

Gorham Times

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TOWN OF
Gorham, Maine
—FOUNDED 1736—

JANUARY 16, 2014

CELEBRATING 18 YEARS—A FREE, VOLUNTEER-RUN, BIWEEKLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Little Falls School to House Senior and Recreation Programs

BY SHERI FABER
Staff Writer

In 2012 Gorham voters approved a plan to spend \$500,000 on repairs to Little Falls School. Subsequently, the Town Council decided to turn Little Falls into a new Public Safety building; however, voters soundly defeated a referendum to spend \$6.3 million on the project. The town is now looking at the original plan for Little Falls and is also considering plans to address the needs for more space for Public Safety as a separate issue.

The Town Council voted on January 7th to spend \$12,000 on a study to determine exactly what repairs need to be done to maintain the Little Falls building. This money is coming from the \$500,000 approved in 2012 to maintain the former school building. It is expected that work will need to be done on the installation of a new heating system (there is only one zone for the entire building) and repairs to windows. Town Manager David Cole estimates the repairs could be done by this coming summer.

Recently the Lakes Region Senior Center had been meeting at Little Falls along with the Recreation Department running programs there. Both had to vacate the building in anticipation of a building project. The Senior Citizen Center has been meeting at the Sunset Ridge Golf Links in Westbrook, but this location has not been as successful as the Little Falls location and fewer seniors are attending the programs.

The Council had a workshop on December 18th to discuss needs of the Public Safety Departments and another is planned for January 28. Further workshops are expected after that as the Town Council works to determine the best option for the town.

New Year Gorham Ushers in 2014



Photo credit Debra Libby

Randy Judkins entertains the audience at the Gorham High School McCormack Center for Performing Arts.

SEE PAGE 14 FOR DETAILS & MORE PHOTOS

Gorham Earns High Rate for Property Tax Collection

BY ANNE MURPHY

Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. is quoted as saying, "Taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society." It seems that the citizens of Gorham know this and are willing and able to pay their share to keep the lights on and the streets plowed.

In his December 27, 2013 report to the Town Council, Town Manager David Cole reported that the town of Gorham had a very high rate of property tax collection, 97.4%, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013. A tax collection rate of 90% is considered good and 95% is considered excellent according to the town's auditors, Runyon Kersteen Ouellette (RKO).

The town also received its Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 10th consecutive year.

Cole attributes Gorham's high rate of property tax collection to several factors, including residents' ability to pay their bills in an increasingly improving economy, and the Finance Department's success in staying on top of outstanding tax bills.

The town has historically had a very good rate of property tax collection. Gorham's lowest rate of payment in the past 10 years was 95.8% in 2009, still considered excellent, which we all remember was the middle of the Great Recession.

Property taxes make up a large portion of the education budget as well as Police, Fire & Rescue Departments, Public Works, administration, etc.

The Assessing Department, which assigns the tax values of all new and existing properties in Gorham, is in the process of updating the informa-

tion used to calculate the taxes for each property. The data used for that calculation include the size and height of structures, design, building materials and general condition of each building.

The Gorham Assessing staff is in the process of visiting each of the more than 5,500 properties in town and inspecting the interior and exterior of each building. Some information may also be gathered through telephone calls to property owners.

This process began in July 2011 and is scheduled to take between two-and-a-half to three years to complete. Updated property tax values will more accurately reflect each property's comparative market value. The property tax value changes will not be put into effect until each tax parcel has been reviewed and updated.

Recycling Equals Savings for Town of Gorham

BY NOAH MINER
Staff Writer

EcoMaine, the nonprofit waste to energy and recycling facility that serves Gorham and 20 other member communities, is proposing more savings for Gorham. According to General Manager Kevin Roche, ecoMaine has benefited from "an increase in cash that will be released back to the communities." Increased revenue from the sale of recyclable material, sale of power produced, and increases in generating capacity, along with higher price for energy sold, have put ecoMaine in a solid position.

Paying to dispose of waste currently has four major costs in the municipal budget. For this fiscal year, the town has budgeted \$474,875 for the hauler (RW Herrick), \$162,400 tipping fees (per ton cost paid to ecoMaine), \$123,815 assessment (paid to ecoMaine), and \$38,556 trash bags (cost for the trash bags that residents must use for trash pickup). The total cost for the curbside program is \$799,646 minus the \$450,000 gen-

erated from the sale of bags to the community. This amount, \$349,646, is paid with tax dollars. ecoMaine is considering eliminating the assessment, which would reduce the overall cost to \$225,831 saving 35 percent. The assessment has historically been the difference between revenue and expenses at ecoMaine. The assessment has been reduced over the past 4 years by 48% and the plan is to eliminate it altogether. Tipping fees were also reduced last year from \$88 per ton to \$70.5. The board of directors at ecoMaine will decide on eliminating the assessment sometime this spring. The board is composed of representatives from the 21 member communities with Town Manager David Cole representing Gorham's interest on the board.

So what do these potential savings mean to you as a taxpayer? It would decrease the mil rate by nine cents. So a home assessed at \$200,000 could save \$18 a year. But don't count on your taxes going down

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Vacationing with the Gorham Times



Photo credit Shirley Douglas

Hannah Douglas takes a break from Epcot at Disney World in Orlando, Florida to read the Gorham Times.

In Their Own Words: A Tribute to Louis Fogg

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The Gorham Times asked our three state legislators from Senate District Six, House District 129 and House District 130 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 to 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, in its sole discretion.

With population outlook, Maine must build plan for future

BY REP. LINDA SANBORN

A state's demographic makeup can help predict what its economic future will look like. It can determine the strength and composition of its workforce down the road and what sectors of the economy will be strong or weak.

Maine's demographic outlook gives cause for concern. Just recently, a census study revealed that between July 2012 and June 2013, Maine was one of only two states whose population shrank.

This means that not only is our population stagnant, but it is also aging. As more people enter retirement, there is a shortage of people to take their place in the workforce.

If Maine doesn't attract roughly three to four thousand new residents to the state each year for the next 20 years, we will lose roughly 20,000 jobs during that time period.

Thankfully, many lawmakers have submitted bills to address this issue for consideration in the upcoming session.

A bill by Rep. Gay Grant, D-Gardiner, will help future and current students understand what tax credits they may be eligible for to help pay for higher education. By making college more affordable,

businesses in Maine will have a larger pool of skilled people to hire as the economy grows.

...a census study revealed that between July 2012 and June 2013, Maine was one of only two states whose population shrank.

Even with a growing workforce, Maine will still need to care for a larger retirement-age community.

This session, Rep. Katherine Cassidy, D-Machias, proposes to extend and preserve Maine's long-term care facilities. These facilities ensure that our senior residents can age with dignity and in the location they chose. This allows them greater independence in later life, saving both them and the state money on housing and additional transportation costs.

In addition to providing our seniors with the care they deserve, making sure they can access that care is of equal importance. This means upgrading and maintaining our systems of transportation for seniors.

With this in mind, Rep. Sharon Treat,

D-Hallowell, has submitted a bill to promote the use of more modern models of transportation. The bill, in addition to amending state operation plans, creates an advisory council which will help formulate a comprehensive transportation strategy, taking into consideration Maine's changing demographics. This will improve efficiency and effectiveness in how our seniors access care.

These are just some of the many important steps being taken to create an aging friendly Maine.

On Jan. 17 at the Augusta Civic Center from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., leadership from both the House and the Senate will meet for a conference on this very issue. Anyone interested in Maine's future economy—business, finance, public policy, higher education, health care and the like—is encouraged to attend.

I look forward to working with lawmakers from both sides of the aisle to come up with strong solutions to this challenging trend in Maine's population.

I believe that an aging population provides our state with many opportunities to lead. Building innovative and effective ways to promote and care for our senior residents could turn Maine into a model to be followed by other states and communities across the nation.



