

Gorham Times

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SINCE 1995—A FREE, VOLUNTEER-RUN, BIWEEKLY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

Suspicious “Fort” Near Public Trails Investigated



Photo credit Rob Lavole

Passersby found a suspicious fort dug into the ground near the Weeks Rd. public trails.

SHERI FABER
Staff Writer

In a recent issue of the Gorham Times' Police Blotter, an entry dating back to December 6 noted that a person walking along the trails off of Weeks Road contacted the Gorham Police Department after seeing what the caller described as a fort in the woods. The caller found it suspicious but officers who came out to check the structure reported it as a “project of some sort or kids being very creative.” There was no trash or damage to property and the structure did not appear to be anything that would or could be used to harm others according to police.

Residents of the area use the trails for recreational activity and after word spread about the struc-

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Planning Board Discussions Continue on Railroad Ave. Property

SHERI FABER
Staff Writer

The Planning Board held a special workshop on April 4 to discuss potential changes to Railroad Avenue. Jon and Cindy Smith, owners of Great Falls Construction, Inc., presented their proposal for a five-story building with 30 studio, one- and two-bedroom apartments, a bowling alley and possible other retail tenants on 2.93 acres of property they own at 17 Railroad Ave. The building that now houses My Fit 24 and the Gorham School of Music will remain but the derelict storage building on the property will be torn down and overflow parking on part of the property, currently used by Sebago Brewing, will be eliminated.

The Smiths are seeking a contract zone for the project as the maximum height for a building in the urban commercial zone is 35 feet. Building plans have not yet been finalized but the current proposal calls for four full stories and a smaller fifth floor that is integrated into the roof. Smith told the Board that he believes the building will be about 60 feet tall.

Smith already has a waiting list for some of the apartments and anti-



Photo/drawing courtesy of Town of Gorham

Jon and Cindy Smith's proposal for the Railroad Ave. property includes a bowling alley, apartments and multiple parking areas.

pates there will be more demand. He does not expect to seek out college students as tenants.

Town codes require two parking spaces per apartment. Plans call for 29 angled spaces on Railroad Ave., 10 angled spaces on Elm St., 46 spaces

on the property (19 of those covered spaces) as well as a total of 30 spaces in the section between the new building and the My Fit 24 building.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Boy Scouts' Highest Achievement

COMPILED BY
GORHAM TIMES STAFF

Gorham resident Timothy O'Brien, son of Tim and Stacy O'Brien, attained Boy Scouts' highest rank of Eagle Scout on April 7. O'Brien belongs to Troop 817 in Gorham. He began as a Tiger Cub Scout in Pack 74 as a first-grader at Narragansett School and has been a Scout for eight years.

For his Eagle Scout project, O'Brien led and completed several improvements to the athletic field at Narragansett School. The project included scraping and painting the football goal posts and player benches. His project also included installing a 25-foot flag pole and a sign on the field's scoreboard. He selected this project because he wanted to give back to the Gorham Youth Football program after playing football for six years. His project was completed in time for the

last home game of the Gorham Grizzlies.

According to Trevor Jones, one of O'Brien's Scout leaders, “only about five percent of boys who enter the scouting program achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. Reaching scouting's highest rank requires sustained effort over several years, and most of the time other interests take over for boys long before they reach Eagle. What's most remarkable about Tim is that he's remained involved in the program



Photo credit Stacy O'Brien

Timothy O'Brien recently earned his Eagle Scout rank after years of hard work and dedication.

while balancing a passion for both football and baseball, which is very challenging. In Troop 817, we know that Scouting is not our boys only interest, and we give them the flexibility to work around their other activities. We'd like to think this a major reason why Tim is the third Eagle Scout from our small troop in less than a year and a half.”

When asked about reaching the rank of Eagle, O'Brien remarked, “It's an amazing accomplishment to reach the high honor of Eagle Scout. Thanks to my leaders for teaching me to instill the Scout Law and Oath into my everyday life. I owe a big thanks to my parents, scout leaders and troop for their support, to the local businesses that donated towards my project, and to my football teammates for all their hard work!”

O'Brien is in the eighth grade at St. Brigid School in Portland and plans to attend Cheverus in the fall.

FARMER'S MARKET & DELI
OPEN FOR BUSINESS

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The *Gorham Times* asked our three state legislators from Senate District Six, House District 26 and House District 27 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 to 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.

Retirement Planning for All Ages

SEN. AMY VOLK

Last week, April 11th to the 15th, was National Retirement Planning Week. To that end, I wanted to share some information from the week that was shared with me as part of that awareness campaign. People of all ages can benefit from retirement planning; it's not just an issue for older, wealthier adults to deal with. From students to grandparents, there are steps you can take to help your financial future.

If you're raising children, you can even help them get started saving for later in life with steps as simple as putting loose change in a jar. Not only will they pick up a habit for the rest of their lives, they'll have a nice little pot of money to start their savings with. And, once they are teenagers and able to start working, they will have an understanding of what it means to save.

As teenagers turn into twenty-somethings, they have more autonomy over their savings, and generally a larger paycheck. If you are in your twenties, you are also probably balancing some student loan debt and the new shock of rent and bills. By taking advantage of compound interest, the little bit you are able to save on a starting salary can grow by leaps and bounds over the years stretching

to retirement. As your career moves forward, be sure to take advantage if your employer offers a 401K plan, and keep an eye on its progress.

Once people have arrived at their thirties and forties, families, a house, and at least one car, have often entered the picture. With that, bills continue to grow even though your paycheck might also have increased. However, as in your twenties, saving what you are able to is of the utmost importance. The National Retirement Planning Coalition recommends this time of your life as the point at which setting a retirement savings goal and enlisting a financial planning professional can be of great benefit you and your family.

By your 50s, the National Retirement Planning Coalition recommends that you start thinking about, and hopefully are able to pin down, an age at which you will retire. Doing so helps you to gauge how your savings look, and what you may need to adjust in order to reach both your savings and retirement age goals. Then, once you hit your 60s, retirement should be on the horizon. As you start to see retirement approach, it is a good idea to begin researching such things as what kinds of Social Security benefits you can expect, the Medicare coverage you will have, and other such matters that you'll want

to have taken care of before you actually retire. Knowing your Social Security benefits can also help you to gauge your savings and how you are looking on your goal.

As we all know, life throws us curveballs and we hit speed bumps along the way that can affect even the most carefully planned lives and bank accounts. However, even taking small steps as you can to save for your retirement can make a big difference.

A website that I'd recommend visiting for information about retirement planning, no matter your age, is www.retireonyourterms.org. Here, you can find information and tools about how to get started with saving, or do some calculations about your current savings and where they are headed.

No matter where you are in life, it's worth taking a few minutes to think about, and act on, saving for retirement. You'll be grateful you did when it's your time to step away from the workplace.



(207) 229-5091,
(800) 423-6900,
amy.volk@legislature.maine.gov

Around Town

Town Manager David Cole recently awarded a 25-year service pin to Linda Straw of Baxter Memorial Library and a 10-year service pin to Dawn Pazmany of Assessing.

Water main construction has begun on Huston Road and Dyer Road as part of a multi-phased improvement plan to increase water pressure and fire protection capabilities. The project is expected to continue through September.

Clint Steele, of Leading Edge Chiropractic, and two associates have closed on 10 Preble St. paying \$135,000 for the property. The Town is keeping a portion of the lot at the back end of the property which may potentially be used for additional parking in the Village.

A tentative street sweeping schedule for Gorham is now available in the News and Announcements section of the Town website www.gorham-me.org.

