facilitator.

The two-hour meeting was packed with information to aid the group in identifying both the challenges and possible solutions for sustainable economic growth for Gorham.

Superintendent Heather Perry began with an extensive explanation of school finance for the committee, explaining there are only two large revenue streams available to the school department, state subsidy and local tax dollars.

Perry reviewed for the committee the State of Maine's intricate school funding formula, called the ED279, through which money is allocated to each school district statewide. The required local and state contributions are set by the state and vary year to year for every school district, but are always below actual annual operating costs. The gap between the funding and costs continues to grow for nearly all communities in Maine.

This gap raised concerns amongst the fiscal sustainability members. Committee members asked well-considered questions and noted the frustration for Gorham residents who see both state and local funding going up, but the state's increase is not keeping pace with year-over-year increased costs.



The percent of overall school budget funded by state subsidy from 2015 - 2024 fell from 53.3% in 2015 to 46.8% in FY 24. As the costs of education have increased via inflation or additional requirements over this time frame, state subsidy has not kept up, leaving local taxpayers to pick up a larger and larger portion of the "tab". (Presentation screen shot)

Cost drivers for the district continue to be increased special education needs and general staffing, and Superintendent Perry noted that 78% of the school budget is salaries and benefits. Councilor Phil Gagnon noted that Gorham has long committed to ensuring Gorham can pay staff well enough to hire and retain high quality

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Town Council Report, Sept. 3

Lori Arsenault, Editor

With over 50 members of the public attending, and all members of the council, Chairperson Phillips called the meeting to order. The minutes of the Aug. 6 meeting were amended by moving one section to the correct location. (voted, 7 yeas).

In open public communication Ken Curtis made a suggestion about increases in next year's budget. Kathy Hamblin spoke about safety of Shaw brothers' quarry, encouraging the council to take the time to explore these concerns. Michelle Littlefield spoke in favor of passing the bond question, presenting data to back up her statement.

Councilor communications included reports of the Ordinance Committee (Siegel, next meeting Sept. 26 at 10 a.m.), Finance Committee (Lavoie, next meeting Sept. 19 at 5:30 p.m.), blood supply shortage and reminder (Pratt), Regional Coalition of GPCOG and "Art on South" reminder (Wilder Cross), Sustainability Committee and CIPS Committee (Gagnon).

Chairperson Phillips gave the floor to representatives of the Reed Allen Community Fund, Mark Curtis to announce two upcoming events, Golf Ball Drop on Sept. 27 and Casino Night on Nov. 2 from 6 - 10 p.m., and

Angelo Sotiropoulos speaking about the beginnings of the Foundation. Chairperson Phillips then awarded Sotiropoulos with a Community Appreciation Award Certificate.

Town Manager Paraschak gave an update finishing the installation of pedestrian lights on South Street, and thanked the Department of Public Works for installing the storm water control system in the parking lot at the Municipal Center.

Sarah Perkins gave the School Committee Report that included opening of school and facilities notes, and explained the School Committee meeting schedule and locations. The full schedule with locations is on the School District website. A particular need mentioned is the continued shortage of school bus drivers, and encouragement for members of the public to consider being trained for this occupation.

Public hearings included: A proposal to issue a renewal Medical Marijuana License to Chris Terison, TerpySeas LLC, 17A Gorham Industrial Parkway. Property owned by Dave Cowen. (Admin. Spon.), voted 7 yeas.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

You're in the Know.
Gorham Times

Gorham Families Celebrate the First Day of School

Gorham Times Staff



Photo credit: Stacey Sawyer, Village School Counselor
Nicole, Brooke and Andrew Skrzypek celebrate day one of school at Village School.



Photo credit: Erin Eppler, Narragansett Principal
Fifth grader Brian, is ready for the first day of school at Narragansett School.



Photo credit: Stacey Sawyer, Village School Counselor
Georgia, Katherine, Eliza, Kaisley and Annabelle. (background Simone and Isaiah) pose for a picture before entering Village School.



