

Your Community Paper Gorham Times

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Artwork courtesy of Springer Family

Local Business Support Hub



LESLIE DUPUIS
Editor

The Gorham Economic Development Corporation (GEDC), Gorham Business Exchange (GBE), and Gorham Village Alliance (GVA) have collaborated to create GorhamStrong.org in support of our local businesses during these unprecedented times.

Created by Craig J. Belhumeur (GHS '07), owner of CJB Digital LLC and a board member of GBE, the website was launched on April 8 with two main objectives: to keep the community informed about businesses that are still offering services during the stay at home order, as well as to offer businesses a list of resources that may be available during this time, such as programs with the US Small Business Association, FAME and GEDC.

This initiative is also raising money to benefit Gorham's small businesses and their employees through a Gofundme campaign and a community gift card program.

As a group, the GEDC, GBE and GVA saw the need for a centralized hub of information. There's been a wealth of information shared in a variety of different places across social media, websites, etc., but according to Belhumeur, there was a need especially for businesses in the service industry to be able to keep the public informed of services, updated hours, etc. The business directory on the website currently has over 200 listings; many include direct links to a business' social media pages.

Belhumeur pointed out that due to the volume of posts on social media over the past several weeks, it's easy for information to get lost. "We're not trying to diminish anyone else's efforts but rather use the information already compiled on other sites and perhaps combine it in one place," he said.

The initial thought around Gorham Strong as a separate entity was to brand a community effort - businesses and citizens - giving one unique voice to three organizations (GBE, GEDC, and GVA) that are here to support the community.

Belhumeur will be managing the website on a regular basis and more information is being added on a daily basis, including a portal to make it easier for citizens interested in donating face masks or gowns to Gorham House and the Inn at Village Square.

All businesses are welcome. The goal behind this effort is to provide a community service, and Belhumeur encourages business owners to reach out to him directly at craig@cjbdigital.com with any questions.

Our Hannaford Heroes



Photo Credit David Cole

LESLIE DUPUIS
Editor

As the majority of the town was hunkering down, staying home, and adapting to a new normal in light of COVID-19, Gorham Hannaford and its employees were ramping up efforts to provide essential services to our community. The company's reaction to the crisis has been admirable.

David Cole, store manager in Gorham, explained that while the store is accustomed to dealing with one-time local events such as snow storms, this situation is much different as it's long-term and on a global scale. He explained that

Hannaford is receiving regular deliveries daily, and the issue is not about the supply chain itself, but rather working to catch up with the enormous increase in demand brought on by customers who overbuy as they are fearful of running out of key items.

While overbuying has become less of a problem in recent weeks and stock in certain areas is improving, he added, "it really bothers us that we can't give the presentation and variety of products that we usually do, but there are a lot of people working really hard to make it better."

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Thank you to our HOMETOWN HEROES who are on the front lines of COVID-19 and continue providing essential services.



Dawn Parenteau, a Critical Care Nurse at Maine Medical Center, in her full PPE (personal protective equipment).

SEE MORE HEROES ON PAGE 6

Gorham Schools Will Not Reopen This School Year

UPDATE AS OF APRIL 10, 2020

HEATHER PERRY
Superintendent of Gorham Schools

After the Commissioner's recommendation and a meeting held by the Cumberland County Superintendents, we have decided to extend our distance learning programming through to the end of the 2019-20 School Year.

This was not an easy decision and I recognize the difficulties this places upon parents and upon our students/staff and community. The fact of the matter is that we are still experiencing a climb in our COVID-19 numbers here in Maine and the reality is that even if we may want to come back (and trust me we do), we will not have a well thought out and safe mechanism within which to do so before the end of this school year.

Therefore, this decision was made now in order to allow all of us the time necessary to plan for how we will be ending our school year virtually for our students, our staff, and our families in as safe and positive a manner as possible

given our current and near future realities.

As we move through the remainder of the school year, the Gorham schools will continue to focus on the wellbeing of our students, our staff, and ourselves. The message continues to be and will remain that the primary focus of the Gorham schools is on the social and emotional health of our students, our families, and then, only after those things are met, on academic maintenance and growth.

The District Leadership Team has already been preliminarily planning for the possibility that this extension would occur. We know this means that we will need to find a way to do many of the things we did before to end a school year (scheduling, staffing assignments, classroom assignments, transition activities, celebrations, etc.), virtually.

We know this means that parents will continue to have to struggle with day care, and with juggling all the various

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Town Update

COURTESY OF TOM POIRIER
Interim Town Manager

The Governor's Executive Order requiring people to stay at home at all times is in effect until at least April 30. Essential business activities outside the home include grocery stores, gas stations and drug stores. All restaurants remain closed for inside dining but some restaurants are providing take out and/or delivery.

All municipal facilities which include fields, playgrounds, other recreational facilities and municipal buildings are closed until at least April 30. The Town's before and after care programs and all schools will be closed through the end of the school year 2019-2020.

Town Staff, Councilors and Committee members are learning host and panelist role with Zoom Video conferencing platform to effectively hold remote webinars and meetings. The Plan Implementation Committee Workshop and regular April Town Council meeting were held on Zoom.

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NOTE TO READERS
While the Gorham Times is committed to bringing you the latest Gorham news, we are temporarily limiting the length of our printed edition to accommodate our volunteers and advertisers during this time.

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

BRINGING THE NEWS TO ALL OF GORHAM
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Ad deadline is the Wednesday of the week prior to issue date. Go to www.gorhamtimes.com and click on the advertising link for schedule.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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Help is Available During the COVID-19 Outbreak

SEN. LINDA SANBORN

We are currently facing the worst pandemic this country has seen in a century. Protecting our own health, and the health of our friends, family and neighbors, has required us all to take drastic measures. It has required most of us to stay home and avoid all but the most essential activities, such as grocery shopping or necessary medical appointments. Major events have been canceled, many businesses in our community have shut down, and many more have had to lay off staff, or reduce hours to remain solvent.

These steps are absolutely necessary to stop further spread of COVID-19 and avoid the most serious impacts of the virus. However, it's hard to overstate the significance or scale of the economic impact of these disruptions to daily life.

On March 15, Gov. Janet Mills declared a state of emergency, and in the week that followed, 21,459 Mainers filed for unemployment with the state. The next week, 23,761 more workers filed. For context, in 2018 and 2019, the Maine Department of Labor (DOL) received about 800 such claims in a typical week.

For workers who have been laid off, had their hours reduced, or are staying home because of the COVID-19 outbreak, unemployment insurance can help you keep some of your income. Before adjourning, the Legislature expanded Maine's unemployment

insurance program to cover workers affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The Legislature also waived the one-week waiting period and job search requirement for individuals covered under the expanded program. If you are not self-employed, and think you may be eligible for unemployment, don't wait, apply today.

The best way to apply for unemployment is online at reemployme.maine.gov, but you can also do so over the phone by calling 1-800-593-7660. For those applying by phone, DOL set up a schedule for folks to call in based on the first letter of their last name. If your last name begins with A-H, you should call on Monday; I-Q on Tuesday; and R-Z on Wednesday. Thursday and Friday have been left open for anyone to call. With so many people filing for unemployment, this system helps keep call volumes at a manageable level.