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,

Two weeks ago the Gorham High School Humanities class traveled to the State House. We took the trip at the invitation of Rep. Andrew McLean who represents Gorham in the House of Representatives. Andrew came to our class in January and spent an hour talking with our students about public service and his work in the Legislature. After a lively discussion in our classroom, the students were impressed and curious about the Legislative process. We excitedly accepted Andrew's invitation to visit the State House.

We arrived at a chaotic time of day, while folks were waiting to enter the Chambers to begin the session. Andrew was incredibly busy, but he took the time to talk with the students and give them a personal tour of the State House, in between taking votes on the Legislature floor.

I was impressed with the level of respect Andrew has gained from his colleagues in the Legislature. In this year of a seemingly disruptive and contentious political climate in our country, clearly, Andrew has chosen to cross party lines and develop solid relationships with his Democratic and Republican colleagues. I know his willingness and abilities to be inclusive, impact the ability of legislation to get passed.

I am especially grateful to Andrew for taking care of our students in Augusta.

I am impressed with his honest, tireless commitment to representing his Gorham constituents.

Andrew is a dedicated legislator. We are represented very well in Augusta!
Paula Suttle

Dear Gorham Times,

If you have not recently driven by the North Gorham "swim hole" you are in for a shock.

An ugly wire fence on top of the parapet wall now extends all the way from the dam almost up to the beach. Those of us in the area who have enjoyed swimming, fishing and boating now have these options decreased.

Ironically the sign tacked to a tree states "Welcome to this Recreational Facility for all". Presumably the dam owner, Brookfield Energy, installed this most unwelcoming barrier to block full access to our beautiful Presumpscot River. What a contrast to the improved river access for boaters and fishermen that SAPPi has recently done at Dundee, Gambo and Tow Path where they have spent considerable money installing bridges, parking lots and boat put-ins.

For thirty-two years I and my offspring have come to North Gorham for cooling dips in hot weather. A "rite-of-passage" for the pre-teens was jumping off the hydrant. Now no more.

David Alexander

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PO Box 401, 77 South Street
Gorham, Maine 04038
Phone and Fax: (207) 839-8390
gorhamtimes@gmail.com
www.gorhamtimes.com

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Farmer's Market & Deli Open for Business

BAILEY O'BRIEN
Staff Writer

When you see the bull on the roof, you'll know you've made it to the Farmer's Market & Deli on Ossipee Trail. After opening to a warm reception on April 8, owner Carl Butterfield is looking forward to serving his customers his specialty sandwiches, pizza, salads, and breakfast with the freshest ingredients available.

Butterfield is bringing 30 years of restaurant expertise to his new deli. "Our mission is to make the best quality sandwiches in the state," he said. "When you order a sandwich, we take the meat out of the refrigerator and cut it right there. It's as good as it gets." With the menu's sandwich count totaling twenty, the biggest problem will be deciding which one to try.

The Farmer's Market & Deli is also committed to providing patrons with local meat and produce. Inside the spacious deli is a meat counter and room for a planned expansion of their selection of locally-grown fruits and vegetables. "We get whatever we can locally and from the state of Maine," he said. Once the weather gets warmer, Butterfield hopes "to have produce stands outside on the sidewalk on the weekends."

Despite limited advertising, business has been steady. The Farmer's



Photo credit Bailey O'Brien

Carl Butterfield, third from left, stands with his employees in front of his newly opened business at the old Nicely's Market location.

Market & Deli is located in what was formerly Nicely's Market, a popular convenience store and sandwich shop that closed last summer. Customers are excited to have their sandwich spot back, but this time with a fresh twist. The famous Nicely's bull remains on the roof, serving as a landmark and the inspiration for the deli's logo.

The Farmer's Market & Deli is located at 397 Ossipee Trail. Hours are 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. A full menu can be found on their Facebook page, facebook.com/farmersmarketdeli.

Granted Asylum, Congolese Family Welcomed to Gorham

KATHY CORBETT
Staff Writer

In March 2014, Leanne Cooper, a North Gorham resident and member of the Maine People's Alliance, met George Daknsa, a Congolese asylum seeker. She had been asked to pick him up from where he was living in Westbrook and take him with her to a rally in Augusta. Over the next hour he told her why he was in Maine and gave her a copy of his asylum application. Cooper read the application that relayed a horrific story of violence and persecution in the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and of Daknsa's eight-year effort to get justice for victims of abuse. She learned that in 2013 his home had been invaded and his family was lost. After barely escaping with his life, he was sent by colleagues to the United States. Since then he had discovered his wife and one child were alive. Cooper decided that she had to help this "very forward moving" man who had suffered so much and was so determined to make a new life for himself and his family in Maine.

The recent history of the DRC (formerly Zaire) has been one of civil war and corruption, causing violent unrest and civilian suffering. Daknsa, who has a degree in Economics, worked for The League of Activists for Human Rights in Rural Areas documenting human rights abuses and reporting them to the government. His wife, Liliane Rwanika, an attorney from Rwanda, helped write the reports for use in court proceedings. But the country's corrupt legal system made him continually subject to threats, abuses, torture and imprisonment.

Daknsa and Rwanika were living with their infant son Kenane, four-year-old Kerstin and six-year-old Kevin, as well as two adopted children. One night the military invaded their home. The family only escaped death because the soldiers were distracted by nearby gunfire. They all ran. Rwanika held onto the baby and hid, but Daknsa did not know what had happened to her or to the other children when he left the country. Several months later he found out



Photo credit Kim Brooks

George Daknsa and his wife, Liliane Rwanika, with their son, Kenane, at the home of Leanne and Jonathan Cooper on North Gorham Pond.

his wife and baby had made it safely to Rwanda, but were still fearful for their lives. They talked frequently by cell phone and assumed their other children were dead.

When Daknsa landed in Chicago, a complete stranger gave him a bus ticket to Portland, Maine. Soon after arriving, he filled out an application for asylum. Unlike refugees who are vetted before coming to the United States and can work as soon as they arrive, asylum seekers come on visas. They are not permitted to work until 150 days after submitting an application. Daknsa, who spoke French, learned English at Portland Adult School, stayed at the YMCA and later in an apartment on Grant Street, aided by a little Portland general assistance, Preble Street Resource Center, and members of the State Street Church. He was living in Westbrook with a family from

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Baxter Memorial Library's New Director

MALLORY CAMPBELL
GHS Student Intern

James Rathbun has been appointed the new Director of Baxter Memorial Library. Rathbun began working at the library in October 2006 as a Library Assistant in Youth Services. In 2008, he applied for the Public Services Librarian position and began that position later that year.

Rathbun received his Undergraduate in Business Management with a minor in Finance and Marketing from Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN. Later, Rathbun went back to school and got his Master's in Library and Information Sciences from Dominican University in River Forest, IL.

Despite his lack of a prior relation to Gorham, Rathbun is very passionate about his work at the Baxter Memorial Library. "I had never worked in a library before that job and had never been to Gorham. Since then I've grown to enjoy Gorham very much. My primary relation is still through work, but by working in the library, which I view as an integral part of the town, I feel that I've become a member of the community," says Rathbun.

This year, Rathbun is looking forward to things settling down and

being able to focus on moving the library forward rather than simply maintaining it. "I'm also looking forward to working with all the new staff here and forming the kind of close-knit working group that will allow us to draw on each other's strengths to accomplish that forward progress," says Rathbun.

"I would like to thank the staff, the Friends of Baxter Memorial Library, the Trustees, our volunteers, and the other Town departments for all their help over the last year. Our patrons have also been great. I'd also like to acknowledge that Pam Turner took a chance on me 10 years ago and then proceeded to help me develop as a professional over those years. I wouldn't be where I am today without her help. She left some big shoes to fill but she took the time to prepare me for that task and I'll always be thankful to her for that," says Rathbun.



