

Gorham Times

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Winter Sports Preview

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo credit: Dawn Stevens

The Alpine Ski Team poses for a team picture following a work-out.

The winter sports season is underway with the Rams starting out fast early in the season. Here are the team outlooks.

Boys Ice Hockey: Coach Shawn Sullivan

Last year the Rams lost a heartbreaker in the Class B South Quarter finals to Greely 5-6 in overtime. From that squad they lost: Dayton Crockett, Trevor Krouse, Bode Bragdon, Cam Whittemore, Cole Allen, and Corliss Ordway.

The Rams top returning players and team captains with impressive stats from the previous season include: Landan Anctil, So, F/stats: 19GP, 14G, 21A, 35P, Jacob Shvets, Sr. D/stats: 19GP, 6G, 10A, 16P, Andrew Collins, Jr. D/stats: 20GP, 5G, 11A, 16P.

Promising newcomers are: Chris Cheseboro, Sr. G, has transferred back to Gorham from TA for his senior year. Cheseboro will assume his role as Goaltender. As described by Coach Sullivan, Stephen Connolly, Fr. F, will be a big part of the offense as a dynamic freshman.

The boys ice hockey team has already been out and about volunteering in the community. They volunteered in conjunction with the Gorham Rec. at the Burn off the Turkey 5k event on the Saturday after Thanksgiving and also Sunday for the Gorham Christmas Tree Lighting. Coach Sullivan shared, "We will also be hosting "Teddy Bear Toss Night" and a canned food drive during our home opener Dec. 14 against Greely. Last year we were able to donate 200 teddy bears, over 100 lbs of food, and \$100 to GFP. Our goal is to do even better this year."

Girls Ice Hockey: Coach Dave Grant

First year head coach Dave Grant takes over the program for long-time coach Mary Vaughn. Coach Grant shared; "We had a very successful season last year going to the regional finals for the second year in a row. Cheverus beat us to advance to the state finals. Two of our strongest players and team leaders (Emerson Homa and Greta Grant) graduated and are both playing college hockey this season, Emerson for UMass Lowell and Greta for New England College."

This year's seniors include: Katelyn Cyr, Sr. captain, Payson Plummer, Alison Smith, Brooklyn Sandstrom and Claire Rancourt round out the senior class.

Coach Grant added, "Players I expect to step up for us include: Cyr, Sophomore Azalea Grant, and Juniors Natalie Wilkins, Carlin Galligan and Isabel Brito. Another key player to watch is our freshman goalie Claire Farrenkopf. Claire has been in net her entire hockey career and is going to be very busy for us this season."

Coach remarked, "Losing Homa and Grant creates a big void in our team and we are looking for players to step up and fill those shoes. We have started the season 1-0-1 beating York and have a tie against Cheverus (which was a big boost for morale). We expect Portland / Cape to be another battle."

Boys Basketball: Coach Ryan Deschenes

The Rams have two returning starters from the previous year's AA South Regional Champions, which concluded in a tight back/forth state championship game in 2024.

Returning Players are: Griffin Gammon 6' 5 Senior Forward, Jack Karlonas 6' 1 Senior Forward, Jeffrey Legere 6' 5 Senior Center, Atticus Whitten 6' 0 Junior Guard, Colton Jewett 6' 1 Sophomore Guard, and Preston Brown 6' 1 Sophomore Guard. Newcomers include; Kristan Hirwa 6' 5 Junior Center, Aidan Dudley 6' 1 Junior Forward, Andrew Migliorini 6' 1 Junior Forward, Brandon Levesque 6' 1 Sophomore Guard, Isaac Hunter 6' 2 Sophomore Guard, Ty Caron 5' 10 Freshman Guard.

Coach Deschenes shared his teams outlook; "losing 80% of scoring between Leclerc, Michaud, and Smith we are finding new roles and opportunities. We do return two starters in Gammon and Karlonas, and a steady 6th man who started six games last year in Whitten. Gammon and Whitten can be extremely impactful two way players, Karlonas displays rebound-

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Gorham Sees Need for Affordable Housing

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer

Although the Town Council rejected a proposal brought by the Ordinance Committee for affordable housing on Nov. 11, councilors recognize the need for a variety of housing options in a town where the median cost of a single-family home is over \$500,000 and there are limited affordable rental units.

The proposed ordinance was based on one adopted by Cape Elizabeth. It would have required developers of subdivisions with 10 or more units or lots to set aside 10% as affordable for moderate income buyers, defined as making between 80% and 120% of medium family income for the area. All of the units would be owner-occupied and subject to restrictions on resale. To keep a property affordable, it could be sold only to a moderate-income buyer at a price determined by the town.

Councilors all agreed that there needs to be a solution to the lack of affordable housing, sometimes referred to as workforce housing in recognition that many people employed in Gorham cannot afford to live here. Seven Siegel,

who sponsored the proposal, said, "I do not think this is a perfect solution, but I don't see another one. Currently there is no affordable housing in Gorham."

Proposals with restrictive ordinances on builders and developers to encourage affordable housing can have an opposite effect. Councilor Lou Simms said that the jury is out on how effective they are. David Willis, a council member and local realtor, said there are other ways to achieve it. He questioned whether developers would build without incentives, a point made also by Rob Laviorie, who said there are no guarantees and builders don't need to build here.

Deed restrictions were also seen as a problem. Councilors raised objections to the resale provisions that did not permit buyers to build up equity in the property. Philip Gagnon agreed on the need for affordable housing, but did not believe the restrictions limiting buyers

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High School Students Accessing Social Work Support on the Rise

Kelli Deveaux, Staff Writer

During the recent kickoff event for Gorham School Committee's 2025-2026 budget process, Gorham High School Principal Brian Jandreau noted a dramatic increase over the past four years in the number of students seeking mental health support from the school's social work staff. Jandreau shared data collected annually by the school's trained social workers, drawing stark comparisons between the pre-pandemic 2018-2019 data and that of the 2023-2024 school year.

Two full-time school social workers are tasked with handling the mental health support effort for most of the 820 students at GHS. While 262 general education students sought support in the 2018-2019 school year, that number jumped to 462 students in 2023-2024. Some students who receive special education services also may have social work services provided as part of their individualized education plan in order to meet their academic goals. The number of students with legally required social work support

jumped from 39 in the 2018-2019 school year to 70 high school students in the 2023-2024 school year; these students receive support from a social worker who is dedicated solely to the special education population of the high school.

Principal Jandreau explained that according to well established human development principles, people must have their basic needs such as physiological and emotional safety and well-being met in order to engage in tasks such as learning. The increased needs of students for additional mental health support services and a lack of community based mental health professionals who are accepting new or youth patients has forced current school social work staff to triage needs, leaving them unable to see all students who need them.

Claudine Emerson, a licensed mental health and substance abuse counselor who has been a GHS staff member for

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Policy on News from Augusta: The Gorham Times asked our three state legislators from Senate District 30, House District 108 and House District 109 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.

Reflecting on Eight Years of Legislative Service

Rep. Mo Terry

After eight remarkable years in office, Dec. 4 marked my final day as a state representative. Looking back, it's hard to believe my journey in the Legislature has come to an end. Serving as the voice of our community in Augusta has truly been the honor of my life.

When I first decided to run for office, my motivation stemmed from a deep commitment to our friends and neighbors in Gorham. I wanted to advocate for our community's needs and ensure that our collective voice was heard in the State House. On a personal note, my desire to serve was also fueled by a wish to create a safe and secure environment for my daughters. I envisioned a Maine where they could explore their passions, find meaningful opportunities, and ultimately have the chance to buy a home, raise a family, and grow old here. I am immensely proud of the accomplishments we achieved together and feel privileged to have represented such a caring, passionate, and dynamic community.

Throughout the years, my colleagues and I have worked tirelessly to tackle the issues that matter most to families in Gorham. We have made significant strides in our mission to set future generations up for success. Among our many accomplishments, we passed a bill that I sponsored to create a fully refundable state child tax credit, expanding

the tax credits available for parents and other households with dependents. Another successful measure I was proud to sponsor during my eight years in office helps combat the growing problem of food insecurity in Maine by creating a checkoff provision on Maine income tax forms, which gives taxpayers the option of contributing to the emergency food assistance program. I was also so proud to support legislation establishing Maine's paid family and medical leave program. These initiatives, along with others, reflect our commitment to improving the quality of life for all Mainers.

However, while I believe we have made meaningful progress on key issues, I recognize that our state still faces significant challenges. The rising cost of living continues to strain families every day, making it increasingly difficult for them to make ends meet. Addressing these pressing concerns will require ongoing dedication and innovative solutions.