For self-employed workers, relief is also on the way. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress expands unemployment insurance to cover people who are self-employed and wouldn't normally qualify. The CARES Act also increases the benefit amount and the length of time someone can collect benefits. At the time of writing, DOL was reviewing federal guidance and working on implementing this program. Therefore, if you think you may qualify under the CARES Act, please wait to apply, as doing so early will only result in denial. DOL will post

updates on implementation online at www.maine.gov/labor/covid19. Once these changes are implemented, unemployment benefits will be paid retroactively.

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, such as a fever, cough or tiredness, you should call your health care provider. Do not just show up to a health care facility without calling ahead and expect to get tested, as doing so could spread the virus even more.

For information on COVID-19, visit the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website www.CDC.gov or the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention website www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc. For more information, or help accessing needed resources, you can also dial 211, text your zip code to 898-211 or email info@211maine.org.

My office is also here for you as a resource. You may call or email me for assistance.



Linda Sanborn is serving her first term in the Maine Senate, representing Senate District 30, which includes Gorham, part of Buxton, and part of Scarborough. She previously served four

terms in the Maine House, and practiced family medicine in Gorham for 25 years. Senator Sanborn lives in Gorham with her husband, Jeff, a Gorham native. They have three adult sons and one granddaughter. (207) 287-1515, Linda.Sanborn@Legislature.Maine.gov.

Letter to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be fewer than 300 words, signed with a first and last name, typed or e-mailed and include a phone number. The Gorham Times reserves the right not to publish letters that include personal attacks or inflammatory language. Letters are solely the opinion of the writer and not that of the Gorham Times. They are published at the discretion of the Gorham Times and are subject to editing.

Dear Editor,

The Gorham Lions and Lions International have the simplest of two word missions: "We Serve."

The Lions salute all those who are trying mightily to stem the tide of the Covid menace and who continue to give their all to save and assist their neighbors. We thank especially the medical and EMT professionals whose dedication to their patients has no limits. Also we appreciate all those who are doing their best to

keep the community fed, especially the Gorham Food Pantry and the retail food purveyors.

In these unprecedented times, so many have risen to the occasion, despite personal risk.

Thank you for all you have done, what you continue to do, and what you will be called upon to do for many more weeks. We Lions are proud of you and will continue to look for ways that "We can Serve, too."

Ken Aldrich, Gorham Lions President



Around Town

Operation Feed Gorham is now serving on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays each week from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Open to all families in need. If you need food, stop by one of the four locations (Village Elementary, Great Falls Elementary, GMS, and GHS) during times listed above or email michael.sanborn@gorhamschools.org.

A reminder that Maine car registration and inspections are not needed until 30 days after the statewide emergency is declared over.

AT MY TABLE IS CLOSED UNTIL THE STAY-AT-HOME POLICY IS LIFTED. THANK YOU.

COVID-19 Hits Too Close to Home for Town Manager

STACY SALLINEN
Contributing Writer

Gorham Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak is back to work after a leave of absence, splitting his time working remotely from home and his office in Gorham. His father, Rick Paraschak, 66, of Naples passed away on March 29 due to complications from COVID-19. He was one of the first Mainers to be publicly identified.

"Losing a family member in any situation is a horrible experience," he wrote. "However, the complications caused by the virus which does not allow you to see your loved one in person, or your other family members who are grieving, is by itself an incredibly unnerving situation."

Ephrem can't say for certain where or when his father was exposed to the virus. Rick recently returned home from a trade show in Las Vegas after celebrating his birthday. Within a week, he began showing symptoms and tested positive. His condition deteriorated quickly despite having no underlying health conditions.

As a 25-year veteran EMT and firefighter with the Naples Fire Department, Rick was aware that medical professionals, first responders, and healthcare workers face an uphill battle with limited resources. According to Ephrem, one of his father's final acts of helping and protecting his family was to stay home as soon as he became symptomatic. In the end, it was Rick's peers from the Naples Fire Department who transported him to the hospital.

Rick was a long-time employee of the Maine Department of Transportation and also owned his own excavation business, Earth Solutions. He was an active volunteer with the Naples Fire Department, Evergreen Credit Union Board of Directors, SAD 61 School Board, Naples Board of Selectmen, and Naples Planning Board.

Inspired by his mother, Adele Joy Jones, a retired paramedic firefighter for the Town of Scarborough, and his father, Ephrem joined the Naples Fire Department. He is currently a Captain with 14 years of service.

"My father was a strong advocate of call company fire departments also working as service organizations for the public benefit beyond their normal role of providing public safety," he wrote. "In part to serve the public and to also keep department members active through group projects and activities as a means



Photo courtesy of Ephrem Paraschak

Ephrem Paraschak (left) and his father Rick (right) served together on the Naples Fire Department.

to maintain, or increase, the shrinking ranks of firefighters in Maine."

With encouragement from his father, Ephrem pursued a career in Town Management. Rick was his anchor with sound advice during times of stress.

Rick grew up in Williamstown, New Jersey and settled in Naples in 1987, where he raised Ephrem and his sister, Esther. His partner of 20 years, Marian Rabe of Bridgton, is "devastated but in good health."

Ephrem and his wife are expecting their first child in May. Rick was excited to meet his first grandson and would frequently talk about the baby.

"After thinking about memories for a bit, I think one of the most memorable traits of my father (other than being one of the most caring and supportive fathers I can imagine) was that he was incredibly driven," Ephrem wrote. "But more importantly, he wanted to help other people achieve their potential. From mentoring young firefighters to helping friends and the community with projects, he was always looking to help people bring out the best in themselves."

The Paraschak family is grateful to the staff at Central Maine Medical Center ICU for the care they provided to Rick, and allowing them to see him through an iPad during his final days.

"I ask that everyone please support our medical professionals from our first responders to healthcare workers whenever possible," he wrote. "Throughout this pandemic they have never once failed to answer the call and truly are local heroes."

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Postponed

Need for Donations Remains High

Courtesy of National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC)

The 28th annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, scheduled for May 9, has been postponed until later in 2020. A new date has not yet been scheduled.

The annual success of the food drive is largely due to the efforts of letter carriers, other postal employees, postal customers, community volunteers and many more. With much of the United States under shelter in place or similar advisories due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it is highly unlikely that those involved in the food drive will be able

to safely participate at this time.

NALC and our national partners recognize that food assistance is a critical need for many during this difficult time, and we remain committed to helping those in need in the communities we serve across America. We look forward to once again holding the largest one-day food drive in America when it is safe to do so.

While we may not be able to safely conduct the food drive on its traditional date, we encourage those who would participate to consider donations that may be safely made to local food banks in the form of food or financial assistance.

Earth Day: April 22

Consider Reducing, Reusing & Recycling

CATHY WALTER
Staff Writer

Back in the late sixties, the air in LA was yellow and unbreathable. Cleveland's Cuyahoga River caught on fire due to all the toxic waste floating right on the surface. Paper mills and many personal waste systems were dumping directly into our rivers and oceans. People began questioning these practices and started the world's first environmental revolution. In the seventies, they fought to improve the air and the water around us and accomplished historical things including the Clean Air Bill, the Safe Drinking Water Act, and the development of the Environmental Protection Agency. One of the most impactful programs to the average person was the implementation of the Reduce, Reuse and Recycle initiative.

It took generations before we saw curbside pickup of recyclables in small towns across America, but the country quickly embraced the idea that small steps could really make a difference, and now we see bins outside almost every home on pick up day.

