

# Gorham Times

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A Free, Not-for-Profit Newspaper Serving Gorham Since 1995 - Celebrating 30 Years

## The Gorham Times is Celebrating 30 Years in 2025

Gorham Times Staff

The idea for a Gorham newspaper came about in late 1993. Maynard Charron spent most of 1994 pitching the concept to various groups and organizations in town, including the high school.

"I thought students could do the bulk of the reporting with the help of several adult mentors." Then Maynard added, "To say the least, that idea did not take hold."

"In late 1994 a meeting was called and about 15 people attended. It was like serendipity! Once an organizational chart was created thanks to Ginny Cross, who became our layout publisher, everyone there stepped into a role that fit them perfectly."

"Althea Masterson was our first Editor. Sheri Faber handled lots of town news and the ever popular blotter. Chris Crawford managed all sorts of fun and compelling feature articles. What a wonderful example of community involvement and support."

The first Gorham Times was mailed to everyone in Gorham September 1995. Maynard says it was pretty rough and with poor print quality, and that the paper has come a long way. From typewriters and fax machines, land

line phoning and rolls of Kodak film, the Times has embraced all of today's technology to help produce a high quality, informative Gorham newspaper.

What an accomplishment, 30 years, from several hundred people who just wanted to be part of "Bringing The News To All Of Gorham."

Thank you to all past and present staff, and to the hundreds of local businesses that put their money into advertising their products and services. Thank you to friends, donors, and volunteers. Gorham is a better and more informed town because of all of you. Now let's work together to keep this publication going strong. Advertise, contribute, volunteer, read, and discuss.



## Citizen Volunteers Applications Due Jan. 23

Gorham Town Clerk's Office

The Town Council Appointments Committee is seeking citizen volunteers for various boards and committees to serve a 3-year term. The board and committee vacancies available are as follows:

- PLANNING BOARD - 3
- GORHAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION - 3
- CONSERVATION COMMISSION - 3
- BOARD OF APPEALS - 3
- BOARD OF TRUSTEES - BAXTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY - 3
- HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION - 2
- FAIR HEARING BOARD - 1
- BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW - 1
- BOARD OF VOTER REGISTRATION APPEALS - 3

- REVOLVING LOAN FUND COMMITTEE - 2
- BOARD OF HEALTH - 1

Gorham citizens willing to serve on any Town board and/or committee, should visit the Town Clerk's Office for more information. To apply, please complete and submit a Committee Volunteer Application available online at <https://www.gorham-me.org/home/webforms/town-gorham-committee-application>, contact the Town Clerk's Office at (207) 222-1670, or e-mail the Town Clerk Laurie Nordfors at [lnordfors@gorham.me.us](mailto:lnordfors@gorham.me.us). Applications will be accepted through Jan. 23, 2025.

The Appointments Committee will schedule short informal interviews with applicants starting in February and the Town Council will appoint applicants at their March meeting.

## USM Civil War Project Looking for help

Lisa Becker, Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of the University of Southern Maine

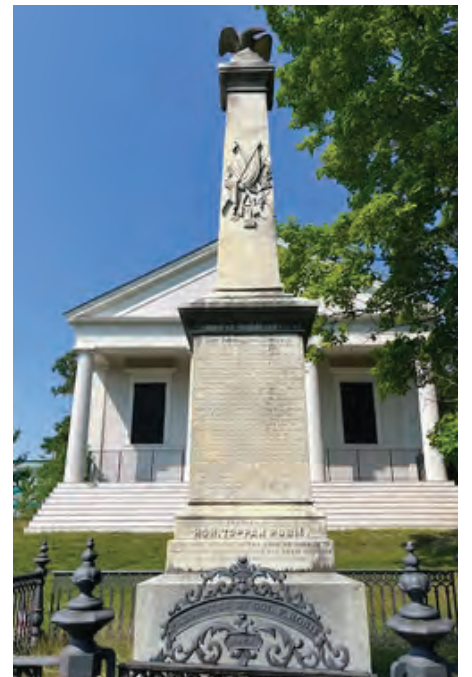


Photo credit: Kayla Graffam

Then and now, the 24-foot Italian marble statue was erected in 1866 and stands in front of the USM Art Gallery, the former Gorham Town Hall.

Are you a local citizen with family ties dating back to the Civil War? Do you enjoy history, especially local Gorham history? Do you have old letters, stories, documents, pictures or old books/bibles that document local men who served and gave their lives for the Union?

The American Civil War resulted in the most military fatalities in U.S. history, with an estimated 698,000 soldiers killed, 57 of those were Gorham men. They were farmers, bankers, loggers and merchants. They were fathers, sons, husbands. Neighbors, friends, good men.

In 1866, a 24-foot Italian marble statue was erected in front of what was then the Gorham Town Hall to honor the men from Gorham who died during the war. That building is located on College Avenue and is now the USM Art Gallery. The construction of the monument was funded by Gorham citizen Toppan Robie. He donated \$3,060 to the construction and wrote eloquently asking the town of Gorham to build the monument.

Each of the 57 Gorham men are memorialized on the statue with their name, unit, date of death, and location of their wounding or death. Much is known about some of these men,

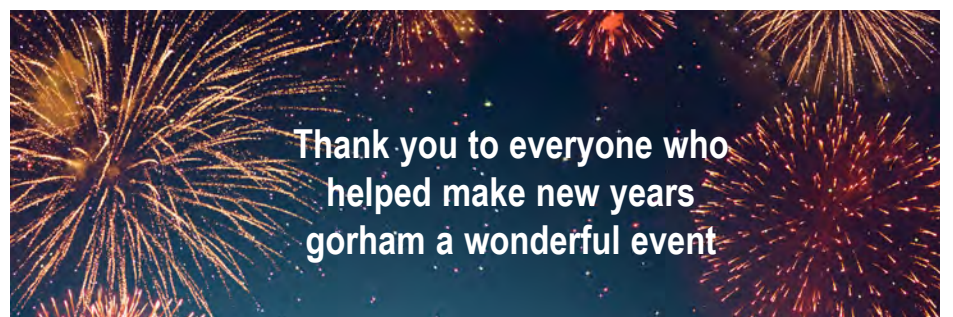
but only a small amount of information is known about most and almost nothing is known about a few.

In the fall of 2022, under the direction of Dr. Ashley Towle, assistant professor of history at the University of Southern Maine, a number of History Department students began working to increase that amount of information. In subsequent years, several students have researched and added to the known information about more men listed on the monument. Student researchers are documenting each soldier's background and family, their wartime service, and their death's effect on their family and community.

Dr. Towle and her students hope to share this information with the Gorham community and descendants of these men. To that end, USM history students have created a website where all of their research findings are available.

Please use this link to access this wonderful information: <https://sites.google.com/maine.edu/etchedinstone/home?authuser=0>

If you have information about any of these Gorham heroes and would like to contribute and get involved, please contact Dr. Towle at [ashley.towle1@maine.edu](mailto:ashley.towle1@maine.edu)



TOWN COUNCIL REPORT  
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FITZPATRICK TROPHY  
SEMIFINALIST PAGE 7



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.

# Legislative Committee Appointments

## Gorham Times Staff

Lawmakers in Augusta are assigned to committees based on their interests, experience and professional background. Joint standing committees are composed of three senators and ten representatives.

Representing Maine Senate District 30, which includes Gorham and most of Scarborough, Sen. Stacy Brenner, serving her third term in the Maine Senate, has been appointed to the Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources for the 132nd Maine State Legislature. She previously served as Senate chair of the same committee in the 130th and 131st Maine State Legislatures.

"I'm honored to have been appointed by President Daughtry to serve on the Environment and Natural Resources Committee," said Sen. Brenner. "Maine's environment is a crucial aspect of our identity, our economy, and our way of life. I will continue to support the good work we've done in preserving our state's natural resources and addressing the challenges of climate change and pollution for a more equitable and sustainable future."

The Committee covers a wide range of issues including air and water quality, natural resource pro-

tection, shoreland zoning, mining, and oversight of the Department of Environmental Protection.

Rep. Parnell Terry, D-Gorham, serving his first term in the Maine House and representing part of Gorham, was appointed to the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee (VLA) and the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee (IFW). Terry was appointed by House Speaker Ryan Fecteau.