As we look to the future, I am aware that Gorham will face numerous challenges in the coming years, especially in light of potentially harmful policies that could come from the federal government. Yet, I want to reassure you that you are in capable hands with the new slate of Gorham legislators serving in Augusta. I am eager to see what they will

achieve on behalf of our community.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks for the trust and support you have shown me throughout my time as your representative. This job has brought me immense joy, primarily because of the incredible people I have had the honor to serve. Your concerns and aspirations will always matter to me, and I look forward to continuing our shared journey in making Gorham the best it can be. Thank you once again for allowing me to be part of your lives and to serve our community. Together, we can look forward to a bright future for Gorham and all its residents.



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. Anonymous letters are published at the sole discretion of the Editor.

To the Editor,

I would like to thank a very kind young woman at Hannaford on a busy Sunday. I let her go ahead of me in the in a fairly long 14 item check out line. She had a large box and nowhere to set it down.

I was at the 14 item limit aisle and the store was super busy. When I am not in a hurry or the person behind me has kids or seems stressed, I often let them jump the line. Being retired, I don't mind the wait.

As it turns out I had switched purses and left my credit card at home. No big deal, I'd ring up the groceries, to go home get my card and come back. I've had to do that before. This young woman surprised me by paying for some \$40 dollars worth of my

groceries. What kind gesture. Not knowing her name, I can't thank her properly. What a nice town we live in. You can be sure I will be paying it forward.

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The Gorham Times takes all reasonable care to prevent errors and disclaims all legal responsibility for any such errors, omissions, or typographical errors. The Gorham Times will print corrections if notified within 48 hours. We reserve the right to refuse publication of unsolicited materials. All submissions are subject to editing. Opinions expressed in the Gorham Times do not necessarily reflect those of the staff or publishers.

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Upcoming Advertising

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January 22
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Happy Spooky Christmas

John Ersek, Staff Writer

Residents of Gorham who regularly drive or walk along South Street (Rt 114) near Weeks Road may have noticed an unusual outdoor display of lighted and unlighted plastic figures, creepy-looking wooden constructions, glowing zombies, and plastic animal skeletons, among other objects that appear to be yard sale finds and cast-offs. Many items appear related to recent movies like "Minions," "Frozen," several Tim Burton films, as well as the classic "How The Grinch Stole Christmas."



Photo credit: John

Caption

Those who drive further south along Rt 114, toward the Maine Mall area, have probably noticed that there is a similarly unusual display on 114 in North Scarborough, just past the Beech Ridge Road intersection.

While some people may do all they can to ignore these iconoclastic mash-ups, others might wonder what is going on. Are these displays the work of Tim Burton fans, influenced by the "Nightmare Before Christmas?" Fans of Dr. Seuss' Grinch book and its spinoffs? Is it possible Christmas Tree Shops were acquired by Spirit Halloween after they went bankrupt?

Gorham resident Chris Blair, the creator of the unusual yard display located at 171 South Street, stated in a recent email that if the display has any theme, it is "just a mashup of the holidays that I hope helps Gorham smile a little bit more in these uneasy times."

It turns out that Gorham and North Scarborough are not the only places with such graphically mixed-up evocations of two very different holidays.

A recent internet search revealed that

such displays are becoming more common. In fact, they seem to be popping up all over the country, in various forms. For some reason, the far Western states and the southwestern desert region seem to be where these displays are most popular, while they are seen less often in the Northeast.

A humor article in a Eugene OR newspaper espouses the "turducken" theory. Namely, there is supposedly a similarity with the way fans of "Turduckens" aren't content with enjoying a roast turkey but insist on stuffing their turkey with a duck that's been stuffed inside a chicken. According to that theory, designers of mashed up holiday displays want to double or triple their holiday enjoyment by stuffing Halloween (and sometimes Thanksgiving) into Christmas.

Another article, from El Paso, TX contains an observation that some local people are clearly leaving their "Dia de los Muertos" decorations up longer and longer, often right through the Christmas season. This allows the traditional depictions of ancestors and other loved ones to commingle with displays featuring Santa, elves, Rudolph, candy canes, etc. While this trend is mostly a Southwest phenomenon, it has likely influenced the general American culture, especially with the popularity of the Disney/ Pixar feature "Coco".



Photo credit: John Ersek

Caption

One factor seems to be that residents of the West tend to be less tied to tradition, at least when it comes to such whimsical things as holiday yard displays. Feeling less tied to traditional restraints, westerners may be more willing to publicly experiment with unusual artistic expressions, some could be referred to as "outsider art."

Casco FCU's Tips to Protect Yourself from Scams in the New Year

Wendy Bowen, Casco FCU and Jake Holmes, Maine Credit Union League

As we step into the New Year, it's a great time to reassess our habits and resolutions—and that includes safeguarding ourselves against scams. Fraudsters are always looking for new ways to take advantage of unsuspecting individuals, especially during periods of transition like the start of a new year. Whether it's a fraudulent investment opportunity, a phishing email, or a phone scam, the tactics used by scammers are becoming increasingly sophisticated. We're sharing some tips from Jake Holmes, Director of Outreach and Financial Education at the Maine Credit Union League. He'll explain red flags to watch out for and practical steps you can take to protect yourself from scams, helping you stay safe and secure as you begin a fresh year.

What is a scam?

A scam is a scheme or a trick that uses misinformation and scare tactics to obtain your personal, financial, or other important information. Scams can take place over the phone, by email, mail, and even in person.

The groups or individuals perpetrating these schemes, known as scammers or fraudsters, often pose as people, agencies, and companies that you know and trust.

What are some signs of a scam?

You need to act fast. Acting in urgency is a warning sign of a scam. Scammers want you to act quickly and make payments without taking the time to think the situation through.

They're using fear tactics. If someone threatens to arrest you, sue you, or subject you to any other consequences if you don't pay them, it's likely a scam. Scammers know that fear can lead to poor judgement.

Unusual payment methods are requested. If you are asked to send a payment via a wire transfer, pre-paid card, or cryptocurrency, do not do it. These methods are nearly untraceable, and once the money is sent, it's usually gone for good.

Pre-payment is requested. If someone offers you a prize or debt relief,

if you pay an upfront fee or shipping cost to get it, it's most likely a scam.

They want your personal information. If you are contacted and asked to verify sensitive information over the phone, hang up. Never provide personally identifiable information like your birthday or social security number in response to an unsolicited call, email, or text message.

You need to keep it a secret. If you are asked to keep a transaction a secret, it's likely because the scammer doesn't want you to share the situation with someone who might detect it as a scam.

How can you avoid scams? Never open unsolicited attachments or links.

If you receive an unexpected text, email, or message that contains an attachment or link, delete it.

Store or shred documents with personal information. If you have documents with your birthdate, passwords, Social Security Number, or other personal information, store them away from prying eyes or hands, or shred them before disposing of them.

When in doubt, don't give it out. Trust your instinct. If someone asks for your information and you feel uncomfortable or that it could be a scam, end contact with them.

Casco FCU emphasizes that protecting yourself from scams in the New Year demands awareness, vigilance, and proactive steps. By staying informed about common scam tactics and adopting security best practices, you can minimize the risk of falling victim to fraud. Sign up to have Casco FCU immediately text you alerts about new scams happening in our community. Any awareness we spread can help prevent future victims. Simply text the word Casco to (207) 530-8205. Message and data rates may apply, opt out at any time. Call (207) 839-5588 with any questions.

As you embrace the new year, Casco FCU wants you to make it a priority to stay alert, secure, and prepared to spot potential scams, ensuring a safer and more confident year ahead for you and your loved ones.

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Winter Car Safety

Chris Crawford, Features Editor

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and AAA remind drivers that winter storms and sloppy road conditions, such as snow and sleet, are factors in nearly half a million crashes and more than 2,000 road deaths every winter.

Stay home if you can. If you have to go out, be prepared and let someone know where you are going and when you will arrive.

Remember to slow down. Allow extra space between vehicles. Accelerate and decelerate slowly.

Clean your headlights, rear brakes and backup cameras before you go. Crest toothpaste rubbed on your plastic headlight covers, then wipe with a clean cloth, will remove any accumulated discoloration.

Make sure your car has plenty of high-quality “winter” de-icer fluid. Make sure defrosters and all windshield wipers work. Replace any worn blades or consider installing heavy-duty winter fwipers.

Stock a winter safety kit for your vehicle with the following items: a snow shovel, broom, and ice scraper; abrasive material (sand or kitty litter), in case your vehicle gets stuck in the snow; jumper cables, flashlight, and warning devices (flares and emergency markers); first aid kit, including tourniquet; blankets for protection from the cold; a cell phone and charger, water, food, and any necessary medicine.

If you do get stuck, stay with your vehicle. It provides temporary shelter and makes it easier for rescuers to find you. You may easily get lost outside the vehicle in a wind-driven blizzard.