But have we forgotten the other R's? When was the last time you thought about how you could reduce your overall consumption, especially of anything related to fossil fuels? Or Reusing? Do you often look at that empty plastic sour cream container and say, "What can I use this for?" and then think of several ideas?



When was the last time you were jumping in the car to run to the store, then stopped and decided to ride your bike instead? Life is moving at a hectic pace these days and we are bombarded with so much information it is no wonder that these 3 R's aren't front and center, but for decades they've been recognized as a keystone to minimizing the human impact on the planet.

So let's take some time to consider the many ways our lives impact our environment and the little things we can do today that would quickly reduce our footprint.

Consider Water

Water is the source of life. Human beings are made of 75 % water, and we've all heard the fitness mantra to hydrate hydrate hydrate to help keep us that way. But even way back in the 1960s, it was evident that industrializa-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

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Route 25 Work Resumes

Courtesy of Maine DOT

The Maine Department of Transportation has resumed work on Route 25 in Gorham and Westbrook. The project area begins where Route 25 intersects with Cressey Road in Gorham and extends east for approximately five miles, ending at the southeasternmost intersection of Route 25 and Conant Street in Westbrook.

The remaining work on this project involves paving between Cressey Road and Meadowbrook Drive in Gorham.

Signal work will take place at the intersections of School Street, Elm Street, New Portland Road, and Libby Avenue. This project also involves sidewalk, parking, drainage, and safety work.

Two-way traffic will be maintained during daytime hours. There will be one-way, alternating traffic during some night work. All paving work will be done at night. Shaw Brothers Construction of Gorham is the contractor on this project. The current anticipated completion date is September 1st, 2020.

tion was negatively impacting our drinking water. The importance of water as a resource for humans worldwide was publicly hailed when then President John F. Kennedy said, "Anyone who can solve the problems of water is worthy of two Nobel prizes — one for peace and one for science."

Although no one may ever be able to solve this multifaceted problem, there is plenty an individual can do to slow down their personal consumption and conserve gallons of potable water. Think RRR...Reduce...Reuse...Recycle.

Reduce: Consider turning off the faucet while brushing your teeth. Depending on how wide open you crank your faucet you could be throwing away gallons of water. The simple act of shutting your faucet off and on to rinse your brush instead of just letting it flow will not only conserve a valuable

resource, but will put money directly into your pocket.

Reuse: Consider, when mopping your floors, not pouring out that bucket of dirty water, but instead using it to clean outdoor spaces like garage floors, driveways and decks. Not only are you saving water but reducing the chemical cleaners released to the environment.

Recycle: Consider collecting yesterday's pet water to water your potted plants indoor and out. If you leave a watering can by the pet bowls, not only will it act as a friendly reminder and make collecting water simple, it can be decorated to fit your decor.

Editor's Note: This is the beginning of a new series in the Gorham Times where we will highlight a specific theme and then look at several ways to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. If you have an idea for a new topic to consider, please submit to gorhamtimes@gmail.com.

Town Update CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Town Departments providing essential services have implemented measures to enable employees to maintain social distancing in the work place. Staff is also developing additional strategies to keep the Town operating to the greatest extent possible.

Economic Development Director Kevin Jensen is working closely with

the Gorham Village Alliance and the Gorham Business Exchange to reach members of the business community to help them navigate the process of applying for loans to Maine's small businesses.

For further updates or more details on any of the above, visit www.gorham-me.org.

GHS GRAD NEWS: If you, or your son or daughter is a GHS graduate, we would like to share your achievements in the Gorham Times Of Interest section or in a Where Are They Now feature. Of Interest submissions should include the year of GHS graduation and should be no longer than 75 words. Contact Chris Crawford at ckck5@maine.rr.com, Kathy Corbett at ktcorbett@aol.com or Cindy O'Shea at coshea2@maine.rr.com.

Restaurant Hours

Sun-Thurs:
11 am to 10 pm

Fri & Sat:
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LIVING

Self-Connection During Quarantine

ANDREA PAUL

We are in the middle of a public health crisis, and things seem quite uncertain. Unless you are an essential service (in which case Thank You!) you are likely working from home, social distancing, and also out of your regular routines. Having some regular routines or habits can provide us with a sense of ease and consistency in our lives. And when they are disrupted, it can cause stress for many individuals.

On the other hand, being forced out of your regular day-to-day could also be an opportunity to reexamine those habits and see if or how they are serving you. If you find yourself feeling anxious about not being able to engage in your normal kind of movement or exercise, or not being able to eat in a way that you usually do, this could be a sign that it is time to check in with the intention(s) behind your habits.

Feeling anxious at the sight of empty shelves at the grocery store is completely normal and understandable. If you have experienced food insecurity in the past or are in recovery from disordered eating, these feelings may be particularly strong. Please give yourself the self-compassion that you deserve every day, and especially under these unprecedented circumstances.

Here are some ideas to support your physical and emotional wellbeing, as well as foster self-connection in difficult times and beyond:

Eat regular meals and snacks. Consistent and adequate food will always be vital to our wellbeing. Regardless of whether or not you are doing more sitting and less moving around, your body still requires energy to function. At the moment, you might not have access to all your normal foods due to fewer trips to the grocery store, food service establishments being closed, working from home, etc. Remember that our bodies are great at adapting and are able to make use of all foods. Eating foods that are satisfying and make our bodies feel good is important, but sometimes we must eat what is available.

Do a body scan. Close your eyes and notice how your body feels. Are you feeling stiff? Restless? Anxious? Energetic? Tired? Body scans are a useful daily

practice that will help you determine what, if any, type of movement would feel good on any given day.

Try journaling. You might find it helpful to journal simply about your feelings or you may choose to take a more pragmatic approach and take note of things like hunger, fullness, emotions, and behaviors. The goal of journaling is to have a way to effectively process our thoughts and gather insight. Some individuals find it helpful to journal about their eating patterns as well. As a reminder, journaling as a means to gather information is different than "tracking" what we eat as a means to control or restrict food intake.

Engage in fun or creative activities. We live in a world where productivity is highly valued. Many of us have a list of activities we enjoy doing, but rarely get to do it because of other priorities. The act of doing something that is enjoyable, fun, creative, or just silly can be an enriching and refreshing experience.

Our mental health is just as important as our physical health. Not only that, but they are interconnected. If you have been putting it off, now could be a good time to seek out support whether that means therapy, nutrition counseling, or something else. Even though many offices have temporarily suspended in-person sessions, many insurance plans cover Telehealth so you can chat with a provider from the comfort of your home.

The situation we find ourselves in right now is far from ideal, and it might not resolve as quickly as we want. At the very least, these circumstances are an opportunity to practice being flexible about how we take care of ourselves, both physically and emotionally.

How are you choosing to take care of yourself during this time? If you can do one thing, we hope you can be gentle and kind to yourself and those around you.



Andrea Paul, RDN, LD, is a dietitian at CVWellbeing



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Town Council Meeting APRIL 7, 2020

JACOB ADAMS
Staff Writer

Phil Gagnon, a Revolving Loan Fund Committee member, reminded local businesses of the forgivable SBA 7A loan that is offered to businesses, non-profits, and religious organizations during the COVID-19 crisis.

Councilor Pratt extended his gratitude to all Town Staff for going above and beyond during the current crisis and also thanked the public for being patient and coming together as a community.

Councilor Shepard reported that the Ordinance Committee is scheduled to meet via Zoom on April 21.

