

Gorham Times

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“Indivisible-Cumberland County” Town Hall Fills First Parish

Gorham Times Staff



Photo credit: Kelli Deveaux

First Parish Sanctuary filled during town hall meeting

On Wednesday, March 19, almost 500 people attended an event entitled “Where’s Susan???” at the First Parish Church in Gorham. The event was sponsored by Indivisible Cumberland County and was a town meeting designed for Senator Susan Collins to answer questions from her constituents. The senator did not attend. Indivisible Cumberland County reports that another 400 people live-streamed the event.

The goal of Indivisible Cumberland County states: “Through the actions we take to protect our democracy, Indivisible Cumberland County builds community to protect and uphold each other by sharing our resources and skills with each other, and other vulnerable communities. Indivisible Cumberland County exists to match people with people, actions and groups to empower them to participate in our democracy.” They are concerned

about the decisions that are being made in the current administration and how it is affecting the people of our country.

Author and former Representative, Tom Allen was the moderator for the event and opened the floor to questions and comments. Allen announced that the focus of the event would be on messages that participants would like to see delivered to Senator Susan Collins, since many people see her as a key figure in negotiations between the U.S. Congress and the new administration. Allen said everyone’s comments would be recorded, and attempts would be made to deliver them to Senator Collins’ office.

The first commenter introduced herself as a woman who immigrated to the United States from Africa decades ago, then became a citizen and raised her children in this country, where they are all now contributing to this country as professionals in their fields. She spoke eloquently against the negative attitudes which many people have been expressing lately toward immigrants and Africans.”

She also described the devastating effects which the closure of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) programs has had in Africa, and in developing countries around the world. She closed with an appeal for Senator Collins to find her Christian

moral compass and start pushing for the U.S. government to support large scale humanitarian relief efforts.

Speakers of all ages and backgrounds came forward: teachers, health care professionals, veterans, farmers, attorneys, retirees, business owners, parents, students and legal immigrants. As concerned citizens, they shared worries about attacks on the stability of Social Security, Medicare/caid, job security, putting food on the table, finding affordable housing, keeping their children safe as well as the health of the planet. The fear that our democracy is in real peril was acknowledged by all.

One speaker questioned how any of this was benefitting Maine and Senator Collins’ constituents. A college student questioned, “What is the world that you want to create?” Parents spoke with concerns and worries about their handicapped or gay children. Some people just questioned how they could afford to pay their student loans or get health insurance. Several expressed worries about their families and neighbors.

One participant said, “Throughout the evening I was struck by the level of fear, sadness, despair and anger that members of our community are feeling. These are Americans and Mainers who just want their government to represent the ideals that America has always represented.”

3rd Annual Eat and Learn Focuses on Empathy

Kelli Deveaux, Staff Writer



Photo credit: Kelli Deveaux

The turnout at Gorham High School exemplifies a commitment to community empathy and understanding.

On the evening of March 10, more than 60 people attended Gorham Anti-Racism Committee’s (GARC) 3rd annual Eat and Learn Event held at Gorham High School. Young and old alike came together for a tasty meal prepared by the Gorham School Nutrition Team, and to learn more about

and discuss the importance of empathy. The event was informed by the results of a student survey that was developed and administered by GHS Student Council members to better understand the strengths and areas for improvement related to school climate and culture in

Gorham schools. The voluntary survey was completed by students in grades 5 through 12, and identified bullying as an ongoing issue, with cyberbullying seemingly most pervasive. Student Council members presented their findings to GARC and assisted in brainstorming solutions, including the hosting of this community conversation.

Guests received an overview of the data, as well as explanations on the three types of empathy (compassionate, affective, cognitive), why empathy is important, how it feels, and how it appears in others. The importance of belonging was discussed amongst the participants before they broke into groups and rotated through three learning stations.

One station invited participants to brainstorm acts of kindness as part of an empathy walk. The second station gave an explanation of, tips for, and then practice

with empathetic listening skills, and the third focused on how adults can best model empathetic behaviors and support youth.

“We are thrilled with the turnout,” said School Committee member Nicole Yeo-Fisher, who chairs the Anti-Racism Committee and served as a presenter at one of the learning stations.

“This event is a continuation of our commitment to fostering a culture of empathy and understanding in our school community. It was inspiring to see students, families, and community members engage in meaningful conversations with such positive energy.” Yeo-Fisher commended the members of the Community Engagement subcommittee of the GARC for their hard work and planning for such a successful evening.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many attendees expressing a desire for longer sessions and future events.



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**SCHOOL COMMITTEE
MEETING PAGE 8**

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.

Are You Missing Money?

Rep. Parnell Terry

There's nothing better than putting on a jacket you haven't worn in a bit or digging out your cycling vest in the spring and discovering some extra cash you forgot you stashed in a pocket, but is there a chance you've also forgotten about an old bank account? Maybe you moved and never got your security deposit back? Just recently, the Maine State Treasurer's Office released its annual list of unclaimed property and every district in the state is represented on it, offering a potential opportunity for countless Mainers to be reunited with long-forgotten assets. You might be one of them.

The Maine State Treasurer's Office releases a list of the unclaimed property in the state every year. The Unclaimed Property Program includes more than \$360 million worth of Mainers' property that was unable to be returned to the rightful owner. In fiscal year 2024 alone, the Treasurer's Office processed 68,384 claims for a total of \$28.4 million returned. Such property includes bank balances from old accounts, overpaid bills, uncashed checks and other assets.

The Treasurer's Office holds these assets free of charge. You can search

the list for your name, a family member or your business at www.maineunclaimedproperty.gov. Should you find something to claim, the beginning steps can be done right from the website. If you have any trouble at all, please call the Treasurer's Office at 207-624-7470 or email them at up.claimstatus@maine.gov and someone will assist you.

Many Mainers across the state are unaware they have unclaimed property in their name. This property should be returned to its rightful owner, so please take a moment to see if you, someone you know or a business in your community is listed.

I do urge residents to use caution regarding scams and unclaimed property. In recent years, the State Treasurer has issued warnings about phone calls, emails and letters in the mail asking recipients to pay a fee up front in order to claim their property. I want to emphasize again that the Treasurer's Office holds these assets free of charge and there is no fee to file a claim and receive your property.

State Treasurer Joe Perry and my fellow lawmakers may use mail as one way to notify someone that they

have unclaimed property waiting for them. However, such mail from the Treasurer's Office will be sent with an Augusta return address, utilize the official State of Maine seal and have Treasurer Perry's signature. Any web links related to the unclaimed property list will be official State of Maine websites, and you can tell if a link is official because it contains ".gov."

If you think you are the target of a scam, please report it to the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division by calling 1-800-436-2131.

As always, please feel free to contact me at Parnell.Terry@legislature.maine.gov with your questions and concerns. I can best represent our community by hearing your thoughts on legislation and issues both in our district and across the state.



Rep. Terry is serving his first term in the Maine House and represents part of Gorham.

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,

The narrative surrounding the Gorham Connector has been predominantly one-sided. The reality is that the 4.5-mile Connector will significantly reduce commuter times, improve traveler and pedestrian safety, and alleviate traffic congestion on numerous primary, secondary, and neighborhood roads, positively affecting thousands of people daily.