Photo credit: Stacey Sawyer, Village School Counselor
Some of the younger students arriving at Narragansett for the first day



Photo credit: Stacey Sawyer, Village School Counselor
Mrs. Morton greets new first grader Delroy at Village School.



Photo credit: Rachel Grady
On Wednesday, Aug. 28, GHS Student Council Students came to school a day early to greet and assist the Class of 2028 on their first day of Freshman Year. Left to right, back row: Isabel Phinney, Lucia Holloway, Brooklyn Sandstrom, Alison Smith, Finn Henderson, Sarah Sanborn, Principal Brian Jandreau, StuCo Advisor Rachael Grady, StuCo President Bree Bealieu, Secretary Brooke Kazimer, Treasurer Ava Googins. Left to right, front row: Katelyn Cyr, Vice President Emily Beal, Sherry Garnett, Rebecca Neumann, Addison Campbell. Present but missing from the photo were: Winnie Dubail, Gretchen Paul, Evie Prather, Jasmine Radjabova, and Isabelle Smith.

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Photo credit: Leisha Rowles
Jayne, 7th grade, Gorham Middle School

Welcome to New Teachers in Gorham Schools

Gorham Times Staff

Gorham School District

Quinton Donahue, asst. superintendent (GMS principal last year)
Bridgett Khan, adult education director
Cara Ryan, school nurse
Amanda Burch, speech
Shannon Fowler, speech
Brian Penley, teaching counselor (elementary teacher)

Beth Orlando, GMS Grade 6 ELA/ SS
Josh Volinsky, GMS Grade 6 ELA
Dana Ricker, GMS Grade 8 SS

Village School

Sara Hickey, Village Resource Room
Keating Bartlett, Village special education
Alicia Robinson, Village art (elementary teacher)
Susan Knight, Village music
Stacey Sawyer, Village School counselor (teaching counselor)
Rebecca Hooper, Village Grade 4

Gorham High School

Lisa Herbst, GHS special education
Audrey Morin, GHS science
Eric Kline, GHS alternative education
Nicole Volosin, GHS alternative education

Great Falls School

Jeff Poole, Great Falls art
Margaret Ruff, Great Falls Grade 2
Nicole Laflamme, Great Falls Grade 2
Susan Ferris, Great Falls Grade 3
Megan Smith, Great Falls Grade 4
Rona Scott, Great Falls Grade 5

Gorham Middle School

Lucas Witham, GMS principal (GMS asst. principal)
Vanessa Nickerson, GMS assistant principal (instructional strategist)
Carla Gill, GMS learning strategist
Max Robinson, GMS special education
Alex Valentin, GMS Resource Room
Elizabeth Kutzer, GMS health
Jen Macaluso, GMS Grade 6 math (elementary teacher)
Timothy Mains, GMS Grade 6 math/science

Narragansett School

Shannon Sampson, Narragansett learning strategist
Mildred Axelsen, Narragansett special education
Jennifer Dubar, Narragansett K-5

The Importance of Completing the Free/Reduced Lunch Form

Superintendent Heather Perry's Blog

Here is why you should complete these important forms.

Did you know that the Gorham School Department lost approximately \$450,000.00 in state subsidy funding for education due to a one year drop in the number of free/reduced lunch eligible families this past year alone?

Did you know that other funding for public schools is also linked to free/reduced lunch eligibility such as E-rate funding to support technology in schools, or ESEA funding to support students who need help in Reading and Math?

Even if you think that you make too much money as a family it is important to fill out the form. This process is 100% confidential.

Please take a moment to fill out your child's Free/Reduced lunch eligibility form TODAY. The forms were sent home to parents by the school, but can also be completed ONLINE. Just go to the link below, find Gorham Schools and complete. The process is 100% CONFIDENTIAL.

Online Application Link:
<https://www.nlappscloud.com/>

Why you should fill out the school meal benefit application.
(even if school lunch is free)

- Family income data informs federal school funding.
- It's completely confidential!
- If everyone participates, it ends the stigma.
- It helps direct other vital benefits to families in need.