Councilor Kuech expressed her appreciation of how the Town and schools have come together during this time to help feed Gorham residents in need.

Chairman McCallister mentioned that the Gorham School Committee approved of the distance learning plan two weeks ago and the schools will not have to make up the days that are being missed. The district is trying to keep the calendar as consistent as possible and plans to have the usual April break and last day of school on June 16.

The schools have been offering food service programs to help provide breakfast and lunches to families in need across Gorham since the second week of closure. Anyone interested in participating in "Operation Feed Gorham" should reach out to either Superintendent Perry or our School Nutrition Director, Michael Sanborn.

McCallister reported that work continues on the Narragansett Modular Expansion Project. There was a slight delay with sprinkler systems but that issue has been corrected and the project remains on schedule.

The schools have also worked with the town to assist in providing medical supplies to Gorham's first responders from nurses who had stockpiled for pandemic planning purposes.

The school's technology department has been working closely with the Town to assist in strengthening the Town's emergency communications systems.

The Town Council issued a renewal liquor license to MK Kitchen and the Gorham Country Club.

The Town Council did not authorize a referendum question for June 9 to expend up to \$750,000 to install and construct a new kitchen area at the Narragansett Elementary School utilizing funds previously approved in the School Department operating budget, as well as funds from a previously approved referendum bond package. (See article below right.)

The Town Council transferred \$5,000 from the Town Council Contingency account to be used by the Gorham Food Pantry during the current State of Emergency.

All existing lenders with the Gorham Loan Fund Committee were offered the option of deferring payment on existing loans effective April 1, 2020, and lasting through June 30, 2020; all new loans issued on or after April 1, 2020 would be subject to the same deferral option under the same timeframe.

The following people have been appointed as election workers with terms to expire April 1, 2022:

Democratic Workers:

Sherrie Benner, Elizabeth Bischof, Diane Caswell, Wendy Clark, Patricia Clay, Katharine Corbett, Laurie Corbett, Thomas Corbett, Nancy Craig, Nicoleta Dalton, Geraldine Day, Melissa Deering, Renee Deering, Anne Dunbar, John Ersek, Sheri Faber, Mary Fagerson, Rachel Flynn, Mary Franklin, Mary Fraser, Katherine Garrard, Yvonne Graffam, Barbara Guimond, Joanne Hachey, Colleen Hoyt, Carole Jordan, Jennifer Laffin, Kandy Lefebvre, Donna Libby, Connie Loughran, Linda Maclean, Carol Marshburn, Michelle McCaffrey, Elizabeth McDonagh, Barbara McGarvey, Janet Miliano, Susan Parsons, Denise Quint, Judith Ringo, Regina Rofe, Kimberly Ross, Robin Sanford, Susan Searle Sato, Melinda Shain, Paula Smeltzer, Mary Snell, Craig Stirling, Deb Stirling, Judith Stevens, Mary Sturtevant, Sheryl Towle, Gail Trudeau, Kathleen Walsh, Debra Winch

Republican Workers:

Marilyn Amoroso, Elizabeth Axelson, Sandra Bailey, Merideth Bickford, Kathy Bruni, Donna Carll, Nancy Connolly, Rebecca Curtis, George Deering, Linda Deering, Rhonda Desrochers, Jane Dube, Susan Emerson, James Falk, Judith Falk, Linda Frinsko, Sharon Geer, Diane

Godfrey, Mary Golden, Maynard Hincks, Carolyn Hodgkins, Thomas Hodgkins, Nancy Kenty, Elizabeth Labrecque, John Labrecque, Marjory Macleod, Joann Means, Carlene Petersen, John Petersen, Jenifer McCullough, Rosamond Phinney, Heidi Pratt, Marlene Scholl, Nancy Shaw, Laurel Smith, Marth Towle, Janice Weed, Norman Weed, Carol Wyman

The Town Council granted an abatement of taxes to a Small Pond Road resident in the amount of \$282.36 for the 2019-2020 tax year due to an acreage discrepancy.

The full minutes can be read at <https://www.gorham-me.org>

TC Votes No on Narragansett Kitchen Referendum

KATHY CORBETT
Staff Writer

The Town Council (TC) voted 3-3 to reject a motion that would have required a referendum before the construction of a kitchen addition to the new modular cafeteria at Narragansett Elementary School. The same motion had failed for lack of a second at the March meeting, but was reintroduced at the April meeting by Councilor Ben Hartwell and seconded by Councilor Virginia Wilder Cross.

Town attorney Mark Bower explained that a reconsideration rule made this motion possible. Councilor Janet Kuech, a school employee, recused herself leaving six council members eligible to vote. Bower said a tie vote would mean the motion would not pass.

The question under consideration was whether or not the School Committee could use \$478,000 saved from bond money authorized by voters for the modular project last June combined with \$249,000 from the district's operations

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Keeping Trash Collection Employees Safe

DIANE ABRAMSON
Staff Writer

During these unprecedented times, we cannot overlook the sacrifices our frontline workers are making. Every day, medical professionals, first responders, supermarket workers, delivery drivers, and collection workers leave their homes to keep us safe, healthy, and fed. These are our heroes.

R.W. Herrick has been the Town of Gorham's curbside trash and recycling contractor for the past 18 years. Although the job can be "hot and smelly, cold and miserable, depressing and rewarding," this is the first time "it has been scary," according to Operations Manager, Adam Burns.

"The CDC classifies collection workers as high risk. We cannot distance ourselves from your trash and recycling. We are just asking for your help in keeping ourselves and our families safe and healthy," he added.

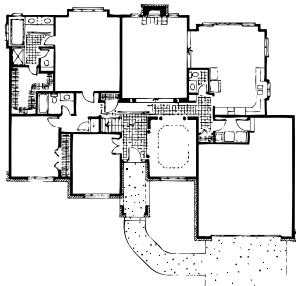
With Maine's stay-at-home order, R.W. Herrick is seeing an increase in the amount of trash and recycling being produced. Burns and his crew are asking for the community's help.

All recycling can go in one tote, milk crate, plastic container, or clear plastic bag (tied at the top), according to the Gorham Public Works Department. Items that are approved for recycling include: paper, plastic, metal, and glass. Paper comprises of clean cardboard, newspaper, mail, paper bags, and drink boxes. Plastic products must have a number (1-7) in the middle of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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Our Own HOMETOWN Heroes

1. Colby Wyatt, MD, a Pediatric Pulmonologist at Maine Health, masked and ready to make kids smile.

2. Roberta Willis is a Registered Nurse at Maine Medical Center Urgent Care Plus.

3. Anna Willis Patti is a traveling Registered Nurse.

4. The staff at Carter's Auto Service stands ready to provide auto repairs and maintenance.

5. Kristi Brown of the Gorham Post Office is ready to process mail and packages.

6. Lori Rumery is a Hospitalist Nurse Practitioner at Mercy Hospital.

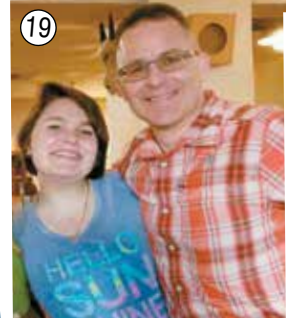
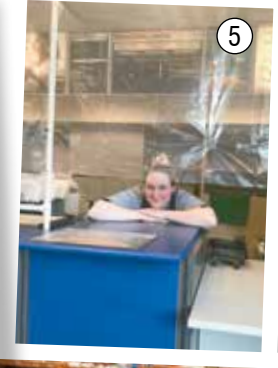
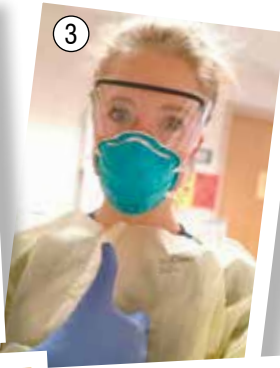
7. Phil Rumery is an EMT and Fire Fighter with the South Portland Fire Department.