Be visible. Tie a brightly colored cloth to the antenna of your vehicle or place it at the top of a rolled-up window to signal distress. At night, keep the dome light on if possible. It only uses a small amount of electricity, and it will make it easier for rescuers to find you.

When digging out your vehicle, don't over-exert yourself. Listen to your body and stop if you become tired or too sweaty.

Clear the exhaust pipe. Make sure it is not clogged with snow, ice or mud, causing deadly carbon monoxide to leak into the passenger compartment of the vehicle while the engine is running.

Stay Warm. Use whatever is available to insulate your body from the cold, including floor mats, newspapers or paper maps. Pre-pack blankets and heavy clothing to use in case of an emergency.

Conserve Fuel. Run the engine and heater just long enough to remove the chill to help conserve fuel.

As always, avoid risky driving behaviors. Do not text or drive distracted. Obey posted speed limits; and always drive sober. Both alcohol and drugs impair safe and responsible driving by affecting coordination, judgment, perception, and reaction time. Always wear your seat belt.

Pet Ponderings: What to Get Them For the Holidays

Dr. Linda Mulski, Contributing Writer

These are the darkest of times (literally) in the Northern Hemisphere. While this season should be a time of holiday cheer, gratitude and thankfulness shared with family, friends and strangers ... it can sometimes result in stress, family feuds and poor budgeting. Most of us suffer from “First World” problems, truly an issue of too much and too many, rather than scarcity. When we think of those on our gift giving lists, let's consider something different this year.

Give the gift of support. Why not spend time rather than money? A voucher for pet sitting or farm chores can be a Godsend. Do you have an elderly neighbor who can no longer adequately exercise or groom their pet?

Consider safe enrichment toys to help entertain, and thus calm an over-anxious cat or dog. Would a seasonal park pass get the whole family, along with “Fido,” out to enjoy the fresh air? Is there a behavior aid (like a Gentle Leader) or even training classes that could help a dog to become a better walking buddy? Just be careful not to inadvertently insult the gift recipient(!). Engagement and exercise can be greatly appreciated.

A donation to a beloved cause is a gift that doesn't result in clutter. Our world is in rough shape environmentally. Why not support habitat for an endangered species? The World Wildlife Fund is a worthy beneficiary. Your favorite animal shelter could always use some volunteer hours; maybe donate them in a friend's

name? Purina, through their Purple Leash Project, helps to create more pet friendly shelters. This is particularly helpful for survivors of domestic abuse; their Red Rover mission also strives to bring people from crisis to care.

We should never forget fellow humans in need. Do you have a wonderful pet that could become a “therapy animal”? Can you visit an elder care facility? At risk youth can often bond with pets. Further afield, we all recognize the desperate need of those suffering from famine or trying to survive in war torn regions.

This is the time of year for giving of ourselves. Make an effort to have a grateful loving heart that we share to brighten and improve the lives of humans and animals.

Wishing you the Best of the Season.



Linda Mulski, VMD, veterinarian, has worked in Maine for the past 33 years. She and her husband, Tom Niedermeyer, VMD, own the Animal Hospital of South Gorham where a wide variety

of pet species are welcome. They have raised six daughters (all proud “Maine-iacs”).

Affordable Housing CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

from profiting from the increased value of the property to be fair. Willis also pointed out that owners were not protected from loss in a market downturn.

The Council voted not to send this proposal back to the Ordinance Committee for revision, but will look to other measures for addressing the problem. But as Siegel said, “The longer we delay, the worse it gets.”

One approach is to permit greater density in locations already designated as Residential Growth Areas. The Council amended the Land Use and Development Code to allow for affordable housing in the town's growth areas, as required by state law LD2003. Builders would receive a bonus of 2.5 times the base density in these areas where 51% of units meet affordable criteria. Buyers of the affordable units would be subject to the income requirements and restrictive covenants. So far, there have been no builders seeking this bonus.

David Willis believes, however, that restrictive ordinances on builders and developers to encourage affordable housing projects can shut them down. More realistic would be to offer incentives such as more flexibility on parking requirements and even tax incentives.

At the Dec. 3 Town Council meeting counselors passed an ordinance allowing up to 75 additional multi-family dwellings within the Growth Area designated in the town's Comprehensive Plan, located near the town center. Each unit would not exceed 1,000 sq. ft. of living space. In addition to providing more market-rate units, dwellings of this size would probably be a net increase

in property taxes. Property taxes from single-family homes with school-age children usually work the other way.

Tom Poirier, Community Development Director, sees increasing the number of 1,000 sq.ft. units permitted annually in the growth areas an incentive to builders, and more likely to produce a variety of housing than exclusionary zoning bonuses. “We need more incentives for density” he said. “We are Maine's 14th biggest town and we need to provide for older people, young people, and families who can't afford a house. Availability of money is a problem, but Gorham could pair up with Avesta or Westbrook Housing Authority on projects.”

Avesta Housing, a non-profit agency, has several housing projects in Gorham for people over 55 and people with disabilities, but no affordable housing facilities for other low- or moderate-income Gorham residents. Recently the Portland Press Herald reported that Avesta's Home Ownership Center has inaugurated a new program “designed to help moderate-income first-time home buyers break into a housing market that seems determined to push them out.” Avesta will purchase and renovate homes in order to sell them to qualified applicants and an affordable price.

Westbrook Housing Authority uses some state and federal funding for housing and support services. Working with their partner, Westbrook Development Corporation, they have produced 597 affordable rental units and 93 affordable homes. Accessing funding from the state or federal government is com-

plex, but the PPH reported this month that Maine Housing had awarded nearly \$13 million for affordable housing, including 170 units for families in Portland, Biddeford and Mexico.

In Gorham large developments of single family and multifamily units are underway or in the planning stage. Robie Street Development south of the Village School and the Gorham Fairway on former golf course property eventually will have more than 1,500 dwelling units for people who can afford to pay market-rate. Meanwhile, the Town Council will continue to look for ways to generate housing for people who want to live in Gorham but can't afford to.

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The Holidays Are Not Always Merry and Bright for Everyone. Maine Crisis Hotline is Available if you Need Help. Call or Text 988 It's Free. Confidential. Available 24/7

Suicide is the leading cause of violent death in Maine, but there is hope and help.

If you are dealing with feelings so big, you're unsure what to do, you don't have to face them alone.

Understanding the warning signs that come with these feelings can help you realize when you or someone you know may need help.

Here are some warning signs to watch out for:

- Feeling like there's no hope
- Sleeping too much or too little
- Difficulty focusing on school, work, or hobbies
- Feeling angry or annoyed often
- Mood swings or emotions that feel out of control
- Withdrawing from family, friends, or community
- Increased alcohol or other drug use
- Sudden changes in appetite
- Losing interest in how one looks
- Giving away valued personal items

A Gorham Fiscal Sustainability Committee Update

Gorham Times Staff (from Heather Perry's Superintendent Blog)

In a recent Superintendent Blog, Heather Perry updated the public about the critical work of the Gorham Fiscal Sustainability Committee.

This committee was jointly established by the Gorham Town Council and the Gorham School Committee over a year ago as a result of public concerns about the town budget. It aims to understand the existing financial landscape for the town and the Gorham School Department, evaluate the future economic landscape, and use this knowledge to make recommendations for maintaining sustainable taxes while managing our community's present and future growth over the next 5-10 years.

Specifically, the committee is tasked to "deliver" the following:

1. The development of a series of recommendations to the Town Council and the School Committee for how to reduce costs (or mitigate continued cost increases).

2. The development of a series of recommendations to the Town Council and School Committee for how to increase revenues that will offset direct taxpayer expenses at both the municipal and school levels.

3. The development of a series of recommendations to the Town Council and School Committee for how to improve communications between various stakeholder groups within the community of Gorham to aid in understanding current and future financial limitations moving forward.

The following are members of this joint committee: Professional Facilitator: Craig Freshly, Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak, Superintendent of Schools Heather Perry, School Committee members, Michelle Littlefield and Jennifer Whitehouse, Town Council

members, Rob Lavoie and Lou Simms, Planning Board member, William Benson, GEDC member, Sarah Jackson, Parents, Aaron Carlson and Christy Damon, Community members, George Fox and Susan Sato, business owners, Susan Coyne and Chris Kelly, Narragansett Principal Erin Eppler, Facilities and Transportation director Norm Justice and town department head Thomas Bernier.

The Committee has been meeting since April 2024 to complete this work and has made significant progress.

After learning about the historical spending and revenue trends of the schools and the municipality, the group has begun to focus on developing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the community. These KPIs would monitor the relative "health" of our expenditures and revenue streams to accomplish the first two items on the task list. The committee has also begun discussing developing a comprehensive communications plan and what that might look like to address the third assigned task.