Photo credit: Provided by Superintendent Perry

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GORHAM'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1995

Mackenzie Holmes Honored by the Portland Sea Dogs

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Mackenzie Holmes throwing out the first pitch

Photo credit: Photo Credit: Denise Holmes

Gorham stand-out, Mackenzie Holmes was drafted into the Women's National Basketball Association on April 15, 2024 by the Seattle Storm, following her college basketball career for the Indiana Hoosiers and her hometown team the Gorham Rams. Her Rookie debut will be in the 2025 season due to having knee surgery. Denise Holmes (mom to Mackenzie) shared; "she is recovering very well. Her trip home over the summer was a special time for all of us."

The Portland Sea Dogs hosted "Women in Sports Night" on Aug. 22, when GM, Geoff Laussa made plans to honor

Holmes, along with Sea Dogs commentators, Emma Tiedemann and Rylee Ray. The Gorham native had quite a following that night with many fans in attendance from Gorham, including past coaches and teachers and a big crowd of kids who view Holmes as their role model.

The Mackenzie Holmes bobble head night was given away to the first 1,000 fans on this day and Holmes was also the guest of honor to throw out the first pitch for the Sea Dogs to start the game; a longtime ceremonial tradition. The guest of honor for this ritual is typically a special guest, and Holmes fits that to a T.



Mackenzie Holmes bobblehead.

Photo credit: Stacey Taylor

Community Opportunities at Costello Sports Complex

Gorham Times Staff

The Costello Sports Complex on the USM Gorham campus has made the shift from summer hours to the academic year, open Sunday through Saturday from September to May. It is used primarily by USM students (90%), faculty and staff (5%), and the community (5%) is invited to use it as well. The complex not only provides a multi-lane track but also four courts that can be used for basketball, volleyball, badminton, etc. The fitness center is now equipped with all new equipment as of 2023, enhancing use for all ages.

"It would be wonderful to get the community involved at USM," said Kevin Normand, USM's assistant director for wellness and fitness. In addition to offering memberships for the general public, he is also hiring more volunteers to help work the front desk and lobby area. Volunteers greet students and build relation-

ships within the USM community and the Town of Gorham community.

Normand said, "A few years ago we had three or four volunteers who would open the gym which was great for USM and also the community. We have one volunteer now who is a veteran and does an amazing job cleaning the equipment and chatting with our students."

Costello Sports Complex volunteers get a free gym membership in exchange for a few two- or three-hour shifts, for a total of four to six hours per week, or dual memberships for the volunteer and spouse, giving all volunteers the opportunity to get motivated and build relationships with faculty, staff, and students. Volunteers could also get a discounted rate for parking.

For more information about using the sports complex facilities or volunteering, contact Kevin Normand at kevin.normand@maine.edu, (207) 228-8242.



Costello Sports Complex welcomes students, faculty, staff, and visitors from the community

Photo credit: Roger Marchand



Visitors check in here, greeted by volunteers from the Gorham community.

Photo credit: Roger Marchand



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USM Welcomes Students to a New Academic Year

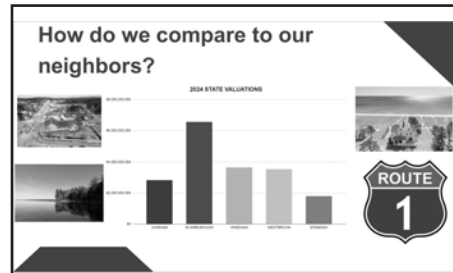
Photos courtesy of USM Public Affairs



Fiscal Sustainability CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

educators, and Superintendent Perry confirmed that Gorham educators are “middle of the pack” in terms of pay in Cumberland County, but that this rate is still above the state’s average salary used in the funding formula.

The School Department lost out on \$400,000 due to perceived reductions in the free/reduced lunch needs in Gorham. This is due to families no longer filling out the annual paperwork that is sent home at the start of the school year, perceiving no need now that school meals are free for all students in Maine, however this paperwork is used by state and federal agencies to identify needs and provide additional funding. The committee noted this as a possible area to address in the future.