8. Mike Smith and Jen Fields of Village Physical Therapy continue to provide care to their patients but remain six feet from each other.

9. Shane Webber, a sixth grade student at Gorham Middle School, assembles face shields for health care professionals at Plas-Tech, Inc. located in the Gorham Industrial Park. The business is owned by his parents, Terry and Jackie Webber.

10. Luke Inman, Josh Bushey and Mike Wilson continue with essential projects at Great Falls Construction.

11. Freihofer's Bakery made a huge bread donation to the Gorham School District to help those in our community who are struggling with food insecurity.



12. Flowfold, located in the Gorham Industrial Park, recently suspended production of its usual line of products and switched to the production of face shields for hospitals and health care facilities in response to the global pandemic.

13. The staff at Moody's Collision is prepared to get vehicles back on the road.

14. The staff at Inn at Village Square are taking great care of their residents.

15. Angela Leclerc (right) is a Physician Assistant at Maine Medical Center in the Critical Care Unit and Program Manager for the Critical Care Advanced Practice Providers. She teams up with a nursing colleague to provide care for a COVID patient.

16. Carter's Green Market remains open for take-out three days per week. Cheers to Mo Terry and

Holly Carter for social distancing.

17. Carlye Homan is a Registered Nurse at Maine Medical Center.

18. Whitney Trosper is a PA-C at Maine Medical Center.

19. Dr. Jason Yahwak is a Pulmonologist and Critical Care Doctor at Maine Medical Center. His daughter, Amelia, works for Hannaford in Gorham.

20. Gorham House heroes.

Editor's Note: We are highlighting a few of our Gorham heroes. We know there are many more who are not included. To be considered for future publication, please send us an email at gorhamtimes@gmail.com.



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Teddy Bear Hunt Brings Joy to Young and Old

LESLIE DUPUIS
Editor

Amy Starr of Gorham came up with the idea to hold a Teddy Bear Hunt after seeing Facebook posts from friends in Rhode Island. The concept, which became a national craze, is a scavenger hunt suited for social distancing, according to the New York Times. People put teddy bears and other stuffed animals in windows, on porches, in trees and on parked cars. Then, children go for walks or drives with their families and try to spot as many as they can.

Starr said, "At the time I didn't know that people were doing it all over, I just thought WOW we should do this here in Gorham because selfishly I needed to entertain my own kids."

She originally planned to ask a few neighbors and friends to take part. One friend suggested that she share the idea on the Gorham, Maine Facebook page and from there it took off. She also reached out to Baxter Memorial Library and arranged a staff reading of "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" on the story time live feed.

While the hunt was originally scheduled to take place on April 7 immediately following the story time, the stay at home order forced Starr to rearrange the event in less than 24 hours to take place on April 1, before the Governor's order went into effect.

Many families asked to be added to a map that Starr created using maphub. While it's difficult to calculate the exact number of families who participated, Starr believes hundreds of bears were put up around Gorham and at least 100 families took part in the hunt.

"Hundreds of teddy bears and other stuffies adorned windows, front porches, mailboxes and more throughout our amazing town. To hear from community members who participated either by waking, driving or displaying, you made the day a resounding success, but more importantly came together in a time of uncertainty to spread joy together."

Prizes were awarded to the top three finishers and were sponsored by Starr's company, Go Nest Property Management. As a father to two young children, her boss was excited to see the excitement surrounding the event. Keeping it local, Starr purchased Beal's gift cards for the winners and



Photo credit Alicia Warner

Many Gorham families took part in a teddy bear hunt on April 1. First place went to the Warner family who found 162 bears and 85 stuffies.



Photo credit Amy Starr

made personalized stuffies as a non-food option.

"It truly was a humbling, wonderful event and showed me once again what an amazing community Gorham is," said Starr.

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Hometown Heroes at Hannaford CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Until stock levels are back to normal, Cole confirmed that several items still have limits to discourage panic buying. These include flour, butter, bleach and cleaning supplies, disinfectants, toilet paper, napkins, paper towels, hand soap, hand sanitizer, eggs, cold medicines, face masks, and pain relievers.

As far as safety is concerned, Hannaford has made numerous improvements and incorporated procedures to protect its employees and customers. The company announced that it would offer dedicated shopping hours for people age 60 and older as well as those with compromised immune systems to allow for a less crowded shopping experience. It also shortened its operating hours to provide for additional time to clean, stock shelves, and give associates time to rest.

Cole said, "We installed plexiglass at every register and at the pharmacy; we have red tape and round markers on the floor to mark 6 foot distances; we have associates cleaning around the clock, disinfecting carriages at the entrance, any hand contact areas, and the associate break room and offices. We have face shields available for associates and new bright yellow vests that have a social distancing message."

Per the State mandate, the store can only have 70 customers at a time in the store. Employees monitor this number by keeping only one entrance open for customers to enter and exit. Additionally, the store has temporarily prohibited the use of reusable bags that could expose employees to contaminants. Plastic bag fees have been waived as a result.

While some at-risk employees have decided to stop working for the time

being, temporary workers have been hired to help fill the gap. "What's cool is the amazing teamwork that the associates who are still working have shown, working anywhere in the store where there is a need, often in departments where they don't usually work," Cole said.

Hannaford To Go has returned as the company felt it was an important option, but there is limited capacity. Customers are asked to be patient and remember that there are still many items out of stock.

Customers needing prescriptions can call the pharmacy ahead of time, pay over the phone, and employees will bring the prescription directly to customer's car.

When asked about what customers can do to help make their jobs easier, Cole offered the following tips. "We all need to be aware of social distancing and be patient and kind while practicing it. Please remember your fellow shopper. Don't shop with your entire family so it will keep the lines moving, don't buy more than what you need so the next person might be able to get some, don't shop for one or two items five days a week, do big shops."

Cole added, "I am impressed at how genuinely kind and down to earth the community has been in this crisis. We are all stressed, tired, and afraid, and that sometimes brings out the worst in people, but 99.9% of our customers are truly thankful and appreciative that we are here for them in these crazy times and that makes it all worth it for me and my team. We are really proud and happy to be still serving the Gorham community!"

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TC Votes No on Kitchen Referendum

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

budget to finance the construction. Superintendent Heather Perry said that since no action had been taken at the March TC meeting the school district moved forward with the project. If the issue went to referendum, however, they would not be able to construct the kitchen before school opened in the fall.

Many people attended the March meeting intending to speak during the time for public comment, but did not when the Council dropped the motion. This time, 14 people chose to comment by phone, email, or by attending the Zoom meeting. Two-thirds spoke in opposition to a referendum.