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Letters to the Editor

Letters must be less than 300 words, signed with a first and last name, typed or e-mailed and include a phone number. 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 and are subject to editing.

Dear *Gorham Times*:

On behalf of the staff at Home Instead Senior Care, I would like to thank everyone who helped with this year's very successful Be a Santa to a Senior program.

With support from generous shoppers, Sebago Brewing in Gorham, Blue Seal Feeds in Windham, TRIAD of Gorham, the Gorham Business Exchange, we were able to collect more than 150 gifts for local seniors who otherwise might have been overlooked this holiday season.

We also would like to thank the many volunteers (especially girl scout troops 1937 and 2009) who shared their time to collect, wrap and deliver the gifts to nearly 50 area seniors, many of whom struggle to make ends meet.

Thanks to ALL those who helped us brighten the holidays for our local seniors. Thank you for your generosity, for every extra special touch and truly making a difference in our community.

Catherine Studley,

Home Instead Senior Care

was a great holiday gift.

Yours, Jean Sward, San Rafael, CA

Dear *Gorham Times*:

"Help me, I want, I need, Can you? Will you? I'm hungry, I'm thirsty," are just a few of the common commands that come out of the little voices 7 a.m. sharp. Daycare provider doesn't begin to justify what this woman does for the people and families who walk into her home Monday through Friday.

Every day Dayle Footer begins and ends her seven to five-thirty shift with children, with the continuing count of never in twenty-five years calling out sick, closing her doors, or taking a day off without distant notice. From her long history of owning and properly running Dayle's Day Care she has printed a mark on hundreds of children's hearts and given herself a name to the town of Gorham as not only one of the best day cares, but a reputation that has truly stuck. With her patients, beautiful smile, and kind heart, there isn't a time when I have second-guessed her abilities to do what she does.

I would proudly like to congratulate my mother with her twenty-five years of daycare. She has generously opened up her home to several kids, allowing them to grow in an environment where they are truly loved. She treats each kid like they are her own and I will forever be honored to know her as my mother.

Ellen Footer

around town

91 South, the restaurant located in PineCrest Bed and Breakfast, is hoping to raise funds to move to a converted historic building in town.

Town Manager David Cole recently issued a Five-Year Service Pin to Patrol Officer Mike Brown.

Gorham continued the trend of increased residential construction in 2013 with 69 permits issued for single-family homes, compared to 57 permits issued for single-family homes in 2012. The number of commercial permits issued decreased from 39 in 2012 to 35 in 2013.

The State of Maine has set the new voting districts for the Town of Gorham. The changes to our two voting districts are relatively minor and affect a small section in North Gorham and a small section in South Gorham. Otherwise, the boundaries remain relatively consistent.

There have been several coyote sightings in south Gorham. Be mindful of your pets.

BRINGING THE NEWS TO ALL OF GORHAM
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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. Printing services by Alliance Press, Brunswick, ME

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Ad Deadline	Publication
Jan 8	Jan 16
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Feb 19	Feb 27
Mar 5	Mar 13
Mar 19	Mar 27
April 2	April 10

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In Their Own Words: A Tribute to Louis Fogg

BY ERIC PETTENGILL

An otherwise typical day turned into one of sadness for me as I read the brief obituary printed in the Portland Press Herald for Louis Fogg.

Those of us who befriended him knew him as "Louie". He, a fixture in the town of Gorham, was friendly to everyone he met and a foe to none. Not a day would pass without Louie and his bicycle seen in and around the village. The bike was all fixed up with a large rear view mirror, a horn, and a flashlight for riding at night. Through wind, rain, sleet, and snow, the bike was either ridden or pushed as Louie went about his daily routine.

Louie did many small jobs for people. For years, he rode his bike to South Gorham along County Road to tend the horses at the Horse Feather Farm. He also worked for local people cutting their grass in the spring and summer, raking their leaves in the fall, and shoveling snow in the winter. How proud he was when someone gave him a used John Deere power lawn tractor. Louie was always a favorite in every Gorham parade. It made his day to drive his tractor down Main Street all decked out with flags while waving to everyone along the parade route.

Louie also did snow removal for business owners in the town center, shoveling sidewalks and entryways. He could often be seen smoking a cigarette as he went about his work. Truth be told, those cigarettes were probably a major contributor to his death.

Louie always recognized my special "toot" of greeting I gave him from my truck. Long after his eyes had begun to fail, he still recognized the familiar sound of the horn and would wave at me.

For quite a few years, Louie lived with his father in a mobile home park on Narragansett Street. After his dad died, Louie continued to live there with his favorite cat, Nuisance. When the mobile home park was demolished, Louie was devastated. He could no longer live in town and had to move to Buxton to live with his sister. Despite the nine-mile bike ride each way, Louie's daily routine of rid-



Photo credit Jen Banks

ing into Gorham continued. When his health began to fail, he would leave his bike in Gorham and family members would drop him off in town for the day.

Christmas has always been a special time for me, but this year was a little sad, as I was not able to accomplish one of my favorite Christmas Eve endeavors. For years I dressed up in a Santa suit to drop off a gift to my buddy, Louie. He was always so appreciative. My wife and I would plan long in advance as to what our Christmas gift would be. One year it was a heavy coat, another year an insulated vest, along with years of warm gloves and Western wear. A white straw cowboy hat was the biggest hit. Louie wore that hat for years. One Christmas, as "Santa" dropped off his gift, Louie gave me a small pocketknife that had once belonged to his father. That made my day and I still carry that knife.

I have asked a few others to contribute to this article regarding the fond memories they have of Louie. Here are a few:

Jennifer Banks remembers her first encounter with Louie. She was a very young child and Louie had come to help her grandfather, Stubby

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

The Rainbow of Life GORHAM HOUSE EXPANDS ITS CONTINUUM OF CARE

BY CORINNE ALTHAM

Four years ago the Marean family of Donna Street knew they needed help. With Alzheimer's Disease slowly taking their mother, they looked to Gorham House for care. Donna Marean, former Gorham High School cheerleader and secretary to the principal, lived her whole life in Gorham. Thanks to Gorham House, the end of her life was spent with the same dignity and grace that she carried throughout her life. "I have so much respect and love for everyone there," says daughter Roberta Small. "I can't say enough about the staff. Everything is done right there."

In February Gorham House will celebrate the one-year anniversary of the renovation and expansion of their skilled rehabilitation unit. A million dollar renovation project added a redesigned spa, spacious gym, additional private rooms and other comforts to transform the wing to match the comfort and warmth of the rest of the facility. "The goal of our successful, patient-centered approach is to help get patient back as close to their level of independence before coming to us," says rehabilitation director Sara Hastings. Whether it's for speech, physical or occupational therapy, the rehabilitation center uses a team approach to patient care.

In addition to the rehabilitation

wing, Gorham House has several other "neighborhoods" within their large, well-maintained facility on New Portland Road. While some town residents might pass the facility off as a large-scale nursing home, Gorham House is multidimensional in its makeup and its approach to care. From a secured memory care unit to almost completely-independent living, the continuum of care spectrum reaches both ends of the rainbow of life.

Embedded within Gorham House itself, the Gorham House Preschool serves as just another dimension of the holistic approach to the resident experience. "She loves her play dates with her grandfriends," says Gorham mother Katie Gasbarrone whose three-year-old daughter attends the preschool. From in-house performances in the great room, day trips to the city, to weekly bus trips to Hannaford for the independent living residents, Gorham House provides an almost limitless menu of engaging and social activities.

The 230 full and part time staff of this large local employer, headed by executive director Michelle Belhumeur, is made up, in large part, by people who have been working there for ten or more years. "We just loved those people," Small says as her eyes glisten thinking of the bittersweet times spent with the staff of Gorham House. "You can really tell that they love what they do."