File photo

James Rathbun

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Land Trust Hires New Staff

GORHAM TIMES STAFF

The Presumpscot Regional Land Trust (PRLT) has hired Toby Jacobs as Stewardship and Outreach Coordinator. This newly created position will allow the land trust to build more trails on its lands and better serve the public with programming.

"We're very excited to have this new position because we can create more recreational trails and opportunities for people to learn more about the natural world where we live," said Rachelle Curran Apse, PRLT Executive Director. "We're lucky to have someone with Toby's level of experience and expertise," she said.

Jacobs has a master's in conservation biology and has spent over a decade working for environmental organizations. Internationally, he has managed conservation projects in Costa Rica and Honduras. In Maine, he has surveyed the City of Portland's trees, managed volunteers in Portland's urban gardens, monitored shellfish areas for the Maine Department of Marine Resources, and maintained miles of land trust trails. He also serves on the Board of the Freeport Conservation Trust.

"Growing up in Brunswick, I became fascinated with the natural world while exploring the town's network of trails and I am excited to provide that same opportunity for others," said Jacobs.

As a community based non-profit, this new position is possible due

to member support and grants from L.L.Bean-Maine Land Trust Grant Program, Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust, and the Maine Community Foundation's Fund for Maine Land Conservation.

Jacobs will be coordinating the effort to build a three-mile trail this summer on the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust's Mill Brook Preserve in Westbrook for the public to access and enjoy the serene beauty of Mill Brook and see the alewife fish migration. Building the trail will involve dozens of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering please contact toby@prlt.org.

The Presumpscot Regional Land Trust is a non-profit that conserves and protects lands in Presumpscot River watershed in Gorham, Gray, Sebago, Standish, Westbrook, and Windham. PRLT has conserved over 1,100 acres of land and has 7 public access Preserves with trails that are free and open to the public, including the 28-mile long Sebago to the Sea Trail. Learn more at www.prlt.org.



Photo credit Rachelle Curran Apse

Toby Jacobs

RISK MANAGEMENT & INSURANCE

Cyber Attacks: Businesses Be Prepared

ETHAN JOHNSON

Cyber liability is probably the hottest topic in the insurance world today, and with good reason – the threat is real. Every week there are news articles on data breaches. We read about the big data breaches in the news: Home Depot, Target, eBay, the US Postal Service, JP Morgan Chase, Dominos Pizza, and the list goes on. But hackers are not just targeting large companies. There have been data breaches at local pizza parlors, construction companies, delis, and many others. The reality is that data thieves are simply looking for the path of least resistance. As large companies continue to get serious about data security, small businesses are becoming increasingly attractive targets and the results are often devastating for small business owners.

According to a recent study by Kaspersky Lab, the average annual cost of cyber attacks to small and medium-sized businesses was over \$200,000 in 2014. Most small businesses do not have that kind of money lying around. As a result, nearly 60 percent of the small businesses victimized by a cyber attack close permanently within six months of the attack. Many of these businesses put off making necessary improvements to their cyber security protocols until it was too late because they feared the costs would be prohibitive.

Many insurance companies now offer a layer of protection that can be added to a commercial policy with an endorsement at a very reasonable cost. It is important to talk to your insurance agent to discuss your exposure and options available to provide a layer of protection.

Cyber breaches can occur in a variety of ways. A hacker gains unauthorized access to your network and steals pri-

vate customer and employee information; your employee accidentally – or deliberately – sends an email containing private customer information; an employee laptop containing private customer information is lost or stolen during travel. Cyber events like these can have significant impact on your customers, your employees and your bottom line.

Here are a few tips to reduce your risk of falling victim to a cyber attack:

- Train employees in cyber security principles.
- Install, use and regularly update antivirus and anti-spyware software on every computer used in your business.
- Use a firewall for your Internet connection.
- Download and install software updates for your operating systems and applications as they become available.
- Make backup copies of important business data and information.
- Control physical access to your computers and network components.
- Secure your Wi-Fi networks. Make sure it is secure and hidden.
- Require individual user accounts for each employee.
- Limit employee access to data and information, and limit authority to install software.
- Regularly change passwords.

For more information about cyber liability, contact your local independent agent.



Ethan Johnson of Chalmers Insurance has over 13 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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A Local Family's Personal Journey with Fanconi Anemia

KRISTIN YOUNG

We all know how the saying goes. It's a wish recited during the happiest moments of a family's life. You feel as though once said out loud, it must be true because the thought of it not being true is unimaginable. It's the common response when asked, "Do you want a boy or a girl?" The reply, "It doesn't matter, as long as the baby is healthy."

There is no greater gift than a happy, healthy baby. Ten fingers, ten toes. Although my wish may not have come true completely, I did have the happiest baby, and I did receive the greatest gift. Even when the doctors listed all of the physical things wrong with my son, he was still perfect to me. "He's missing a kidney, he's missing ear canals, and his thumbs didn't finish forming," they told me. I thought, "So what. People live with one kidney all the time, I can learn sign language and who cares about some funky thumbs." A year later, two words changed my world and their meaning was truly overwhelming.

"There's a camp for families with Fanconi Anemia," my dad said over the phone. I was still in shock from the diagnosis weeks earlier. I barely looked at the internet anymore. Every Google search I did produced devastating results and I couldn't read another "life expectancy" statistic. I couldn't read about another child in the hospital fighting for their life and I couldn't read another blog that was dedicated to the loss of a child.

Five months later, I was at Camp Sunshine in Casco, Maine, surrounded by other Fanconi Anemia families. I was dead inside. My deepest fear was knowing instantly that I would fall in love with the children and it scared me to the core to know I would end up mourning some of them. I was also scared they would mourn mine.



Photo credit Kristin Young

Wesley Young, a sixth-grader at GMS, and his family are holding a benefit dance on April 29th to raise money for Fanconi Anemia research.

Over the years that fear has come true...not for my son, but for others. As a result, I have helped by raising money for the Fanconi Anemia Research Fund (FARF). The research FARF has funded over the years has resulted in amazing advances in gene therapy, head and neck cancers, the discovery of the 19 genes responsible for FA (two of them are BRCA1 and BRCA2, the breast cancer genes), and better transplant outcomes.

Fanconi Anemia patients not only experience bone marrow failure, they are at extremely high risk for developing cancers at a much earlier age such as leukemia, head and neck, esophageal, GI and vulvar cancers. Researchers love to study Fanconi Anemia because of its ability to help the general population find a cure for cancer. Funding for Fanconi Anemia research can and has made a difference for everyone.

In retrospect, my wish has changed. Would I want a boy or a girl? I think my response would be, "It doesn't matter, as long as in life we're happy and can make a difference." For us, I know both is true.

Please join the Young family for "Ladies Dance the Night Away for FA" at Spire 29 on Friday, April 29th, from 6 - 9 p.m. to benefit the Fanconi Anemia Foundation in support of GMS student Wesley Young who is battling this rare disease. Tickets are on sale at Spire 29 or FMI, check the Gorham Times FB page.

Congolese Family Granted Asylum CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

the church when Leanne Cooper met him. He passed his written driver's test on the first try. Once he could work, Daknsa found employment wherever he could, including Sam's Club and Catholic Charities, sometimes working three jobs at once. A friend gave him an old car.

After a lengthy interview and FBI background check, George Daknsa's application for asylum was approved in February 2015. Of that experience he said, "I love America. Systems are in place and actually work here." Getting asylum and a path to citizenship, "is a slow, difficult process, but with patience and determination it can happen."

Last February, he moved to North Gorham to live with Leanne and Jonathan Cooper on Middle Jam Road. Now that Daknsa had asylum, his wife and baby could emigrate to the US. With help from the Coopers, they came to Maine in July 2015. Last fall, a Congolese refugee family living in Rochester, New York, called to say that Daknsa's two other children were in a refugee camp in Rwanda. Like other immigrant groups, Congolese have a wide-reaching communication network. Once their identities were confirmed, the children went to stay with a Rwandan family to await emigration to the United States.