"Having grown up with my father serving in the U.S. Army, I understand how important it is to support our Maine veterans," said Terry. "I am committed to working to secure ongoing funding for our veterans' homes and sustainably growing Maine's heritage fish and wildlife industries. It's an honor to be named to two committees that play a crucial role in making sure that state government delivers for all Mainers."

The VLA Committee is responsible for legislation regarding liquor laws, lottery, off-track betting, election laws, governmental ethics, and the Maine National Guard. The IFW Committee oversees the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, hunting, fishing, trapping, hunter safety, fish hatcheries, game wardens, guides, taxidermist licensing, ATVs, snow-

mobiles, watercraft registration and boater safety, and whitewater rafting.

Rep. Eleanor Sato, D-Gorham, serving her first term in the Maine House and representing part of Gorham, was appointed to the Judiciary Committee. Sato was appointed by House Speaker Ryan Fecteau.

"It's an honor to be named to the Judiciary Committee. This session, I'm looking forward to working hard alongside my colleagues to protect the rights of all Maine residents, addressing the challenges facing our state's justice system, and fighting for a more equitable future for Maine," said Sato. "We also plan to tackle tough issues like data privacy head-on, which will create a safer and more secure state for generations to come."

The Judiciary Committee oversees Maine's Judicial Branch and court system. The committee is also responsible for laws relating to firearms, reproductive health care, the Wabanaki Nations and a broad range of civil and human rights matters.

Learn more:  
<https://legislature.maine.gov/committee/>  
<https://legislature.maine.gov/house/house/Committees>

# Gorham Times

BRINGING THE NEWS TO ALL OF GORHAM  
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## ADVERTISING AND COPY DEADLINES

Ad deadline is the Wednesday of the week prior to issue date. Go to [gorhamtimes.com](http://gorhamtimes.com) and click on the advertising link for schedule.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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

### Deadlines

January 22

February 5

February 19

## 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.

## Around Town

There are several changes happening around town.


- Carter's Greenmarket will be closing.
- Jazzercise Gorham is new to town, check out their ad on page 8.
- Gorham Times is now looking for two distribution volunteers, one for the "In-Town Walking Route" and one for the easy-driving "Western Route."
- Close to home, Schoolhouse Arts Center is moving to Westbrook. Learn more at <https://schoolhousearts.org>.
- The Bookworm is expanding and renovating but open regular hours.
- 2025 Gorham Historical Calendars available at the town office, library, and GHS
- Work on Babb's Bridge began last week and is expected to take 6 weeks.
- GPD K9 Officer Skye turned 3 the first week of January.
- Little League registration is open; [GYSBA.com](http://GYSBA.com)
- Lots of exercise classes at Gorham Rec to help with NY Resolutions
- Dog licensing due before January 31, then late fees.

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# Carter's Greenmarket Closing; Other Changes for Businesses At 18 Elm Street

John Ersek, Staff Writer

There are several changes happening with the businesses at 18 Elm Street in Gorham Village.

Holly Carter has announced that she will be closing Carter's Greenmarket, which is the food, wine, and gift shop that she has operated in Gorham Village for approximately ten years. The business was originally in operation at a location on Main Street from 2013 to 2016. After being closed for two years, the Greenmarket reopened in 2018 at 18 Elm Street. The last day of business for Carter's Greenmarket is scheduled for Friday Jan. 17.

The market's new owners are Tristan

and Michelle Littlefield. They will be changing the market's name to Third Space Market, with an expected opening date sometime in April. There is already a website for the new business: <https://thirdspacemarket.com>.

The website states that the new business will be "a specialty food and gift shop, with co-working and community gathering space".

Iaia Brazilian Cafe closed in December. An Asian restaurant is being planned for that space in the near future, with a more detailed announcement about the new business expected soon.



Photo credit: John Ersek

Martha Leonard of the Maiz Colombian restaurant in Portland is one of the regular vendors at the Greater Gorham Winter Market. Maiz's offerings include Colombian specialties such as arepas and empanadas. Just to the right of the Maiz table are the offerings of another vendor, Noisy Acres Farm of Buxton, which offers a number of body care products made from goat's milk. The Winter Market continues to operate in the Activity Room of the Gorham Recreation Department at 75 South Street, on the first and third Saturdays of the month. The market's dates for the rest of the winter season include: Jan. 18, Feb. 1, Feb. 15, March 1, and March 15.



## NEW PATIENTS ALWAYS WELCOMED



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# Thinking About Beekeeping?

JoAnn Leib, Staff Writer



Photo credit: Anne Wilder, Bee Keeper

A glimpse inside the hive; workers have built burr comb between this box and the one that was above it, and filled those cells with honey. When the box was removed the burr comb broke open and workers have come to move the spilled honey to a better place- unless the beekeeper gets it first!

The Cumberland County Beekeepers Association (CCBA, Gorham) meeting and website Zoom on Dec. 3, 2024, paired a year-end holiday fete and a look forward for beginner beekeepers as well as experienced hive mentors. Members organized a honey tasting as minutes were read.

A new president, Lindy Allen, a master beekeeper in training in this state where there are only three master beekeepers, was unanimously elected. Former association leader, Chris Baldinelli, was praised for his service. Baldinelli is known for his willingness to look in on statewide hive owners and to offer his impressive experience.

This group of 15 beekeepers is a knowledgeable core of the 336-member CCBA, excited by growing interest in Maine's increasing apiary activity in Gorham and other towns. From Albion to Whitefield and Windham, state adult education classes in beginning and advanced beekeeping are proliferating and offer subjects such as, "Apiary Equipment," "How to Harvest Honey," "Honeybee Biology and Care," "Winterizing your Bees," and, "Western Honeybee Health."

The Western Honeybee is the one Mainer's are most familiar with; it originated in Africa, arrived on our shores in the 1600s, and is the largest group of some 280 bee varieties native to our state. More and more signs of local interest in beekeeping are linked to that history.

Naturally there are a few prerequisites before your bees can be launched. Environmentally conscious Gorhamites who intend to keep bees are remind-

ed that before populating a hive, you'll need a required apiary license and hopefully a bit of mentoring from an experienced beekeeper. Or you might visit an "open hive inspection" to see the honey-makers in action.

For help getting started, in addition to Adult Ed courses, you can investigate University of Maine Cooperative Extension workshops, some having just begun on Jan. 4. Or for an incentive you can watch award-winning instructional beekeeping videos produced by the University of Guelph (Ontario) and the University of Montana.

Additional incentives might include the idea that beekeepers rank in the top percentages of professional longevity, or that royal jelly, propolis, (an edible honeybee secretion,) and bee pollen, when consumed by a human, may delay aging. Or consider fun facts. Bees have five eyes and can see ultraviolet light. They flap their wings 11,000 times per minute, which explains the buzzing sound the bee makes, or more amazing, a bee must fly the equivalent of 55,000 miles and visit 2 million flowers to produce one pound of honey.

The winter is here, but the preparation for spring beekeeping might be just the antidote for cold weather. Physical meetings of the CCBA are held at Moody's meeting room, 200 Narragansett Street, Gorham, at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month, September through May with Zoom links available. Peter Cowin, the "Bee Whisperer" was the speaker on Jan. 7.



Photo credit: Anne Wilder, Bee Keeper  
A hive with a robbing screen and three honey supers above three brood boxes.



Photo credit: Anne Wilder, Bee Keeper  
Endy Wilder (age 10) carrying a 3 lb package of bees (≈10k bees) to be installed in a hive.



# Focus On Family: Play

Elizabeth Wilkins, Contributing Writer

It never fails - we get to January and one of the first thoughts I have is "thank goodness the holidays don't come for another 11 months!". Don't get me wrong, I love celebrating these special times with my family and friends, and have some wonderful memories. But as a mom of three and daughter of aging parents, it's exhausting.

When I think about it, it's not the celebrating that is so tiring, but all the planning and organizing leading up to it - the gift lists, the grocery lists, the menu planning, the party invitations, getting to the airport on time - not to mention all the social interactions and emotional highs and lows. But after attending a conference recently and learning more about the underlying skills that it takes to do all these tasks, I can only feel grateful that I have the capacity to do it.