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Interview with Miss Maine

BY GORHAM TIMES STAFF

Samantha Dahlborg (GHS '12) was recently crowned Miss Maine 2014 in a pageant held at the Marriott Sable Oaks in South Portland. Twenty-three young women competed for the coveted title of Miss Maine. A freshman at the University of Southern Maine, Dahlborg, is majoring in Communications and minoring in Studio Arts.

Gorham Times: Tell me about your experiences running for the Miss Maine title.

Samantha Dahlborg: Running for Miss Maine took a lot of preparation. I had a personal trainer/nutritionist and a pageant coach who had been helping me gear up for pageant weekend since early May.

GT: How did you get involved in pageants?

SD: I always wanted to do a pageant, but never knew where to begin. I was actually on Facebook one day and Randi Preis (pageant coach) asked if I'd ever thought about doing the Miss Maine pageant. She gave me all of the information needed to attend the interviews where they choose the contestants for the upcoming pageant. I owe Randi a HUGE thank you for everything she's done for me.

GT: Why do you love pageants?

SD: I always loved the idea of inspiring people and I love making a differ-

ence, and as a pageant queen I'm given the opportunity to make a difference.

GT: How so?

SD: With my title, I can post on social media and publicize what I'm doing for the community and how people can help. The Preble Street Resource Center is a cause close to my heart. I'm donating good clothes to the center that I've either outgrown or just don't wear and hope to encourage people to do the same.

GT: What are the benefits of winning this particular pageant?

SD: In addition to representing the state of Maine at charity events and galas, I'm looking forward to meeting one of my favorite gown designers, Sherri Hill, and of course Donald Trump!

GT: Do you have sponsors?

SD: I have sponsors for almost everything. For example, I have a personal trainer, a makeup artist, and a hairdresser who styles my hair before an event.

GT: What are the biggest obstacles you face between now and next summer when you run in the Miss USA pageant?

SD: I'm slightly addicted to pizza and chocolate chip cookies so cutting those out will be pretty difficult!

GT: What are the benefits of winning?

SD: Whoever wins Miss USA will



Photo credit of Todd Ward

then continue her reign at Trump Tower with the winners of Miss Teen USA and Miss Universe with lots of benefits. Miss USA will then train to compete in the Miss Universe pageant, representing the entire country.

GT: What are some of the misconceptions that people have of pageants?

SD: People think that pageants are full of fake, catty girls who will do anything to win. My experience was nothing like that. All of the girls in the Miss Maine USA pageant were very friendly and supportive. One girl misplaced her bathing suit after preliminaries and girls were offering her their own swimsuits if she made it to finals. She did make it and chose from an array of suits! It was a very sweet moment for me to witness.

GT: Any final thoughts about being Miss Maine?

SD: I just want to thank everybody in the community who has supported me. I hope to inspire and give back to the town of Gorham.

Louie Fogg CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Treworgy, work in his gardens at his home on Flaggy Meadow Road. Mr. Treworgy reassured Jennifer that Louie was his friend and he was a friend to her as well. From those early childhood days, as Jennifer played in the Treworgy gardens where Louie worked until recent months, Louie always waved and chatted with her whenever they met.

Angelo Sotiropoulis, everyone's friend and owner of Gorham House of Pizza, befriended Louie in the early days of starting his business. Louie would come in for coffee and began doing odd jobs for Angelo. He cleared snow from the sidewalks in front of the restaurant in exchange for plenty of hot coffee and sometimes Louie's favorites, pepperoni pizza or a cheeseburger.

Those of us who remember 14 Main Restaurant, a special place in town where people went for a great breakfast or lunch, will also remember Louie as a daily patron. At 6 a.m. sharp, Louie was there for coffee and sometimes toast. Charlie and Lucy Balzarini, the owners of the restaurant in the space where Key Bank currently sits, remembered Louie and his daily visits. Charlie, remembering Louie well, recalled how his skin was like leather from years of working outside twelve months of the year in all kinds of weather. No matter how often Charlie and Lucy expressed concern for Louie and his habitual smoking and not so healthy eating habits, Louie had a stock answer, "Don't worry 'bout it". It seems like a fitting way to end a tribute to a friend, Louis Fogg.

There was no funeral service for Louie. The obituary stated he would be buried in Buxton. This article serves as a tribute to a man who I thought should be identified in case you might have seen him around town and wondered who he was or what he did. Hopefully, your questions have been answered.



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Time to Check Your Progress toward Your Retirement Goals

By ED DOYLE

Now that another year is beginning, it's a good time to take stock of where you are on your journey toward financial security. Of course, you could find many different "measuring sticks" to assess your progress, but you can certainly gain considerable information just by asking yourself some basic questions.

Here are a few to consider:

How close am I to my retirement goals? Your comprehensive investment strategy should include a reasonably good estimate of how much money you will eventually need to sustain the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned. At least once a year, you should evaluate how much closer you've gotten to your goals than the year before.

Am I making sufficient progress toward my goals? When assessing your progress, try to determine if your portfolio is properly allocated between stocks, stock-based vehicles, bonds, government securities, certificates of deposit and other investments. If you're "overweighted" in a particular asset class, such as cash, you may be impeding your ability to move toward your goals.

Am I adhering to my investment strategy? To stick with your invest-

ment strategy, you need to invest at regular intervals and meet regularly with your financial professional to review your progress and make adjustments — such as rebalancing your portfolio — when necessary. Of course, even with regular progress reviews and portfolio rebalancing, it can be challenging, psychologically and emotionally, to stick with a strategy. For example, during any given year the financial markets could be down, and your results might be disappointing. Nonetheless, if you have built a diversified portfolio containing quality investments, and your portfolio is well suited to your own risk tolerance and time horizon, you don't necessarily need to make changes following a down year in the markets.

What aspects of my life have changed in the past year? Your investment strategy should be based entirely on your individual needs and circumstances — so if these have changed during the past year, you may also have to adjust the way you invest. Consider any and all changes in your life — marriage, new children, divorce, remarriage, new job, new home, etc. — and then try to determine what impact these changes might have on your long-term financial strategy and if you need to adjust that strategy in response.

Have I changed my thinking on my retirement goals? Over time, you might undergo some changes in your thinking about retirement. Perhaps you've decided that you no longer want to retire early and travel the world; instead, you've discovered a growing desire to open a small business or do some consulting. Any significant changes you make to your retirement plans will likely have a big effect on your savings and investment strategies, so you'll want to incorporate these changes into your planning as soon as possible.

By asking, and answering, these questions at the beginning of each year, you should always have a good sense of where you are in pursuit of your long-term goals — and what you need to do to bring those goals closer to reality.



Ed Doyle operates the Gorham branch office of Edward Jones. He is experienced in all aspects of financial planning, retirement income planning, tax-advantaged education savings plans. Printed with permission from Edward Jones Investment.

Clerk's Corner

By JENNIFER ELLIOTT
Acting Town Clerk

Well, this winter has been a doozy so far. Our office has had many people come in and register snowmobiles and purchase fishing licenses in anticipation of continued cold weather. If you need to register something and we have closed for the day, or the roads are too bad to travel, you can check visit our website at www.gorham-me.org for several helpful online services.

As a reminder, there are volunteer committees that will have vacancies. They include Planning Board, Parks & Conservation, Recycling, Zoning Board of Appeals, Board of Voter Registration Appeals, Economic Development Corporation, Fair Hearing Board, Board of Assessment Review, Board of Health and Board of Trustees-Baxter Memorial Library. Applications can be picked up at the Clerk's office or on our website.

The heating fund that relies on donations for Gorham's citizens has been depleted. Please keep that in mind if you are looking for end of the year donations. Those in need thank you.

Stay safe and have a great New Year.