In his presentation, Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak compared the state valuations of Gorham to that of neighboring communities, showing from highest to lowest, Scarborough, Windham, Westbrook, Gorham, and Standish. (Presentation screen shot)

Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak opened his presentation of municipal finance by explaining the various revenue streams available to the town, including taxes and fees. He noted that while the annual operating budget of the town continues to rise, the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIFs) is helping to fill the gaps in revenue versus the budget. Mr. Paraschak compared some of the data, struggles and strategies of neighboring communities such as Windham, Westbrook and Scarborough, noting the benefits of collaborative conversations and learning opportunities between the communities.

During Mr. Paraschak’s presentation on expenditures, Councilor Gagnon described the town’s Parks and Recreation Department as “nice to have, not need to have,” and asserted that the program loses

money due to the cost of staffing. Town manager Paraschak responded by noting that fees and an enterprise account take care of those costs.

The town manager also clarified that if pressed to make reductions or programming changes, the Parks and Rec department would not be on his list. He noted that the town should be looking at fee structures every few years, not 17, as was previously done, and given that the nearly \$3 billion in assessed property value in Gorham is 86% residential and single family, there needs to be a focus on mixed-use and commercial development to offset the tax burden on homes. Most importantly Gorham needs to dramatically expand and diversify its tax base in the coming years.

According to Paraschak, roads are the greatest expense for the community, to which Councilor Lou Simms encouraged smart growth in Gorham, noting that “the more we invest in roads, the more money we need to maintain them.” Committee member Bill Benson suggested that the group should define what they want Gorham to look like in the future, and to make the case for excellence, while committee member Susan Sato questioned what might be viable and sustainable pathways to generate revenue.

Member George Fox reminded the group that their task was to focus on fiscal responsibility, and there will need to be a focus on both revenue generation and lowering costs. The group discussed the balance required with both municipal and school staff contracts in order to keep quality employees but manage cost. Member Susan Coyne thanked Perry and Paraschak for the presentations, noting the vast information shared.

The committee will next meet on Monday, Sept. 23 at 6 p.m. to define the issues and begin developing recommendations. Members of the public are welcome to observe, or view past meetings on Gorham Community Access Media, and can find all materials or offer suggestions and questions to committee members through the town’s website, which has a page dedicated to the Fiscal Sustainability Committee.

Town Council Report CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

A proposal to issue a renewal Medical Marijuana License to Alexis Cantara, XOCC LLC, 5 Little Wing Lane, Unit A. Property owned by Dave Cowan. (Admin. Spon.), voted 7 yeas

A proposal to issue a renewal Medical Marijuana License to Tim Nickerson, Deep Sun LLC, 5 Laurence Drive. Property owned by Bob Pearson. (Admin. Spon.), voted 7 yeas.

The following actions were taken: Action regarding the November 5, 2024 Annual Municipal Election. (Admin. Spon.), voted 7 yeas

Action to reconsider Item #2024-8-4 from the Aug. 6, 2024 Regular Town Council Meeting, “Action to consider a bond request from the Gorham School Department.” (Councilor Wilder Cross Spon.), after several amendments, the proposal finally passed with 5 yeas, 2 nays (Gagnon, Phillips)

Action to consider approving applications from the Senior Property Tax Relief Program. (Admin. Spon.), voted 7 yeas

Action to consider selecting a consultant for an Open Space and Trails Master Plan. (Councilor Lavoie Spon.), voted 7 yeas

Action to consider endorsing a conceptual rapid transit design process request from the Greater Portland Council of Governments along Route 25 connecting Gorham to Portland. (Councilor Phillips Spon.), voted 5 yeas, 2 nays (Gagnon, Pratt)

Action to consider forwarding to the Ordinance Committee the review of a university district. (Councilor Phillips Spon.), voted 7 yeas.

Action to consider the adoption of a new fee to the Municipal Fee schedule. (Admin. Spon.), voted 1 yea, 6 nays (Phillips, Siegel, Simms, Pratt, Wilder Cross and Gagnon).