You may have heard of executive functioning (EF) skills, but until you really step back and realize what a huge impact they have on your everyday functioning, you may not realize how essential they are to life. Research shows that the presence of strong EF skills is a better indicator of success in life than high grades in school. And by success, I don't mean heaps of money, but more about quality of life - the ability to form and maintain relationships, make good decisions for your life, manage stress and be able to adapt to change. These are the skills needed to maintain our mental health and live life to its fullest.

So, are we born with EF skills? No, we are not born having these skills, but in the same way that children, if given time for unrestricted movement will seek out activities that help them develop their physical bodies (such as spinning around in the circles helps to develop the vestibular sense), have the tendency to seek out situations that help them to develop these

skills. Think of the last time you watched your children play. Maybe they played "family" or "doctor" or "battle". Whatever they choose, it usually requires them to make decisions, plan their actions, organize their belongings and communicate with their playmates in order to make the whole thing work. They will argue and laugh and get frustrated. Sometimes things don't go as planned and they have to problem solve to figure out how to keep going. Sound familiar? It's a whole lot like the feat I just pulled off to keep the holiday traditions going for another year.

Childhood play transforms into life skills. This is a fact of life that we seem to forget, as our lives (and our children's) become busier and more scheduled. Kids need time to organize their own games, choose their own roles, change their minds, and learn how to pick themselves up and keep going after things go wrong. They need lots of practice making decisions in these low pressure situations so that they can have the confidence to make decisions when consequences have more impact.

Unstructured play is on the decline in children's lives for various reasons, and it's up to all of us to make small shifts to ensure that the children in our lives have plenty of time and a safe space to do the work of childhood - learning through play.



Elizabeth Wilkins, a mother to three boys, is an early childhood teacher, a licensed occupational therapist and currently is the owner and lead teacher for

TimberNook, located in Gorham.

# Electrify Everything

Bruce Webb, Contributing Writer

The need to mitigate the effects of a warming climate is becoming rapidly apparent. As we transition from a petroleum-based world, we need to quickly adapt by utilizing electricity as our primary source of energy. This will not be an easy shift but one that is essential if we are to slow the pace of climate change - before it's too late.

The recent publication of the Maine Climate Council report titled, "Maine Won't Wait" highlights the challenges we face and a path forward for the transition. This document notes that Maine generates 49% of greenhouse gases from transportation and 19% from residential buildings accounting for 68% percent of the total generation of heat-trapping chemicals responsible for global warming.

This shift from a society based on fossil fuels to one based on renewable electrical energy will be a heavy lift because we are all accustomed to using oil and natural gas to energize our lives. The petroleum industry is supported by powerful business and political interests that make record profits by spreading disinformation about global warming. They propagate fossil fuel myths in an attempt to make record profits while being subsidized by various governments.

There are several important things that can help. We can speed up the adaptation of electrical and hybrid vehicles. Since transportation is the largest cause of a warming climate this is "low hanging fruit" and provides a good opportunity to mitigate the problem. The rapid adoption of electric vehicles, scooters, buses, and trucks is a positive step in achieving this goal.

Accelerate the building of charging stations. EVs need to be supported by more fast charging stations and educational efforts that will help customers adapt to new ways of thinking about transportation and refueling.

Install solar panels, storage batteries, windmills and other renewable energy sources. These technologies are in place now and are being used by many customers to generate and store power. These

technologies are in their infancy and new, more efficient products are evolving to provide cheap, clean and reliable energy close to where we live and work.

Convert to electrical heat pumps and heat pump hot water systems. The rapid conversion from heating oil and natural gas heating appliances is underway with a record number of heat pumps and heat pump hot water heaters providing clean and safe warmth to our homes.

There is some positive news. Global warming is now widely recognized and is leading to striking innovations enabling this shift to electrification at a time when new technologies are being created and adopted.

Powerful trends in clean energy - solar, wind, hydro, and other non-emitting technologies are coming on line and are compatible with a well-developed electrical infrastructure. Governments at all levels are adopting programs that promote the transition. Technological innovation is moving forward at warp speed to create new products, including the creation of a smart and resilient electrical grid. Businesses are beginning to realize the upside to clean energy products and services.

Resistance to change is expected, especially when prices are high and performance is uncertain, but as adoption expands, prices drop and benefits outpace the challenges, things will begin to change in a positive direction.

The encouraging news is that we all can play a part in integrating these technologies into our lives and ensure that future generations will enjoy a safe and healthy future.



Bruce Webb has been a Gorham resident for 40 years. He was a home energy auditor and is involved in environmental activism.

# Gorham Times

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SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

# Land Trust Winter News

Chris Crawford, Features Editor

The year-end report by the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust showed that over 100,000 people made use of the 30 miles of Land Trust trails in Gorham, Gray, Standish, Westbrook and Windham in 2024. This included 40,500 visits to Frazier Preserve in Gorham; 29,300 visits to Mill Brook Preserve in Westbrook; 18,100 visitors to Gambo Preserve in Gorham; and 10,000 visits to Black Brook Preserve in Windham.

Will Sedlack, executive director of the Land Trust said, "This year's report highlights how deeply our community values the natural spaces we steward." Over 994 people of all ages also participated in a variety of Land Trust community programs such as wild seed gathering, Alewife watching and counting, library story times held outdoors on preserves, and adults-only walking club, throughout the year. "We're thrilled to see so many people enjoying the outdoors and connecting with nature, whether it's through hiking, wildlife watching, or participating in one of our educational programs," he added.

The Land Trust has many preserves that are open and ready for winter activities such as cross country skiing, snow-

shoeing and winter biking. Sedlack said, "As we look ahead, we're committed to continuing to provide accessible, well-maintained trails and innovative programs for every season, including winter adventures on our Winter Access Trails."

To find a list and more information about Winter Access Trails, visit [www.prlt.org](http://www.prlt.org) and click on Preserves and Trails. The Winter Trails are divided into Mellow Walks, Moderate Challenges and Extreme Challenges along with accurate descriptions, so you know what to expect. Information about the availability of plowed parking is also included.

Dress in layers and keep a good weather-eye out for storms. Be sure to alert a family member or friend about your plans, including a return time. Carry a fully charged phone, although there may be spotty coverage in places. Bring plenty of water, light snacks and matches. Carry in carry out any trash.

The Land Trust's mission is to engage with communities to conserve, steward, and provide access to local lands and clean water for current and future generations to enjoy. To learn more the Land Trust and its activities, visit <https://prlt.org>.



# Clerks Corner

Laurie Nordfors, Town Clerk

Happy New Year! I would like to thank the many residents and businesses in Gorham who adopted a family for Christmas, including Odat Machine (a division of Howell Labs), RJ Grondin, One and Done LLC, Lake Region Energy and O'Donal's Nursery. The outpouring of generosity was overwhelming. This year we helped 11 Gorham families (39 children) have a happy holiday. We also have had many residents donate to our town's fuel fund throughout the last year. I am so proud to live and work in such an amazing town.

The Town Council Appointments Committee is currently seeking applications for upcoming vacancies for all town boards and committees. Please visit the town website at <https://www.gorham-me.org> and click the button for "Boards & Committees" for information and/or to download an application. Applications are

also available at the Town Clerk's office. Interested applicants should submit a completed application to the Town Clerk no later than Jan. 23, 2025 to be considered for appointment. Please call (207) 222-1670 or visit the Town Clerk's Office if you have any questions or need further information.

Please remember that dog licenses expired on Dec. 31. Dog licenses must be paid no later than Jan. 31 to avoid a late fee. The license fee is \$6.00 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$11.00 for dogs that have not been spayed or neutered. A late fee of \$25.00 per dog on top of the registration fee will be charged for all dog licenses paid on and after Feb. 1. For your convenience, the Town of Gorham participates in online dog licensing until Jan. 31. There is an additional \$1.00 fee to license your dog online. Please visit our website at <https://www.gorham-me.org>.

# School Committee, Jan. 8

Kelli Deveaux, Staff Writer

On Wednesday, Jan. 8, the Gorham School Committee held their first regular monthly meeting of the 2025 year. Assistant Superintendent Quinton Donahue joined the committee members, all of whom were present.

Due to the holiday break, there were no administrative updates, and most of the standing committees had not met, with many slated for meetings in the coming weeks.