Acting Town Clerk Jennifer Elliott can be reached by e-mail at jelliott@gorham.me.us or by phone at 222-1674.

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Village Fire Alarms Sound Off

BY GORHAM TIMES STAFF

Two Gorham schools used their emergency management plans in unforeseen situations last week.

On January 8, fire alarms at Village School went off at approximately 9:20 a.m. Students, staff, and other personnel evacuated the building to designated areas as established by the school's Crisis Management and Fire Evacuation plans.

Due to the severe cold, many students were escorted to the nearby post office until busses arrived to transport them safely back to school. After waiting outside for 5-10 minutes, other students were allowed into the gymnasium until clearance was given from the Gorham Fire Department and School Department maintenance supervisors to return to classrooms.

The cause of the alarm was determined to be a heat sensor in the kitchen, which was inspected and attended to by maintenance supervisors.

In an e-mailed response to parents, Principal Brian Porter thanked staff,

students and community members for their quick and immediate responses. He wrote, "We appreciate the support and hard work of all involved to make sure all of our students were safe and accounted for during this unforeseen event."

The following day on January 9, Gorham Middle School had a preplanned lockdown drill already scheduled for 1 p.m. with Gorham's public safety officials. However, the alarms malfunctioned at 9 a.m. and again one hour later-hours before the scheduled drill was to take place.

There was some initial confusion when the first alarm sounded, in part because of the eight-second delay from when the alarm sounds to when the recorded instructions begin. Additionally, the alarms malfunctioned when students were changing classes.

"We followed our protocols exactly as we practiced," said GMS Principal Bob Riley. "This being said, as we do with every drill, we hold an after-action review to discuss any issues or things we need to do better."

Leadership through Service: Holidays with the Key Club

BY MEGAN BENNETT

Over this past holiday season, The Key Club of Gorham High School, a student-led organization that teaches leadership through service to others, has had its hands full with fundraisers, events, and volunteer service work.

On December 6th, a handful of the Key Club members dedicated "Key Clubby Bears" to the Gorham Police and Fire Department. The bears are given to help calm injured or frightened children during a time of trauma.

The next big event was the Santa Breakfast, a breakfast and silent auction to benefit Operation Tribute held at the Cressey Road United Methodist Church. Operation Tribute is one of Key Club's biggest fundraisers during the holiday season.

Founded by Marc Badeau, Operation Tribute is a program to recognize the sacrifice and courage of the children of military families in the New England area. Since 2007, the program has dedicated time and effort to provide children with family members of all branches of service with holiday gifts.

This year, the auction and breakfast raised around \$900.

To wrap up the holiday season, on December 21st and 22nd, groups

of Key Club members volunteered as "elves" at the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Company & Museum for the annual Polar Express train in Portland during its sixth season. The task was to prepare and deliver hot chocolate to one of the cars on the train. Once the "elves" boarded the train, they handed out drinks, cookies, and bells to correspond with the story of the Polar Express. The whole train ride lasted around forty-five minutes. In that time, Christmas carols were played as well as a reading from the Polar Express Story. After the train ride, the "elves" departed the cars, waved to all the children, and prepared for the next shift.

Key Club President Lydia Story, reflected on the event: "The best part of volunteering at the Polar Express was the imagination and excitement of the kids. Most of them truly believed that we were going to the North Pole, and being a part of that experience for them was really cool."

The Gorham Key Club hopes to continue and strengthen their volunteer service throughout the following year. To learn more about Operation Tribute and The Polar Express train, please visit www.operationtribute.com and www.mainenarrowgauge.org/polar-express.

Letters to the Editor CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Dear *Gorham Times*:

It was not an "ordinary Wednesday" of volunteering. Immediately upon my arrival, the alarm sounded. With a five-degree day, this was not planned. The classes lined up and proceeded with their evacuation procedure like "clockwork". No coats, some without shoes, and no complaints! What I experienced next warmed my heart, despite the cold. I witnessed kids taking off sweatshirts (if they were fortunate to have a coat or multiple layers) to share with their classmates that had none. I watched the older classes form a huddled barricade around the younger students to hold in heat. I watched compassion unfold in a manner that brought tears to my eyes! While this was occurring, I watched the teachers and staff plan how to protect and care for these kids. They took off their own layers to share and hugged children to them to keep the heat in.

Their number one priority was getting them to warmth and safety!! The staff at Village Elementary ceases to amaze me. Not only are our children being taught the traditional school subjects, they are being taught compassion, character, and humility. These are traits that can't just be taught, these are traits that are witnessed and one chooses to emulate. Thank you to the entire staff for being incredible role models, guardians of safety, and caregivers for our children. Thank you for having the courage to step outside the box to go beyond your "job description," in order to keep the BEST interest of the students at heart!! I believe teachers possess "nerves of steel" in crisis while at the same time having the nurturing heart to cradle a child to feel safe and loved. It is an under-appreciated role. We only have our children at home for a short while and they are irreplaceable.

Sara Castonguay

school notes

Since 1952, International Fellowship, Inc. a non-profit organization has been successfully exchanging students to and from the United States. Families in this area are invited to reach across the borders and host a high school aged exchange student for the semester or the academic year.

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Please visit our website for more information at www.internationalfellowship.org, write to International Fellowship, Inc., P.O. Box 130, Westfield, New York 14787, email infelwes@gmail.com, or call 1-800-647-8839.

The Annual Gorham District National Geographic Geography Bee will be held on January 22 in the Gorham Middle School Auditorium at 7 p.m. Come see the students compete for a spot at the state title. The bee is free and open to the public. The winner will receive a medal, \$100 in cash, and a spot to compete at the state level in Farmington in April.



Courtesy Photo

At the Bear Dedication, members of the Gorham Police and Fire Department are standing amongst Key Club members Hannah Linscott, Andrew Briggs, Lydia Story, Lyley Butler, Courtney Roberts, Aaron Erikson, and Robert Campbell.

In May, **Mainely Plumbing & Heating** celebrated 28 years in business. We want to thank all our customers and friends who support us and local businesses in Gorham through the years.

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DECEMBER 11, 2013

Gorham School Committee Meeting Report

BY ROBIN SOMES

During the Public Comments portion of the School Committee meeting, Kelli DeVeaux of Gorham addressed the Committee to recommend that they publicize a status on All Day Kindergarten. DeVeaux has been active in having All Day K implemented, and, although it was not budgeted or planned to be implemented in the current year, it is now on the radar and getting the attention needed to be considered and planned for an implementation as soon as next year. DeVeaux explained that members of the community have asked her about where things now stand. In addition, DeVeaux said "I know when we met last spring there was a conversation about the need for curriculum development and professional development so that we would be prepared for Full Day Kindergarten implementation. I'm curious if that has been undertaken and what the current status is regarding that."

In response, Committee Chair Dennis Libby stated that All Day Kindergarten would be part of the preliminary budget for FY2015 that will be presented to the Committee by Superintendent Ted Sharp. "We are not in the process of looking at the budget yet, but that is still our intent," said Libby. He also said there is a committee meeting regularly to work on curriculum and professional development. "Should it pass all the hurdles needed for an implementation next year, we will be well positioned for it," stated Libby.

In his report to the Committee, Superintendent Sharp announced the School Culture survey was recently conducted. The online survey is done concurrently by staff throughout all Gorham schools on individual laptops and is anonymous. This was the sec-

ond time the survey was conducted—the first was implemented three years ago and proved, he said, to be "incredibly valuable." A corresponding action plan was developed to help direct efforts toward changes and improvements as reflected from the survey results.

Sharp explained the two parts to the survey: one dealing with culture and the other with leadership. "Most researchers would say that if you don't have a healthy, vibrant culture, the rest of it doesn't matter. It would be like sprinkling seeds on a desert. So we take it very, very seriously," he said. The leadership capacity portion of the survey is intended to reflect what opportunities exist for people to share in decision-making processes. Sharp indicated results would be presented to the School Committee sometime in the spring.