Leanne Cooper organized a gofundme event on Facebook and the Maine People's Alliance website to raise money for reuniting the children with the parents they had not seen for three years. Neighbors

and friends made contributions for airfare. Earlier this month, the children had medical examinations and will soon have visas. A Cooper family friend attending school in Kengalle, Rwanda, and another friend who works for the Panzi Foundation in DRC are working to bring them to Maine.

After his wife, Liliane, came to Maine last August, Daknsa told Leanne Cooper he was relieved that she could "de-traumatize" and begin to heal in "such a peaceful, quiet place, supportive place." They are expecting a baby in May. North Gorham neighbors recently attended a baby shower for the couple at the Cooper's home. Daknsa and his family have moved next door to an apartment in the home of Cindy Boothby and John Drisko as they await the arrival of Kerstin and Kevin. He currently works as a research clerk for TD Bank in Lewiston, but it is a temporary position that will end this summer.

Although the family would like to stay in the Gorham area, they know that employment opportunities may draw them away. "I love the lake (North Gorham Pond)," he says. "It feels like home, as I grew up near Lake Kiva." But this charismatic, energetic "forward moving" man, grateful for the help he has received and the friends he has made, is enthusiastic about using his skills in his new country. He says emphatically, "It is important to find out what America wants from us, rather than what we want from America."



Photo credit Chris Crawford

PRLT "Walk Talk"

Rob Sanford, department chair of Environmental Science & Policy at USM, explains how the size of the drill holes in a piece of stone can help determine how long ago the stone was quarried. Sanford recently led a "walk talk" based on his book, "Reading Rural Landscapes," a field guide to interpreting the past by examining the natural and man-made artifacts left by humans that abound in the woods, fields and along the roadways and waterways of New England. The walk was sponsored by the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust and was held on the Little River Preserve in Gorham. Look for information in the next issue of the Gorham Times about the next PRLT walk scheduled for May 21 on the new Millbrook Property in Westbrook.

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Election Day Information

Laurie Nordfors
Acting Town Clerk

Election Day in Gorham will be on June 14. Residents will be voting on multiple items: a School Budget Validation Referendum to approve the 2016/2017 School Budget, a vote to continue with the School Budget Validation Referendum process for an additional three years, a Special Referendum to authorize the town to purchase two new fire engines, and the State Primary Election.

We now have three voting locations in Gorham. Ward 1-1 is at Gorham Middle School on Weeks Road; Ward 1-2 is at Little Falls Activity Center on Acorn Street; and Ward 2 is in Shaw Gym at the Gorham Municipal Center. Letters will be going out to registered voters whose voting location has changed.

If you are unsure of where you vote, you may contact the Town Clerk's Office at 222-1670 or you can view the Voting Map online at our website. If you are interested in working the election in Gorham, please contact me at 222-1671.

As a reminder, motorcycle registrations were due in March. You can register your bike online or come into the Clerk's office with your current registration and insurance car.

Fishing season opened April 1. Get out and enjoy the beautiful spring weather!



Laurie Nordfors may be reached at lnordfors@gorham.me.us or 222-1671

APRIL 5, 2016

Town Council Report

Seventy Gorham residents were appointed as Election Workers with terms that expire April 1, 2018.

MK Kitchen LLC, located at 2 School Street received a liquor license renewal.

The Town Council approved a combined and updated the Solid Waste Flow Control Ordinance and the Hazardous and Special Waste Materials Incident Ordinance. Full ordinance details can be found at www.gorham-me.org.

Gorham's Land Use and Development Code that regulates signs has been amended. As it is administratively more efficient and less time consuming, the Code Enforcement Officer will approve future projecting signs instead of the Town Council.

Town Council will forward a request from Mark Faulkner to rezone the right side of Shaws Mill Road from Suburban Residential-Manufactured Housing to Roadside Commercial to the Planning Board for their Public Hearing and recommendations.

Dahlia Lynn's resignation from the

Historic Preservation Committee was accepted by the Town Council. They expressed their appreciation for her service to the Town of Gorham.

Town Council appointed Mike D'Arcangelo as the Town Assessor for a 3-year term which will expire on May 31, 2019.

Town Council changed the status of the Recycling Committee from a standing Committee to a special Committee that in the future, would be formed with members appointed for specific tasks and as needed.

The Town Manager was authorized to obtain sales studies from Peter Mason and Paul Willis for two property lots off of Deering Road.

The Town Manager was also authorized to obtain a sales study from Demetria Chadbourne for the property located at 4 Briarwood Lane.

Town Council approved an over limit permit for paving projects in Gorham. (Project Number 018994.10 on Route 112.)

Complete minutes are available on the town's website at www.gorham-me.org.

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Grand Jury

The Grand Jury returned the following indictments in April:

- Kayla Bacon, 28, of Gorham, was indicted for theft by unauthorized taking for stealing drugs on charges brought by Gorham PD.

- Alexander Buchanan, 22, of Falmouth, was indicted for aggravated trafficking in scheduled drugs on charges brought by Gorham PD.

- Nathaniel Shanahan Glavin, 36, of Gorham, was indicted for theft by unauthorized taking on charges brought by Windham PD.

- Lee Keene, 27, of Gorham was indicted for aggravated assault, two

counts of assault on a child less than 6 years old, endangering the welfare of a child and aggravated assault on charges brought by Gorham PD.

- Charles Pettigrow, 46, of Sebago was indicted for driving to endanger, operating after suspension, violating conditions of release, and eluding an officer on charges brought by Gorham PD.

- Travis Plowman, 25, of Gorham was indicted for reckless conduct with a dangerous weapon and discharge of a firearm or cross-bow near a building or dwelling on charges brought by Gorham PD.

Planning Board Results

During two April meetings, the Planning Board discussed and voted on the following items:

Wayne Franklin's request for approval of a line change at 3 Hidden Brook Drive was approved.

The Board recommended to the Town Council that they adopt an amendment to the Land Use and Development Code on impact fees.

Gledhill Group LLC received preliminary and final approval based on findings of fact and conditions of approval for Bramblewood Estates, a 10-unit residential condominium project on 4 acres off Bramblewood Lane.

The Board tabled a request from Portland Cellular Partnership (doing business as Verizon Wireless) for approval of a wireless telecommunications facility and equipment shelter off New Portland Road pending resolution of remaining outstanding items.

A request to add two commercial use buildings and associated parking at 17 Laurence Drive in the Industrial Park was tabled.

Shaw Brothers requested approval to split land out of existing gravel pit

lot and site plan to expand congregate handling area, stockyard and lay down areas on Mosher Road. Gravel pit amendment was approved with findings of fact. The site plan was tabled to a future consent agenda.

The Board granted preliminary approval to PTG Investment Trust request for three single family condominiums and two commercial units with second floor apartments off Main St. and Garden Ave. A site walk is to be scheduled.

The Board discussed and postponed Dean and Dale Cole's request for approval of two additional lots from lot 1 to upgrade an existing private way with an extension to meet current standards pending resolution of remaining outstanding items. A site walk is to be scheduled.

The Board discussed and postponed Jim and Sharon Gregoire's request for approval of a 6-lot subdivision located off Brackett St. with access from Strawberry Lane and Brackett pending resolution of remaining items. A site walk was scheduled.

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APRIL 13, 2016

School Committee Meeting

KATHY CORBETT
Staff Writer

The School Committee voted (5-0, Tim Burns and Dennis Libby absent) to approve the FY 2017 budget. Members were in agreement that the process had been greatly improved and thanked Superintendent Heather Perry for instituting changes that included more in-depth presentation and detailed discussions with administrators and teachers.