Reduced traffic will be recognized on two Main Streets, New Portland Road William Clarke Drive, Saco St., Spring St., Stroudwater St, Gorham Road, County Road, Payne Road, Beech Ridge Road, Burnham Road, Broadturn Road, Buxton Road, and many others. All are roads which vehicles currently take all day, every day, in search of a better east-west route.

Taking 12 – 25 minutes currently, it will take 4 minutes to reach the Turnpike, 5 minutes to reach I 295, and 8 minutes to reach Route 1 from the Gorham Bypass on south South Street Gorham is no longer a country town, it and the surrounding towns continue to grow rapidly, exacerbating commuter and industrial traffic each month.

We need a sensible solution to make daily commutes more efficient, help businesses thrive, and restore neighborhoods. The final piece of a 35-year vision by local councils, civil and environmental engineers, and transportation experts, self-funded by tolls, and not taxes, and supported by the Maine Legislature, the Connector, and its alternatives, have been examined and re-examined ad nauseum.

New roads, and improvements to existing roads in Scarborough, Standish, Limington, Hollis, Dayton, and Waterboro, have been made over decades to funnel vehicles to Route 202 and Route 25 toward

the Gorham Bypass and on to the planned Connector. The interchange by the Maine Mall linking the Connector to the Maine Turnpike, I 295, and Route 1 is complete, the Park and Ride is set, and most of the property required for the Connector has already been secured, including the beloved Gorham Country Club.

Gary Dube, Gorham Resident

To the Editor,

The Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA) recently announced they are dropping their plans for a 5-mile, 4-lane, elevated toll-highway that would run from I-95 with multiple interchanges paving over local landowners who are opposed to MTA taking their land, including Smiling Hill Farm.

The limited support for MTA's plan was based on grossly exaggerated benefits and blatant disregard for the enormous costs associated with this proposed highway. MTA's auditors have found that the Connector would not pay for itself, and instead require toll increases throughout MTA's network.

40,000 Americans die each year in car accidents; Gorham sees few fatalities because we have few multi-lane, high-speed roads. MTA's traffic projections suggest that their proposed expansion would dramatically increase the amount of high-speed traffic revving up 114 through Gorham village. Those drivers' destinations are elsewhere, and MTA's highway would make it easier for nearby residents to leave our village businesses behind.

Gorham residents cannot pay their rising property taxes with a few minutes saved on a daily commute. The more we force everyone to spread out, the more

we increase our costs of living for our housing, transportation, utilities, and road maintenance. Highway-oriented development does not generate enough property tax revenue to pay for the enormous costs of servicing that sprawling expansion in perpetuity. Instead of forcing Gorham to compete in a limited market for big-box stores and trucking warehouses, Gorham's leaders should be focusing on our community's strengths.

Gorham has great schools (preschool through post-grad!) which attract talent for local businesses. Gorham's generational farms, trails and open spaces are the reasons why many of us choose to live here. Our village center is our competitive advantage, and we can foster organic growth in our village while protecting our rural lands. Let's work together to build a community that doesn't need MTA's highway.

Lou Simms

Gorham Town Councilor



Main Street in Gorham.

Photo Credit: Gary Dube

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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 Deadlines

March 19

April 2

April 16

April 30

USM Theatre Presents the Fantastical “Little Women, the Broadway Musical”

Janice Gardner, *USM Theatre*



Photo Credit: Kat Moraros Photography

L-R, Top to Bottom: Karoline Brechter (Meg), Taylor Ciotti (Jo), Kaelan Gildart (Marmee), Emma Hall (Beth), Kiki Belanger (Amy)

The University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre, in collaboration with the Osher School of Music, welcomes spring with the fantastical and heartwarming “Little Women, the Broadway Musical,” April 4-13 at Russell Hall on the USM Gorham campus.

Based on Louisa May Alcott’s groundbreaking novel of the same name, “Little Women, the Broadway Musical,” depicts the story of Jo March as she reflects on her struggle to become a successful writer in Civil War America.

Finding strength in the support and love of her mother and sisters, Jo fights to overcome enormous obstacles - including war, illness, and discrimination - in her pursuit of achieving her dreams. This reimagined and fantastical portrayal of an American classic is brought to life with glorious music filled with personal discovery, heartache, hope, and everlasting love.

Director Danny Hutchins says, “Part of the brilliance of Louisa May Alcott is her ability to tap into universal themes of love, family, passion, and determination. This is what has enabled this story to be told so many times and in so many different ways over the years.”

USM Theatre’s production will embrace the story’s reliance on memory to tell a fantastical version of this classic tale. With choreography by Vanessa Beyland, musical direction by Edward Reichert, puppetry and projections, normally static descriptions of memory will become dynamic, movement-fueled vignettes that engage all eighteen of the production’s cast members.

Taylor Ciotti, the junior musical theatre major from Amherst, NH who plays Jo March, thinks audiences will love this approach, “The addition of living memories makes it so that there is never a dull moment onstage. Everything you see, from scenes to songs to transitions, is meticulously choreographed to keep the show moving fluidly.”

Kiki Belanger, the first-year theatre major from Saco who plays Amy March, says that despite the non-traditional take on the show, the timeless nature

of the story is beautifully preserved. “I think audiences will be captivated by how engaging the show is. The relationships portrayed are so raw, humorous, heart-warming, and genuine, making it easy for audiences to connect emotionally with each of the scenes.”

Hutchins says the performers, who are theatre and musical theatre majors at USM, “...have blown me away in their seriousness of purpose and willingness to dive in. The actors deliver beautiful, touching, and heartbreaking performances. The arts are so important in our communities, and a ticket to this show does not just provide you with a beautiful story. It allows you to support our public arts education, and the future artists that will tell the stories we need to hear in Maine.”

Content Advisories: Conversations about death and the Civil War. “Little Women” is suggested for grades five and up.

Book by Allan Knee
Music by Jason Howland
Lyrics by Mindi Dickstein
Based on the novel by Louisa May Alcott

Directed by Danny Hutchins
Musical Direction by Edward Reichert
Choreography by Vanessa Beyland
April 4-13, 2025
Russell Hall, USM Gorham Campus

Tickets:
\$10-\$24

To purchase tickets, or for more information, visit USM Theatre online at <https://usm.maine.edu/departments-theatre/box-office-tickets/>, or call the USM Theatre Box Office at (207) 780-5151. For more information on USM’s Department of Theatre events and programs, head to: <https://usm.maine.edu/departments-theatre/>

Those needing special accommodations to participate fully in this program, contact Janice Gardner at (207)780-5289 or janice.gardner@usm.maine.edu. Hearing impaired: call USM’s telex / TDD number (207)780-5646.

Community Chorus Performance

Gorham Times Staff



Photo Credit: Roger Marchand

A concert was held on Saturday, March 15 at the Gorham First Parish Church by the combined Gorham Community Chorus and the Gorham First Parish UCC choir, under the direction of John Rimkunas. The merged choirs consisted of 90 members who performed “Requiem, Op. 48” by Gabriel Faure with soloists baritone Andrew Marcotte, and soprano March Steiger. They also performed two shorter pieces; “I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes” by Adolphus Hailstork, with a solo by Jonas Rimkunas, and “Bridge Over Troubled Water” by Paul Simon. The performance also featured USM organ major Ryan Slocum and pianist Eric Peppe. A large audience showed its appreciation with a standing ovation at the end of the concert.