Action to consider authorizing the use of a public road for private easement. (Councilor Phillips Spon.) with amendment, voted to table item until next town meeting, 7 yeas.

Action to amend the Chicoine Contact Zone for properties Map 15, Lots 25-1 and 24.203. (Councilor Phillips Spon.), voted to table the item until the next meeting, 7 yeas.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m. For the complete meeting minutes and video record, visit <https://www.gorham-me.org/town-council>.

COMMUNITY

OF INTEREST

Save the date for the 27th Annual Burn off the Turkey 5K to be held on Saturday, Nov. 30. Visit Gorham Rec. for the details.

VFW Gorham Memorial Post 10879 will be meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the Gorham Fire Department's Training room located at 270 Main Street, Gorham, ME 04038. FMI: Jake Bauder, (207) 607-0370, jake.bauder@icloud.com.

University of Maine Cooperative Extension Cumberland County 4-H Leaders Association will hold its annual fundraisers during the Cumberland Fair, open daily 7 a.m. - 9 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 22 to Saturday, Sept. 28 at 197 Blanchard Road, Cumberland. Funds raised support scholarships, camperships, activities, events and trips for 4-H members in Cumberland County. For more information visit the program webpage, call (207) 781-6099 or email allison.pollock@maine.edu.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

The Reed Allen Community Fund is a 501(c)(3) public charity based in Gorham with the mission of providing financial support for individuals, families, and businesses in the immediate aftermath of a catastrophic event. With a permanent pool of funds, the Reed Allen Fund has operated with little fanfare to support many neighbors, families and businesses during a time of need. Upcoming events are Golf Ball Drop on Friday, Sept. 27 at Gorham High School, and Casino Night, Saturday, Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. at Junction Bowl. Learn more at <https://www.reedallen.org/>.

The Gorham Medical Loan Closet is available to Gorham residents in need of medical equipment temporarily. Wheelchairs, walkers, canes, and scooters are just some of the items available. Call (207) 839-3859 to schedule an appointment.

SENIOR NEWS

The Senior Meal Site at St. Anne's Church opens on Wednesday, Sept. 18 and takes place weekly on Wednesdays at noon, 299 Main Street Social time begins at 11:30 a.m. Suggested donation is \$4. Meal site is closed if school is closed or delayed due to such reasons as weather. For updates on the meal and dates open/closed, visit <https://gorhamrec.com> or call (207) 222-1635.

PUBLIC SUPPERS

Living Waters Christian Church is having a BBQ, dessert auction, dinner, friends and fun event on Saturday, Sept. 14. 2 - 4 p.m. Family Fun, 5 p.m. Dinner and Dessert Auction to support Pastor Gary Braley. Suggested donation \$10 per person or \$30 per family. 197 Parker Farm Road, Buxton.

Scarborough Free Baptist Church will hold a Bean Supper on the second Saturday of each month. The next one is Sept. 14 from 4 - 6 p.m., serving two kinds of beans, hotdogs, chop suey, mac and cheese, homemade biscuits, brown bread and pies. Adults \$10, under 12, \$5. 55 Mussey Road. (207) 772-1535.

Cressey Road Christian Church will have a Bean Supper featuring "George's Famous Baked Beans" on Saturday, Sept. 21 at 5 p.m. 81 Cressey Road. Adults \$10, Ages 6 to 12 \$5, 5 and under are free.

First Parish Church will have a Takeout Chicken Pie dinner on Saturday, Sept. 28. Pre-ordered dinners can be picked up from 4:30 - 6 p.m. Call Adults \$13, kids \$8. Orders can be purchased at www.firstparishgorham.org, click "shop"

LIBRARY NEWS

During the month of September, the North Gorham Public Library is displaying a collection of various-sized hooked rugs made by local residents. Also on display are some of the hooking tools they use. The library continues to host an all-ages story hour every Wednesday from 10:30 to 11:30. Upcoming event info can be found on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/northgorhampubliclibrary>. Library hours are Monday 3 to 6 p.m.; Tuesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Wednesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 4 to 7 p.m.; closed Thursday and Friday; Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; closed Sunday. FMI: (207) 892-2575 or (207) 415-1315