The \$36,491,178 budget represents a 4.04% increase over last year which would result in a mil rate increase of 8.38%, or \$0.87. Chairman Darryl Wright explained that 56% of the increase (\$560,000) was for capital improvements. At the request of the Town Council, the Committee included some capital improvement expenses in the operating budget, saving bond referendum requests for large projects. Additional funds were budgeted for staffing needs, replacing old textbooks, and new technology. The Committee made reductions totaling \$487,000. They will take the budget to the Town Council for approval on June 7, and the final budget will come before the voters on June 14. The budget is posted on the School Department's website.

Earlier the meeting was enlivened by two teams of Gorham students who demonstrated the style and creativity that made them first place winners at the state Odyssey of the Mind competitions last month. The teams from Village School and GHS are eligible to compete in the World Finals in late May.

Gorham parents Gail Minichiello, Laura Dyer, and Bethany Woods, addressed the committee with their concerns about class size, particularly for early elementary grades. Committee members Sara Nelson and Suzanne Phillips acknowledged this is an ongoing issue with increasing enrollment. Chairman Darryl Wright encouraged parents to register children as soon as possible so the school department can be prepared for the fall.

Bob Riley presented a review of the Substance Abuse Counselor Prevention Program. It has a proactive approach and focuses on educating students to make good decisions as well as giving them skills and strategies for combating peer pressure. Fourth and fifth-grade students will be added to the program which is now centered on the middle school.

The Committee voted (5-0) to approved changes in the medical marijuana policy as mandated by the State, made minor changes in the policy on gifts from the public, and eliminated the school awards policy which was not needed. This has no effect on the awarding of awards.

They approved (5-0) hiring Jessica Allen to teach English at GHS and Collette Anderson as Village School nurse.

They voted unanimously on a 2.5% salary increase for office staff, to increase the cost of full-paid lunches by 25 cents, and to approve the negotiated contract with the Gorham Teachers Association.

School Notes

The Robotics Team 172 ranked seventh out of 40 teams at the recent Maine District Championship in the qualifier matches. The top eight teams got to pick their two playoff allies; Team 172 chose the Gaelhawks of Shelton, CT (Team 230) and the robOTies of Old Town, ME (Team 5122). This alliance was one of the last four standing, making it all the way to the semifinals. They also won the Imagery Award for their synchronized pink-Viking look. The team qualified in the NE District Championship and will attend the World Championship in St. Louis, MO.

On April 1, GMS eighth-grader Evan Chambers represented the Gorham School District at the annual state competition of the National Geographic Society's Geography Bee in Farmington amongst 100 of the best geography students in the state. Chambers performed well and enjoyed the experience.

North Yarmouth Academy Honor Roll for First Semester 2015-16: Grade 7 – Highest Honors - Nathan Cook of Gorham and Tellie Stamaris of Gorham

The GHS Alumni Association, which awards an annual scholarship to a graduating senior, has been in existence for over 130 years. Every graduate or attendee is eligible to become a lifetime member for a one-time fee of \$10. If you are interested in becoming a member, or donating to the GHSAA Scholarship Fund, please send your name, address, email address, year of graduation and check (made payable to GHSAA) to Esther Felch Libby, 1021 Chadbourne Road, Standish, Maine, 04084.

Suspicious Fort CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ture, many Gorham residents found the "fort" to be disturbing.

There have been no indications of anyone living there and no means of identifying who might have built it. The structure has remained throughout the winter and into the spring. As it is illegal to build a structure on Town (or any other) property without permits, the Gorham Recreational

Department has volunteered to dismantle it with the assistance of USM students while preparing for the Mud Run being held on April 24.

Anyone with information about this structure is asked to contact the Gorham Police Department or Rob Lavoie of the Gorham Conservation Commission at info@gorhamconservation.org.

Jon Smith Proposal CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Parking spaces on Railroad Ave. and Elm St. are partially in the right of way and partially on private property. The parking would be for tenants and the general public as the facility is expected to have one or more retail businesses in addition to the bowling alley. Overnight parking on Elm St. and Railroad Ave. would not be allowed.

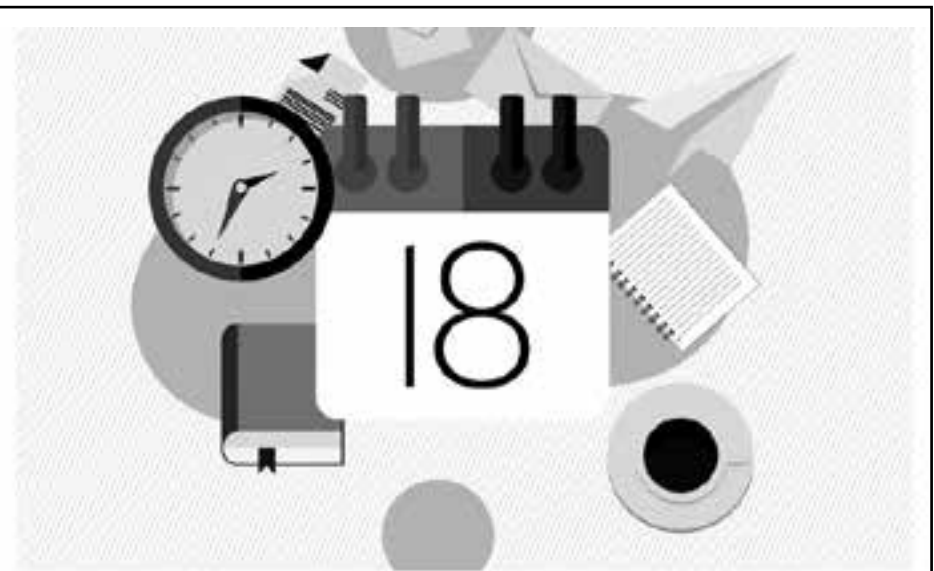
At the workshop, John and Amy Leddy, residents of 2 Robie St., expressed their concern about children walking along the street, school

bus traffic, parking and vehicles entering and exiting the site as well as possible noise from nighttime commercial uses. Kathy Kigin, of 12 Preble St., was concerned about the additional traffic creating a strain on neighboring side streets and suggested traffic be steered onto Railroad Ave., which is not residential, as an exit to Main St.

Smith is currently waiting for the conceptual plans "which will show how well this project will fit on our property."

Attn: Gorham Times Readers - Survey 2016

Please follow the link
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QGD5JYP>
to complete our very short survey so we can better serve you as we continue to bring the news to all of Gorham.



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*The federal return due date in Maine and Massachusetts is April 19. However, some deadlines, such as the due date for estimated tax payments, still fall on April 18. See your tax professional for details.† If you discover an H&R Block error on your return that entitles you to a larger refund (or smaller tax liability), we'll refund the tax prep fee for that return and file an amended return at no additional charge. Refund claims must be made during 2016. CESTP#B13696 ©2016 HRB Tax Group, Inc.

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GMS Jazz Band Wins Second Place at Festival



Photo credit Beth Orlando

The GMS Jazz Band recently competed in the Maine Music Middle School Jazz Festival and Competition where they tied for second place in Division 1.

KIM MATHIEU
Music/band teacher at GMS

The Gorham Middle School Jazz Band traveled to Nokomis High School in Newport, Maine to compete in the Maine Middle School Jazz Festival and Competition last month.

They competed amongst eight schools in Division 1: Falmouth, Greely, Brunswick, Skowhegan, Bonney Eagle, Gorham, Noble, and Westbrook. There are four divisions in the state based on the number of students in the school.