The work is really beginning to take shape, and Superintendent Perry encourages the public to follow its progress. To do so, go to the town's website for the overview page, which provides agendas, minutes, and meeting schedules.

Once you have the dates for the meetings already held, you can also view the video recordings of those sessions.

The group's next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 16, 2025, at 6 p.m. Three more sessions are planned for Feb. 10, March 10, and April 14, 2025. All meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held in the downstairs conference room at the Gorham Municipal Center. They are open to the public and recorded as well.

Prelude to Christmas Concert: Gorham Community Chorus and GHS Chamber Singers

Gorham Times Staff



On Sunday, Dec. 15, the Gorham Community Chorus and GHS Chamber Singers presented their annual Prelude to Christmas Concert. The Community Chorus is a non-auditioning organization with over seventy community members who practice weekly under the direction of John Rimkunas. The Chamber Singers are a select group of talented high school vocalists who perform at a collegiate level under the direction of Matthew Murray. Here John Rimkunas directs the group during their combined chorus number accompanied by Eric Peppe, collaborative pianist.

Dec. Town Council Report

Jacob Adams, Staff Writer

Public Communications:

Residents Charles Hamblen and Kathy Robbins expressed concerns about the Brickyard Quarry and urged data-driven decision making.

Councilor Communications:

Councilor Willis thanked volunteers for the Burn off the Turkey race and Gorham Light Parade.

Councilor Keuch thanked everyone involved in the Gorham Light Parade and applicants for the Board of Trustees-Baxter Memorial Library positions.

Chairperson Phillips thanked Public Works for the holiday display and announced the Gorham Historical Society holiday party on December 8th. She also urged blood donation.

Town Manager Paraschak thanked staff and Public Works for the holiday display. He reminded residents of the winter parking ban and the availability of free sand from Public Works.

The following applications for Medical and Adult Use Marijuana Licenses were renewed for 2025:

Second Nature, Carl Binette, 44 Sanford Drive. Property owned by Jim Fox

Premium Processing, Gerard Tardiff, 17 Gorham Industrial Pkwy, Unit C. Property owned by Dave Cowen

White Pine Technologies, Andrew Clough, 15 Pearson Drive. Property owned by Robert Pearson Deep Sun LLC, Tim Nickerson,

7 Laurence Drive. Property owned by Bob Pearson

Skyfall Cannapy, Valeric Nadeau, 5 Little Wing Lane, Unit D. Property owned by Dave Cowen

T&J Peak Vision LLC, Jeramy Windle, 36 Bartlett Road, Unit 7. Property owned by Hincks Realty LLC Threshold LLC,

Tanner Brown, 11E Gorham Industrial Pkwy. Property owned by Parkway LLC

B's Trees, Michael Barris, 7 County Road, Units A&B. Property owned by 7 County Road LLC

Flamingo Fine Cannabis, Jared Dinsmore, 5 Little Wing Lane, Unit C. Property owned by Dave Cowen

DL Farms, Anthony Digilio, 36 Bartlett Road, Units 2 & 4. Property owned by Don Hincks

XOCC LLC, Alexis Cantara, 5 Little Wing Lane, Unit A. Property owned by Dave Cowen

Green Trap, Green Trap LLC, 84 Olde Canal Way. Property owned by Hani LLC

West Labs, LLC, Harrison Otterbein, 5 Little Wing Lane, Unit B. Property owned by Calendar Corp.

Calendar Islands Cannabis Co., Harrison Otterbein, 289 New Portland Road. Property owned by 789 Development LLC. (6 years, 1 nay: Gagnon).

A growth management ordinance to identify a category of growth permits for multi-family dwellings was approved by the Town Council. (5 years, 2 nays: Gagnon, Phillips)

Town Council approved the proposed amendments to the Fire Suppression Systems Ordinance. The amendments focused on installation, maintenance, and testing requirements for sprinkler systems in various building types. (7 years) The full amendments to the Fire Suppression Systems Ordinance can be found online at <https://www.gorham-me.org/node/49/minutes/2024>

The Town Council instructed the Finance Committee to review fees for multifamily unit growth permits and propose a fee of \$2,000 per unit. This proposal was approved by the council. (7 years)

Based on the Ordinance Committees recommendation, Town Council decided not to proceed with an amendment to the Fire Suppression Systems Ordinance that would have removed sprinkler requirements for single-family homes in certain situations. (4 years, 3 nays (Gagnon, Lavoie, Phillips))

The council authorized the Ordinance Committee to review the Historic Preservation Ordinance, focusing on the South Street and Gorham Campus Historic Districts. The goal is to recommend changes that promote economic development while preserving historical character. (7 years)

The council directed the Capital Improvements Committee to develop a plan to increase Metro ridership and to provide annual ridership statistics. (7 years)

A proposal to re-establish a Recreation Department Advisory Committee and appoint two councilors to it failed to gain a second and was not voted on.

Town Council forwarded a proposal for a mixed-use contract zone on the former Gorham Country Club property to the Planning Board for review and public hearing. (7 years)

The Town Manager was authorized to enter into a five-year contract with Casella Waste Systems for curbside waste and recycling collection, including the purchase of totes for mechanical collection. (7 years)

The Town Council directed staff to review the Land Use & Development Code and propose specific recommendations to simplify the site plan review process. (7 years)

A Council workshop was scheduled for January 21, 2025, to focus on goal setting. (7 years)

Town Council accepted the resignations from Abby Alden and Linda Maclean and appointed Virginia Wilder Cross and Cassidy Helfant to the Baxter Memorial Library Board of Trustees. (7 years)

A proposal to approve a hardship abatement of taxes was withdrawn and did not proceed to a vote.

The full meeting minutes and past meetings can be found online at <https://www.gorham-me.org/node/49/minutes>.

Grand Jury Indictments, Nov. 2024

Gorham Times Staff

Jacob Alan Sawtell, 31, of Gorham was indicted for operating after revocation and improper plates on charges brought by Portland Police Department Raeleen M. Theriault, 30, of Gorham was indicted on two counts

of theft by unauthorized taking by Cumberland County Sheriff's Office.

Sherwood J. Smallidge, 48, of Gorham was indicted for possession of a firearm by a prohibited person brought by Westbrook Police Department.

Finding Age-Appropriate Holiday Books for Kids

Compiled By Gorham Times Staff

If you are looking for books for children this holiday season, this is a list of websites that might help:

- odie@growingbookbybook.com
- <https://www.scholastic.com/parents/books-and-reading/books-and-reading-guides/recommended-childrens-books-by-age.html>
- <https://www.scottsdalelibrary.org/youth/100-best-picturebooks>
- <https://imaginationoup.net/picture-books/>
- <https://everychildareader.net/choice/3-8-best-picture-book-page-2021/>



Graphic design by Megan Levesque

An additional suggestion for selecting books - if you want to actually read a book before buying it, you can google youtubevideo and the book title and hear someone read the book.

December School Committee Meeting

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Sarah Perkins. Six members were present. The committee approved the minutes of several regular and special meetings, and workshops.

The School Committee recognized the GHS volleyball team and Coach Tirrell for winning the second consecutive state championship. Coach Tirrell, Athletic Director Tim Spears and Team Captain Natalie Smith thanked the girls for their hard work and dedication to the sport.

In addition, there was a short concert from fourteen members of the Narragansett School Band. Principal Erin Epler and music teacher Lila Weiser explained that this group has only had six practices and rehearses before school each week. They are a dedicated and talented group of musicians.

Superintendent Heather Perry briefly updated the committee on the progress of her goals. Each goal has shown progress and is on track to be completed within the timeframe. She did inform the committee that in regards to Goal 2: developing a plan of implementation for providing special education services to three- four-year-olds, the school system will be taking a more regional approach and working with other members of the educational alliance to develop a plan, rather than a Gorham plan.

Emilia Oralu, the high school representative to the school committee, reported on a series of events at GHS, including a Native American Heritage Fair, the beginning of winter sports, the National Honor Society induction ceremony, the return of the steel band, a Garbage to Garden presentation for each grade level and a presentation on the protections ensured under Title 9.

Each standing and special committee reported on their most recent work and their scheduled next meeting. Each subcommittee also reported on their goals and their next steps.

The School Committee approved (6-0) the second reading of the following goals: Nondiscrimination/Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Policy (AC), Harassment of Students Policy (ACAA), Harassment of Employees Policy (ACAB) and Pregnant Students Policy (JIE).

The committee voted (6-0) to approve the contract of the school superintendent, as required by statute.

Also approved (6-0) were the purchase and lease agreements for two new buses. These purchases had been included in the school budget, but additional school committee approval is required on purchases this large.