Hartwell explained that he proposed the motion because the town charter required voter approval for expenditures of \$250,000 or more. He said that the kitchen had not been in the approved project plan and that Perry had said any cost savings would be used to pay down the bonds. Councilors Suzanne Phillips and Wilder-Cross agreed. Perry responded that she had promised to return only unnecessary funds.

Councilors Ron Shepard, Lee Pratt, and James Hager did not support the motion even though the kitchen was not in the approved plan. They believed it was a necessary addition considering the impact of increased enrollment at Narragansett and the problems associated with the current configuration.

Shepard said the original project had not been well planned before bringing it to the TC and questioned why there was bond money left over. Hager asked why the new kitchen project would be delayed until FY22 if a referendum was required. Norman Justice, Facilities Director, responded to the issue of cost savings and said that the kitchen could only be moved during the summer when no students were there.

Keeping Trash Collection Employees Safe

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

the chasing arrow symbol and consists of items such as water bottles, milk jugs, and detergent bottles. Tin cans, empty aerosol cans, aluminum foil and pots and pans are acceptable to recycle as are all glass bottles and jars.

Items that are NOT recyclable include: plastic bags, hazardous waste, kitty litter, Styrofoam, food waste, coffee filters, metal coat hangers, wood, clothing, tissues and paper towels, floor sweepings, knives, diapers, chip or snack bags, and large metal parts.

Kevin Roche, CEO of ecoMaine, reiterated the importance of proper disposal, "We have been focused for a long time on making sure the right material is in the right bin. At this point, under these circumstances, it's even more important now than ever to keep recyclables in the recycling and solid waste in the trash."

In addition to proper sorting, Burns asks that residents assist his collection workers by placing all trash and recycling receptacles at the end of their driveway, ensuring that all bags are properly tied, and putting all trash and recycling in a tote, trash can, or other approved container.

The Town of Gorham also reminds residents to have trash tagged/bagged appropriately and out no later than 7 a.m. on the day of collection as R.W. Herrick is dealing with a much larger volume of trash and recycling.

For residents who do not wish to leave home to obtain trash bags/tags, the Public Works Department is providing delivery and invoicing for residents. Call 892-9062 for more information.

For more information on trash and recycling, as well as recycling guidelines, visit gorham-me.org/public-works-department/pages/trash-and-recycling.

SCHOOL

School Committee Meeting

APRIL 8, 2020

KATHY CORBETT
Staff Writer

The School Committee (SC) held its April 8 regular meeting remotely by Zoom with an opportunity for public comment. Superintendent Heather Perry reported that distance learning will likely continue until the last day of school on June 16. There will be the usual April break. Operation Feed Gorham has been providing 300 meals a day and will continue during the April break.

Although there are no athletic programs, the district will partially pay coaches for work with student athletes. "Everyone is working in a new way," she said. All SC members expressed appreciation for everything the district employees are doing to educate Gorham children.

In answer to Bill Benson's question about how the district is getting feedback on distance learning from students and parents, Perry said that along with reaching out to teachers and principals, a Thought Exchange survey was created. So far 280 parents and as many students have used this resource. Assistant Superintendent Chris Record said they would soon report out on feedback and suggestions they have received.

Perry is confident programming is in place that will maintain standards and structure until the end of the school year. All students will not have learned the same, but the leadership team is working on ways to help parents over the summer, and will probably need to open school differently in the fall.

"Students are stressed and anxious," Record said, "and parents are having trouble with multiple children at home." School counselors and social workers are reaching out to students.

Phil Gagnon asked about grading work. There are no grades given for K-3 students. For grades 4-12 there is some graded work, keeping in mind questions of equity and access. For K-5 students the focus is on reading and math.

When giving her update on distance learning, Perry acknowledged, "We are building the plane while flying it." The district leadership team is meeting three times a week and working to find balance, including a way to celebrate seniors at the end of the year. Record is working with GHS principal Brian Jandreau and meeting with other area principals on this.

Students from civil rights teams at the three elementary schools gave short online presentations. Great Falls students shared the topics teams in all schools focus on: race and skin color, ancestry and national origin, disabilities, gender stereotypes, and sexual orientation. Narragansett students reported on activities for Black History Month and members of the Village team showed their welcome postings in all the languages spoken by their classmates' families.

The SC members voted 7-0 on three policies that have minor changes, mostly related to clarity: Accommodation for Sincere Beliefs, Public Participation at Meetings, and Animals in Schools. They approved hiring Peter Krahe to teach math (one year) and Ian Ryan to teach social studies at GHS.

A Message to Gorham's High School Seniors and Parents

TINA STEELE
Contributing Writer

And there it is, the announcement we have all been dreading. "Gorham schools will continue remote learning for the rest of the school year," said Superintendent Heather Perry in a recent blog post.

While this is impacting all students and families in a significant way, my heart especially goes out to high school seniors and their parents. The last few months of senior year are normally filled with celebrations and special events to mark the achievement of hard work for the past 13 years.

It's normally a time of excitement as college decisions are being made, prom gowns are being chosen, and graduation parties are in full planning mode. Senioritis, a common condition at this time of year, has typically set in by now.

This year, instead, high school seniors (and parents too) are grappling with a "new normal" and now having to come to grips with the reality of this bittersweet time being overshadowed by a virus that has changed everything.

First, let me say to all high school seniors that I'm sorry that your prom has been cancelled, that you can't participate for the very last time in your spring sports and coveted senior games marking the end of an era, that you won't be able to walk across stage and receive your high school diploma in front of all your family and friends in June as initially planned, and that admitted student days at colleges have been cancelled preventing you from that visit that would likely help you make your college decision.

May 1, national college decision day, is almost here. Not being able to get back onto college campuses (or even visiting for the first time) as you make your college decisions is tough. For many students, visiting colleges for their admitted student's days is what helps them "seal the deal." There are a few things you can do instead.

I recommend reaching out to the head of the academic department for the major you are interested in and asking to set up a zoom call so that you can ask questions about the

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Gorham Schools Will Not Reopen This School Year CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

plates that you currently have in the air for a longer period of time. We know that this means folks will continue to be uncertain and anxious. And we know we will definitely continue to miss our students.

As we move through the course of the rest of this month and early next month more detailed information will be coming out. We will continue to adjust and "tweak" our systems to find better balance and we will make sure we find a way to celebrate the accomplishments of all of our students, our staff, and our parents before we close this school year and work to begin a new one.

Please know that the intent of taking "attendance" in our new format is simply to assist us in tracking which students and families may be having the most difficulty engaging in our programming so that we can use this data to better inform programmatic decisions now and in the future.

We realize that not every student or family will be able to engage at the same levels for lots of different and very valid reasons. Each family must find their own balance during these difficult times and

the school will find a way to provide support and adjust programming to match that balance over time.

We are focused on how to appropriately end the 3rd quarter in such a way that does not "punish" students for the extremely unusual way that we ended that quarter. Once this has been solidified, we are also talking about how grading and reporting will be done for the remainder of the school year. The overall objective will be to ensure that however we might temporarily "tweak" our grading and reporting systems that these systems allow teachers to continue to provide timely and specific feedback to students on their work, that any grades assist teachers and students in better understanding what skills/standards they have met, and what skills/standards they still need work on and that this system does not unduly disadvantage students who may be experiencing our distance learning programming in very different ways depending upon circumstances that are beyond their control.