The GMS Jazz Band tied for second place in the Division 1 State Middle School Jazz Festival. They received

a Gold Award plaque and a trophy. Their score was 92, which is a superior rating. All nine of the soloists received 1s on their improvised solos. Bass player Mason Hawkes also received a trophy and was recognized for outstanding musicianship.

The Jazz Band members are: Rhythm: Colby Leavitt (missing), Nolan McCullough, Donovan Landry, and Megan Wentworth; Trumpets: Wesley Brinegar, Pat Bishop, Emma Poitras, Bailey Wentworth, Sam D'Amico, Quentin Riiska, and Anya Mazaris-Atkinson; Trombones and Baritone Horn: Emily Paruk, MacKenna Homa, Tabitha Chase (missing), Molly Rathbun, Gabby LaBarge, Lillith Price, Abby Ouellete, Phoebe Johnston, Zack Pierce (Baritone); and Saxophones: Alto – Sam Orlando, Kate Downey, Caitlyn Randall, Luke Adams, Alexandra Light, Shannon Randall, Ambrosia Moore; Tenor – Nate Goff, Lizzy Blanchard, and Caroline Bishop; and Bari – Anika Malia.

Village Elementary Travels the World: School-Wide Interactive Geography



Photo credit DaraLyn McColl

Pictured are fifth-grade SAIL (Student Advanced in Learning) students in the Where in the World is Village School and Newspaper Team. Top row (left to right): Grace Johnson, Brooke Gerry, Peter Wu, Elizabeth Willette, Rylee Tenuta, and Trevin Macomber. Bottom row (left to right): Patrick Cyr, Joseph Vetterline, Sam Larkin, Madeline Downey, Kevin Luo, Ella Bethany and Amelia Connor-McCoy.

MADELINE DOWNEY
Village School student

At Village Elementary School, students are helping students learn in a fun way that really gets the information across – with a guessing game.

Fifth-grade students videotape students giving educational clues about a country for the week. If students get it right, they get an eraser as a prize. Students enjoy the fact that they get a prize, and teachers enjoy seeing how students benefit from watching the clues about a country, including: learning latitude and longitude, languages that they speak, fun facts, and more.

The students giving the clues are all fifth graders from Village who are on the newspaper team for the school. Each day, the classrooms watch the videos posted for the week. The students chosen for the week, videotape in front of the giant map in the halls. Mentor DaraLyn McColl loads it onto the blog on the school website where teachers can click on the videos so their students can view them.

Why do students love having to guess the country? There seems to be two main reasons: first, they love the fact that it is a game, and some littler students don't even know they are learning. Second, it is not forced, so students tend to like it a lot more than if they were studying about the country.

Because it's a game, students pay attention more, and will learn some things that most kids don't learn about countries until older



grades, and even early middle school. Some students are expected to know about a country, so the videos help them learn if they are studying that one.

The countries have ranged from Iran to Madagascar to Cuba. The facts are found by the students, but they can't be too hard because even the kindergarteners love it.

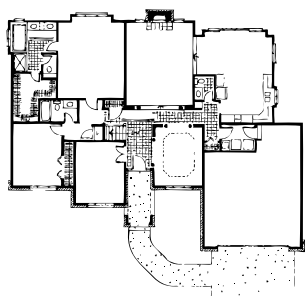
Fifth graders are placing video clues as well as additional information that they research on the random country the students vote on. They're trying to change what students know about the world at Village Elementary School.

Additionally, vice principal Jodi Mezzanotte asked the fifth-grade SAIL members who currently write and lay out the school newspaper/letter to create video clues. It's all a buzz at Village.

Visit the link (blog) at <http://whereintheworldisvillageschool.blogspot.com/>.

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Honoring Autism Awareness Month

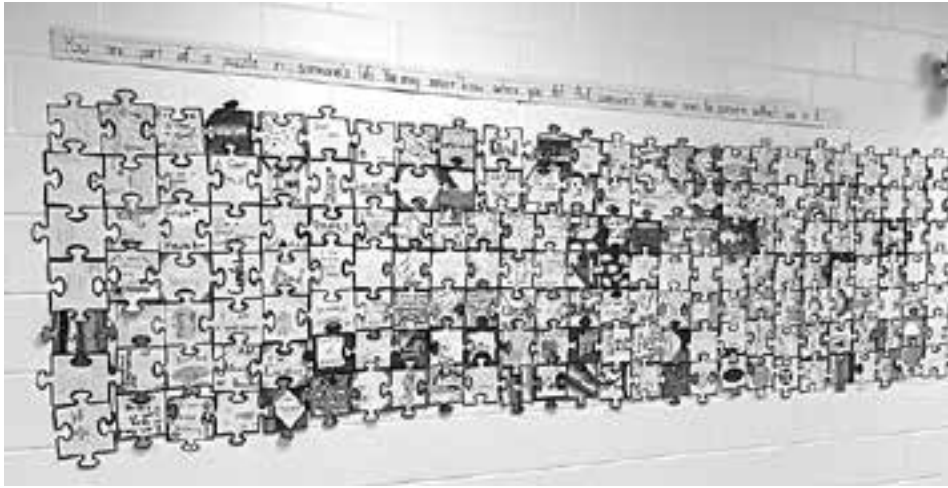


Photo credit LuAnne Amell

In recognition of Autism Awareness Month in April, Gorham Middle School students decorated puzzle pieces with words and pictures of things that make them feel good about themselves. The message above the puzzle pictured reads "You are part of a puzzle in someone's life. You may never know where you fit but someone's life may be incomplete without you in it." The puzzle is on display in the allied arts wing of GMS.

Jump Roping for a Cause



Photo credit Frank DeFrancesco

Gorham's elementary schools recently participated in the American Heart Association's Jump Rope Have a Heart fundraiser. Pictured are Great Falls students who raised \$50 or more. The three schools raised a combined total of \$5,937 to donate to the American Heart Association.

Kids Helping Kids



Photo credit Veronica Bretton

Four eighth-grade Gorham boys participated in this year's St. Baldrick's head shaving event held on March 9 at the Gorham Recreation Center. Together, the boys raised over \$3,000 for childhood cancer research. Melissa Johnson Feeny of Buster's Barber Shop in Gorham, shaved their heads. Pictured (left to right) are: Ryan Reno and Noah Jalbert, who have participated for the past five years, Nicholas Batchelder, who has shaved his head for the past four years; and Jordan Bretton, who has been a part of the event for the past seven years.



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In the Zone

Free Throw Champ: Jack Luciano of Gorham won the Knights of Columbus State Free Throw contest held on March 12 in Old Town. Jack won the "Age 9" boys competition by sinking 19 out of 25 free throws. Jack is pictured with Mike Chabot (right) and Anthony Alfiero (left) of the Gorham council 10221.



Courtesy of Knights of Columbus

Mayhem on the Gridiron: The Maine Mayhem, Maine's Women's Football Team, won their first game ever in New York. The all-female team defeated the New York Knock-out by a score of 24-6. Five players from the team along with the head coach are Gorham residents including Alicia Jeffords, right, who is also very involved in coaching Gorham youth football. A roster of the team can be found at <https://mainemayhemfootball.com/2016-roster/>. The team will take on the Connecticut Hawks on April 23 at 6 p.m. at Memorial Stadium in Portland.



Courtesy of Maine Mayhem

Player to Watch: The Portland Press Herald named GHS senior Sam Kilborn one of 25 baseball players to watch this spring. Kilborn, a pitcher, was 4-2 with a 1.91 ERA last year after missing his sophomore year due to a knee injury.

Share Your Sports News with Us!
mgmartygagnon@gmail.com
 Submission Deadline for our next issue is: April 27th

Gorham Boys' Hockey and Special Olympic Maine Athletes Come Together

LISA BIRD
Special Olympics Maine

Members of the Gorham Ice Hockey Boys Varsity and JV team, as well as three players from the Middle School team, came together for a post season evening of fun with Special Olympic Maine (SOME) athletes.