Village Elementary School's 5th grade ambassadors, advised by Stacey Sawyer, assisted Principal Jodi Mezzanotte in demonstrating one of the weekly lessons all students receive through the Building Assets, Reducing Risk (BARR) curriculum. The lessons help students build interpersonal skills and positive relationships with self, peers, and adults. Principal Mezzanotte shared a Ted Talk video by Drew Dudley, explaining "lollipop moments," times in which one person makes another person feel good, but often doesn't know the impact of that kindness. To demonstrate this, the students praised each School Committee member and Asst.

Supt. Donahue with a personalized message of their individual contributions, while handing each a lollipop.

The students next explained the Circle Up Books program, a school-wide monthly read-aloud. The Circle Up Books were curated by VES staff to ensure a broad representation of thoughts, ideas and backgrounds, and to align with and reflect the Gorham Schools' Code of Conduct. The student ambassadors conducted interviews of staff and students about the program and reported the many positive responses. School Committee Student Representative Amelia Olaru commended the student presenters, noting that she too was once an ambassador from Village, and encouraged them to continue to make a difference.

Special Education Director Kathy Hamblen provided a history and update on Gorham's MaineCare billing for services provided to students with special education needs.

During her communications update,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

# Grand Jury Indictments, Dec.

Lori Arsenault, Managing Editor

Marcus Dickson, 32 of Gorham was indicted on four counts, eluding an officer, operating beyond license condition or restriction, improper plates, and failure to stop for an officer.

Taylor M. Gray, 40, of Gorham was indicted on one count, theft by unauthorized taking.

Jordan H. Rowles, 36, of Gorham, was indicted on two counts, Theft by unauthorized taking, and unlawful possession of scheduled drugs.





## LEGAL NOTICE

The Gorham School Department plans to destroy special education records of former students who were born between January 1, 1998 and December 31, 1998.

Parents, guardians and/or former students may obtain their records on or before June 2, 2025.

**Proper identification will be required in order to obtain records.**

For more information, please feel free to contact the Gorham Special Services office at 222-1002.

# Public Works

Kelly Meslin, Public Works Department

Welcome 2025! We hope everyone had a great holiday season and happy new year!

Please be sure to put tagged trash and recycling curbside by 7 a.m. on your collection day.

The entire tag should be visible to Casella. This means the tag should be stuck to the bag or folded in half around the neck of the bag. If the tag is not visible in its entirety, trash will not be collected. Please keep turnarounds free of vehicles and equipment. This hinders Casella getting in and out of roads safely and efficiently.

Please be responsible with your trash disposal. The roll off containers aka "silver bullets" located at Public Works are for recyclable materials only!

Do not leave bagged trash outside the containers. Leaving trash and other items outside the containers makes it difficult for the hauler to pick up the containers and takes time away from the Public Works crews other duties. If you need help with where to dispose of unwanted

items or if you have any questions regarding proper recycling or trash tag usage, please call the office (207) 222-4950, email us [dpw@gorham.me.us](mailto:dpw@gorham.me.us) or check out Ecomaine's free recyclopeda.

A few items to note: Winter sand is available. Residents ONLY! (2) 5-gallon buckets per storm. You will need to bring buckets and a shovel.

Please do not push, plow or place snow in the road right of way. Keep catch basins clear of snow and debris to alleviate run off issues in the spring.

Christmas trees can be brought to Public Works for disposal. Please leave them in the brush pile located across from the school bus parking lot.

The Public Works office and garage will be closed on Monday, Jan. 20, in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

You can find Gorham Public Works on Facebook! Give us a follow! Gorham-ME Public Works Department

# Planning Board Results, Dec. 2

JoAnn Leib, Staff Writer

The Ordinance Review Committee discussed specifics of abutter notifications and addressed public concerns about proper notifications raised during hearings and Planning Board meetings.

The Chairman's Report addressed minimizing the use of acronyms/abbreviations in Planning Board materials.

Administrative Review Commission: Assistant Town Planner announced a 12/11/2024 review of Maine Metal Building's construction of a 9000 sq. ft. community building accommodating up to 5 tenants.

Item 1 - Contract Zone Amendment-Chicoine/Ahlquist Family requests addition of one abutting parcel at 239 County Road. Applicant represented

by Brandon Mazer, Perkins Thompson. Stated amendment is strictly a map adjustment. No public comment received, but a letter from abutter Evlyn Doyle was noted. David Walsh moved, William Benson seconded sending the amendment to Town Council for public hearing and adoption. Discussion shifted to voting on a recommendation. 6 ayes, 1 opposed (Walsh.) Motion passed.

Item 2 - Public Hearing-Conditional zoning Amendment-McLellan Sampson-a request to amend the conditional zone for 77 South St. to add an abutting parcel. Recommendation for adoption. 7 ayes. Motion carried.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 7

# Town Council Report, Jan. 7

Jacob Adams, Staff Writer

## Open Public Communications

Kathy Hamblen, read an email comment from Holly and Doug Carter as follows:

"The Town Council has a difficult decision to make about the Shaw brothers quarry expansion. Shaw Brothers wants to expand the quarry onto an area zoned for Urban Expansion. I have learned there have been several complaints over the years from the blasting and the dust that is created by mining.

I have talked with Dan and John Shaw about the situation. They made an investment in land with the intention of expanding the quarry. They are now facing pushbacks from the residents that live nearby. Shaw Brothers have been very generous with their contributions to open up land for public use. But you can't justify generosity and good will for one neighborhood while affecting the quality of life for others.

The site was originally opened in 2008 with special exception for the land use. The town council approved the special

exception permits knowing the town needs to diversify its tax base. But without a full understanding how it would affect the neighbors. The zoning to the south is Mosher corner mixed use and urban expansion with a manufactured housing overlay to the west and north. It is inevitable that more residential housing will develop in the area.

In my opinion the quarry should not expand until the concerns of the present situation are addressed. Silicate dust is a hazardous byproduct that affects the health of those nearby. Blasting is disturbing and can damage the nearby foundations, especially the older houses. Dan Shaw has assured me that their quarry is up to the highest standards in the industry. I'm sure this is true. But are the standards good enough for people that live close to the site? Shaw Brothers only has so much equipment whether it's on the present site or to the north, the blasting and the dust are still going to be

CONTINUED TO PAGE 8



SCHOOL

# Project Work and Fun for Students at Village

Lexie Cadell, Educational Technician, Village School



Photo Credit: Lexie Cadell

Mrs. Landry's first grade students enjoy their projects.

The week before winter break, all classes at Village School had the opportunity to participate in place-based learning sessions in our alternative education/maker-space classroom. Projects

focused on giving students an opportunity to think outside the box and be creative.

Kindergarten students collaborated and created their own paper, working fine motor skills by drawing scribbles with crayons. Students also practiced body awareness, lying on their bellies to decorate long sheets of paper that covered the classroom floor, using watercolors and stamps made from recycled materials.

First graders enjoyed an open-ended makerspace where they created imaginative structures out of recycled materials. The outcomes ranged from homes for their toys, playgrounds, boats, and a spaceship ready to take off!

Other projects included making Goop (Similar to Play Dough) and learning the scientific method, making salt, shapes and LEGO snowflakes, designing winter lanterns, building animal habitats and more. We are so lucky to be able to take time to stretch our brains and create.

# One School One Author Initiative at Great Falls School

Becky Fortier, Great Falls Principal



Photo credit: Becky Fortier, Principal, Great Falls

Great Falls Elementary students are diving into the world of dance with Sharon Draper's *Bella Ballerina* as part of our One School, One Author initiative. On Jan. 7, they had a special visit from former Great Falls student and aspiring professional dancer, Aiden, who read the story and taught them some ballet steps. They learned moves like arabesque, plié, and jeté, bringing the book to life. The class shared a fun and interactive way to celebrate reading and the arts.



Join Pastor Nate Colson of the West Gorham Union Church, along with other local churches on a trip to Lancaster County, PA! The trip is planned for Aug. 5-8, 2025.

Highlights include attending a performance of Noah at the stunning Sight & Sound Theater, enjoying a personalized trip to the Amish Country, and taking part in an illumination tour of Washington DC. This will be a special journey of fellowship and adventure that you won't want to miss! Don't delay, reach out today by calling, (833) 396-0125 or email: info@exploremoretravel.org.