Sharp also announced that another survey targeted at parents of kindergarten through eighth grade students would be conducted in January. As with the School Culture survey, it will be completely anonymous for people to feel comfortable and share their perspectives. In addition, Sharp said he has been in communication with Gorham High School College and Career Councilor Kim Bedrosian to develop a survey aimed at high school graduates.

In other action, the School Committee voted:

5-0 to reaffirm the appointment of Ted Sharp as superintendent as per the annual protocol for Maine school districts to endorse their superintendents.

5-0 to transfer a bus to the Recreation Department.

5-0 to approve the appointments of David Dunn as skiing coach for Gorham High School and Melanie Doran for professional development at Gorham Middle School. Both positions are included in the current budget.

Students Fighting Hunger

Great Falls students in grades one through five participated in the Empty Plate Project, an international grassroots effort to fight hunger. The basic premise is simple: students create handcrafted bowls and are asked to keep a bowl as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. The money raised is donated to an organization working to end hunger and food insecurity. Parents made donations in any amount to the Food Pantry to purchase their child's bowl. Great Falls raised \$2,212.50 which was donated to the Gorham Food Pantry. Pictured are Great Falls Assistant Principal Becky Fortier (left), Gorham Food Pantry Director Fran Doucette (center), and art teacher Allie Rimkunas (right). Additionally, over 345 canned goods and non-perishable items were collected at the school's Family Movie Night in December and donated to the food pantry.



Courtesy Photo

Winners of First Annual Madison Prize Essay Contest Announced



Photo credit Stacy Sallinen

Winners of the First Annual Madison Prize Essay Contest are (front row) Erica Mallory, Kate Gilbert, and Nick Pierson. Pictured in the back row are GMS Principal Bob Riley, John Doyle, and Jim Means.

BY STACY SALLINEN
Staff Writer

Erica Mallory, an eighth grade student at Gorham Middle School, won first place in the First Annual Madison Prize for Written Excellence essay contest. Her essay, "What Makes America Great," won a \$250 award at a school-wide assembly on December 20.

Erica, who has always enjoyed writing, chose to write about the misfit who rewrote history. "I always thought misfits were not well-known, but should be appreciated," she said.

Two students received a \$100 prize as runners-up in the contest: Nick Pierson, a seventh grade student, for his essay, "The Constitution," and Kate Gilbert, an eighth grade student, for her essay, "Our Nation's Great Leaders."

The Madison Prize for Written Excellence contest, sponsored by

Gorham's Republican committee, celebrates the nation's history by encouraging thought and reflection on the topics presented. Middle school students who submitted essays responded to this year's question, "What made the United States Great?" Winning essays, judged by School Committee member John Doyle, Jim Means, and Gladys Carter, all members of the Republican committee, were selected based on knowledge of the topic, clarity of ideas, persuasiveness, and presentation.

In previous years, the Gorham's Republican committee awarded a scholarship to a graduating senior. This year, they elected to turn the scholarship into an educational showcase.

To read each of the three winning essays, visit Gorham Middle School Principal Robert Riley's weekly principal update blog: <http://gmsprincipalspage.com>.

Spare Change Collected to Protect Wildlife



Photo credit Laure McKeen

After reading the book "Wish Stealers" by Tracy Trivas, students in Mrs. Burns' and Mrs. McKeen's third grade classes started a fundraising project called Pennies for the Planet, a nationwide campaign powered by kids collecting and saving spare change to help protect wildlife and their habitats in the United States. This year's project benefited the Maine puffin. Although they are not endangered, they are threatened by human activities and are still rare in many areas where they were once abundant. Student teacher, Ms. Girard, helped the students create posters and prepare announcements at Narragansett asking for pennies and loose change. Their efforts were successful and they raised \$202.20.

GHS Winter Sports Update

COMPILED BY JEFF PIKE
Sports Editor

Skiing: Both the boys' and girls' teams started the season with a multi-team meet January 10th at Shawnee Peak. **Nate Roberts** finished third in the boys' slalom 1:38.3.

Girls' Hockey: The team is battling a play-off spot with a 5-6 record and seventh-place ranking in Western Maine. The top six teams will qualify for the post-season tournament.

Girls' Track: The team record stood at 8-5 at press time with **Jackie Turner** and **Hannah Southard** earning Outstanding Senior Division Athlete awards for multi-team meets December 21st and January 4th respectively. **Jackie Turner** has the best state-wide time in the 600 meters

(1:36.04) while **Laura Turner** has the top time in the one-mile racewalk (8:32.57)

Boys' Hockey: The team started with a 5-1 record and second-place ranking in Western Maine Class B. **Jared Wood** was named Forward of the Month for December by scoring five goals (including two game winners) and handing out six assists. **Justin Broy** was named Goaltender of the Month with four wins (including one shut-out) along with a 1.60 goals-against average/92.6 save percentage.

Boys' Track: The team began the season 8-3 in multi-team meets. **Jon Gray** (senior 800), **Dylan Truong** (pole vault), **Ben Foster** (1 mile), **Thomas Bradshaw** (2 mile), **Branden Kuusela** (junior hurdles, junior 400, junior triple jump), **Emerson Fox** (junior 200, junior long jump) and **Ethan Orach** (junior 800, junior high jump)

all went undefeated over three meets in their respective events. **Kuusela** was voted Junior Division Athlete of the Meet December 21st for winning three individual meets and a relay event.

Girls' Swimming: At press time the team had not lost any dual meets, posting a 4-0 record. At the team's most recent meet, a January 10th 108-61 win over Massabesic, **Ashley Clark** led with two individual event wins—100-yard butterfly (1:11.85) and 100-yard breaststroke (1:23.31).

Boys' Swimming: The team was 1-3 at press time. **Timmer Sposato** had set school records in the 100-yard backstroke and 200-yard individual medley. At the January 10th meet vs. Massabesic, **Tim Smith** won two events—200-yard individual medley (2:17.46) and 500-yard freestyle (5:58.69).

Girls' Basketball: With a 6-4 record, the Rams were ranked sixth in Western Maine Class A. In games played through January 9th, **Emily Esposito** was third in the conference in scoring (17.9 points-per-game) while **Abby Hamilton** was tenth (12.3). Esposito was also fourth in rebounding (8.3 per game) and assists (3.4) while **Jessica Rexrode** was fifth in assists (3.4).

Boys' Basketball: At press time the team was on the edge of the playoffs with a 4-6 record and an 11th-place ranking in Western Maine Class A—where 12 teams qualify. Junior **Nick Thibeault** turned in one of the best individual performances of the year with 27 points and eight rebounds in a 49-31 win over Cheverus January 7th. For the season, Thibeault leads in scoring (15.1 points-per-game) followed by **Sam Kilborn** (13.0), who also leads in rebounds (8.8 per game). **Cody Elliot** leads in assists with 4.4 per game.

sports Etc.

Free Throw Competition: All boys and girls ages 9 to 14 are invited to participate in the annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship, January 25th at Gorham High School from 12 to 1:30 p.m. Winners in each gender-age group will progress through local, district,

and state competitions, with state winners becoming eligible for the international championship. All contestants are required to furnish proof of age and written parental consent. For entry forms or additional information, contact Mike Chabot at 839-3963.

in the Zone

Player of the Week Honors: **Lexi Merrifield**, pictured on right, (GHS '13), a freshman at Thomas College in Waterville, was named as the North Atlantic Conference Rookie of the Week on December 9th. Merrifield averaged 13.7 points-per-game over three games during the week leading up to her award, including a game-high 26 points with 15 rebounds in a 70-63 victory over Lyndon State on December 6th. On the week, she averaged eight rebounds and 1.3 blocks per game.