There has been some concern raised recently regarding zoom meetings, or any meeting for that matter, that involves

video with students and teachers in larger groups. Video conference meetings are helpful to be able to see one another, to smile and laugh together and to just "be" with one another. On the other hand, however, lots of issues can arise. We have "zoom bombings" occurring where folks are hacking into zoom meetings all over the country with profanity, sexual content, or rude/racists remarks which none of us find useful at all.

We have provided additional training to staff on zoom meeting safety and will likely be encouraging the staff that can to move more towards use of Google Meets, which requires that individual's login with their Gorham Schools issued email addresses. Of course, this will only help those grade levels that have school issued email addresses as not all do.

We ask that families try not to take photos of your child's screen showing their peers unless it is done at such a distance that you couldn't make out names or faces of the students online. This is just a courtesy as we know not everyone is keen on having their image or the images of their children out there in Internet land.

If you are aware of any issues involving the misuse of technology I would ask that you immediately reach out to let your child's teacher and building principal know so that we can follow up quickly. Just as we don't tolerate these kinds of behavior in "regular school" we also will not tolerate these behaviors in "distance school" and we need your help to make sure we can appropriately address these issues as they may occur.

Virtual Community Readers Needed

Narragansett School is looking for members of the Gorham community who are willing to read children's books virtually to the K-5 school. Teachers will use these books to share mystery community readers with students.

If interested email jacqueline.dh@gorhamschools.org for more information.

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A Message to Gorham's High School Seniors and Parents

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

program and get a better feel for it.

I also suggest trying to connect with student organizations on campus of interest to you. You could ask the department head (or the student advising office) who to contact. Connecting with some other students on campus virtually and asking questions about their on-campus experience could prove helpful during this important decision-making time.

Also, there's a great website, www.campusreel.org, that has over 15,000 student-generated videos of colleges across the U.S. These videos will give some authentic and honest insight into the college you are interested in.

Parents, your financial situation might look very different than it did just a month ago before coronavirus (COVID-19). It's crucial that you notify each and every financial aid office if you or your spouse has lost your job or income as a result. They can use this change in financial circumstances to re-evaluate the financial aid offer.

If nothing has changed for you financially, you can still appeal your son or daughter's financial aid offer if it is out of reach financially for you. It's important to check the appeal guidelines at each college prior to doing this. A lot of the private colleges have more flexibility in awarding additional money as a result of an appeal than public institutions do.

Use this extra time at home to search for scholarships. There are a ton of scholarships out there, but students don't always take the time to search and apply for them, as it is tedious. Every junior and senior in high school and current college student should be searching for scholarships throughout the year. It could mean thousands more dollars in free money to help pay for college.

The busiest scholarship deadline season of the year is January through May, so focusing on this for the next 30 days especially could really make a difference financially. Anyone can access my free Scholarships 101 webinar on my YouTube channel (The FAFSA Guru) to learn how to effectively search for and find scholarships.

Hang in there and don't be too hard on yourself as you navigate all the feelings you are struggling with. I know this is a difficult time for each and every one of you but try to stay positive and focused on your college plans. There are still so many exciting things ahead of you. One way or another, I know that our community will find a way to celebrate you.



Tina Steele is a Gorham resident with almost 30 years of experience in Higher Education. She owns The FAFSA Guru and is an Educational Consultant who assists families in navigating the

overwhelming college planning, admission and financial aid process.

SPORTS

Spring Sports Season Canceled

TIM SPEAR
GHS Athletic Director

The Maine Principals Association (MPA) Interscholastic Management Committee and Board of Directors met on April 9 and made the unenviable decision to follow recommendations made by the Maine Department of Education and the Maine CDC with maintaining social distancing practices for a prolonged period of time and moving school functions to remote learning.

With that, the MPA felt it would be difficult to offer a traditional spring athletic season this year given the nature of the COVID-19 event, and thus has canceled the spring athletic season for 2020.

This is a decision that obviously comes with great sadness and many emotions, especially for our class of

2020 spring student-athletes, their families, and our community. Please know the Gorham School Department athletic staff will continue to work remotely with our student athletes, not only for personal and individual skill development suggestions, but also for their total well being and support.

We are currently exploring ways to recognize and celebrate our Class of 2020 spring student-athletes in a more formal way, and still hold out hope that we may get to a date in the future when we can do this appropriately, in person. Please remain patient in regards to this as plans will develop over time and the situation warrants, and hopefully improves in time.

In the meantime, please stay on top of your academics and stay safe and healthy. Know that our coaches and I are available for your support.

Recognition for Another Season



Photo credit Pastore Family

Following a successful fall season, Joe Pastore Jr., along with fellow Gorham racer Dan McKeage and his family, were seen nationwide this year on Nascar's Grassroots Racing segment featuring Beech Ridge Motor Speedway. In January, Pastore won two awards at the Maine Motorsports Expo Show at the Augusta Civic Center: Overall Maine Driver of the Year in the Sports Series and Best Appearing Car in a Sports Series. Pastore thanks his sponsors, R N Craft Inc, Bothel's Mechanical Repair, Southern Maine General Contracting, Joe Gardner, and his family for their support. Pictured is Stephen Perry (left), host and promoter of the Mainely Motorsports TV show, Pastore, and his son Jace.



Chris Burton



Julie Chandler



Jane Mason



Mike Griffin



Benjamin Taylor

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SOLD

445 Cape Road \$369,900 - Classic Hollis Cape Cod center chimney post and beam on 7.65 acres w/ a 32x36 barn. Over 2000sqft w/ 3BR & 2ba. Exposed beams and wood floors throughout.



BALDWIN \$34,900 - Rural wooded lot offers road frontage on both Saddleback Road and Mountain Road. Ideal for a year round privacy or a weekend retreat!



NEW LISTING

GORHAM \$248,500 - Charming cape located in the heart of Gorham with sidewalks to all the village amenities. Move right in to this 3 bedroom, 2 bath with a spacious backyard.



BROWNFIELD \$18,900 - Nice Level building lot w/ shared beach rights on Pequawket Pond. Septic design done & power at the street. Come build your home here!



NEW LISTING

GORHAM \$469,900 - Gorgeous contemporary ranch offering 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, newly renovated with a huge finished basement on 2.81 acres just 1.1 miles to Gorham Village.



NEW LISTING

STANDISH \$65,000 - Wooded parcel with a mix of upland and wetland. Frontage on desirable Oak Hill Road. Located in Standish's Rural District which allows for duplexes.



SOLD

12 Acre Shaker Road \$74,900 Located in the heart of Gray off Shaker Road. Per town lot can be split into two building lots or you could build a duplex on it. Gravel road/driveway has already been built.



BUXTON \$84,900 - Two acre building lot located near the Buxton/Gorham line. Level country setting for your new home, great location to commute in all directions.



NEW LISTING

WINDHAM \$199,900 - 3BR, 2bath condo w/ finished space in the basement. Deck, porch & 1-car. Needs repairs to the heating system/plumbing.



WATERBORO \$199,000 - Has very narrow access off Cross Rd. Large parcel has been cut over recently. Plenty of space for snowmobiling, hunting, etc. Build on your own private acreage and relax.

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Peter Mason

COMMUNITY

OF INTEREST

Custom Coach and Limousine, of Gorham, honored fellow employee Richard (Skip) Bryan who died of complications from COVID-19 on April 6. The company held a rolling memorial on April 11 in Falmouth, Bryan's hometown, to pay tribute to the long time professional Motorcoach/Bus driver and US Marine veteran. As Custom Coach and Limousine owner Gregg Isherwood said, "This is our way of saying good-bye to a great friend, driver, and veteran, and showing his family we care."