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It's Seed Starting Season

O'Donal's Nursery Staff

The sun is shining. The snow is melting. The prospect of outdoor planting is now a tangible reality. All of us gardeners are no doubt itching to get back into the garden, but navigating Maine's fluctuating temperatures and proclivity for late frosts requires careful consideration for your garden. The Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA) Seed Planting Calendar is an excellent resource to determine which seeds should be started indoors and when seeds can be directly sown into the ground.

As early as March 1, celery, parsley and onions can be started indoors. Lettuces, peppers and eggplants can be started by March 21. Now is a good time to start all broccoli family seeds (including kale and cabbage) indoors. Mid-April is a perfect time to start tomatoes and basil indoors. Unfortunately, all the delicious warm weather crops like cucumbers, melons and squash need to wait until May 1 before starting them indoors. Wait to transplant all of these seedlings outdoors until the threat of frost has passed.

You can start direct sowing cold hardy seeds around the second week of April. These plants are adapted to germinate and grow in cooler soil temperatures, often as low as 40°F, making them ideal for early spring sowing.

Among these cold hardy seeds are peas, known for their rapid growth and preference for being directly sown. Cold hardy root vegetables also benefit from direct seeding. They develop tap roots which can often be disturbed in transplanting. These include beets, carrots, and radishes. Many leafy greens including lettuces, cabbage,

kale, arugula, spinach and Swiss chard may also be sown at this time. They all tolerate fluctuating temperatures, withstand light frosts and their rapid growth cycle allows for early harvests and repeat sowings.

It is important to emphasize that while these crops are suitable for direct sowing, successful germination and growth depend on proper soil preparation. This includes ensuring adequate drainage, removing debris, and enriching the soil with compost to enhance fertility and moisture retention. Adhering to the recommended seed spacing and depth, as indicated on seed packets, is also essential.

Remember that gardening is very much dependent on current weather conditions and the microclimate of your own garden. Therefore, always check your local weather forecasts and plan to protect your outdoor seedlings in the event of a hard frost (28°F for more than five hours). Have tarps, sheets or garden cloth on hand to cover your seedlings when needed. With early spring gardening, patience is key. By following these guidelines, you can maximize your chances of a successful and productive growing season.



O'Donal's is a local, independent, employee-owned nursery and gift shop (since 2023) that offers a selection of healthy and hardy plants and seeds.

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Risk Management and Insurance: IoT Sensors Help Reduce Property Insurance Claims

Ethan Johnson, Contributing Writer

The Internet of Things (IoT) refers to a network of devices (e.g., sensors, actuators and trackers) equipped with advanced software and processing capabilities that can connect and exchange information. This technology can provide a wide range of benefits to businesses, including enhancing companies' visibility of their commercial properties and allowing them to spot and address possible issues before they lead to losses and costly insurance claims.

Business owners can collect valuable information by installing IoT sensors on their commercial properties. This wireless technology has vast data processing abilities, permitting owners to monitor their properties virtually and receive alerts about potential issues. With this information, business leaders can promptly handle these concerns and limit related damage while reducing the need to file a commercial property insurance claim.

There are a number of types of IoT sensors to consider for businesses: 1) Equipment sensors use vibration, noise and energy consumption sensors to evaluate overall system performance and the health of workplace equipment. 2) Fire and smoke sensors work with a property's existing fire suppression system to send instant alerts regarding fire and smoke detection and coordinate with emergency responders for swift remediation. 3) Water sensors leverage leak and moisture sensors to identify signs of water flow and determine the sources of such issues. These sensors may also be connected to shutoff devices to stop water flow automatically and prevent further property damage. 4) Motion sensors use detection sensors to track movement in and around a property, triggering alarms and alerting authorities; and 5) Temperature sensors measure temperature and humidity and deliver warnings of possible heating, ventilating and air conditioning issues, thus prevent-

ing damage to certain building systems and materials due to heat and humidity.

IoT Sensors can provide many benefits for mitigating commercial property insurance claims, including: 1) Improved risk management—Through ongoing data collection and continuous monitoring of different building parameters, business leaders can better care for and maintain their properties, lowering the likelihood of costly issues that could cause widespread damage and result in related claims. 2) Fewer large claims—IoT sensors can detect damage early and provide immediate alerts, allowing businesses to quickly address the causes and stop these problems before they lead to catastrophic losses and large claims. 3) Boosted security—IoT sensors can improve companies' security infrastructures, helping them deter trespassers and identify the individuals who burglarize or vandalize their commercial properties; and 4) Reduced premiums—IoT sensors can help businesses mitigate their exposure to commercial property damage, potentially resulting in lower premiums.

IoT sensors can help businesses manage their commercial property exposures, reduce potential losses and limit related claims. Your local independent agent can share more risk management guidance.



Ethan Johnson works at Chalmers Insurance and has over 20 years of experience in the industry. A USM graduate, he is passionate about

helping people and giving back to his local community of Gorham, where he lives with his family.

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SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

Zach Lambert Nominated

Gorham Times Staff

The staff at the Gorham Recreation Department recently nominated their colleague, Community Recreation and Events Manager, Zachary "Zach" Lambert, for 2025 Maine Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA) "Dr. Bill Eckart" Young Professional of the Year for 2025. Then, at the MRPA Conference on Monday, March 17, Lambert was selected.

In Gorham Rec's nomination of Zach for this award, they said that Zach "hit the ground running" in his position. He has developed successful programs, meets or exceeds all criteria, and is known for being "a bundle of energy and kindness" and keeping positive outlook at all times. Zach is described as being involved in and instrumental in all aspects of the Gorham Recreation Department.



Photo Credit: Friend of Gorham Rec.

from left to right: Travis Marsh, Liv Schwartz, Cindy Hazelton, Zachary Lambert, Julio Santiago, Travis Grant.

Congratulations, Zach, but even more than that, thank you for your service.

Public Works Spring Cleaning

Kelly Meslin, Department of Public Works

Spring is right around the corner and this crew could not be more excited. Longer days, warmer weather, sun and having fun outside.

Trash is one of the biggest topics here at DPW. We've had many questions over the years and have a huge running list. Here are some housekeeping items and resources for proper disposal of items we hope are helpful.

Trash needs to be curbside by 7 a.m. the day of collection or the night before. To prevent weather and animals from making a mess of trash, residents are encouraged to purchase trash cans. Trash will not be collected if a tag is not visible or if the tag has been tampered with. Each bag must have a tag. There will be no trash or recycling collection on the following four holidays:

1. New Year's Day, Jan. 1
2. Independence Day, July 4
3. Thanksgiving Day
4. Christmas, Dec. 25

The silver bullets are for recyclable materials only. Dispose of unwanted items responsibly. Goodwill and Salvation Army are good options for donating items you no longer need/want and are in gently used, working condition.

Riverside Recycling, 910 Riverside Street in Portland, takes a variety of mixed materials/bulky waste, tires, appliances, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, propane tanks, electronic waste, metals, construction debris, wood, yard waste and brush. Riverside also accepts hazardous waste on the 1st Saturday of the month from April to November. Hazardous waste consists of cleaning products, indoor pesticides, automotive products, paint supplies, lawn & garden products, and flammable products. Riverside does not accept household trash.

Casella Transfer Station, 594 County Road in Westbrook, takes household trash, bulky items, construction debris, electronic waste, yard waste and universal waste such as ballasts, batteries and light bulbs. Casella does not accept hazardous waste.