Baxter Memorial Library's next author events are on Tuesday, Sept. 17 with Maine author David Florig speaking about his latest novel, "The Shattered Curling Stone," Wednesday, Sept. 18 with Marpheen Chann, author of "Moon in Full," and Tuesday, Sept. 24 with creative science writer, Caroline Ailanthus. The library runs a full schedule of events including Baby Storytime, Preschool Storytime, Toddler Storytime and much more. Library hours are Monday, Friday, and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Visit <https://baxterlibrary.org> for all the details, or call (207) 222-1190.


UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE NEWS


Welcome back USM Students. See page 8.

Send calendar entries and information that would be Of Interest to the whole Gorham community to Lori Arsenault, public service coordinator: loriaam@gmail.com


Real Estate Transfers Aug. 2024

ADDRESS	SELLER	BUYER	PRICE
8 Paradise Way	Gregg Garson	David Garcelon	\$ 680,000.00
0 Cressey Road	Gerard Engelter	John Pompeo	\$ 10,000.00
8 Ethels Way	Michael Burke	Rachael Elaine Reints	\$ 505,000.00
7 Hessian Drive	Andrea Brodeur Johansen	Alyssa Anton Kaye	\$ 630,000.00
8 Glenwood Avenue	Carole Pierce	Katelyn Brown	\$ 525,000.00
14 Glenwood Avenue	Cottage Advisors ME, LLC	Orin Edwards	\$ 628,400.00
139 Falcon Crest Drive	Cottage Advisors ME, LLC	Jacalyn Leeper	\$ 624,900.00
Deering Drive	Daniel Cook	Robie Contracting, Inc.	\$ 173,500.00
60 Hayfield Drive	Andrew York	Heidi Lynn Baribeau	\$ 752,500.00
22 Finn Parker Road	Dorothy Feeney	Raul Guaman	\$ 280,000.00
1 Halter Lane	Angela Doxsey	Chad Ayotte	\$ 650,000.00
0 Kemp Road	Marylee B. Dodge Family Trust c/o Charles W.H. Dodge, Jr.	Anthony Butts	\$ 5,000.00
42 Tannery Brook Road	Benjamin Weinberg	Ian James Hulbert	\$ 670,000.00
137 Falcon Crest Drive Unit 9	Cottage Advisors ME, LLC	Kristin Mollison	\$ 554,900.00
46 Caitlin Dirve	Kristin Mollison	Jason Frey	\$ 775,000.00
3 Winterberry Drive	Gregory Taylor	Jun Li	\$ 400,000.00
14 Woodside Drive Unit 3	Ashlee Goulette	Alan Woolverton	\$ 441,000.00
9 Stephanie Drive	Edward Carr, Jr.	Amy McQuade	\$ 487,500.00
19 Falcon Crest Drive Unit 5	Cottage Advisors ME, LLC	Barbara Smith	\$ 649,900.00
113 Wood Road	Michael Leeper	Stephen Abrams	\$ 731,000.00






Julie Chandler




Mike Griffin



Peter Mason


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GORHAM

UNDER CONTRACT




GORHAM \$385,000 – Come enjoy the peaceful serenity this private lot has to offer. The home offers so much potential for the next owner. It was used as a 4 bedroom with the master suite being in the basement. Add your personal updates to make this home shine, again.

NEW




GORHAM \$750,000 – This home was completely renovated with a huge expansion in 2004 offering over 2700sqft of living space with 3 bedrooms, each with their own private bathroom, plus a common half bathroom with first floor laundry. Two-car garage and sizeable yard large enough to host any summer BBQ.

UNDER CONTRACT




SANFORD \$129,900 – Here's a perfect opportunity to get into a home & put in the sweat equity to make it your own. Public water & sewer, large back yard, on a dead end street in walking distance to downtown. Needs a heating system & lots of TLC. There's an unfinished room that can be made into a 2nd bedroom.