Although the season had come to an end, the players were excited about the opportunity to get together for a great cause. Twenty-six players met up at the YMCA at Pineland Farms in New Gloucester to play traditional floor hockey with several Special Olympic Maine athletes.

GHS Varsity Goalie Noah Bird stated "My brother Jonah and I have been volunteering for Special Olympics for as long as I can remember so we already knew it would be a rewarding experience. It was great to be able to share something like this with my teammates."

The evening started with the players and SOME athletes breaking the ice by shooting a few hoops. Things got underway with everyone participating in warm ups and drills. Game time came and the athletes and hockey players were divided into two teams. GHS Varsity Hockey Captain Willy Baxter could be heard from the bench firing up his new floor hockey teammates. The



Photo courtesy of Lisa Bird

GHS hockey players relax with the Special Olympians after a rewarding game.

SOME athletes showed some great skill and had some really powerful shots.

Later in the evening came the highlight for everyone...Special Olympic Maine athletes versus Gorham Hockey. This was a fast-paced game with some great passing and goals.

Willy Baxter concluded, "The boys had a great time getting to meet and play with the athletes. We would be glad to be invited back again."

By the end of the evening, friendships were made, hugs and high fives were passed around, and everyone left excited and looking forward to next time. "It was a great experience and a lot of fun," said GHS player Lucas Roop.



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COMMUNITY

DEAN'S LIST

Madeleine Hamblen (GHS '14), Gettysburg College, Organization and Management Studies.

OF INTEREST

Aiden Warren-Vanhorn, a sixth-grader at Gorham Middle School, appears in Bonfire Films, "Suffer the Little Children," a short story by Stephen King. The short follows the decline of an aging teacher who believes her students are being taken over by something evil. The Maine premiere will be shown during the Emerge Film Festival on Saturday, Apr. 30 at 10 a.m. at the Franco Center Heritage Hall, 46 Cedar Street, Lewiston.



Photo credit Trisha Warren-Vanhorn

Brendan Rielly will be speaking at the North Gorham Public Library, 2 Standish Neck Road, Gorham on Thursday, Apr. 21 at 7 p.m. "An Unbeaten Man" is Rielly's first thriller. The event is free and open to all. FMI, www.north-gorham.lib.me.us

A Two-Day Rummage and Perennial Sale will be held at the Cressey Road United Methodist Church in Gorham on Friday, Apr. 29 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. and on Saturday, Apr. 30 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Fill a grocery bag for \$1 on Saturday at 11 a.m. One of the BEST RECYCLING events around.

First Parish Congregational Church in Gorham will be holding a Spring Extravaganza and Rummage Sale on Saturday, April 30 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Plant sale, snacks, baked good, activities for kids and more! FMI, 839-6751.

A Community Dinner featuring Baked Ham, Mac & Cheese, salads and dessert will be served on Monday, Apr. 25 in Fellowship Hall of the First Parish Congregational Church, Gorham at 5:30 p.m. Free meal and great fellowship. All are welcome! This last dinner until fall is sponsored by the Gorham Ecumenical Council.

A Bean Supper will be held at the White Rock Community Club, 34 Wilson Road, Gorham, on Saturday, May 7 from 4:30 - 6 p.m. \$8/\$4 under 12.

The National Park Service has awarded Gorham resident Douglas Wood, a fine art photographer that works primarily in black and white, with an Artist in Residence opportunity through Acadia National Park. The Schoodic Peninsula area of Acadia will serve as home base, but Douglas will have access to all areas of the park during his August residency.

The North Gorham Writers' Group will read their original poetry and prose during their 18th Annual Reading on Tuesday, Apr. 26 at 7 p.m. Participants include Gorham residents Leanne Cooper, Delina Eisenhauer, John Labrecque, Mary Snell, and Linda Strout. The event will be held in the Cairn Community Room of the United Church of Christ, North Gorham, 4 Standish Neck Road, Gorham. Refreshments served. FMI, Mary Snell 892-9831.

A Book Discussion Group at North Gorham Public Library, 2 Standish Neck Road will be held on Monday, Apr 25 at 10 a.m. All are welcome to join in the discussion of "The Love Song of Miss Queenie Hennessy" by Rachel Joyce. FMI, 892-2575.

The Gorham Garden Club will meet on Tuesday, Apr. 26 at 7 p.m. at the First Parish Church in Gorham. The program will be: "New, Tried and True Plants and Those Highly Recommended that Don't Work," presented by Bill Kenney of Allen, Sterling & Lothrop. The public is welcome. FMI, 839-3878.

ON-GOING EVENTS

The Gorham Food Pantry, located at 299-B Main St. (parking lot of St. Anne's Catholic Church) is open every Thursday morning from 9 -11 a.m. and the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from 6 – 7 p.m. Free for Gorham residents in need. FMI, 222-4351 or visit www.gorhamfoodpantry.org.

The Lakes Region Senior Center, located at the Little Falls Activity Center, 40 Acorn Street in Gorham is open Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join them daily for coffee, tea and socializing. On-Going daily activities include Mahjong on Mondays - beginners welcome. FMI, Diane 892-9529; Tuesday crafts and card games. FMI, Avis 892-0298; The Memoir Writing Group meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. FMI, David 892-5604; Thursday Table Games at 10 a.m. and Friday Art Workshop at 9 a.m. FMI, 892-0299.

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, 839-2484 or 839-3859.

USM NOTES

The USM Art Department celebrates the exhibits of graduating BFA and BA students Apr 12 – May 1 at the USM Art Gallery, 37 College Ave, Gorham. FMI, 780-5008.

A Musical Theater Master Class will be held on Friday, Apr. 22 from 1 – 4:30 p.m. at Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham campus. Free and open to public. FMI, 780-5555.

USM Theatre Department presents the play "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" Apr. 22 – May 1 at Russell Hall, Gorham campus. FMI, 780-5151.

USM School of Music presents the Italian opera "The Coronation of Poppea," Saturday, Apr. 30 at 2 p.m. Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham campus. \$8/\$5. FMI, 780-5555.

The USM School of Music presents the USM Youth Ensembles two choral groups in their spring concert on Thursday, May 5 at 7 p.m. at Corthell Concert Hall, Gorham campus. Donations accepted. FMI, 780-5555.

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Captain of the Gorham Recreation Department

MARTIN GAGNON
Sports Editor

In sports, most teams have a captain. The effective captain provides leadership, passion, and guidance to his or her teammates. At the Gorham Recreation Department, one person has been at the helm for the past 25 years as the program has thrived and provided fun and healthy activities for hundreds. Gorham Recreation Department Director, Cindy Hazelton, was recently honored for 25 years of service. The Gorham Times had some time to chat with Hazelton about how it all began and the obvious enjoyment she still gets from coming to the office.

"At the time when the position for Recreation Director in Gorham was advertised, I was the Recreation Director for the Town of Sanford," she said. Hazelton applied for the position, interviewed, accepted the job and was named Director of the Gorham Recreation Department in March of 1991. Twenty-five years later, she is still the team captain.

I asked Hazelton if she was an athlete in her hometown of Easton, Maine. With a smile she told me she was in the top 20 of her high school graduating class out of class of 19. With fondness, she said that "athletics in Easton, Maine for girls when I was a student included two activities: basketball and cheerleading. I played basketball and our team was actually the first girls'



Photo credit Gorham Rec. Dept.