There will be a charge on items dropped off. Please refer to their websites or give them a call for pricing and business hours.

Riverside Recycling: (207) 797-6200

Casella Transfer Station: (207) 805-3511

Ecomaine's recyclopeda is useful when it comes to disposal. It can be accessed here: <https://www.ecomaine.org/what-can-be-recycled/recyclopeda/>

Apparel Impact bins have popped up

recently. Drop off clothing, footwear, accessories to include hats, purses, bags, book bags/duffle bags, gloves, belts ties, scarves, robes, and jewelry, plus sheets and towels. None of which need to be in wearable condition. The closest bin is located at Plummers Hardware, 57 Main Street, in the center of Gorham. Goodwill and Salvation Army are also great drop off points for unwanted/gently used clothing, shoes and accessories.

Wire hangers, please don't try to recycle these They will get caught in the machinery at EcoMaine. Instead, donate them to Goodwill or Salvation Army. You can also take them to scrap metal facilities like Radius Recycling (formerly known as Schnitzer's). Reach out to your local dry cleaners; they may want the hangers you don't.

E-Waste, also known as electronic waste, can be disposed of at Riverside Recycling. Often there are free events in the area. Be on the look out for one. Goodwill has a "GoodTech Program" where they will take your unwanted but working order electronics.

Gorham does not have a yard waste collection day but does provide space for leaves and grass clippings spring through fall that can be dropped off at any time. We have two brush drop weekends in the spring and two in the fall for residents to drop off brush from yard clean up.

For disposal of old cell phones, rechargeable and single-use batteries, please see the list of drop-off locations including Plummers Ace Hardware, Lowe's, Staples, Home Depot, and several other locations.

To safely dispose of broken glass, always handle it with care, wrap it securely in several layers of newspaper or thick paper, and place it in a sturdy container labeled "Broken Glass" for regular trash collection, never in recycling.

For dead animals, give Public Works a call. We do not come out for squirrels, or smaller animals but we will help handle deer, opossums, raccoons, and large birds on public travel ways in town.

Paint and automotive supplies should always be brought to Riverside Recycling on their hazardous waste days. The 1st Saturday of the month April - November they will accept cleaning products, automotive products, pesticides, lawn/gar-

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Change to Social Security Overpayment Recovery Rate

Gorham Times Staff

As of March 27, Social Security will begin mailing notices about the new 100 percent withholding rate, rather than the recent adjustment of just 10 percent. The withholding rate change applies to new overpayments related to Social Security benefits. The withholding rate for current beneficiaries with an overpayment before March 27 will not change and no action is required. The withholding rate for Supplemental Security Income overpayments remains 10 percent.

People who are overpaid after March 27 will automatically be placed in full recovery at a rate of 100 percent of the Social Security payment. If someone cannot afford full recovery of their

overpayment, they can contact Social Security at (800) 772-1213 or their local office to request a lower rate of recovery.

Additionally, people have the right to appeal the overpayment decision or the amount. They can ask Social Security to waive collection of the overpayment, if they believe it was not their fault and can't afford to pay it back. The agency does not pursue recoveries while an initial appeal or waiver is pending.

What this means is that if you believe you have been overpaid, do not spend that money. You will have to pay it back unless you qualify for other arrangements you make by contacting Social Security.

Clerk's Corner, March

Laurie Nordfors, Gorham Town Clerk

The weather is starting to look like spring and the snow is melting. The extra daylight is a welcome sight!

Nomination papers are available in the Clerk's Office for a seat on the School Committee due to a resignation. This position will expire in November. The election will take place on June 10 to fill this seat as well as the annual School Budget Referendum Election. Applications are now available for absentee ballots. Ballots will be mailed out in early May.

Applications are now being accepted for the newly formed Cemetery Advisory Committee. You can apply online or stop by the Clerk's office and fill out an application.

Motorcycle re-registrations are due March 31. You can re-register your motorcycle online or in the Clerk's Office. You will need your old registration, current insurance card and mileage.

Fishing season starts April 1. Hunting and Fishing Licenses can be obtained online or in the Clerk's Office. Boat re-registrations can also be done online and starting May 1, you can re-register your ATV for 2025.

Dog licenses for 2025 were due on Jan. 31, 2025. There is now a \$25 late fee added. If you haven't licensed your dog for 2025, you will need to do it in person as the online registration program is turned off. The Animal Control Officer will be out issuing summons in the next few weeks.

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GHS Students Receive “Commendation of Merit”

Gorham Police Department



Photo Credit: Gorham Police Department

High School Students Finn Henderson and Lucia Holloway receive Commendation of Merit

On Jan. 26, 2025, the Gorham Police Department received a report of a young child running barefoot and without a jacket along Huston Road in freezing 26-degree temperatures. Sgt. David Bruni & Officer Denison responded to the scene where they found Finn Henderson and Lucia Holloway stopped on the side of the road. Finn had pulled over to help, nearly witnessing the child get struck by a truck. The area was dark and somewhat remote, making the situation even more dangerous. Without hesitation, Finn and Lucia got the child out of the cold and stayed with him until the police arrived. Despite the child being autistic and nonverbal,

they were able to provide officers with all the necessary information. Fortunately, Sgt. Bruni and Officer Denison were able to locate the child’s guardian, and he was safely returned to his residence. Thanks to Finn and Lucia’s quick thinking and selfless actions, they undoubtedly saved this young boy’s life. Today, members of the Gorham High School administration and some student body members, along with Sergeant Bruni and several officers from the police department, gathered to recognize their bravery. In appreciation of their heroic efforts, Finn and Lucia were presented with a Gorham Police Department “Commendation of Merit.”

Narragansett Read-A-Thon

Erin Eppler, Principal, Narragansett



Photo Credit: Erin Eppler

Narragansett hosted a Read-A-Thon this March which is a fundraiser where students tracked minutes read over the course of two weeks. Teachers planned fun literacy events for their students and Narragansett hosted three special guests to celebrate the love of literacy. The Gorham Ram, Crusher from the Maine Celtics, and Sluggo from the Sea Dogs all visited the students at Narragansett School. All funds received will support purchases like buddy benches and classroom literacy materials for the school.

GMS Students Participate In District Music Festivals

Rosemary Skillin, GMS Music Teacher



Photo Credit: Rosemary Skillin

7th & 8th Grade MMEA District 1 Honors Festival Chorus. Bella Dodge (7th), Amara Vincent (8th), Lauren Dodge (8th), Sophia Burns (8th), Max Castonguay (7th)

7th/8th Maine Music Educators Association (MMEA) District 1 Honors Festival: Students audition in the fall for this festival. Only a certain number of students make it into each ensemble. Then, in late winter, for two days, students work with students from several other schools and a



Photo Credit: Rosemary Skillin

7th & 8th Grade MMEA District 1 Honors Festival Band. 1st Row: Emma Howe (7th), Evan Holland (7th), Benjamin Emerson (7th) 2nd Row: Amelia Winkler (8th), Lydia Smith (8th), Carmen Thibault Tardif (8th), Ethan Butler (7th), Colin Crockett (8th)

guest conductor to perform for their families. This year’s festival was held at Noble High School. Gorham was very proud to have two students receive top scores for their section, Amelia Winkler (Alto Saxophone) and Colin Crockett (Trombone).