UNDER CONTRACT




GORHAM \$649,000 – This brand-new colonial with 2 car garage is tucked back from the road on this 1-acre parcel. You'll love the sunlit open 3bed/2.5bath floor plan featuring a gorgeous granite kitchen open to the dining area and front living room. A den/office & half bath with laundry complete the first-floor plan.

UNDER CONTRACT



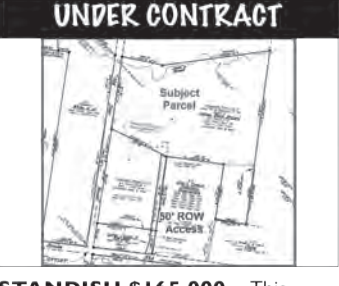
GORHAM \$225,000 – Like new condition is this spacious 26x58 Skyline manufactured home. Features new interior paint, new carpeting & new laminate flooring. Offers spacious kitchen, dining room, spacious living room, office/study, master bedroom with bath, utility room, open front porch & more.

NEW




SEBAGO \$439,000 – To be built colonial on this 3.10-acre lot in the heart of the Lakes Region. This 26x30 stick built colonial features 3 bedrooms & 1.5 baths. Offers a desirable open first floor plan with the kitchen and dining open to the living room. Primary bedroom with walk-in closet and second floor laundry.

UNDER CONTRACT



STANDISH \$165,000 – This 30.64-acre parcel is a backlot with a 50-foot deeded access right of way. The parcel is wooded with Josi's Brook meandering 1235+/- feet along the back property line. The property would be ideal for a single-family home for those looking for privacy and wildlife right at your doorstep.

SOLD



GORHAM \$731,000 – This property has been meticulously cared for inside & out for over 30 years. Nicely tucked back away from the road on this 9.88-acre parcel. Inside you'll find an entry area w/half bath, front living room with hardwood floors, granite kitchen with cherry cabinets & hardwood plus a family room with a gas fireplace.

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CALENDAR

Thursday, September 12:

Baxter Memorial Library,
 Toddler Storytime, 10 a.m.
 Friends of Baxter Memorial Library Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, September 14:

North Scarborough Grange First Annual Craft Fair, Saturday, Sept. 14, 9 – 1 p.m., 74 County Road, Scarborough
 Living Waters Christian Church BBQ, Dessert Auction, Friends and Fun, 2 – 5 p.m. and beyond.

USM Women's Volleyball vs. Mass Maritime Academy, noon.
 USM Women's Volleyball vs. Trinity College, 4 p.m.
 USM Field Hockey vs. Wheaton College, 1 p.m.
 USM Men's Soccer vs. University of Maine at Fort Kent, 3:30 p.m.

Scarborough Free Baptist Church Bean Supper, 4 – 6 p.m.

USM Women's Soccer vs. University of Maine at Fort Kent, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 17:

Baxter Memorial Library,
 Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m.
 Author Event: David Florig, 6 p.m.
 USM Women's Tennis vs. Thomas College, 4 p.m.
 USM Women's Soccer vs. Bowdoin College, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, September 18

North Gorham Public Library, All Ages Story Hour, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
 Baxter Memorial Library
 Baby Storytime, 9:30 a.m.
 Teen Craft, noon
 Creature Feature, 1 – 2 p.m.
 Author Talk: Marpheen Chann, 6 p.m.

Thursday, September 19:

Baxter Memorial Library,
 Toddler Storytime, 10 a.m.
 Book Club: The Woman They Could Not Silence, 10:15 a.m.
 USM Women's Volleyball vs. Suffolk University, 7 p.m.

Saturday, September 21:

USM Women's Volleyball vs. Thomas College, noon
 USM Men's Soccer vs. East Conn, 1 p.m.
 USM Women's Tennis vs. Rhode Island College, 1 p.m.
 Cressey Road Christian Church Bean Supper, 5 p.m.