40th Year of Coaching at GMS: **Bob Gould** is in the midst of his 40th year coaching girls' basketball for Gorham Middle School. Watch for full coverage on Gould's journey in a future Gorham Times.

Two-Sport Star: GHS senior **Hannah Southard** can claim the unusual distinction of playing two varsity sports in the same season. She is a valuable member and captain of the girls' indoor track team and is in her second year as a key member of the girls' ice hockey team. Watch for more about Southard in a future issue of the Gorham Times.



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Hold On To That Baton!



Courtesy Photo

In the picture on the left, Tony Cooper (right) hands off the baton to Thomas Bernier for the GHS boys' indoor track team during a relay race at USM while in the picture on the right, Abby Perkins competes in a girls' indoor track relay race.

Upcoming GHS Varsity Sports Events

Thursday, January 16

7:10 p.m. Boys' Hockey vs. Greely @ Falmouth Family Ice Rink

Friday, January 17

4:00 p.m. Girls' Swimming vs. Kennebunk @ Daven Pool, Westbrook
 4:00 p.m. Boys' Swimming vs. Kennebunk @ Daven Pool, Westbrook
 5:00 p.m. Boys' Skiing Multi-Team Meet @ Shawnee Peak
 5:00 p.m. Girls' Skiing Multi-Team Meet @ Shawnee Peak
 7:00 p.m. Girls' Basketball at Noble
 7:00 p.m. Boys' Basketball vs. Noble @ GHS Gym

Saturday, December 21

12:00 p.m. Boys' Track Multi-Team Meet @ USM
 12:00 p.m. Girls' Track Multi-Team Meet @ USM
 5:30 p.m. Boys' Hockey vs. Gardiner @ Kennebec Ice Arena
 6:10 p.m. Girls' Hockey vs. Winslow @ Sukee Ice Arena

All games subject to change. For up-to-date schedules of all GHS sports teams, visit www.digitalsports.com

GHS Winter Sports State Titles

Girls' Basketball: (6) 1978, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1990, 1999.

Boys' Basketball: (4) 1963, 1982, 1996, 2000.

Boys' Indoor Track: (3) 1999, 2004, 2005.

Cheerleading: (1) 2001.

Compiled by Emily Lewis from banners on display at the GHS gymnasium. If we missed any winter teams that won state titles, please let us know!



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ecoMaine CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

next year. There are several factors that influence the municipal budget and these savings may go toward something other than tax relief. To compare these savings to the cost of buying bags, one small bag a week costs a household \$65 a year, and one large bag a week costs \$125 a year. Recyclable materials are not charged a tipping fee; when people recycle, they not only save the cost of buying a bag but it also reduces the cost to the community.

Over the years there have been several complaints about the pay per bag system currently in use in Gorham. People complain about the quality of the bags, the inability to fit them into

a standard barrel, and the need to bag trash twice in order to get the most value from the larger bags.

The pay per bag program is a user-fee-based program that funds about 56% of Gorham's \$799,646 solid waste budget. Scarborough, also an ecoMaine member, does not have a pay per bag system. According to the Scarborough finance department they spend \$1.4 million on the curbside collection program. Westbrook, not an ecoMaine member, contracts with Casella for both pickup and disposal. Like Scarborough, Westbrook provides trash and recyclable "toter bins" that are rolled to the curb on trash day. The total cost to Westbrook for the curbside program is \$952,787.

The Amaryllis

(Reprinted by popular request from January 19, 2012, Gorham Times)

BY LINDA TREWORGY FAATZ

Many of us received an amaryllis bulb as a holiday gift or purchased one for our own winter enjoyment. The flowers are stunning and bright and grow on sturdy stems. They are fast growing so children and adults alike can enjoy measuring their growth progress. They take little care and can summer over in the garden to bloom another year.

To ensure success, here's what you need to do: Be sure you have a good-sized bulb that is firm and has healthy roots. Plant it in a snug pot that is just slightly larger than the bulb. Be sure to use a potting mix that you have dampened. The container must have drainage holes. Nestle the bulb into the center of the pot. Fill the pot with more soil, up to the bulb's shoulders where it tapers inward. The top third of the bulb should be uncovered. Press the soil down and water well.

After the initial planting, water sparingly - only when dry - until growth emerges. Fertilize once a month with a diluted solution of houseplant fertil-

izer. Support with stakes if necessary as the blooms can be heavy. After the flowers open, keep the plant out of direct sun-light and away from heat. Temperatures of 55 to 70 degrees work best.

In the late spring, take the pot outside and continue to fertilize over the summer months. Stop watering the amaryllis in August. Bring it inside before the first frost. Cut down the foliage and store it in a cool, dark place for eight weeks.

Repot the bulb in new potting mix (no garden soil, please). If, over the summer, the bulb has multiplied, the babies can be potted in separate pots. Water thoroughly and begin the care cycle outlined above for another blooming year.



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.

Gorham Times

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Fiction Suggestions

By JAN WILLIS

The winter months are here, and it is a great time to curl up by the fire or under quilts and blankets and indulge in the pleasure of a good book. The question, of course, is which book to read. There are so many good choices. Here are just a few:

We Are Water, a recently released novel by Wally Lamb. Equally as good and possibly better than earlier novels, *She's Come Undone* and *I Know This Much Is True*, Lamb takes two actual events that happened in his native Connecticut and weaves them into this new book. As the novel begins, Anna Oh is preparing to marry Viveca, her art dealer, in the town where Anna raised her three children with ex-husband, Orion, a psychologist. The novel weaves numerous story lines involving these six characters as well as Josephus Jones, an African-American laborer and controversial artist based on a real person named Ellis Ruley, who died in 1959. Warning: this book is hard to set aside. Favorite quotation from the book - "You can look back on the past. Just don't stay stuck there."

Mrs. Poe by Lynn Cullen is based on the premise that Edgar Allan Poe

had an affair with a poet of high society named Frances Osgood. The two real life characters frequented the same literary get-togethers called "conversations" set in a private New York City home. Mrs. Osgood's husband was "away on business" and Poe's young wife, Virginia was very ill. The author notes that some Poe scholars deny an affair ever happened. Cullen does an amazing job of taking the reader into the drawing rooms of characters like John Russell Bartlett, best known for the Dictionary of Americanisms, and introducing Horace Greeley, Rufus Griswold, Longfellow, Audubon, Whitman, and Samuel Morse who all moved in the same small literary circle. Favorite quotation - attributed to Poe, "It's true what they say, you know. No matter how fictitious, writer's stories are always about themselves."

White Dog Fell From the Sky by Eleanor Morse is possibly the best Maine author book of 2013. Set in Botswana, two of the main characters are Isaac Muthethe, a medical student fleeing from the brutality of apartheid in South Africa and Alice Mendelssohn, an American expat with a philandering husband. The third major character is White Dog who shows up unexpectedly and as Alice stated has the "ability to live in an eternal today." Morse lived in Botswana during the 1970's. Certainly, this book is specific to place, but Morse told a small group of her readers that she always starts with characters and that the characters drive the story. She tries to "feel inside their lives". Favorite quotation from the book - "Be grateful. There is not one moment in life when it is not possible to be grateful".

Old Church, New Sign

By GORHAM TIMES STAFF

Travelers along Route 25 between Gorham and Standish have something new to look at as they travel back and forth—the West Gorham Union Church has a new church sign.

Last month the near 115-year-old church, which sits on the corner of Route 25 and 112, received the final approval from the town to erect a new sign, and just before the first winter storm of December fell, a new sign went up.

"This new sign is a testimony to all the many members, both past and present, of the church," said Rev. Matt McDonald, the Minister of the church, "Not only is this a very lovely new sign, but it is also a wonderful tool for advertising. This sign will let the many thousands of people who travel by the



Photo credit Rev. Matt McDonald

church every week know that they are all welcome to come and worship God with our congregation."