SHOP LOCAL  
BUY LOCAL

# THE INTERNET IS SCARY

Join us for a special three hour workshop. We'll explore who you might meet in online spaces, what motivates them, and how to protect yourselves from **scams, grifts, hacks**, and more. We'll look at technical protections like passwords, and behavioral protections that help you recognize dangerous situations.

Learn digital street smarts at **Baxter Memorial Library**

Saturday  
January 25  
9am-12pm  
internetisscary.org



# THE COTTAGES AT WINDING RIDGE OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY - JANUARY 18TH • 11:00 - 1:00  
127 FALCON CREST DRIVE • GORHAM, ME

Beautifully designed kitchen, first floor primary suite, and ready for your personal selections. We invite you to experience the warmth and charm of these unique homes in a great community.

Come visit our model home on Falcon Crest Drive!



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For more information please visit [ScovilleFoleyHomes.com](http://ScovilleFoleyHomes.com) or contact **Carrie Scoville** at (207) 409-9378



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www.SignatureHomesMaine.com

THE COTTAGES AT PHEASANT KNOLL



# 2000 State Championship Team 25th Anniversary

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Varsity Boys' Basketball  
Row 1 (L-R): Aaron Duffey, Kyle Kirby, Ryan Gould, Ryan Burnheimer, Jack Schneider (Tri-Capt.), TJ McLeod (Tri-Capt.), Jacob Lemieux, Brooks Beaudoin  
Row 2 (L-R): Andrew Meggison (Manager), Kendrick Ballantyne, Greg Thayer, Ryan Chicoine, Andy Jenkins, Brian Griffin, Coach Kelly Littlefield, Head Coach Kevin Jenkins

Photo Credit: GHS Schola '00

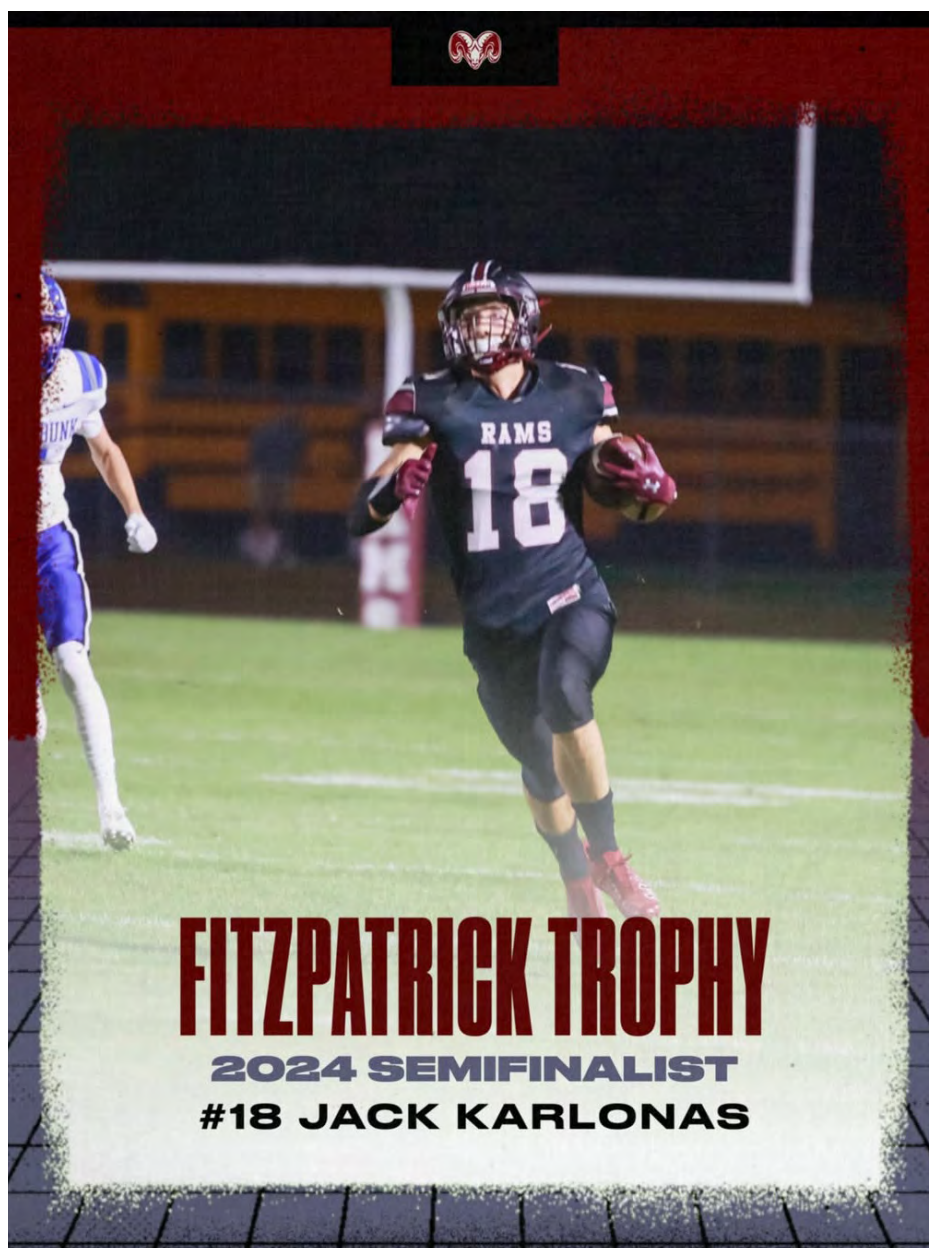
Varsity Basketball 2000 Team Photo

During the Holiday break the GHS Athletic Department invited the 2000 state championship boys basketball team back to their hometown to be recognized, during one of the Rams double header features on Dec. 30. The team was announced during halftime in light of celebrating its 25th year anniversary of their state championship; the last team to do so in 25 years. The Millennial Class B team (finished 21-1 in the regular season) and were heavily favored, which had nine seniors including All-Conference and All-State players; TJ McLeod, Ryan Burnheimer and Ryan Chicoine, plus plenty of depth from other key players.

The Boys basketball team (now in Class AA South) since the MPA added a fifth class in 2016, has yet to clinch a state championship since 2000. Last year the Rams returned to the state championship final; its first since the Rams appeared in 2005 with an eventual 3-point loss to Camden Hills. Gorham has 4 total state wins and 8 appearances in program history. The Rams got very close to clinching the title in '24, under new head coach Ryan Deschenes, with three stand-out players, making up 80% of the team's scoring. All three athletes (Smith, Lecrec and Michaud) are now playing at the collegiate level.

# Karlonas Fitzpatrick Trophy Semifinalist

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



**FITZPATRICK TROPHY**  
**2024 SEMIFINALIST**  
**#18 JACK KARLONAS**

Photo Credit: Colleen Heal

Jack Karlonas for a touchdown

The Fitzpatrick Trophy Selection Committee annually considers on-field performance- as well as academics and citizenship when choosing the top football players in the state of Maine. Jack Karlonas of Gorham was selected as one of the top 13 Fitzpatrick Trophy semi-finalists this year. Karlonas, a receiver/linebacker for the Rams, is a two-time Class B South All-Conference player.

Karlonas had 28 catches for 515 yards and seven touchdowns, 97 tackles, including 13 for loss. According to Coach Morrison, Karlonas is a dangerous return man on special teams with 11 total returns for 410 yards, scoring on punt and kick returns. The banquet to honor the semifinalists/finalist will take place on Jan. 19 in Portland. Karlonas will be attending Husson University in the fall, playing baseball.