Photo Credit: Rosemary Skillin

6th Grade MMEA District 1 North Honors Festival Band. Chester Schmidt, Elliot Arturo, Maria Muanza, Lyla Hatch

6th Grade MMEA District 1 Honors Festival: Students are nominated for this festival by their teachers. Each year, a certain percentage of each school is chosen to participate in this festival. For many students, this is their first experience of playing at a fes-



Photo Credit: Rosemary Skillin

6th Grade MMEA District 1 North Honors Festival Chorus. First Row: Emily Spagnoli, Cici Vo, Mia Crockett. Second Row: Ada White, Lily Eastman, Lucy Williams, Sophia Santiago, Stella McLean, Amélie Esmiller

tival. This year’s festival was hosted here at Gorham High School.



Photo Credit: Rosemary Skillin

MMEA District 1 Jazz Festival. Colin Crockett (8th), Ellis Scott (8th), Nolan Hurder (8th), Carmen Thibault Tardif (8th), Amelia Winkler (8th), August Bischof (7th)

MMEA District 1 Jazz Festival: For this festival, students are nominated by their teachers, and the festival coordinator chooses a select number from each school. This is both a Middle

and High School festival. This year, Gorham has six students from the middle school participating in this festival. The festival will be April 3rd and 4th at Sanford High School.

Paula D. Hodgdon TrailblazHer Event

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo Credit: USM Athletics

Former USM athlete and recipient of the Paula D. Hodgdon leadership award

How can you support women in sports? Team up with friends for Paula D. Hodgdon TrailblazHer event, celebrating its second season on April 26, at the University of Southern Maine Gorham campus. The opening ceremony will begin at 10:15 a.m.

This event is dedicated to honoring and supporting women's athletics and will feature both a one-mile walk and a 5K run, making it an inclusive event for participants of all fitness levels. This event also brings to light an equal passion for sports and to reap the benefits to continue to support USM Women's athletics. Following the walk/run, which is presented by your Geico local office, the day is filled with various activities and community involvement; including a festival of food, games and music.

Afterwards stick around to watch the Husky Women's Softball and Lacrosse teams compete at 1 and 3 pm. The softball team will take on UMass Dartmouth in a double header. The Lacrosse team will

host Eastern Connecticut State while also celebrating senior day prior to the game.

Shared by former player and current Husky field hockey coach, Bonny Brown-Denico; "The TrailblazHer Walk that is being held in her honor is outstanding. Paula has done so much to bring athletic opportunities to women at USM. Without her efforts through struggles and battles she conquered courageously, we would not be the athletic department we are today."

"Doc Costello was also one of the great supporters of women's athletics who supported Coach Hodgdon's efforts, so we owe a great deal to him as well. I strongly believe that without Paula's strong will in fighting for the rights of women in athletics, that the current opportunities for girls and women in Maine would look very different."

For more information including a detailed schedule and how to register please visit the Paula D. Hodgdon website at www.Trailblazher.org.



Photo Credit: USM athletics

Coach Hodgdon inducted into the Maine Field Hockey Hall of Fame in 2024



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Student-Produced Honey Included in School Meals

Lucia Holloway, GHS Student Intern

Thanks to the efforts of the Gorham High School (GHS) Bee Club, students throughout the district have the chance to taste their own community-made honey in their cafeteria meals.

In December 2024 members of the Bee Club sold jars of honey they worked at harvesting, making and packaging. The Gorham School Nutrition Department saw the opportunity to support GHS's Bee Club and purchased five jars of honey. The high school, middle school and three elementary schools were given the challenge of incorporating the honey into the school cafeteria menu.

Gorham Middle School produced Honey

Parfaits, Great Falls Elementary incorporated honey into homemade granola, and Narragansett Elementary drizzled honey over banana slices. Village Elementary School blended their honey into warm cinnamon oatmeal and Gorham High School created a "hot honey" with red pepper flakes, then drizzled it over mashed potato pizza.

The Bee Club members were thrilled to see their honey enjoyed in all five Gorham schools. The project provided benefits of farm-to-school programs and initiated district-wide engagement. The initiative provided local food appreciation and is a great example of supporting student-led programs within the Gorham School District.

Meet the Gorham Times Board of Directors, 2025

Gorham Times Staff

The Gorham Times started in 1995 through the inspiration and ideas of Maynard Charron and a team of local volunteers and community leaders. The vision of the non-profit newspaper has always included a Board of Directors overseeing the running of the paper, reviewing the financial commitments and offering feedback and support for the volunteer organization. Recently the Gorham Times Board of Directors has undergone some changes and we would like to update the public of these.

At a meeting in February, Michael Lortie was elected president of the Board of Directors, replacing Aaron Chadbourne. Chadbourne had been president for the past two years doing a wonderful job assisting the board in continuing the success of the Gorham Times. Lortie is a retired school counselor who has been the School News Editor of the Times for five years "I love the Gorham Times and having a role in reporting local news is very important to me. I get to share the good news of the school system and to recognize hard-working students and educators." Lortie will continue his role as School News Editor. His daughter, Molly, is a GHS grad and currently lay-out designer for the paper..

KG Wentworth has been on the board for the last three years. She is currently the vice president of the board but will soon be leaving as her term is expiring. A former Gorham resident, KG is currently the manager of Sullivan's Bakery in Gorham

Kate Thomas is the secretary of the board. She has been on the board since 2020. She has lived in Gorham for many years and raised her sons, Wyatt and Gavin here. A former teacher, she cares for her mother and grows and sells pumpkins, Christmas trees and soon, flowers/vegetables at Red Barn Farm on Route 202 in Gorham.

Erica Roberts is the treasurer of the board. She joined the board in 2024 and works with the managing editor, Lori Arsenault, on reviewing financials. Roberts has lived in Gorham since 2020 and is originally from South Portland. She joined the board as a way to volunteer in the community and has always enjoyed reading the local newspaper.

Debbie Stirling has been a member of the board for a year and a half. She is a retired

school department employee, a quilter, a wife, Mom, and Nana, and a good friend to many. She said she joined the Gorham Times Board "to give back to the town that has been my home now for almost 40 years. I love Gorham and want to see our local paper thrive. So much good is going on. Let's help the paper report on those great things."

Mary Snell has been on the board for about a year. She is a writer and poet, retired from a 25-year stint as promotions director for the School of Music at USM in Gorham. Before that she was a staff writer and theater critic at the Maine Sunday Telegram/Portland Press Herald. She lives in North Gorham. Snell wants to be a part of keeping alive and healthy this small but important source of news and information for Gorham.

James Hager was recently elected to the board, having served for only a few months. He is a retired project manager in the pulp and paper industry. Hager believes that the Gorham Times gives readers a sense of what is happening in the town. It is a valuable community resource that offers something for all ages. His goals are to help maintain and strengthen the mission of the paper.

Paul McDonough is new to the board and has only 4 months with the Gorham Times. He is first and foremost a husband and father of 3 children who works in Gorham for Moody's Collision. He has worked for Moody's for 22 years, and coaches Gorham football and other sports. "I'm involved in the Gorham Times to just try and help connect our town. I take great pride in how tight-knit Gorham is and remains to be a small, blue-collar working town in Maine. I am always willing to try and assist in areas I can, regardless of the task."