The committee then voted to go into a series of three executive sessions for discussion. (6-0)

A Student's Reflection on Matt Tavares Author Visit

Fiona Damon, a 5th grader at Village School

Every year, Village School hosts an author visit. Most years, we connect to the author through zoom. This year, Matt Tavares came to the school in person and talked to the students about his first Graphic Novel, "Hoops."

Around the time of the author's visit, we read one of the books the author has written. This year, the students read "21 Steps." When the author comes, they normally talk about the writing process and if they will write more books. Sometimes, they talk about turning one of their books into a series or, in some cases, making a graphic novel version. This year, Mr. Tavares did a drawing demonstration, teaching kids about the drawing process he used to design his book "Hoops."

Then we asked questions such as "What was your favorite part of Hoops to write?" He shared that one of his favorite parts of "Hoops" to write was when it started to feel more like a graphic novel than the original nonfiction picture book. When he was writing "Hoops," he planned for it to be a nonfiction picture book, but as he wrote, his book started to feel more like a graphic novel based on real-life events than a nonfiction picture book.

Mr. Tavares's work was fascinating to look at. It inspired many young authors, illustrators, and readers in the crowd of kids listening to his presentation.

Fiona Damon is a 5th grader at Village School in Ms. Meggison's class. Her SAIL Teacher is Mrs. Karcanes.

Social Work Support CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

over twenty years, explained that the counselors meet first with students in immediate crisis or who pose a threat to the safety of themselves or others, but that they are also trying to support students with ongoing mental health needs, including those struggling with trauma, grief, depression, or difficulty with interpersonal relationships. Jandreau elaborated on the impossibility of the situation by dividing the number of students currently seeking services by the number of school days and hours in those days to demonstrate that the two general education counselors, Emerson and colleague Cynthia Grover, are only able to provide on average 4 hours per year to each student seeking social work support. Principal Jandreau's explanation drew concerns from School Committee members who were present, who noted that this was not nearly enough time to adequately address the traumas and needs with which students are presenting.

Emerson and Grover work with students and their families to help them find outside counseling services when appropriate, but limited options and the high cost, often out of pocket, for private mental health services has pushed many families to rely more on the school staff to fill the gap.

Emerson explained that there is a continuum of care that is provided to students; some seek assistance or support from classroom teachers or school counselors within the guidance department, but that an increasing number of students are needing the higher degree of clinical care that is provided by licensed social workers.

The data gathered reveals that while some areas of need have remained relatively stable, other mental health needs have seen a significant jump in Gorham. The number of students seeking support around substance use issues was 32 in 2018-2019 and 37 in 2023-2024, and support with family issues remained steady at 58 and 59, respectively. But the number of students seeking support for anxiety jumped from 43 to 105,

assistance with depression also more than doubled from 41 to 95, and students who experienced significant trauma also rose substantially from 34 to 56 students.

Gorham is not alone. Education, medical and mental health professionals nationwide have noted an increase in reported mental health issues for teens, particularly following the global COVID-19 pandemic. While there are hypotheses as to why, such as social media and isolation, not all are problematic. Emerson noted, for example, that significant efforts have been made at the national, state and local levels to raise awareness about the importance of mental health, and the stigma of seeking help has diminished. But she also noted that students seem to struggle more with skills like communication, relationship building, problem solving, and stress management.

These are just some of the skills that Emerson and Grover are trying to support students in developing, so that they can regulate and then focus on achieving academic success. "We are passionate about working with these adolescents, and it is a privilege to see students work through personal struggles," said Emerson. "What some of these kids overcome, and what they achieve is remarkable. We love what we do."

During a follow-up discussion with Gorham Times staff, Jandreau expressed his appreciation for the work of GHS staff, while stressing the need for additional staffing and support for students. He encouraged families to continue dialogue with their teens and to work together with prevention efforts that help youth with healthy decision-making and resiliency skills. Jandreau noted the excellent grassroots discussions being led by Gorham Partnership for Thoughtful Technology as an example. The Facebook group of and for Gorham parents and caregivers has shared resources and led a book discussion on "The Anxious Generation," with a focus on developing community wide solutions to improve youth mental health.

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ing, defense, and toughness. While Jewett and Brown provide attacking and shooting, both will steadily improve as the season progresses. Our goal is to focus on daily habits while finding our identity and be a team in February that will be a tough out."

Girls Basketball: Coach Laughn Berthiaume

The team finished 18-4, AA South Regional Champion & State runner-up during the previous season. Ellie Gay (Miss Maine Basketball Finalist), and all-star selection Summer Gammon, and Kalin Curtis also graduated. This year's seniors include: Julia Reed (captain), Vanessa Walker (captain), Payton Thibodeau (captain) and Lindy Moreland. Reed is a Class AA South player to watch. She has spent the last two seasons as a high scorer on the perimeter and will likely continue to score double digits all season long. Walker is a key player on both ends of the court; strong on the boards and creates scoring opportunities. Other players to watch are: Logan Doughty, Zoe Dellinger, Lauren Dunbar, Winni Moreland and Jocelyn Clark. The Rams once again expect to be a contender in AA South, with the strongest competition coming from the Sanford Spartans, Scarborough Red Storm, and South Portland Red Riots."

Alpine Ski: Coach Sean Munkacsi

The Gorham and Scarborough High School ski teams will once again merge together this season. Coach Munkacsi shared, "both girls' teams could win SMAAs and potentially place several skiers in the top 20 statewide. Thanks to Pleasant Mountain's new high-speed lift and increased snowmaking, we look forward to additional on-snow training. Fitness Instructor, Dawn Stevens has been instrumental thus far in our dry-land workouts, as well as assistant coach Caroline Burns."

Brooke Stevens, Sophie Kaczmarek, and TJ Nagle are the GHS tri-captains. In addition to Stevens and Kaczmarek, seniors Ari Flett and Natalie Miner are expected to be competitive in each race.

Coach Munkacsi added, "Cassidy Hjort and Jennifer Miner are anticipated to have a break-out season and be strong contributors. For the 2nd year in a row, TJ Nagle is the best racer on the GHS boy's side and is expected to be top-20 in the SMAA's thanks to his experience and increased strength."

Lilah Ferrie and Rosa Perlut are the SHS co-captains. Ferrie and Perlut are teamed with returning racers Evie Wiernusz, Grace Baron, and Ria Pasalic.

Coach Munkacsi concluded, "There are high expectations for first-years Clara Ferrie and Madison Bailey. This level of depth could prove to be the difference in many races. Emery Miller and Giovanni Tria and leader Nagle will be racing for the boy's side."

Boys Indoor Track & Field: Coach Jason Tanguay

Coach Tanguay shared, "Our team is coming off a successful season last year where we finished with 13 wins and 3 losses. We graduated nine seniors who were strong contributors to the program of which four have gone on to compete in college."

This year's "athletes to watch" are: Jack Adams, middle distance; Harry Crider, distance; Harvey Crider, distance; Owen Cummings, distance; Jack Cyr, sprints; Riley Dever, middle distance; Antoine Dube, hurdles and sprints; Griffin Gammon, jumps; Finn Henderson, middle distance; Kuba Kaczmarek, jumps; Jackson Lavertu, middle distance; Shane Morrison, sprints; Kevin Munyaneza, hurdles and jumps; Nick Munyaneza, jumps; Tyler Olson, middle distance; Nick Sallinen, middle distance; Owen Spera, sprints



Photo credit: Colleen Heal
Zoe Dellinger with the ball for the Rams.

Coach Tanguay remarked; "For the upcoming season, we have many new athletes who are joining our team and this is very exciting given how many quality veterans we return. Our team should be competitive in league competition and if the new faces can develop this season we may be a quality team in the postseason as well."

Girls Indoor Track & Field: Coach Christina Stone

First year head coach (and long-time assistant coach) Christina Stone shared; "We return several veteran members of our team, and we will be especially strong in the senior division sprints and relays. Among our top performers is Ashley Connolly (soccer standout and South Carolina commit). Ashley scored in the SMAA conference meet and state meet last year in the sprints and is a perennial anchor to one or more of our relays. Other seniors who will contribute in individual and relays include Emily Fadrigon (sprints, jumps), Bailey Hatch (sprints, relays), Piper Forgues (sprints, relays), and Lindy Moreland (jumps, hurdles). Juniors Grace Cunningham (middle distance, jumps) and Laurel Emerson (jumps) will also provide points in SMAA competition."

Coach added, "Our junior division will look for strong performances from Annabelle Vail (sprints, relays) and Sarah Brawn (middle distance, relays). This year's freshmen class is bigger than it has been in the last three of four years, so the number of junior division competitors is promising not only for this season but for years to come. The freshmen cover much-needed spots in distance and hurdles, and will allow for more flexibility in entries, maximizing scoring potential for the entire team."