Cindy Hazelton was recently recognized by David Cole for serving 25 years as Gorham Recreation Department Director.

team to ever qualify for the Maine Principals Association, Eastern Class D Maine basketball playoff at the Bangor Auditorium against East Grand High School of Danforth." When I asked her how the team did, she said they got "walloped pretty bad, but we played on the Bangor Auditorium floor!"

Growing up in the rural community of Easton, Hazelton said she has not found "country kids any different from Gorham kids. Kids just want to play and have fun with their friends. The only difference is the opportunities." Hazelton recalled using Robin Hood baking flour to mark the base paths for a Little

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



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DON'T SMOKE, IT'S NO JOKE

George St. caller got into a yelling match with his brother-in-law over smoking inside his mother's house. Caller left and peace was restored.

Person charged with OUI after hitting a telephone pole near Public Works on Huston Road.

Officer advised Noble's Way man to talk to his grandson and set some house rules.

Suspicious persons on Gray Road were employees of a cleaning service.

Officer responded to report of a domestic assault on Tink Drive.

Rust Road caller advised police he was going to be breaking up with his girlfriend and that there could be trouble when he told her. Caller was advised to have a third party present or to call the police if there was any trouble.

Libby Road man received a call from someone interested in renting after seeing it advertised on Roomster website. Roomster was contacted about the false advertisement and they took it down.

Caller reported a car "all over the road" driving north on Mosher Road. Driver was charged with OUI.

Woman reported her one year old child was locked in her vehicle. Two officers on duty were tied up but an officer on his way home from work heard the call and went to Scroggie Way to unlock the vehicle.

Officer stopped to talk to a man walking in the road on Brandy Brook Hill. Man said he was

fine and did not want a ride. He declined to say why he was walking or where he was going.

Man was stopped on Main St. and charged with OUI and violating conditions of release.

Officer stopped male subject walking westbound on Brandy Brook Hill. Man had an outstanding warrant for failure to appear.

Officer talked to suspicious person on the pole line on Main St. Man had been at a bar that night and met a lady. Because he stays with friends he could not bring her to where he was living. Woman was in back seat of truck covered by a blanket. Man did not know what her name was. Man asked her and she gave him her name. They had not been drinking and were asked to move along.

Sebago Lake Road caller reported an animal problem. The rat was terminated with a shovel.

Ossipee Trail caller reported a goose in the road.

Caller was concerned about a friend on Tink Drive as she was having ongoing issues with her soon to be ex-boyfriend. Caller was advised to call if he went to residence and caused a problem.

Ice flew off a tractor trailer driving southbound and shattered the windshield of a car driving northbound.

Captain of the Gorham Rec Dept. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

League baseball game in Easton when she was supervising Easton Recreation. "I went home, got my mother's bag of flour, our dustpan, and a ball of yarn and went and lined the field. We played the game and nobody noticed the difference until the next couple of days when all the birds were on the field eating little wet flour balls."

Combining country creativity and academic studies, Hazelton has been a leader in the field. After working one summer at Camp Jordan in Bangor, Hazelton returned to the University of Maine at Presque Isle and changed her major from History to Recreation and Leisure Services. She completed her senior year internship working for the Fairfax County Park Authority in Annandale, Virginia within the Washington D.C. beltway. As an intern, Hazelton worked at a golf course, a professional ice hockey arena, a community center big enough to train secret service agents training to protect dignitaries at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles, and

a nature center on the Potomac River.

The Gorham Recreation Department provides opportunities for all ages to play sports and provides social opportunities such as mystery lunches, community gardening, and yoga and summer concerts. However, the programs it provides serve more than just individual needs. "Community recreation opportunities in a town like Gorham create the foundation for people to people interaction. We have often said that where else are you going to get the chance to meet the parents of the kids that your child will be playing with for the next 10 to 12 years? For those without kids, we provide opportunities to meet other like-minded neighbors and enjoy learning a new skill or tying a new dish in our cooking classes."

Hazelton, the team captain, often refers to her staff as Team Gorham. Clearly, she brings out the best of those who are fortunate enough to work by her side. Hazelton is a mentor to those around her and sees leadership as a powerful force and that is how she sees her department in the community. "Every day we adjust and create and empower. That's why we do what we do."

Thankfully, Cindy Hazelton is creating those memories and experiences for all those in Gorham.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APR 21

- Book Group Meeting, Baxter Library, 10 a.m., "Kisses from Katie: A Story of Relentless Love and Redemption" by Katie Davis and Beth Clark.
- Local author Brendan Rielly, North Gorham Public Library, 2 Standish Neck Road, Gorham, 7 p.m. "An Unbeaten Man" is Rielly's first thriller. Free and open to all.
- Wormmainea, Baxter Library, 1 p.m. How worms eat our garbage.

FRIDAY, APR 22

- Drop in to Baxter Library to celebrate Earth Day, anywhere between 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Crafts and a planting activity.

MONDAY, APR 25

- Community Dinner, First Parish Congregational Church, Gorham, 5:30 p.m. Free meal and fellowship. Baked Ham, Mac & Cheese. All are welcome!
- Gorham Republican Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m. All registered Republicans are welcome. FMI, call 415-2673.

TUESDAY, APR 26

- North Gorham Writers' Group Annual Reading, 7 p.m., United Church of Christ, North Gorham, 4 Standish Neck Road, Gorham.
- Gorham Garden Club Meeting, 7 p.m., First Parish Congregational Church, Gorham.
- Pre-School Story Time, 3 – 5 years, Baxter Library, 9:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, APR 27

- Town of Gorham Senior Lunch Program, St. Anne's Church, Gorham. Opens at 11 a.m. Lunch served promptly at 12 p.m. \$4. FMI, 839-4857.

THURSDAY, APR 28

- Baby and Me, ages birth – 18 mos., 9:30 a.m., Baxter Library.
- Toddler Time, ages 18 – 36 mos., 10 a.m., Baxter Library.
- Sewing Group, 7 years and older, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m., Baxter Library.
- More than a Rap Sheet Closing Event, 6:30 p.m., Baxter Library.

FRIDAY, APR 29

- Two-Day Rummage and Perennial Sale, Cressey Road United Methodist Church, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- Benefit Dance at Spire 29 on the Square, Fanconi Anemia Foundation, 6 - 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, APR 30

- Two-Day Rummage and Perennial Sale, Cressey Road United Methodist Church, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Fill a grocery bag for \$1 at 11 a.m.
- Spring Extravaganza and Rummage Sale, First Parish Congregational Church, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. Plant sale, snacks, baked good, activities for kids and more. FMI, 839-6751.

TUESDAY, MAY 3

- Annual Meeting, North Gorham Cemetery Association, 7 p.m., Cairns Room, UCC at North Gorham.
- Gorham House Itsy Bitsy Store, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., GH lobby. FMI, 839-5757.
- Gorham Cancer Prayer and Support Group, 6 p.m., Cressey Road United Methodist Church. All are welcome. FMI, 321-1390 or 839-3111.
- Pre-School Story Time, 3 – 5 years, Baxter Library, 9:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

- Story Time, birth – 3 yrs., 10 – 10:30 a.m., North Gorham Public Library.
- Town of Gorham Senior Lunch Program, St. Anne's Church, Gorham. Opens at 11 a.m. Lunch served promptly at 12 p.m. \$4. FMI, 839-4857.
- Early Release for grades K – 12.

THURSDAY, MAY 5

- Baby and Me, ages birth – 18 mos., 9:30 a.m., Baxter Library.
- Toddler Time, ages 18 – 36 mos., 10 a.m., Baxter Library.
- Sewing Group, 7 years and older, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m., Baxter Library.

Baxter Memorial Library, 71 South St.
 Cressey Road United Methodist Church, 81 Cressey Rd.
 North Gorham Public Library, 2 Standish Neck Rd.
 St. Anne's Church, 299 Main St.

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