Al Bean, long-time director of athletics at USM, now retired, has recently joined the board. We have just learned that USM has named a street after him on the University of Southern Maine Gorham campus in recognition of his years of service spanning nearly 50 years. He first arrived at USM as a student-athlete, then went on to have an award-winning 45-year professional relationship with USM, the last 31 years as Director of Athletics.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

March School Committee Meeting

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

On Wednesday, March 12, the Gorham School Committee held their regular monthly meeting. The meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Sarah Perkins, and all members were present. They began by approving the minutes of the February committee meeting, as well as three workshop meetings.

The first presentation was by four members of the GMS Student Council. Alia H., Grace M., Shekinah G. and Max C. reviewed the purpose of the Student Council, their experiences this year as well as the activities that they have been involved in. In addition to conducting a school-wide food drive, making holiday cards for residents at Village Square, attending regional and state-wide leadership conferences, reading to K-2 students at Village School, planning spirit days and special activities at GMS, they have donated over \$11,000 plus supplies and resources to the animal shelter over the years. Mrs. Pastore, GMS teacher and mentor to the group, who has led the group for 20 years, stated that this is the most popular year yet, with over 70 members, and 45-50 attending each meeting.

The second presentation was the Pre-K-12 Vision of the Alternative Education Program. Mrs. Christina Cifelli, GHS Assistant Principal, reviewed the formal document compiled by the group. They have worked this year to ensure the vertical alignment of the program and to learn from each other. Recognizing that each student learns differently and has different needs at each level, an alternative program has been established that provides programming support and intervention at all three elementary schools and formal programs at GMS and GHS. (Katahdin at GMS and Lynx at GHS)

Three community members took the opportunity to speak to the school com-

mittee. Kelli Deveaux spoke in support of the Anti-Racism Event which took place earlier in the week, John Ersek from the Gorham Times spoke about the desire to learn more about changing rules and funding threats, and Nicki Hudson spoke about the importance of acceptance and inclusion programs and support.

Superintendent Heather Perry reported that all schools are very busy at this time with conferences, lots of activities and continued learning. She highlighted LD 34 which is an effort to increase teacher salaries in the state by the 2030 school year. She feels that it is important to watch as there will be state and district implications if passed. She also informed the board that the district had been visited by the construction staff of the state DOE which is in the process of reviewing ninety-six project requests throughout Maine. A decision on the priorities should be available from the state by mid-July.

Several of the committee members spoke about the budget process and how the community can stay informed of the discussions. They also reviewed events and activities that they had attended throughout the past month.

The committee approved the calendar for the 2025-2026 school year (7-0) and accepted the proposal and schedule for a communication plan on the school budget for the school year.

In the on-going review of school committee policy, the committee approved a second reading of the Return to Work and Reasonable Accommodations Policy (GBGE) and approved first readings of four policies: Nondiscrimination/ Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action Policy (AC), Harassment of Students Policy (ACAA), Harassment of Employees (ACAB) and Drug and Alcohol Testing of Bus Drivers Policy. (EEAEAA).

USM President: At Home in Gorham

Lori Arsenault, Managing Editor, USM alum '99 and '22, and retiree '20

USM President Jacqueline Edmondson says she enjoys seeing students on campus as they are walking to class, waiting for the Husky Line (or Busky), or engaged in their activities. She says, "Many of our students tell me that Gorham feels like home to them, and they choose to live on the Gorham campus because of this."

She continued, "Michael and I have been proud to call Gorham our home for nearly three years. We enjoy the beautiful campus, the smart forest, and the ability to walk to nearby restaurants and shops in the Village. Most of all, we are proud to call the more than 1,000 students who reside on the Gorham campus our neighbors."

In a recent message sent to the Gorham Times, Edmondson pointed out ways that USM is investing in the Gorham campus to help shape its future. Some of the investments will not be immediately visible if you are just walking through campus. She explained, "For example, the Collab e-Sports Arena is under construction in Lower Brooks, thanks in large part to a generous lead gift from Town and Country Federal Credit Union, the founding sponsor of our team."

E-Sports is USM's fastest growing and largest student club with approximately 200 students. Their successes have included: Champion Valorant Team, Champion Madden Team, Third Place in Overwatch, and 27 students who are "All Academic" due to their grades.

Edmondson said, "Other work will be more visible in the months ahead. This summer, work will begin on Russell Hall, the performance center of our outstanding Theater program. Efforts there include a new roof and a new envelope."

"In addition, alumnus Tony Shalhoub '77 has provided a \$60,000 gift that will allow us to renovate lower Russell Hall to create a flexible theater arts lab. The new "Shalhoub '77 Lab" will function as a launch pad for touring shows, student-driven work, new play development, and a more intimate venue for performance modes and events that warrant a tighter audience-to-performer ratio."

With support from University of Maine Chancellor Dannel P. Malloy and the Board of Trustees, a study is currently underway to explore constructing a new building for the arts programs on the Gorham campus. New student enrollment in the fine arts has increased 46% over the past two years, and arts classes are in high demand. USM also provides important opportunities to community members through the arts programs.

Edmondson continued, "Next summer (2026), work will begin on the exterior of Bailey Hall, our largest classroom building on the Gorham campus." She said the planning and pre-development work has started, and that the project will take five years to complete, involving replacing siding, windows, and roofing. Bailey is the largest academic building on the Gorham campus so the work can only be done during the summer rather than during the academic year.

As the Osher School of Music moves to the new Crewe Center for the Arts on the Portland campus, the theater and dance programs will be moving into spaces in Corthell Hall. Music students who live on the Gorham campus will still be able to practice in Corthell.

The athletic facilities are also benefiting from this planning. In addition to the new floor in the Hill Gym two years ago, the five-year capital plan includes completing a Costello Complex Envelope Study, and the Field House Curtain Replacement. Mechanical and electrical updates are planned for Hill Gym, the Field House, and the Ice Arena.

Edmondson concluded her message with, "We are working closely with our partners in Gorham to ensure we have strong town-gown relationships. Gorham is a college town. In fact, it's USM's college town and we want to be sure it feels that way. We are especially appreciative of the efforts of elected council members in Gorham, the Gorham Economic Development Corporation, the Gorham Business and Education Roundtable, and all the local business owners who welcome our students, faculty and staff to live and work here."

GORHAM'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1995

What's In a Name?

Chris Crawford, Features Editor

Curiosity sometimes gets a bad rap. It killed the cat, after all. Being full of questions can also be a sign of engagement. When the Gulf of Mexico recently became the Gulf of America, many of us had questions. How does that process work? Who gets to name things? And can anyone do that?

The short answer is yes, anyone can name or rename a geographical feature, if it's deemed an inappropriate name. There is still (at least for now) a U.S. government agency in charge of that.

To name a new feature or to change the name of an existing geographic feature in the U.S., a proposal must be submitted to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names (BGN) at their website www.USGS.gov. The entity deals only with natural place names, not with names of cities, buildings or streets.

No one will be shocked to learn that

there are many rules, regulations and guidelines to follow, as well as many principles, procedures and policies, including, and I quote, "Once named, a feature in the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) can never be "unnamed," but can only be changed to another name."

The procedure is clearly defined. The BGN Domestic Names Committee seeks input from private citizens, local governments, tribal councils and other interested sources before making any decisions. Usually, there must be a compelling reason to make the change, with local use and acceptance being a key element.

The process generally takes at least six months. While not a fan of his process, the POTUS' choice isn't terrible, although a more appropriate name, Gulf of The Americas, might be more accurate. This change is mostly symbolic, because other countries are not

obliged to acknowledge the new name.