Coach Stone concluded, "Scarborough girls return a very strong and deep team, and Portland girls have state scorers in Samantha Moore and Annalise Collin who will challenge not only Scarborough but the best in the state for top honors. The Gorham Girls' Track Team should perform solidly in conference competition this season."

Swim Teams: Coach William York

Coach York shared "Gorham swimming ended last season on a number of highlights. Maya Moores broke her school record in the 100 Breaststroke, and Brodie Berlinger broke his 500 free school record as well as breaking 100 Fly School record. Outside of school records, The girls team finished second out South-Southwesterns and 8th at class A states. The boys team finished 3rd at Southwesterns and 9th at class A states--the biggest change for our team as we go into the 24-25 season. We saw the graduation of 10 seniors."

Coach York added; "We have two incredible captains this season. Our boys captain, senior Ryan Morill has been with the pro-

gram for four years of HS swimming and three years of MS swimming. A massive positive influence on deck, Ryan leads from the front both in his 100 Breast and 200 Free as well as rallying his scrappy boys team to individual and relay wins. Our girls captain, senior Aspenelle De Los Reyes joins us for her third season. Aspenelle is a fierce competitor and loves to take on just about any event. Outside of racing, Aspenelle has been working to shape and



Photo credit: Colleen Heal
Logan Doughty ready to pick up where she left off.

add new parts of team culture with Ryan to continue to build camaraderie and unity.

Athletes to watch include: Maya Moores (top 5 in multiple events including 2nd in the state in 100 Breast), Hanna Logan (Top 8 in multiple events including 4th in 200 IM & 6th 100 Back), Stella Moores (Top 8 in multiple events including the 500 Free), and finally Brodie Berlinger (Top 5 in multiple events including 2nd in the 500 Free).

Coach remarked; "the boys team is small and scrappy this season. With a smaller depth it provides some challenges though our focus is to win every opportunity to race. South-Westerns and States continue to be



Photo credit: Kelly Allen
Girls Ice Hockey Sr. Captain Katelyn Cyr.

a large focus for our team. We plan to see state qualifications for every member of the boys team. The girls team is focused on the results. PRs, State cut times, and records-successful results lead to everything else. Both teams did a good job recruiting to fill in for 10 graduating seniors. This new group of swimmers, all upperclassmen, are incredible additions to the team with great promise."

Challenging opponents continue to be Yarmouth and Thornton Academy. Both programs have incredible swimmers and coaches and the Rams are always up for the opportunity to race them. This year the Rams have a dual meet with Yarmouth and will face TA at regionals (South-Southwesterns).

Gorham Swimming is a multigrade program supporting the growth of the sport of swimming from grades 6 - 12. Over the last five years the program has grown to over 100 swimmers from grade 6-12. This is in large part due to the mentorship of the HS swimmers, a strong booster program and the help of assistant coaches, Gauger and Shiers.

Best of luck to all of the Rams teams this Winter season.

CryptoVerse by A. Logophile

I VEPT - WENT YFIVT, IC IAINECZ ZVDY XDDA,
IC TVTGFICH & GEZZET, ICS TVOEW...OXDDA!
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ICS EH YXIGW KG YEHF IC IBBDXSILVT WKGGTX.
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SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

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Christmas Services 2024

Gorham Times

CENTERPOINT CHURCH
53 County Road, Gorham
Pastor Ben Thornton, (207) 370-8182
centerpointme.com,
facebook.com/CenterpointME
Christmas Eve Service,
Dec. 24, 5 p.m.

**CRESSEY ROAD
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
81 Cressey Road, Gorham
Pastor Joseph Saunders, (207) 839-3111
crdcc.office@gmail.com
www.cresseyrdcc.org
Light of the World Drive-Thru Christmas
Experience Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Free Event / Storm Date Dec. 21
Dec. 24-Christmas Eve Candlelight
Services, 4 p.m. and 11 p.m.
Dec. 31-Watchnight Service of
Covenant Renewal, 7 p.m.
All services available on Facebook.com/
CRDCCGorham and YouTube

**FIRST PARISH
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**
1 Church Street, Gorham
Rev. Christine Dyke, (207) 839-6751
christine@firstparishgorham.org
firstparishgorham.org
In-person and Facebook Live
Dec. 18, Blue Christmas, 6 p.m.
Dec. 24, Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service, 7 p.m.

**FIRST RUSSIAN
BAPTIST CHURCH**
211 Mosher Road, Gorham
Pastor Igor Kushnar
Church phone number (207) 892-8324
Pastor's phone number (207) 210-8636
Church Email:
frbcgorhamme@gmail.com
Dec. 14, 12-5 p.m. "Bethlehem"
Family-friendly event with crafts,
activities, and food.
Dec. 24, 7 p.m. Christmas Eve
Youth Service
Dec. 25, 1 p.m. Christmas Day Service

**FORT HILL
COMMUNITY CHURCH**
Spire 29, 29 School Street, Gorham
Aaron Manning, (207) 592-4987
aaron@forthillchurch.com,
forthillchurch.com
Christmas Eve Service,
in person and online, Dec. 24, 4 p.m.

GALILEE CHURCH
317 Main Street, Gorham
Pastor Mark Labacz and
Pastor Kevin Lambertson
(207) 839-6985
cgalilee@maine.rr.com, cgalileebc.org
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service,
Dec. 24, 6 p.m. (5:45 cookies)

**GRACE BIBLE CHURCH
OF GORHAM**
74 Deering Road, Gorham
Pastor Joe Macisso, (207) 839-8800
gbcofgorham@gmail.com
thegracebiblechurch.com
Christmas Eve Service, Dec. 24, 5 p.m.

LIFECHURCH
8 Elkins Road, Gorham
Pastor Brian Undlin, 839-6354
lifechurchmaine.org
Christmas Eve Services
Tuesday, December 24
2, 3:30, and 5 p.m.
Children's services provided
at all service times.

LITTLE FALLS BIBLE CHURCH
746 Gray Road, Gorham
Pastor Tony Vafiades, (207) 423-6730
littlefallsbc.org/
Christmas Eve Service, Dec. 24, 5 p.m.

**LIVING STONE
COMMUNITY CHURCH**
711 Ossipee Trail West, Standish
Pastor Alexander Grimaldi
(207) 590-1476
Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 24, 6 p.m.

**LIVING WATERS
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
197 Parker Farm Road, Buxton
Pastor Gary Braley, (207) 517-6135
lwcc@lwaters.net,
lwaters.net
Christmas Eve Service, 6 p.m.

ORCHARD COMMUNITY CHURCH
1 North Street/Rt. 114, Gorham
Pastor Brian Ward, (207) 730-3910
orchardpastorbrian@yahoo.com,
facebook.com/orchardcommunitychurch
Christmas Eve Service,
Dec. 24, 7 p.m.
in person and on Facebook

**REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
(LCMS)**
410 Main Street, Gorham
Pastor: Rev. Gabriel Strawn
(207) 839-7100
RedeemerMaine@gmail.com
RedeemerMaine.org
All services will be live-streamed at
Facebook.com/RedeemerMaine
Advent Wednesday Services, 7:00 p.m.
Carols, Cookies, & Cocoa, Wednesday,
Dec. 18 7:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Lessons, Carols and
Candlelight,
Dec 24, 6:30 p.m.
Christmas Day Divine Service,
Dec 25, 10:15 a.m.

ST ANN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
40 Windham Center Road, Windham
(207) 892-8447
stannsoffice@gmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/StAnnsEpis-
copalWindhamME04062/grid
stannsepiscopalchurch.com
Christmas Eve Services, Dec. 24
Family Service with Children's Sermon
4 p.m. (no children's pageant *this year*)
Festal Service with Choir and Organ,
7 p.m.

**ST. ANNE
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
299 Main Street, Gorham
Fr Lou Phillips, pastor, (207) 857-0490
stanthonysparish@portlanddiocese.org
stanthonysparish.org
Christmas Eve Mass, Dec. 24,
4 and 6:30 p.m.
Christmas Day Mass, Dec. 25, 8 a.m.
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
Jan. 1, 9 and 11 a.m.

SUMMIT COMMUNITY CHURCH
26 Cressey Road, Gorham
Rev. Travis Bush, (207) 839-4434
summitmaine.org
Candlelight Christmas Eve Services
Dec. 24, 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
AT NORTH GORHAM**
4 Standish Neck Road, Gorham
Rev. David Farrington,
(207) 892-5363,
northgorhamchurch.org
Christmas Eve service
Dec. 24, 6 p.m.

WEST GORHAM UNION CHURCH
190 Ossipee Trail, Gorham
Pastor Nate Colson, (207) 839-5946
facebook.com/WestGorhamChurch
Christmas Cantata, Dec. 24, 4 p.m.