**Gorham Youth Lacrosse Association  
Registration for Spring 2025 is Open**

Season runs from April through the second week in June

**Age groups for Boys and Girls Divisions**

**Grade K-2**

- Cost: \$75 (includes a reversible for practice and play) • 2 Practices/Skills and Drill Sessions per week

**Grades 3-6**

- Cost: \$240 • (includes a reversible for practice) 2 practices during the week
- Games on Saturdays or Sundays

**Register Today and Get a 10% discount!**

**Registration Link**  
<https://gorhamlacrosse.sportngin.com/register/form/189433767>

Registration closes March 1

All players must be members of USA Lacrosse.  
USA Lacrosse registration:  
<https://www.usalacrosse.com/membership>

**Questions/FMI:**  
[gorhamramsyouthlacrosse@gmail.com](mailto:gorhamramsyouthlacrosse@gmail.com)

## Planning Board, Dec. 2 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Item 3 - Discussion of contract zone proposed by Erin Flett, supporting an agricultural venue at farm site 64 Flaggy Meadow Rd. 6 ayes, 1 abstention (Benson.) Motion carried. The Board supported referral of proposal to Ordinance Committee/Plan Review Subcommittee for review for recommendation. 6 ayes, 1 recused (Benson.) Motion carried.

Item 4 - Discussion of zoning amendments, Gorham Village area. Proposed revisions to current zoning to include GVCD, LFVCD, UC, DTO, OR in GV districts to support economic development. Vote to send the amendment for village zoning revisions to the Planning Board's Planning Implementation Subcommittee for review. 7 ayes. Motion carried.

Item 5 - Discussion-off-street park-

ing ordinance around GV districts. A proposed rewrite of Chapter Two of Land Use and Development Code regulating town parking standards. Moved to send the amendment to the Planning Board's Ordinance Committee for review. 7 ayes. Motion carried.

Item 6 - Discussion-Mitchell Hill Rd. Subdivision. A proposal to create a clustered residential subdivision on 32-acre parcel off Mitchell Hill Rd. Applicant represented by Craig Burgess, Acorn Engineering. Move to grant final approval for Meserve Family Subdivision. 7 ayes. Motion carried.

Other business: Follow-up on discussion of DOT Route 25 traffic study. The complete minutes and video recording of town meetings can be found at the town website, <https://gorham.me.us>.



# Gardening Pleasures

Linda Treworgy Faatz, Contributing Writer

Many of us enjoy poinsettia plants during the holidays. They provide a very refreshing spot of color for the snowy season. While they do last a long time, in January the poinsettia can begin to look a little unsightly.

Most people throw them out. But if you have the patience and the time, you can rejuvenate this spectacular plant and have it ready to show off for the next holiday season. Here's how to recycle this once beautiful plant.

## Holiday Season

Protect the plant from cold or hot drafts. Avoid bruising foliage. The ideal temperature is 72 daytime by no lower than 60 degrees at night, with 6 hours of natural light. Keep the soil moist, but avoid standing water in the saucer.

## New Years Day

Continue with good light (a southern eastern or western window) water and temperatures as in November and December. Feed with house plant fertilizer according to directions. Side shoots begin to develop.

## St. Patrick's Day

Remove fading bracts, flowers and any dried foliage at the base of the plant. Replenish settled soil. Keep plant in a very bright indoor location.

## Memorial Day

Plant can grow to 3 feet with many branches and large leaves. Cut stems and branches back by half to allow side branches to grow. Repot into larger container using sterile potting soil. Move plant outside for summer, first in indirect then direct light.

## Independence Day

Plant can reach 4 feet in July. Again, cut back all new growth to promote side branches. Move plant to full sunlight. Continue to water and fertilize, but increase amount to speed up growth.

## Labor Day

Plant can grow to 5 or 6 feet. Move inside. Give it at least 6 hours of direct light. Continue to water and fertilize, but reduce the amount.

## First Day of Autumn (September 21st)

Give the plant 13 hours of uninterrupted continuous darkness and 11 hours of bright light/sunlight. Short days and long nights induce flower and bract formation. Keep night temps at 62 to 65 degrees. Continue to water and fertilize regularly. Rotate plant each week to give all sides light.

## Thanksgiving Day

Discontinue short day long night treatment. Expose plant to bright, sunny area with at least 6 hours of direct light.



Linda Treworgy Faatz, a passionate gardener for many years, lives in her family home at Friend's Corner and cares for the extensive Treworgy gardens. She loves to share her home and gardens through classes and garden events.

## School Committee CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Student Representative Amelia Olaru encouraged community members to buy tickets early and online to see "Little Shop of Horrors" Jan. 31 through Feb. 9, as shows sold out last year.

Assistant Superintendent Donahue noted Governor Mills has formed a commission to study school construction issues. Also, the first draft of a budget will be released soon, and will serve as the starting point for conversations on what gets pulled out until there is a final budget presented in the spring. He announced that there will be 26 additional slots for Gorham's free public pre-k program in the 2025-2026 school year, for 138 total slots available.

After 8 years of service, School Committee member Stewart McCallister announced his resignation due to his increased responsibilities at work, and not feeling he can adequately serve the

Gorham community with attendance and the important learning needed to be an effective committee member. Each board member thanked him for his dedication and service, his kindness and commitment; many shared specific examples and stories to exemplify his integrity, knowledge sharing, and thoughtfulness.

Chairperson Sarah Perkins explained that they will fill the vacant committee seat by February, and there will be an election in June, the winner of which will finish Mr. McCallister's term in November.

Committee member Michelle Littlefield reviewed the Committee's three formal goals for the 2024-2025 school year. They include the development of a robust communications plan, increasing their knowledge of programming in Gorham Schools, and focusing on fiscal sustainability efforts.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

## Town Council, Jan. 7 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

a problem for the neighbors. The town keeps approving more housing permits that are encroaching on the quarry site. The special exemption given in 2008 should have had the foresight to the situation we are confronted with today."

Zach Miller Hope, expressed his concern about the expansion of Quarry, that it would be very impactful on the residents nearby and thinks that it would not be the best decision of the Council to approve the expansion without more information and data.

## Councilor communications

Councilor Simms reported that the Capital Improvement/Economic Development Committee will meet on January 16th where the topic will be assessing opportunities to increase accessibility to our Metro bus service and ridership.

Councilor Lavoie stated that he was chosen to be on the Open Space and Trails Steering Committee.

Councilor Gagnon suggested that residents watch the latest Town Council Workshop video where the Council worked on goals and best practices.

Town Manager Paraschak revealed that there will be a Council Goal setting workshop on January 21st and also reported that the Appointments Committee is seeking citizen volunteers for positions on various boards and committees. Applications are being accepted until January 23rd and you can apply online or at the Town Clerk's office.

Town Council amended the contract zone for 239 County Road, to add an abutting parcel to allow for the lot to be consistent regarding residential uses outlined in the abutting Contract Zone. (Councilor Willis disclosed that he has been friends with the Chicoine's for years but does not believe his vote would be a conflict of interest. The Council agreed.)

(4 yeas, 3 nays: Lavoie, Simms, Siegel)

The Zoning Map was amended to

include 79 South Street into the McLellan Sampson House Conditional Zone. (7 yeas)

The Town Council re-appointed Laurie Nordfors as the Registrar of Voters. (7 yeas)

The Planning Board will review and hold a public hearing on changing Map 22, Lot 7 from Suburban Residential to the South Gorham Crossroads District. (7 yeas)

Town Council forwarded amendments to the back lot standards Land Use & Development Code to the Ordinance Committee for their review and recommendation. Full amendment is below:

"The back lot has perpetual deeded access to a publicly accepted street or a private road. This access shall be a minimum of 25' in width and obtained by extension of the back lot to the public street or through provisions of an easement or ownership. of the minimum driveway width required for the number of dwelling units on the back lot plus side setbacks." (7 yeas)

Town Council also forwarded amendments to the Land Use & Development Code for road standards to the Planning Board for review and public hearing. (7 yeas)

An application to the CDBG program for \$50,000 for improvements to the trailhead of the crosstown trail off of New Portland Road was endorsed by the council. They also endorsed an application for Community Action for Mental Health for mental health services for families in the Friendly Village Neighborhood for \$15,000. (7 yeas)

Town Council set February 11, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. for a Town Council on Tax Increment Financing Districts. (7 yeas)

The full amendments and minutes can be found online at <https://www.gorham-me.org/node/49/minutes/2025>

## Planning Board Results, Jan. 6

Lori Arsenault, Managing Editor

Planning Board Meeting Results, for Jan. 6, 2025

Item 1 - Gorham Fairways Contract Zone - A request to create a contract zone on 170+/- acres of the former Gorham Country Club to allow a limited number of single-family homes as part of a larger mixed use residential/commercial development on McLellan Rd. The applicant is represented by Dan Riley, P.E. of Sebago Technics. The application was discussed, amended, and moved to send to the next

available Planning Board meeting for a public hearing. 6 ayes, 1 absent (Delany).