Many new names or name changes occur at the local level for a variety of reasons. A common one is to remove a name that is offensive. Big Squaw Mountain here in Maine was officially renamed Big Moose Mountain in 2000.

Another reason for renaming is to recognize or honor someone, although no feature can be named for a living person. A potential honoree must be deceased for at least five years and have either had a direct and/or long-term association with the feature or have made notable civic contributions.

Ft. Bragg, originally named for a slave-owning Confederate general, became Fort Liberty and was recently renamed Fort Bragg again, this time in memory of Pvt. Roland L. Bragg, an obscure infantryman from Sabattus, Maine who served at Fort Bragg and

earned a Silver Star for bravery during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II.

Even countries occasionally change their names for a variety of reasons, although this is a very expensive process. Holland changed to Netherlands. Burma to Myanmar. Ceylon to Sri Lanka. Turkey is now identified by its Turkish name *Türkiye*, to name a few.

Gorham residents should be happy that places can be re-named. Imagine having to write Narragansett No. 7 when asked for your place of residence when filling out forms or return addresses. That was Gorham's original name in 1734 when land was granted to Captain John Gorham and fellow soldiers as a reward for quelling (a euphemism if ever there was one) the Narragansett tribe in Rhode Island. It became Gorhamtown Plantation and finally was incorporated as Gorham in 1764.

COMMUNITY

OF INTEREST

Gorham's Cemetery Advisory Committee is seeking committee volunteers. To apply, please complete and submit a volunteer application online, or contact Town Clerk Laurie Nordfors at lnordfors@gorham.me.us. Applications will be accepted through March 27, or until the committee is staffed.

Cumberland County Animal Response Team will hold a low-cost public microchipping clinic for cats on March 29, 9 a.m. – noon. Meow Cat Lounge, 630 Main Street, Westbrook. \$25.

University of Maine Cooperative Extension will offer a webinar on perennial gardening, focusing on resilient perennials, on Wednesday, April 9. Registration is required; sliding scale options are available. FMI, Rebecca Gray, (207) 356-1348 or extension.gardening@maine.edu.

The Extension is also hosting online information sessions for adults interested in becoming Maine 4-H volunteers. The informational sessions are free; registration is required. FMI, contact Jennifer Loble, jennifer.lobley@maine.edu, (207) 255-3345. Adult volunteers are also needed to help 4-H youth understand ticks. To learn more and register for the April 11 training at Wolfe's Neck Farm in Freeport, contact Emily Booth, emily.booth@maine.edu, (207) 581-8205. To see the full list of extension events online and in person, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/4ce4tz4y>.

Gorham School Committee nomination papers are available at the Town Clerk's office. Any registered voter must submit nomination papers with no less than 35 or more than 50 signatures of persons who are registered voters of the Town of Gorham. FMI: Town Clerk's Office, (207) 222-1670.

Share your input on Gorham's Open Space & Trails Master Plan through April, 2025. <https://www.gorhamopenspace.me>.

New Ventures Maine offers free online workshops and classes in career building, entrepreneurship, and financial education in February and March. Learn more at <https://newventuresmaine.org/>

Get ready for Shaw Cherry Hill Farm Parkrun, a free community event where you can walk, run, jog, volunteer or spectate. In conjunction with Gorham Rec, Parkrun is part of an international non-profit. Gorham's event will take place every Saturday morning at 9 a.m. (seasonal in Maine) followed by coffee at a local small business. Positive and welcoming, every run includes a trail angel, so no one finishes last. With a huge international presence in England and Australia, it is just starting to gain traction in the USA. FMI: parkrun.com/event address.

Gorham Public Works Spring 2025 Brush Drop Off Days, 80 Huston Road, April 26 and May 10, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Residents only, no commercial drop off, no stumps. Leaves and grass clippings accepted in the designated area throughout the season.

Save the date Sunday, April 27 for the Gorham Conservation Commission 5th Annual Gorham Cleans Up Event. All ages invited from 8:30 – 11 a.m. to pick up trash in the Village and along the drainage basins along New Portland Road and South Street. To sign-up and find more information about the event, please visit <https://www.gorhamconservation.org/gorham-cleans-up/>.

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 only open 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 contact us at 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 presentation to begin at 10:30 a.m. All welcome, 3rd floor First Parish Church. FMI: leckybrowncenter@gmail.com

PUBLIC SUPPERS

Living Waters Church will hold a Haddock Supper Buffet on Saturday, March 29 at 5 p.m. Parker Farm Road, Suggested donation: \$10 adult, \$5 child, \$20 family.

The St. Anne's Knights of Columbus will hold its in-person Lenten Fish Dinner every Friday until April 11 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Anne's Church in Gorham. Despite an increase in food costs, thanks to a generous donation, the price will be the same as last year. Dinner includes baked haddock, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, peas, a roll, beverage, and dessert for \$14. Pay at the door. FMI, visit <https://www.stanthonyparish.org/knights-of-columbus>.

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 has an extensive listing of events at their 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.

CLOSE TO HOME

School House Arts Center in Standish presents "Disaster! The Musical" opening on Friday, Apr. 4 at 7 p.m., with a total of eight shows running through Sunday, April 13. For more information at tickets, visit <https://www.schoolhousearts.org>.

Repair Fair Brings Neighbors Together at Baxter Library

John Ersek, Staff Writer

Over ninety people took part in the Baxter Library's first "Repair Fair" on Saturday, March 22. This includes over seventy-five members of the public who brought items to be repaired, and sixteen volunteers who brought their tools, knowledge, and neighborly spirit. With a goal of keeping good, fixable items working and out of landfills, volunteers attempted to fix a variety of items, including metal and wooden toys, lamps and other basic electrical appliances; electronics;

and bike tires; as well as jewelry items like earrings, necklaces, and bracelets; clothing which needed holes repaired, or new zippers, or buttons. Several participants also brought their children along, which added to the atmosphere of it being a friendly neighborhood gathering. Even people who didn't actually get items fixed got informed advice, such as ways to get an older vehicle retrofitted with a backup camera, or on how to copy all the information from a computer's hard drive before donating or recycling it. Baxter Library Deputy Director Nissa Flanagan said that she considered the event to be very successful. She is already looking at options for scheduling another repair event, including the possibility of cooperating with the Gorham Recreation Department on a combined event.



Photo Credit: John Ersek

Jon Hodgdon offers advice about electronics to Mark Needle



Photo Credit: John Ersek

Liz Marks takes a break from repairing bracelets, necklaces, and earrings



Photo Credit: John Ersek

Adrian Wells (right) repairs an electronic toy while Ben Wells and Tristan Wells wait for their next assignment



Photo Credit: Roger Marchand

On March 22 the Baxter Memorial Library held a Repair Fair. Fourteen volunteers were at the library to fix broken or damaged items such as lamps, clothing & jackets, wood furniture, jewelry, small appliances, and bicycles. There was also someone available to sharpen axes. A large number of individuals brought items to be repaired as well as to socialize with their neighbors and acquaintances. The Fair was so well received that the library is looking into the possibility of holding other Repair Fairs in the future.