**WHITE ROCK
FREE BAPTIST CHURCH**
300 Sebago Lake Road, Gorham
Rev. Jonathan Marshall,
wrfbc.org, (207) 893-1919
Sunday School, Dec. 22, 9:30 a.m.,
4th Sunday of Advent
Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.,
Celebrating with Carols, 6 p.m.
Family Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service, "In the Darkness, Light," 6 p.m.

The Gorham Times acknowledges the lands and waters of the
Dawnland, where we live and do our work, as the unceded
homelands of ancestral peoples indigenous to these places.
We honor them. We acknowledge the difficult truths of settler
colonialism as well as the healing work that remains for us to do.

Gorham Times

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COMMUNITY

OF INTEREST

Join the Climate Caretakers for a presentation by Bruce Webb on the latest efforts to combat climate change by electrifying everything. All are welcome with questions and discussion. The presentation takes place in Fellowship Hall at First Parish Church, 1 Church Street on Friday, Jan. 17 at 6:30 p.m.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORSThe 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. The closet is open only Monday thru Thursday, and only by appointment. Call Gerry Day at (207) 756-2210 or (207) 839-3859

The Mission of Hope Clothes Closet is open the first and third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon at Cressey Road Christian Church on Cressey Road to anyone who needs clothing. The Closet also takes donations of clean clothing, and now has all types and sizes of spring and summer clothing. Share a cup of coffee with the staff while you browse.

The Gorham Food Pantry, located at 299-B Main Street (parking lot of St. Anne's Catholic Church) is open every Thursday morning from 10 a.m. to noon and is free for any Gorham resident in need. FMI, (207) 222-4351, visit www.gorhamfoodpantry.org or message us on Facebook at Gorham Food Pantry Friends.

SENIOR NEWS

The Senior Meal Site at St. Anne's Church 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.

The Lecky Brown Senior Center meets for games and cribbage on Mondays from 10 a.m. - noon. Wednesday's Guest Speaker program, the Originals, begins with coffee at 10 a.m. then speaker/presentation to begin at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome, 3rd floor First Parish Church. FMI: Lisa Becker at leckybrowncenter@gmail.com

PUBLIC SUPPERS

Living Waters Church extends an invitation to come and enjoy their free delicious turkey dinner with all the fixings on Tuesday, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve) at 5 p.m. on Parker Farm Road in Buxton. Dinner will be followed by a short Christmas Eve Service at 6 p.m. Takeout containers will be available.

HOLIDAY FAIRS AND CONCERTS

Cressey Road Christian Church, follow the star to the Light of the World Drive-Thru Christmas experience. Watch the Christmas Story unfold from the comfort of your vehicle. Costumed characters, storytelling banners, live animals, and a bright star will lead you on the Christmas journey. The free event takes place on Friday, Dec. 20 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. (storm date, Dec. 21) at 81 Cressey Road.

LIBRARY NEWS

The North Gorham Public Library is open Monday and Wednesday, 3 - 6 p.m., Tuesday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3 - 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday closed, Saturday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., Sunday closed. Story Hour is every Wednesday 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Baxter Memorial Library invites anyone in 6th to 12th grade to help the coolest librarians with teen stuff by joining their Teen Advisory Board. Meetings are once a month. Sign up at the Youth Services Desk, and let them know if you like pizza or not. Baxter Memorial Library events are listed in the Gorham Times Calendar, and at the Library website, <https://baxterlibrary.org/>. Library hours are Monday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (207) 222-1190.

Send PSAs and Calendar items to Lori Arsenault, public service coordinator: loriaam@gmail.com

CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 18

Baxter Memorial Library, The Polar Express, 6 - 6:30 p.m. (Wear your pajamas)

Thursday, December 19

Baxter Memorial Library
Toddler Storytime (Bring the whole family), 10 a.m.
Book Club, "The Comfort of Crows" by Margaret Renkl

Friday, December 20

Cressey Road Christian Church, Light of the World Drive-Thru Christmas Experience, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Saturday, December 21

Baxter Memorial Library, Pokémon Club 10 a.m. - noon

Tuesday, December 24

Living Waters Church Free Turkey Dinner, Parker Farm Road, Buxton, 5 p.m., followed by Christmas Eve Service at 6 p.m.

Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day Services, page 8

Saturday, December 28

Baxter Memorial Library RPG Club, learn about role-playing, 11 a.m. - noon

(207) 839-3300



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GORHAM \$480,000

This home is immaculate and meticulously maintained inside and out. Features a handcrafted custom cherry kitchen with inset doors and drawers open to the dining area. Bright front living room. The first-floor primary bedroom and full bathroom are ideal for one-floor living. You'll love relaxing and watching the birds in four-season room directly accessed from the primary bedroom.



BUXTON \$639,900

Brand new colonial offering 4-bedrooms, 2.5 bathroom and a 2-car garage all on a 3.15-acre lot. You'll love this sunlit open floor plan. The kitchen with island and pantry closet is open to the dining room & front living room. A handy mudroom drop-zone has direct access to the garage and a half bath which completes the 1st floor. On the 2nd level you'll find the primary ensuite with double closets, 3-additional bedrooms, a full bath & 2nd floor laundry.



GORHAM \$650,000

33.8 acres located in South Gorham near Scarborough and Buxton town lines. Located in Gorham's Rural Zone and the Manufactured Housing Overlay District. This parcel is completely wooded with mature trees and old stone walls define some boundaries. Conveniently located just 9 miles to Portland International Jetport and 3.5 miles to Hannaford Grocery Store. Survey(s) are available and this property is NOT in tree growth.



BUXTON \$499,900

This cape style home offers 1176sqft of living space with an unfinished second floor on a private 5.31-acre lot. The front living room is open to the dining area and kitchen. The primary bedroom has double cedar lined closets. The second bedroom is ample with a single cedar lined closet. A full bathroom with laundry and a jet tub completes the first-floor plan. You'll love how toasty the radiant floor heat keeps your feet.



GORHAM \$250,000

Features spacious appliances kitchen with dining area, living room w/ hardwood flooring, primary bedroom with full bath & walk-in closet. 2nd bedroom with closet, utility/laundry room with washer and dryer. Enter this home by the 12x14 covered deck. The home is being offered partially furnished. Energy efficient with newer appliances, 200 amp service, storage shed, paved drive & nicely appointed grounds. This park is a 55+ community conveniently located.

SENT FOR APPROVAL



Julie Chandler



Mike Griffin



Peter Mason

Ronald (Chummy) Dyer (1942 - 2024)

GORHAM - Ronald (Chummy) Dyer passed away at home on Dec. 2, 2024. Born to Maurice and Germaine Dyer on March 9, 1942, Ron attended Scarborough High School. He married the love of his life, Karen Harmon, on Sept. 23, 1961.



They raised their family in South Gorham. Their home was always welcoming to everyone. Ron helped Karen raise sheep for their wool. They enjoyed showing their fleeces at agricultural fairs where they won many blue ribbons.

Ron worked at S.D. Warren/Sappi Paper Mill for 38 years, retiring in 1999. To his friends, he was known as "Chummy."

In his younger years, Ron loved to hunt, fish, and go to the Brick Oven camp in Moosehead. He was an avid stock car fan and liked going to Loudon to camp out with friends and watch the races. But his real passion was riding his Harley Davidson with Karen. Chummy never missed any motorcycle runs, including traveling to Sturgis in 1990, attending Behind the Barn parties, annual trips to Laconia, Stoney's Lobster run, and, of course, The Toy Run for the kids.

Those who knew Chummy understood his demeanor and that he lived his life the way he wanted - right up the very end.

Ron was predeceased by his wife of 57 years. He is survived by his son, Jake and his fiancé, Michelle Bento; his daughter Darcy Dyer and her long-time partner, Danny Harmon; the daughter of his heart Wanda Thompson and her husband, Billy; three grandchildren, Dakota and Savannah Thompson and Sadie Dyer; his sister, Darlene (Dyer) Emmons and her husband Bob; his brother Dennis Dyer and his wife, Joan; and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

The family would like to thank Hospice of Southern Maine for their compassionate care. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, Jan. 11, 2025 from 1-5 at the home of Jake Dyer, 46 Grant Road, Saco. Please contact Jake at (207) 831-4003 with any questions.

Maine Author Paul Doiron Makes Surprise Announcement

John Ersek, Staff Writer

On Dec. 10 at Baxter Memorial Library, North-Woods-themed mystery author Paul Doiron offered a fascinating glimpse into his writing and described some experiences he had while researching his books. For his fans, probably the most compelling item came near the end when he announced a successful outcome after years of unsuccessfully shopping his "Mike Bowditch" books to the Hollywood entertainment industry.



Photo credit: John Ersek

Paul Doiron at Baxter Memorial Library.