Item 2 - Wood Road Subdivision and Private Way - a request for preliminary subdivision and private way extension reviews off Wood Road. Zoned, Rural (R). The applicant is represented by Peter Dalfonso, P.E., of Dalfonso Engineering. The request was discussed and moved to postpone approval pending responses and revisions to plan. 6 ayes, 1 absent (Delany).

# Gorham Times

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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.



## COMMUNITY

### PRESIDENT'S LIST

Corey Blake, Husson University, Bangor, Maine  
Lexi Caron, Husson University, Bangor, Maine  
Quentin Riiska, Husson University, Bangor, Maine  
Quinn Young, Husson University, Bangor, Maine

### DEAN'S LIST

Lauren Bachner, Nazareth University, Rochester, New York  
Reileigh Adams, Husson University, Bangor, Maine  
Connor Callahan, Western New England University, Springfield, Massachusetts  
Nathan Cook, Belmont University, Nashville, Tennessee  
Madeline Downey, Nazareth University, Rochester, New York  
Hannah Heady, Husson University, Bangor, Maine  
Ari Morse, Lasell University, Newton, Massachusetts  
Kaci N. Mollison, Saint Michael's College, Colchester, Vermont  
Cameron Myles, Husson University, Bangor, Maine  
Grant Nadeau, Bates College, Lewiston, Maine  
Garrett M. Smith, Saint Michael's College, Colchester, Vermont

### HONORS LIST

Julia Altham, Husson University, Bangor, Maine

### 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.

Graduating seniors from Maine high schools who are National FFA Organization (Future Farmers of America) members and interested in pursuing a career in farming, agriculture or natural resources are invited to apply for a Ronald P. Guerrette FFA Scholarship through the Maine Community Foundation (MaineCF). The Guerrette FFA Scholarship Fund provides one, \$1,000 scholarship per year. The application deadline is March 1. To learn more and to apply, visit <https://www.mainecef.org/scholarships>. The fund was created in 1998 by friends and family of Ronald P. Guerrette of Caribou to honor his life and work.

Students who will graduate from Maine public high schools this spring and plan to attend a two- or four-year college in fall 2025 are invited to complete the online application for the \$10,000 Mitchell Scholarship by midnight, March 1. The Mitchell Institute will award 200 scholarships, each worth \$10,000, to seniors graduating from the state's public high schools in spring 2025. Learn more and apply online by midnight March 1 at <https://mitchellinstitute.org/a-10000-college-scholarship-plus-so-much-more/>

### NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

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. 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](http://www.gorhamfoodpantry.org) or contact us at [director@gorhamfoodpantry.org](mailto:director@gorhamfoodpantry.org)

### 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](mailto:leckybrowncenter@gmail.com)

### PUBLIC SUPPERS

Living Waters Church at Parker Farm Road in Buxton is holding a Haddock Supper Buffet on Saturday, Jan. 25 at 5 p.m. Suggested donation is \$10 adult, \$5 child, \$20 family. Takeout meals are available.

### LIBRARY NEWS

The North Gorham Public Library Book Club is reading "Any Bitter Thing" by Monica Wood. Whether you read the book or not, all are welcome to join the Club. The next Book Club meeting will be on Monday, Jan. 27 from 11 a.m. to noon. The 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 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.

### University of Southern Maine Notes

The University of Southern Maine is one of seven universities of the University of Maine System, and is the only multi-campus university in the system, with three campuses, Gorham, Portland, and Lewiston-Auburn. Each campus has its own character, music like the region itself.

The University of provides several online resources for the public to learn about programs and events. The following are some popular web addresses for learning about our community's university.

Main address: <https://usm.maine.edu>

Osher School of Music: <https://usm.maine.edu/music>

Department of Theatre: <https://usm.maine.edu/theatre>

Art Galleries: <https://usm.maine.edu/gallery>

Athletics: <https://usm.maine.edu/athletics/>

2025 Summer Sessions: <https://usm.maine.edu/registration-scheduling-services/summer/>

2025 Camps and Clinics: <https://usm.maine.edu/directories/camps-and-clinics/>

And much more. <https://usm.maine.edu/search/>

Send PSAs and Calendar items to Lori Arsenault, public service coordinator: [loriaam@gmail.com](mailto:loriaam@gmail.com)

## Substitute Teachers Opportunities

Lucia Holloway, GHS Intern

The Gorham School Department is looking for qualified members of the community to work as substitute teachers in the Gorham schools. To apply, go to [gorhamschools.org](http://gorhamschools.org) and open the Human Resources tab. There are two upcoming training sessions that accepted applicants will go through to become substitute teachers. The sessions will be held on Thursday, Feb. 13 and Thursday, March 20. For more information go to <https://gorhamschools.org> and find job descriptions under the Human Resources tab.

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FOCUSING ON GREATER PORTLAND TO THE LAKES REGION AND ALL POINTS IN BETWEEN

**REALTOR KELLEY'S PUP OF THE MONTH:**

MEET BRUTUS! Brutus is a 2 year old neutered male, he is about 82lbs and is a handsome fella! Brutus loves to learn and is very food motivated, he is also crate trained. Brutus would make a great hiking dog as he loves to be active. Brutus loves to play out in the snow and roll around in it! Brutus would do best with a fenced in yard and he seems to do well with other dogs but no cats and we would recommend children 8+

To find out more information about Brutus please visit [www.harvesthills.org](http://www.harvesthills.org).

Mention prior to closing & 5% of my real estate commissions generated from this ad will be donated to Harvest Hills Animal Shelter



**Edwin Tenney Brooks (1938-2024)**

Gorham/Fryeburg Maine ~ Edwin Tenney Brooks 86 passed peacefully, surrounded by love on December 16, 2024.



Born October 26, 1938, a child of the late Albert and Ada Brooks, he grew up on the family farm in Brownfield, Maine. After attending Fryeburg Academy, he joined the US Navy. Upon returning from the service, he attended the University of Maine, Orono. He then owned and operated his own farm, after which, he went to work for the State of Maine DOT as a Highway Inspector for many years.

Ed married the love of his life Sharon Lombard and they were married for 56 years before she passed in 2020. They raised two daughters and became cherished and loved by many others that their lives touched. He was always ready to receive and give a hug.

He loved being at his happy place, the family camp on Lovewell Pond. Many hours were spent enjoying the view, good times with family and friends, and all the area had to offer. Many on camp road joined him daily for "happy hour" on the deck to laugh and swap stories.

Ed loved being a good steward of the land, which was very important to him as was his love of trees. He also enjoyed old tractors, old trucks, hot coffee and cold beer.

He is predeceased by his wife Sharon Brooks and daughter Juli B Settlemire. Ed is survived by his daughter Stephanie Brooks-Young and her husband Guy Young, son-in-law Todd Settlemire and chosen family.

A celebration of life will be held at a future time.

In lieu of flowers donations may be sent to: Gosnell House: hospiceofsouthernmaine.org/gosnell-memorial-hospice-house

Brownfield Historical Society  
258 Main St.

Brownfield, ME 04010

Online condolence messages can be submitted at the Poitras Funeral Home website, www.maineFuneral.com

**CALENDAR**

**Thursday, January 16**

Baxter Memorial Library Toddler Storytime for the whole family, 10 a.m.

**Friday, January 17**

Climate Caretakers presentation, Bruce Web. First Parish Church, 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, January 18**

Baxter Memorial Library Pokemon Club, 10 a.m. to noon.

**Monday, January 20**

The 60th Presidential Inauguration Ceremony, 2025 Martin Luther King Day

**Tuesday, January 21**

Baxter Memorial Library  
Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m.  
Dogs Dig Reading, 4 - 5 p.m.

**Wednesday, January 22**

Baxter Memorial Library  
Author Talk with S. Mason Pratt, 6 p.m.  
Baby Storytime 9:30 a.m.  
Teen Advisory Board Meeting 12 - 1 p.m.  
Early Release Crafternoon, 1 - 2 p.m.

**Thursday, January 23**

Town of Gorham Citizen Volunteer Applications due today. (207) 222-1670.