For more information about West Gorham Union Church, call 839-5946 or find them at facebook.com/WestGorhamChurch.

Cold Weather Warning Brings Potential Dangers

THREE STEPS FOR SENIORS TO STAY SAFE

By DEBBIE HILT
Home Instead Senior Care

With dangerously cold temperatures in the forecast, Home Instead Senior Care says now is the time for seniors and their loved ones to brush up on cold weather safety tips.

Those over the age of 65 account for nearly half of all hypothermia deaths. As the body ages, the ability to maintain a normal internal body temperature decreases, creating an insensitivity to

moderately cold temperatures. Seniors may not realize they are putting themselves at risk until symptoms appear. Symptoms of hypothermia include: shivering, exhaustion, confusion, fumbling hands, memory loss, slurred speech and drowsiness. If symptoms are present, immediate medical attention is necessary.

Stay Warm: The leading reason for hypothermia in the elderly is due to poorly heated homes, which is entirely preventable.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



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COMMUNITY

DEAN'S LIST

Carly Perkins (GHS '10) was named to the Dean's List at Providence College for the Fall 2013 semester.

Amelia Whitten (GHS '12) was named to the Dean's List at Simmons College for the 2013 fall semester. She is majoring in both Psychology and Management and was also accepted into the Emerging Leaders Program.

Joshua Wright, a Freshman Accounting major, was named to Dean's List at Bob Jones University for the Fall 2013 semester.

ENGAGEMENTS

Peter and Deborah Loveitt of Gorham and Anna and Ronald Seekins of Windham are announcing the engagement of their son, Andrew Loveitt, to Courtenay Deane, daughter of Robert and Mary Beth Deane of Jay. Andrew, GHS '04, is a 2008 graduate of Juniata College with a degree in molecular biology and a doctoral graduate from the University of New England (UNE) College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is a resident in General Surgery at University of New Jersey Medicine and Dentistry. Courtenay is a 2004 graduate of Jay High School and a 2008 graduate of UNE where she received her undergraduate degree in medical biology and her doctorate in 2012 from UNE College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is a resident in osteopathic Manipulative Medicine/Neuromusculoskeletal Medicine at St. Barnabas Hospital in New York.



OF INTEREST

Four year-old **Gretchen Guinon** of Gorham started saving money in her sheep-shaped bank last Christmas and this year, on Christmas Eve, donated all the money to the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland. Executive Director Patsy Murphy is pictured at right receiving the donation from Gretchen. She is the daughter of Matt and Catherine Paul Guinon.



William Kilroy, a USM professor of theatre and Gorham resident, has been named the recipient of the Kennedy Center Medallion for his commitment to theatre education. Kilroy, who has extensive theatre, film and television roles to his credit, is in his 21st year of teaching at the University of Southern Maine and will direct the musical "The Mystery of Edwin Drood" in March.

The **First Parish Congregational Church** in Gorham will hold a **Chicken Pie Supper** on Saturday, Jan. 25 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. \$10/\$5 under 12. Public invited. FMI, 839-6353.

A **Roasted Turkey Community Dinner** will be served at the **First Parish Congregational Church** in Gorham on Monday, Jan. 27 at 5:30 p.m. This FREE meal is prepared and served by the Gorham Ecumenical Council. All are welcome!

Mark Publicker, MD, (at right) of Gorham, was recently named in Down East Magazine's "Maine TopDocs Physician Survey 2014" as one of the top physicians in the field of Addiction Medicine. Physicians who made the list were chosen through a peer review in which Maine doctors were asked who they would go to for help if their own family members had health concerns in the specified areas. Dr. Publicker is an addiction medicine specialist practicing at the Mercy Hospital Recovery Center in Westbrook.



Visualizing the Civil War-Homefront and Battlefield. USM history professor **Libby Bischof** will speak about photography during the Civil War on Wednesday, Jan. 22 at the Baxter Memorial Library. 6 p.m. (Snow date; Jan. 23) FMI, 318-0584.

Woodfords Family Services recently recognized two Gorham residents: Training Coordinator **Maria Romano**, right top, with a President's Award. Romano was selected for recognition because of her commitment to customer service, her inter-personal skills, energy and enthusiasm. Woodfords also recognized Maintenance Technician **Dennis Libby**, right bottom, with a Directors' Award. Libby was selected for recognition because of his work ethic, skills and attitude. Woodfords Family Services is a nonprofit organization committed to the support and inclusion of people with special needs and their families.



Join **Maine author John Ford Sr.** for an evening of stories and memories of his time as a Maine Game Warden on January 29 at 7 p.m. at Baxter Memorial Library. Book signing will follow. Books will be available for sale at the event. Sponsored by the Friends of Baxter Memorial Library. FMI, call 222-1190.



Gorham Business Exchange Member meeting, January 22, Gorham Saving Bank, 10 Wentworth Drive. Workshop by Business Coach Jodi Flynn about "Starting the New Year Strong." Meet and greet to start at 11:30 a.m., catered lunch. \$15 GBE members, \$25 non-members. FMI, 892-5515.

ON-GOING EVENTS

The **Lakes Region Senior Drop-In Center**, temporarily located at Sunset Ridge Golf Links, 771 Cumberland St., Westbrook, offers a variety of daily activities and drop-in classes for seniors on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9 a.m. Stop in for morning coffee or play pickleball, poker, bingo, miniature golf, shuffleboard or cribbage. Join in on exercise, watch a movie or learn to knit. FMI, 892-5604 or email bwa31@maine.rr.com.

The **Southern Maine Agency on Aging** will hold office hours every Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at St. Anne's Catholic Church in Gorham to help seniors with questions regarding Medicare benefits, prescription drug programs, property tax and rent rebates and more. FMI, call SMAA at 396-6500.

The **Gorham Medical Closet**, located at the Municipal Center, 75 South St., is free and available to Gorham residents in need of portable wheelchairs, hospital beds, shower seats, commodes, walkers, canes and more. FMI, call 839-4579, 839-3630 or 839-3936.

USM NEWS

The **USM Art Department** will present "Transitions: USM Juried Art Alumni Exhibition," from Jan. 13 - March 28 from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mondays through Friday at the AREA Gallery, Woodbury Campus Center, USM Portland campus, 35 Bedford St., Portland. Free and open to the public.

The **USM Art Faculty Exhibition** will take place Jan. 23 - Feb. 14 at the Art Gallery, Gorham campus. The exhibition offers highlights from three decades of landscape paintings. Free and open to the public. FMI, usm.maine.edu/gallery

CLOSE TO HOME

Maine Guide Lou Zambello will talk about his book, "Fly Fishing Northern New England's Seasons: How Best to Fish the Five Fly Fishing Seasons of Northern New England," on Tuesday, Jan 21, 7 p.m. at the American Legion Post 62 in Westbrook. Open and Free to the public. FMI, write to heinz@maine.rr.com.

The Board of Directors of **Schoolhouse Arts Center** will hold its annual meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m. at Standish Town Hall (175 Northeast Road, Standish). If interested in the Schoolhouse Arts Centers goals and activities, please plan to attend. FMI, 642-3743 or schoolhousearts@gmail.com.

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New Year Gorham Ushers in 2014

By JOSHUA WOLFE
Executive Director New Year Gorham

Despite the cold temperatures, New Year Gorham 2013-14 was a success. From watching the local Don Roy Trio perform to dancing to the sounds of the Maine Marimba Ensemble, Gorham residents were engaged and entertained at this year's New Year Gorham.

As in the past, this year's event was held under extremely cold weather conditions. This typically makes it harder for families with younger children to attend, but residents of Gorham pushed onward—approximately 350 Gorham residents attended the event.



Photo credit Debra Libby

Children and adults alike were amazed by the feathered friends (and other wildlife) brought by Granite State Zoo.