Doiron said two well-known producers had recently had a "bidding war," and one had emerged with the television rights to all the books, planning a TV series using "Pitch Dark" and other books. While unable to offer additional specifics, he expects an official announcement very soon. Before this surprise announcement, Doiron spoke at length about his writing process and research experiences, and read an excerpt from his latest book, "Pitch Black."

Since the first book in the series, Doiron has sought to envision Mike Bowditch as being much like a real person, someone with positive traits but also noticeable flaws that evolve. Doiron allows "Bowditch" to evolve from book to book, just as real people do as they age and have various life experiences. He consciously avoids making Bowditch conventionally heroic, or perfect.

Doiron acknowledged that obviously the Bowditch character has experienced and survived far more than most real people, (including physical traumas like being punched, kicked, and shot). In contrast, their job requires real Maine wardens to be heroic fairly often, like disarming an angry person or carrying an injured hiker off the mountain.

Because Doiron prefers to write without a strict format or outline, there are more opportunities for the Bowditch character to evolve more naturally. The main structural underpinning begins by determining what the "big crime" is, and who the main characters are. Then the story unfolds as he writes, waiting to see how each character is related to the "big crime," and the main protagonist and antagonist.

People often ask if he "is Bowditch," or vice versa. His usual response is "Mike is smarter than me, and braver than me." His wife once overheard someone ask him if he "is Mike Bowditch?" He was surprised when she told the person that "if Paul were twenty-four and a Maine Game Warden, he would be Mike Bowditch."

While Doiron has never actually been a game warden or worked in law enforcement, he appreciates the opportunities he's had to go on "ride-alongs," most recently with one of the Warden Service's newer women officers. This more diverse hiring trend has been a positive development.

More of his readers have become more interested in a non-human character, the wolf/dog hybrid "Shadow" than in almost any other character. He then described a fascinating but somewhat scary experience years ago, when he and a friend visited an unofficial wolf-dog hybrid sanctuary in the White Mountains just across the state line. He described the personalities of several hybrid animals, as well as that of the cantankerous but fascinating old man who founded and ran the place.

Doiron thinks a lot of his readers imagine that he writes in a rustic cabin somewhere in the Maine woods. While that is not actually true, he does have to leave his house and go somewhere else to write.

Answering a question/comment, Doiron said he deliberately tries to make his locales and descriptions as realistic as possible, and to pay attention to Maine cultural geography. The audience complimented him on this.

CLASSIFIEDS

Help Wanted: Part-time bookkeeper for small local condo association. For more information or to schedule an interview, email the association at rrcovell@yahoo.com.

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 will 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/>

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Courtesy of the Gorham Police Department

the blotter

Sebago Lake Road caller reported a dead cat at the end of her driveway. She wanted to know if she could just remove it or if the police needed to do something with it. Officer advised she was all set.

Caller reported his car broke down in the front parking lot at the Police Department and it would be removed in the morning.

Caller reported a tractor trailer unit was swerving all over the road and even into the opposite lane. Truck was located on the bypass and was from Quebec. Driver did not appear to be impaired. He told officer he swerved to avoid squirrels in the road.

Man came into the Police Department to ask if they could expunge a domestic violence charge from 2000. He was advised to speak to his lawyer or file paperwork in the Court.

Millett Drive caller wanted police to know there were "suspicious things" in the area. Officer drove through the area and did not see anything other than two men and two young children in the parking lot.

Caller reported he got into a fight at Fort Hill Park. He went home and called the police to check on a subject the caller said he had knocked out. When the officer arrived, just the caller was there. He had no idea who the victim had been.

Woman came into the Police Department to report a Yarmouth man was harassing her. Yarmouth Police confirmed that the man had been served trespass and harassment paperwork.

Lawn Avenue caller wanted the police to know her indoor cat ran away.

Police received a call about a vehicle parked by the side of Mighty Street without moving for about an hour. Several people were sitting in the car and there was a jerry can on the roof. They had run out of gas and were waiting for an Uber. Officer filled their can at Public Works and brought it to them so they could get to a gas station.

Biddeford Police asked Gorham Police to make contact with someone living on Main Street. House did not have any phone numbers and Gorham Police Department's last contact with a man who lived there had been several years ago. Police confirmed the man no longer lived in Gorham and his current location was unknown.

Officer spoke with a Main Street dog owner who said he was unaware that the dog had chased anyone. Owner told Officer the dog is older and has not been an issue but will pay more attention when letting the dog out.

Caller complained of fireworks in the general location of Hackmatack Way. Officer spent 10 minutes at the location and did not see or hear any fireworks.

Caller wanted the officer to run the plate on an unoccupied car which was legally parked on Millett Drive. Caller was told police were not running the plate as there was no legal reason to do so. Officer told the caller not to call unless there was an emergency.

CryptoVerse Solution by A. Logophile

AND IT WRAPS UP WITH AN AFFORDABLE SUPPER.

NEW YEAR GORHAM, A WHOOP-IT-UPPER,

AN ELEPHANT & FIGGIE, AND ELVIS ... VROOM!

A LIFE-SIZE WHALE, AN AMAZING GLOW ROOM,

Volunteer Distribution Person

The Gorham Times is seeking a volunteer to take over our compact, walkable in-town distribution route, delivering 300+ papers to 20+ locations (many in the same buildings). Route is roughly a square bounded by Main Street, Mechanic Street, Railroad Avenue, and Elm Street. This is a great opportunity to meet interesting people and learn about community organizations.

Contact us for more information.
gorhamtimes@gmail.com. (207) 839-8390.

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*Wishing you all a
Joyous Holiday Season
and a Happy New Year!*



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New



December 31, 2024

New This Year:

Grand Finale Musical Laser Light Show!
(Dynamic FX is an award-winning and internationally recognized company that creates laser shows that combine colorful patterns of precisely programmed laser light effects timed to match lively background music.)

Children's Museum & Theater of Maine

Humpback Whales
(With a life-size whale!)

Elephant & Piggie's "We are in a Play"
(Fully staged interactive play)

Glow Room Dance Party (Kids will dance to their own beat while wearing headphones with music options)

Juggling Workshop
(Jason Tardy will teach us how to get started on this fun hobby)

Elvis (Impersonator who looks and sings like the Elvis from our past)

Back by Popular Demand:

Ice Skating (at USM Ice arena)
Note: Skate rentals not available

Facepainting (our favorite artist is back to decorate faces)



Abacadabra Magic (Roving magician engages kids and adults)



GHS Chamber Singers

(Dedicated high school students with extraordinary voices)



Mad Science (Entertaining and teaching science show that will amaze both children and parents alike)



Running With Scissors
(Improv comedy that will keep you laughing until your cheeks hurt)



Don Roy Trio (National Endowment for the Arts National Fellowship Recipient!)
Acadian music that will keep your feet tapping and hearts singing.)



The Tardy Brothers: High Energy Juggling & Comedy

(Jason's 29 years experience in performing arts has brought him all over the US and abroad.)



Gorham Community Chorus (John Rimkunas directs this talented group of local singers)



Thank You!

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*Through November 20, 2024

Pre-register Online or Pay at Door

<https://gorhamme.myrec.com/info/>

\$5pp thru December 25

\$7pp Dec 26 thru Dec 31

(Children under 2 Free)

\$7pp At Door

NYG Café

Family Friendly Food*

Prepared by Northern Force

GHS Cafeteria 4:30-7:00

Concession Snacks

Shaw Gym 3:00-5:00

***Family Friendly Prices!**

BBQ Pulled Pork Sandwiches
Hot Dogs
Mac & Cheese
Chips
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Popcorn

What Where Time

Ice Skating	USM Ice Rink	2-4PM
Mad Science	Shaw Gym Multipurpose Rm	3 & 5PM
CMTM Whale	Shaw Gym	3 & 4PM
Facepainting	Shaw Gym	3:30-6PM
Abacadabra Magic	Shaw Gym Roving	4-6PM
Glow Room Dance	Shaw Gym Activity Rm 1	4:30 5:00 5:30PM
Snacks for Sale	Shaw Gym	3-5PM
NYG Café	GHS Cafeteria	4:30-7PM
Juggling Workshop	GHS Gym	6-6:30PM
Don Roy Trio	GHS Main Stage	4:30PM
Gorham Community Chorus	GHS Main Stage	5:00PM
GHS Chamber Singers	GHS Main Stage	5:30PM
Elephant & Piggie's "We are In a Play"	GHS Main Stage	6:00-6:55PM
Running With Scissors Improv Comedy	GHS Main Stage	7-7:30PM
Elvis Impersonator	GHS Main Stage	7:30-8PM
The Tardy Brothers	GHS Main Stage	8-8:50PM
Amazing Laser Light Show	GHS Gym	9PM