Sunday, September 22:

USM Women's and Men's Golf; USM Husky Classic, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, September 24

Baxter Memorial Library
 Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m.
 Author Event: Caroline Ailanthus, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, September 25:

North Gorham Public Library, All Ages Story Hour, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
 USM Women's Soccer vs. University of Hartford, 4 p.m.
 Baxter Memorial Library,
 Baby Story Time, 9:30 a.m.
 Meet the Candidates (School Committee, Town Council, State House & Senate), 6 p.m.

CLASSIFIEDS

Summer Painting Special - Get your home ready for summer by using our "Summer Painting Special." We will paint any 3 rooms for you (up to 12'X15'), walls and ceilings included. Price includes minor prep work on walls prior to painting. Labor and materials are included for only \$995.00. All you do is pick your colors. We have endless references and are a fully insured family-owned business since 1970. Webber Painting, Standish (207) 671-3556.

Pampered care for petite paws for small dogs in our home. Just like your home you can travel rest assured that your pup will have lots of love, socialization and be safe. At our cozy haven your pup becomes a cherished member of our pack without the use of gates or crates. With a spacious fenced in backyard and dog proof interior we ensure a safe and comfortable environment. 19 years and insured. Dog walks weather permitting and if pup enjoys. We also offer day care on Tuesday and Wednesday. Many dogs need socialization time - call or text Lorie (207) 838-0132 <https://www.smalldogscare.com/>

Americal Legion Post #197 (Westbrook) is looking for part-time bartenders. If interested, please contact Ken Santamore, commander, (207) 854-5788.

On Sept. 17, 2024, **American Legion Post #197** will be installing Post officers for 2024-2025. The Executive Board will hold their meetings and regular post meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. No meetings will be held in July and August. Meetings will be held at: 300 Conant St., Westbrook. For further information, contact the post at: (207) 854-5788 (office); (207)-854-9044 (lounge), or email westbrookmemorial@gmail.com.

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Longfellow Road caller wanted police to know a vehicle had pulled into a neighbor's driveway.

Caller wanted to report that a vehicle had backed into his trailer and then drove away. There was no damage to the trailer.

Beals reported a truck parked at their property. Officer attempted to locate the owner and told Beals they could remove the truck.

Caller asked police to assist in settling a property dispute on Parker Hill Road. There have been heated disputes there in the past. Officer documented the dispute in case of future disputes.

Caller working at a gas station on Ossipee Trail reported some people working outside at an odd hour. He wanted Officer to check on them. While Officer was enroute, a worker came in and gave him her business card saying a paving company was fixing potholes.

A loose cow on Wood Road was wrangled.

Sunset Lane caller reported a rooster living on her property. She was advised the animal control officer would help her when he was next at work. Rooster had food and water but was apprehensive and was backing away.

Male riding a hoverboard in the middle of the travel lane on Main Street was swerving in the lane. Officer stopped him and told him to stay out of the road as the officer could barely see him. Man told officer he knew he was acting stupidly. He was released with a warning.

Three horses were loose and walking on

Waterhouse Road towards South Street. Neighbors gathered the horses and then helped the owner get them returned. Information about the incident was to be sent to the animal control officer for review.

Sunset Lane caller reported a rooster had been in the yard for the past two weeks. They had been feeding it but now, it is a nuisance as it makes noise early in the morning and all day long. Officer tried several different ways of catching the rooster but had no luck.

Waterhouse Road caller reported that a neighbor's horses continually get loose and go through his back yard. Officer talked to the horse owners who advised plans were lined up to have a permanent solution to the problem.

Partridge Lane caller reported a motor vehicle burglary.

Sunset Lane caller reported a rooster had been caught. Officer took custody of the rooster and made several calls and ultimately located someone in Buxton who said they would take the rooster. Officer delivered it to Buxton.

Officer located a tent and boots in the muck on Dundee Road. No one was found in the surrounding area.

Caller reported juveniles hanging out in the parking lot at 7/11. No juveniles were there when the officer arrived.

Caller reported a vehicle had been parked on Spiller Road for the past hour and a half. It was partially in the road. Officer contacted the vehicle owner who said the car had broken down and AAA was on the way and was due in about an hour.

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