New Year Gorham would like to thank the many individuals, businesses, and organizations for helping with hosting and organizing this year's event. Like many town events, New Year Gorham is very dependent upon the willingness and participation of volunteers.

Lastly, New Year Gorham would like to conclude by making two special acknowledgements. Thank you to former New Year Gorham Chairperson Virginia Cross for bringing such an amazing and memorable event to the town. Without Virginia, this event would never have come to be. Thank you to all the families who shared this special evening with us! We look forward to seeing you at New Year Gorham 2014-15!



Photo credit Debra Libby

Clara Stickney (GHS '12) played her fiddle along with the Don Roy Trio as they entertained a crowd in the Council Chambers on New Year's Eve. Every once in a while, Clara puts aside her classical music and takes to "fiddling" using her natural ability passed to her through her Acadian lineage.

Cold Weather CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Keep the thermostat at 65 degrees, at least. Consistently check it to make sure your home is sufficiently warm. Even as heating costs rise, your safety should be a priority.

Put a carbon monoxide detector near where you sleep.

Ensure that there is adequate insulation, and check and clean the fireplace and furnace. Furnace filters should be replaced monthly.

Minimize drafts by filling old socks with sand and using them in drafty windowsills and door jams. Weather-strip around windows and doors. Keep doors to unused rooms closed and close curtains at night.

Add an extra blanket to the bed and warm the bed in advance with a hot water bottle. Never use an electric blanket - it may be difficult to operate the controls if the temperature needs to be adjusted in the night.

Dress in layers of loose fitting clothing. If you go outside, make sure your head is covered.

Preventing Falls: Every year, more than 1.6 million seniors end up in the emergency room because of a fall. With icy conditions, the chances of falling are even greater.

Take a couple minutes every day to stretch your limbs in order to loosen muscles.

Stay inside - make arrangements for someone to shovel and salt driveways and walkways. Professional caregivers can assist with to-do items, such as bringing in the mail and/or picking up groceries.

Wear shoes or boots with a non-skid sole.

Have handrails installed on outside walls for frequently used walkways.

If you use a cane or walker, check the rubber tips to make sure they are not worn smooth.

Build a network

Stay in touch in with family, friends and neighbors. Schedule phone calls, or enlist the help of a professional caregiver to come in for an hour a week.

Make arrangements for assistance in case of a blizzard or power outage. Keep important numbers in an emergency kit, along with non-perishable foods, water and medications.

Be familiar with your local resources. Visit www.ready.gov/seniors, www.noaa.gov or www.redcross.org for more information about cold weather.

Winter weather can take a toll on everyone, especially seniors. Seasonal affective disorder (SAD) can occur in seniors and impact their emotional health. Some signs to watch for with SAD include: a loss of energy, an increased appetite and an enhanced feeling of lethargy and tiredness. If symptoms are present, talk to your medical provider about treatment options.

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the *Courtesy of the Gorham Police Department* blotter

The Kind Neighbor

Sebago Lake Road caller reported the possible theft of a package that had been delivered to their residence. A kind neighbor secured the package due to the weather.

Shirley Lane caller reported that a neighbor lets their dogs attack the caller's dog, and when it happens, they tell caller that they shouldn't be walking.

Buck Street caller requested to speak with an officer regarding their two adult daughters harassing them over Facebook.

Sebago Lake Road caller reported receiving a scam call from someone from the Mega Millions Company saying they won a car and money, but they needed to send money to receive their prize.

Sunrise Lane caller reported that they had an animal in their chimney.

Caller was outside the Police Department and wanted to talk to an officer about a "hunting mishap", but stressed that no one was hurt.

Newell Street caller reported suspicious individuals at a home under construction. Individuals were contractors working on the house.

Main Street caller reported that someone pushed them.

Patrick Drive caller requested an officer come by regarding a skunk that appeared to be dying in caller's driveway.

Caller reported that a group of teens stole all of the traffic cones at the Lincoln Street intersection.

Brookfield Court caller reported a burglary.

Raymond man was arrested for domestic violence assault.

East Baldwin woman and a Standish man were each arrested for OUI.

The store manager requested to speak with an officer regarding a male subject who was not

permitted to buy alcohol. On the way out, he broke the gumball machines.

Flaggy Meadow Road caller reported there were four llamas in the road.

Willowdale Road caller would like to report that their neighbor's dogs are always out when caller's daughter is going to school and they chase her.

The Warden Service summonsed an individual for allowing two kids to ride snowmobiles that tore up the football fields at the elementary school.

Shift leader at Main Street business requested that an officer respond to deal with some subjects who were caught stealing.

Longfellow Road caller requested to speak with an officer because they were upset that a friend passed away.

Dolloff Road caller reported that they received a phone call from a company with a blocked number claiming that caller won a free medical alert system and the company wanted to come install it.

Sanborn Street caller reported that their teenager was supposed to be at detention, but didn't show up, and caller doesn't know where teen is.

Longfellow Road caller reported a resident became violent and punched a staff member in the face.

Wagner Farm Road caller reported that the snowmobile that Gorham Police Department was looking for earlier was being loaded into a pickup truck.

Gray Road man was arrested for terrorizing and violating a protection from abuse order.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JAN. 16

- Baby and Me Story Time, ages 0-18 mos., 9:30 a.m., Baxter Library.
- Toddler Time, ages 18-36 mos., 10 a.m., Baxter Library.
- Sewing Group, 2:30 p.m., Baxter Library.
- Gorham Food Pantry Open, 9-11 a.m., 299-B Main St. (Parking lot of St. Anne's Catholic Church, Gorham).

FRIDAY, JAN. 17

- Toddler Time, ages 18-36 mos., 10 a.m., Baxter Library.
- Peg's Itsy Bitsy Store, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., The Gorham House.

MONDAY, JAN. 20

- Martin Luther King Day – No School for grades K-12.

TUESDAY, JAN. 21

- Pre-school Story Time, ages 3-5, 9:30 a.m., Baxter Library.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 22

- Senior Lunch at St. Anne's Church, 12 p.m. \$3.50. Sponsored by the Town of Gorham.
- Story Time for babies and toddlers, 10-10:30 a.m., North Gorham Public Library.
- Gorham Food Pantry Open, 6-7 p.m., 299-B Main St. (Parking lot of St. Anne's Catholic Church, Gorham).

THURSDAY, JAN. 23

- Baby and Me Story Time, ages 0-18 mos., 9:30 a.m., Baxter Library.
- Toddler Time, ages 18-36 mos., 10 a.m., Baxter Library.
- Sewing Group, 2:30 p.m., Baxter Library.
- Gorham Food Pantry Open, 9-11 a.m., 299-B Main St. (Parking lot of St. Anne's Catholic Church, Gorham).

FRIDAY, JAN. 24

- Toddler Time, ages 18-36 mos., 10 a.m., Baxter Library.

MONDAY, JAN. 27

- Evening Story Time at Baxter Library, 6-6:40 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 28

- Pre-school Story Time, ages 3-5, 9:30 a.m., Baxter Library.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29

- Senior Lunch at St. Anne's Church, 12 p.m. \$3.50. Sponsored by the Town of Gorham.
- Story Time for babies and toddlers, 10-10:30 a.m., North Gorham Public Library.

Baxter Memorial Library, 71 South St.
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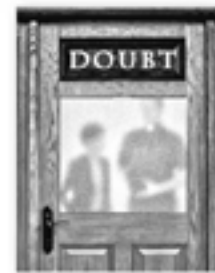
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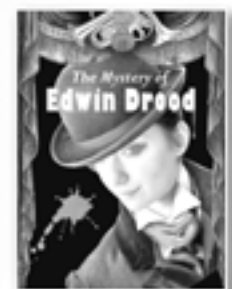
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