Baxter Memorial Library's website provides numerous online library resources including the Digital Maine Library, CloudLibrary and more. Visit the new website page: BML@Home, <https://baxterlibrary.org/bml-home/> to learn more.

The Baxter Memorial Library Youth Services Department, in conjunction with Gorham School Department, offers a Littlest Learner Literacy Outreach Program at many of our local pre-schools. The Gorham School Department's Aspire Grant funds these outreach services. Deb Tanguay acts as the primary liaison between the preschools, the public library, and the school system. On a monthly basis, she spends time at each preschool leading a half-hour story time, complete with developmentally-appropriate books, songs, and movement breaks. Ms. Deb has been missing all her outreach kiddos so much that she has made some videos of her reading and doing other fun activities for them to enjoy at home. Visit www.baxterlibrary.org and hover over the button marked "Youth Services." Then choose "Kids" and find Ms. Deb's section under Preschool Outreach.

April is National Poetry Month: Youth librarians in Maine have decided to celebrate National Poetry Month digitally. They will post videos of themselves reading their favorite poems with the hashtag #PoetryME. Baxter Memorial Library invites everyone to join them by contributing your favorite poem. You can also post bookspine poetry or anything else you can do from home. Just use the hashtag #PoetryME so we can all find them and enjoy.

Facebook Live StoryTime with Ms. Heidi at Baxter Memorial Library: Join Ms. Heidi each Tuesday and Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. as she reads picture books from her cozy reading chair.

Afternoon Chapters with Mr. Jeff: Tuesdays-Fridays at 2 p.m. Mr. Jeff will be reading a popular juvenile fiction title every Tuesday-Friday throughout April. Join him on Facebook Live at 2 p.m. as he reads Frindle, Holes, The Wild Robot, and the Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane.

Susan Stevens Boucher (GHS '81) has organized "30 Days of Free Books" with the help of 23 fellow authors. For more details about the monthlong series of book giveaways visit <https://authorsmstevens.com/30days/>.

Maine Authors Publishing of Thomaston is partnering with local bookstores to help sustain the local and independent literary community by "shipping the bookstore to your door." For a limited time, readers can purchase a Maine Authors Publishing title from our local participating bookstore, The Bookworm, for shipping directly to your home. Simply place your order online at maineauthor-publishing.com/maine-authors-bookstore-direct and The Bookworm will complete the sale.

Quilts of Valor Quilt Block Challenge: Looking for something to keep you busy while practicing social distancing? Consider quilting the April block, Star of Hope, for the White Rock Grange #380 Quilts of Valor Quilt Block Challenge. A new block is released each month from November to May. Visit <http://www.grange.org/whiterockme380/quilts-of-valor-grange-challenge/> or find us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/whiterockgrange380/> for details.

Arts organizations and artists are among those being hard hit by the current situation. The public is invited to visit your favorite arts organizations online. Many of them are finding new and interesting ways to entertain, and support their performers, and ways that the public can help.



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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

Baxter Memorial Library

- Facebook Live Story Time with Ms. Heidi, 9:30 a.m.
- Afternoon Chapters with Mr. Jeff, 2 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

Baxter Memorial Library, Afternoon Chapters with Mr. Jeff, 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

Baxter Memorial Library

- Facebook Live Story Time with Ms. Heidi, 9:30 a.m.
- Afternoon Chapters with Mr. Jeff, 2 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

Baxter Memorial Library, Facebook Live Story Time with Ms. Heidi, 9:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

Baxter Memorial Library, Afternoon Chapters with Mr. Jeff, 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

Baxter Memorial Library

- Facebook Live Story Time with Ms. Heidi, 9:30 a.m.
- Afternoon Chapters with Mr. Jeff, 2 p.m.

GORHAM FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

To best protect clients and volunteers during COVID-19, the Gorham Food Pantry will no longer be open Wednesday evenings during the month of April. Open hours are every Thursday from 10 a.m. - noon with curbside drive through procedures in place. The Pantry continues to receive new (first-time) clients, and expects the numbers of new families to climb in the coming weeks as more Gorham families are impacted by job changes. Any Gorham resident can take advantage of the Gorham Food Pantry; clients need only visit during pantry hours with proof of residency (a water bill, electric bill with your name and your Gorham address on it). With weekly changes, it's important to follow Gorham Food Pantry Friends on Facebook for the latest info. Message us anytime via Facebook or email director@gorhamfoodpantry.org for particulars. For elderly, immunocompromised, or those who need to explore other arrangements, please reach out to via Facebook messenger for alternatives to shopping at the pantry. The most pressing needs are Onion bags; 1 lb bags of coffee; Baking goods: cake, brownie, cookie mixes, Jiffy muffin mixes; Oatmeal (containers or packets); Jelly; Tomato products: diced, sauce, stewed, paste, canned pasta; Kids juice: either large or boxes of packets; Ramen noodles and mac & cheese. Hand sanitizer for the volunteers is always needed. Financial donations can be made at www.gorhamfoodpantry.org and help the pantry make purchases to fill in any gaps.

GORHAM COMMUNITY ACCESS

Gorham Community Access Media (GoCAM) has 216 videos online about local Gorham events. New on the line-up are exercise classes from the Gorham Recreation Department for adults and seniors, and craft projects from Recreation from the Before and After the Bell program. The Originals is a senior group that regularly has guest speakers and presentations. Topics range from David Wallace Organ Maker to Marine Mammals of Maine, and everything in between. Also find lots of music from the Summer Gazebo Concert Series. Check out all the videos available at <https://vimeo.com/user17448009>.

USM NEWS

Led by USM Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering Asheesh Lanba, mechanical engineering majors Berkeley Elias of Portland and Daniel Madison St Peter of Windham have prototyped 28 face shields using 3D printers in the University's Maker Innovation Studio (MIST) located on the Portland campus and at the John Mitchell Center (JMC) in Gorham. The prototypes, produced in less than 36 hours, have been sent to out-of-state healthcare professionals at the front lines of fighting the COVID-19 crisis, where the need is greatest.

Although the USM Department of Theatre had to cancel its production of "Crimes of the Heart," it is excited to be opening the fall season with the hilarious and heart-wrenching contemporary classic. Follow theatre happenings at usm.maine.edu/theatre.

The School of Music has moved several performances to the fall semester, including a faculty concert with composer Dan Sonenberg, and the annual Honors Recital. Follow music events at usm.maine.edu/music.

STAY INFORMED WITH THE GORHAM TIMES!

More Town Heroes...and Other Acts of Kindness



A day in the life of Gorham Public Works Department.



Photo credit Heidi Koskela Marchand

Kaidan Marchand, a third grader at Village school, wanted to do something to brighten the day for others. He and his mom painted shells and placed a message on the hill at Village Elementary School.

A Birthday to Remember

Even COVID-19 did not keep Tessa Farnham from celebrating her eighth birthday. A parade of cars escorted by the Gorham Police Department rode by her South Street house with signs, banners, and excited classmates wishing her a happy birthday.



Photo credit Roger Marchand



Photo credit Bailey O'Brien

While out on a social distancing walk with her parents, Gorham Times volunteer Bailey O'Brien found sweet messages on the Cherry Hill trails behind Sebago Brewing on Lower Main Street.

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