**Saturday, January 25**

Baxter Memorial Library:  
"The Internet is Scary" A Guide to Internet Street Smarts with cybersecurity expert, Sean Edwards, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
RPG Club, 11 - 12:30 p.m.  
Living Waters Church Haddock Supper Buffet, 5 p.m.

**Monday, January 27**

North Gorham Public Library Book Club

**Tuesday, January 28**

Baxter Memorial Library  
Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m.  
Evening Book Club discussing "Another Brooklyn" by Jacqueline Woodson, 6 p.m.

**Wednesday, January 29**

Baxter Memorial Library Baby Storytime, 9:30 a.m.

GORHAM'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1995

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**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.

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the Courtesy of the Gorham Police Department  
**blotter**

Leaha Lane caller reported a cat in distress. When the Officer arrived she told him the noise stopped right after she made the call. Officer heard screeching sounds from the birds that could possibly sound like a cat.

Narragansett Street wanted a truck back that she had cosigned for. She was referred to small claims court.

Shaws Mill Road caller wanted to know how harassment paperwork worked. Officer advised him of the parameters and that if that information was not sufficient, he could go for a protection from abuse order. Caller said he would do so.

Caller reported that the previous day, people were throwing their items into the river at the Covered Bridge. Officer spoke with three juveniles who denied throwing anything into the water and who assisted the Officer in removing the items and putting them back where they belonged.

Caller reported a suspicious person sitting in his car on County Road. Man was watching a video about a product he had just purchased.

North Gorham Road caller reported an intoxicated man was threatening her and refusing to let her leave. Someone was on the way to get the man and likely picked him up before the Officer arrived. Woman had no injuries but was shaken up by the incident.

Sebago Lake Road caller wanted to know if she was allowed to have a tenant's vehicle towed from her property. She was advised it was a civil issue and Officer recommended she contact an attorney.

Beech Circle caller had questions about whether a piece of mail she had received was fraudulent.

Officer responded to a report of two people walking down Water Street with two open glass beer bottles. Officer stopped them on Church Street. They showed the bottles to the officer. It was blueberry soda.

Hannaford turned in two wallets and seven credit/debit cards. Officer spoke to the financial institutions and the cards were shredded.

Officer made contact with a male walking around downtown with an open Mike's

Hard. Officer warned the man for drinking in public and he dumped it out.

Caller reported a suspicious male had urinated in the parking lot on South Street. Officer did not locate the man.

Officer went to Queen Street for a fraud report. Woman had fallen victim to a Facebook Marketplace scam.

College Avenue caller reported a noise complaint as someone was sanding the edge of the curb on College Ave. Officer spoke with the man who said he was sanding the curb to make it smoother for him to skateboard on. He was told that the noise was bothering the neighbors and he agreed to stop for the night.

Caller reported a vehicle pulled over on the side of the bypass. Doors were open and a crossbow was sitting in the ground. The owner was sitting in the grass, about 30 yards away, sighting his bow and shooting at targets in the secluded field by the power lines, aiming away from traffic. He was finished and getting ready to leave.

Man called wanting to know the outcome of his call about a suspicious vehicle parked on Newell Street as the car was still there. He was advised the owner had been located and was just visiting a friend on Newell Street and would be leaving soon.

Woman told Police that someone was calling her family and telling them she was missing and requesting them to call in. She wanted the Police to be aware it was a scam.

Caller reported a man lying on the side of Fort Hill Road. Officer located the man near Orchard Community Church. He was on his way to 7-11. Officer gave him a ride to the store. A report of criminal trespass on New Portland Road was a man with a telescope looking at the moon and Saturn. He was asked to move along and he left.

Caller left SideCar and found a dollar bill on her car windshield. She thought this meant something so she reported it.

Caller reported someone on Gray Road throwing items out the car window. Driver advised it was his children in the backseat who threw things out. Officer left it to the driver to counsel the children on their actions.

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# Gorham Veteran Participates in ICAP Charity Day

Jeff Ballard, Contributing Writer



Photo credit: Dennis Zilinski II

Country music icon Brad Paisley and his wife, Kimberly Williams-Paisley, join Jeff Ballard and his service dog, Eddie, at the ICAP Charity Day event.

NEW YORK CITY — A deeply personal and emotional journey unfolded on ICAP (Inter Capital) Charity Day, a global event where celebrities and financial professionals unite to raise millions for a variety of causes. Among the attendees was U.S. Army veteran Jeff Ballard of Gorham, who made a significant return to Ground Zero — his first visit since shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks. Accompanied by his service dog, Eddie, a Chocolate Labrador Retriever, Jeff participated in the charity event to support the Lt. Dennis Zelinski III Memorial Fund, which helps pair service dogs with veterans suffering from PTSD and traumatic brain injuries (TBI).

Jeff, who was already serving in the military when the attacks on 9/11 occurred, credits that pivotal day for shaping the trajectory of his life. “When 9/11 happened, I was already in the military,” Jeff said. “It

was a defining moment for me and many others. For me, it solidified my decision to become a combat medic and to deploy to Afghanistan. But coming back to Ground Zero after all these years — I never thought I’d be able to do it, not without Eddie.”



Photo credit: Jeff Ballard

Eddie, the service dog, stands proudly in front of One World Trade Center in lower Manhattan.

Eddie, a service dog trained by K9s for Warriors and sponsored by the Lt. Dennis Zelinski III Memorial Fund, has been a constant source of support for Jeff, particularly in managing the effects of PTSD. With Eddie by his side, Jeff was able to make the emotional return to Ground Zero, a place filled with both personal and national significance.

“I never would have been able to come back here without Eddie,” Jeff explained. “Ground Zero holds so many memories, so much emotion. Eddie gives me the strength to face those feelings, to honor the past, and keep moving forward.”

The ICAP Charity Day event saw Jeff and

Eddie join a star-studded group of attendees, including “Impractical Jokers” star James “Murr” Murray, legendary golfer John Daly, country music icon Brad Paisley and his wife, actress Kimberly Williams-Paisley, and Academy Award-winning actress Anne Hathaway. Hathaway, who met Eddie during the event, was particularly moved by the service dog’s calm presence. “I grew up with a chocolate lab that looked just like Eddie,” Hathaway shared. “The bond between a dog and their human is truly special. Eddie is not just a service dog — he’s a hero.”



Photo credit: Dennis Zilinski II

Academy Award-winning actress Anne Hathaway shares a joyful moment with Jeff Ballard and his service dog, Eddie, during the ICAP Charity Day celebration.

Throughout the day, Jeff had the chance to share his story and raise awareness for the Lt. Dennis Zelinski III Memorial Fund, which helps provide service dogs to veterans dealing with the invisible wounds of war. The Fund, named in honor of Lt. Dennis Zelinski III, who was

killed in Iraq, continues to serve veterans like Jeff by pairing them with highly trained service dogs, which play a pivotal role in improving their quality of life.

“I owe so much to Eddie,” Jeff said, his voice thick with emotion. “Without him, I don’t think I’d be able to do half the things I can do now. He gives me the confidence to tackle things that would otherwise be too overwhelming. And knowing that the money raised today will help other veterans find their own Eddie — that’s what it’s all about.”

The ICAP Charity Day raised millions for more than 90 charities around the world, with a portion going to veteran-focused causes like the Lt. Dennis Zelinski III Memorial Fund. As Jeff and Eddie left the event, they were surrounded by supporters, friends, and well-wishers, all of whom recognized the profound impact that Eddie’s companionship has had on Jeff’s life.

For Jeff Ballard, this trip to Ground Zero was not only a return to a place of deep personal reflection but also a reminder of the incredible healing power of service dogs. “Eddie is more than just a dog,” Jeff said. “He’s my partner, my support system, and he’s given me the ability to heal. I’m just grateful to be here today, raising awareness for this cause and knowing that other veterans will have the same opportunity to find healing.”

The Lt. Dennis Zelinski III Memorial Fund was established in honor of Lt. Dennis Zelinski III, who was killed in action while serving in Iraq. The Fund’s mission is to pair service dogs with veterans suffering from PTSD and TBI, helping them regain their independence and heal from the invisible wounds of war. Through their work, the Fund strives to provide veterans with the same life-changing support that has helped veterans like Jeff and countless others.

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