Bob Caswell has been named an honorary board member. Caswell retired from USM in 2014 after 34 years, the first three as a staff member in public affairs working for the communications director, Roger Snow, who had founded the Westbrook American, forerunner of the American Journal. Then in 1983, Caswell began his 31-year career as USM's executive director of public affairs. Before USM, he freelanced for the Kennebec Journal, and worked full-time for the Courier-Gazette in Rockland.

Lori Arsenault, managing editor of the Gorham Times, is an ex-officio member of the board, connecting the board with the activities of the volunteers who create and deliver the Gorham Times every two weeks. She started with the Gorham Times in 2018 in the Of Interest section when Leslie Dupuis was editor.

Arsenault earned a bachelor's degree in music performance at USM as a non-traditional student, graduating in 1999. Not wanting to leave Gorham after graduation, she purchased a house and moved to town 25 years ago.

As a work-study student, Arsenault's employer/mentor was Mary Snell, now on the board. She remained connected to USM as a volunteer, then accepted the position of administrative manager for the dean of the School of Applied Science, Engineering, and Technology for nine years, then another nine years as operations and concert manager for the School of Music, including two years also with the Department of Theatre.

Through those 18 years, she had several opportunities to work with Al Bean and Bob Caswell, both board members now. From 2003 to 2009 as co-coach of FIRST Robotics Team 172, her main contact at Gorham High School was Debbie Sterling, now on the board. She retired from USM in 2020, and in 2022 completed a master's degree in leadership studies at USM.

"I am honored to now be working with such an amazing group of volunteers and professionals in service to this town that we all love. Thank you to everyone who helps make the Gorham Times possible."

AARON CHADBOURNE





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CALENDAR

- Thursday, March 27**
Baxter Memorial Library
Toddler Storytime
Sewing Class (Group 2)
USM Athletics, Men's Tennis vs. Thomas College, Waynflete Tennis Complex, 4 p.m.
- Friday, March 28**
Osher School of Music Faculty Concert Series: Regnier, Sonenberg, & Brahms featuring two world premieres. Corthell Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, March 29**
USM Athletics, Baseball vs. UMass Dartmouth College, noon and 3 p.m.
Osher School of Music 48th Annual Honors Recital, Corthell Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, March 30**
USM Athletics, Men's Lacrosse vs. West Conn State, noon
USM Athletics, Men's Tennis vs. Lesley College, Waynflete Tennis Complex, noon
- Tuesday, April 1**
Baxter Memorial Library
Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m.
French Language Discussion Group, 5:30 p.m.
Osher School of Music Student Choral Composer Showcase, Corthell Hall, 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 2**
Baxter Memorial Library, Baby Storytime, 9:30 a.m.
USM Athletics, Softball vs. Saint Joe's College of Maine, 3:30 and 5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, April 3**
Baxter Memorial Library
Toddler Storytime, 10 a.m.
Book Club: "Becoming Madam Secretary" by Stephanie Day, 10:15 a.m.
Library Trustees Meeting, 6 – 7 p.m., open to the public
- Friday, April 4**
USM Department of Theatre, "Little Women" opens at Russell Hall (April 4 – 13)
- Saturday, April 5**
USM Athletics, Men's Tennis vs. Bridgewater State University, Waynflete Tennis Complex, noon
USM Athletics, Baseball vs. UMass Boston, noon and 3 p.m.
USM Athletics, Softball vs. Eastern Connecticut State, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
USM Athletics, Women's Lacrosse vs. UMass Dartmouth College, 1 p.m.
USM Athletics, Men's Lacrosse vs. Keene State College, 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 8**
Baxter Memorial Library, Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m.
USM Athletics, Men's Lacrosse vs. Salem State University, 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 9**
Baxter Memorial Library, Baby Storytime
USM Athletics, Baseball vs. Colby College, 4 p.m.

*Send calendar items, public service announcements and events to
Lori Arsenault, public service coordinator: loriaam@gmail.com*

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.

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blotter

Officer attempted to locate a vehicle in question on Main Street due to a time delay.

A caller asked if he was trespassed from SideCar. Officer attempted to call him back, but his phone was not set up for voicemail and he did not answer his phone.

Officer assisted a motorist at Main Street and Tink Drive. The vehicle was towed by AAA to Carter's. Officer provided a ride to Acorn Street to relay with Windham PD.

Spring Cleaning CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

den products, flammable products and paint supplies. Everything they accept can be found on their website along with associated fees: <https://www.riversiderecycles.com/hazardous-waste/>

Garbage to Garden is a good resource for food waste. They are servicing Gorham and will pick up your kitchen compost and drop off some composted soil too. For more details you can visit their website: <https://garbagetogarden.org> The Town of Gorham has a free to resident site for compost drop off at Public Safety located at 270 Main Street. There is a huge sign and cans for disposal, please dispose of items properly. This area is not for recycling or household trash, food waste items only.

Never throw away or flush any prescription drugs. There are several local places you can take them. Year-round drop-off locations include: Hannaford (Gorham, Windham, Standish, Portland, South Portland, Westbrook, Buxton), CVS (Westbrook, Windham, Portland, South Portland), Shaw's (Portland, Scarborough), Walmart (Scarborough). Gorham Police Department allows drop offs during their normal business hours (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday) and they set aside several days in spring and fall for drop off. The Food & Drug Administration website is a useful tool in the safe ways to dispose of prescription medications. They can be found here: <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/disposal-unused-medicines-what-you-should-know/drug-disposal-drug-take-back-options>

Give It Away Gorham is a local Facebook page dedicated to gifting unwanted items to others. Join the group to gift and receive and reuse unwanted items.

If you should have any questions or comments regarding any of the information in this article, please reach out to Public Works. We will always do our best to help you!

We can be contacted by phone at (207) 222-4950 or by email at dpw@gorham.me.us.

Information passed along to Gorham Public Works that a light was out at Main and Water Street. The adjacent light was functioning.

A Sanborn Street caller reported dogs at large in the area. Officers were able to capture both dogs and secure them in the cruiser. The complainant advised that they were from a house on Gloria Street. Officer took the dogs to Gloria Street, called out through the open door with no response. Officer then brought the dogs to the Animal Rescue League, then returned to the residence and put a note on their door to advise them where the dogs were located.

Main Street caller wanted to find out what occurred at Flaggy Meadow Road. Officer gave caller an outline of the incident and advised one party was given a criminal trespass notice. No names were divulged.

An attempt to locate a silver Subaru Legacy which was reported as operating "all over the road." The described car was apparently leaving Standish on Ossipee Trail toward Gorham. The area was checked for the car and it was not located. Two officers checked the area for the car and did not locate it, and a CCSO unit traveled Standish to State Street, Gorham and also did not see it.



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Upcoming Meetings



- 4/9 Minor Site Plan Review Committee Meeting
- 4/10 Ordinance Committee, 6 p.m.
- 4/12 Town Council Budget FY25-26 Workshop, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- 4/16 Gorham Economic Development Corporation (GEDC) meeting, 8 a.m.
- 4/17 Capital Improvements (CIP)/Economic Development (ED) Committee Meeting, 11 a.m.
- 4/17 Board of Appeals Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Maine Metal Building Groundbreaking in Gorham

Gorham Times Staff



Photo Credit: Maine Metal Buildings, Inc.

Maine Metal Buildings, Inc., a metal erecting company, celebrated the groundbreaking of its new headquarters on Wednesday, March 19 on the site at 625 Main Street. The project replaces the outdated headquarters, creating a modern facility to support future growth, with space available to lease.



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