

# Your Community Paper Gorham Times

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

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF NEWS FOR THE GORHAM COMMUNITY

## Schools Will Open Sept. 8

### School District Continues Work on Reopening Plan



Photo credit Kathy Corbett

Members of the School Committee attended a tour of classrooms set up at Great Falls School for the hybrid attendance plan. In each classroom about 11 students will sit at desks placed six feet apart.

KATHY CORBETT  
Staff Writer

All Gorham public schools will open on September 8. On August 6, the School Committee (SC) approved the overall reopening plan (6-1 Gagnon), which describes how schools would function under each of three plans. These range from “red,” on-line instruction, to “green,” all students physically attending school. The SC gave unanimous support for a Grade K-8 “yellow” hybrid plan in which students return to school twice a week but voted (5-2 Gagnon, Wright) to open Grades 9-12 in “red.” Superintendent Heather Perry said, “the plans would be evaluated on an ongoing basis with changes communicated in real time as needed and as conditions change.”

The SC decision to open Gorham High School (GHS) with the “red” virtual learning plan also permitted sports and other extracurricular activities to potentially operate under “yellow.” Barriers to a full hybrid plan for GHS centered on classroom size and the number of moves teachers would have to make for it to work.

SC members and the administration, however, felt strongly that they needed to find a way to offer in-person instruction at GHS at the start of the school year. Subsequently, at the August 12 SC meeting, Principal Brian Jandreau summarized drafts of three hybrid plans that would bring students safely to school. Superintendent Perry said they “will be prepared to present to the School Committee some options and request a reconsideration vote on August 18.”

Parents have received a 57-page handbook describing all aspects and requirements of the plans. During the week of August 24, parents of all stu-

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# 25 Years in the Making



Photo credits MK Kitchen, Erin Flett, Roger Marchand and Leslie Dupuis

LESLIE DUPUIS  
Editor

Gorham has undergone many changes in the last quarter century. Over the past 25 years, the Gorham Times has consistently been there to document those changes while continuing to bring “the news to all of Gorham.”

The population of Gorham grew from 11,856 in 1990 to 16,381 in 2010. The current estimated population is 17,651 but is thought to be higher based on the number of registered voters (14,485). Laurie Nordfors, Town Clerk, believes the 2020 census will surely reflect more growth.

In speaking with Abe Dailey, a data analyst with Greater Portland Council of Governments, about Gorham being one of the fastest growing towns in Maine, he shared, “A better way to identify the fastest growing town may be to look at the share of the total population growth in Maine since 2010. If

you look at this measure Gorham has the second highest share of population growth in Maine since 2010, behind Windham. Gorham’s share of the state’s population growth exceeds that of Scarborough, Westbrook, and Saco, too.”

School enrollment was 2,456 in 1995 and is anticipated to be 2,832 for the 2020-21 school year. The new Gorham Middle School opened in 2003 and Great Falls Elementary School opened in 2011. While GHS was renovated and expanded in the 1990s, a committee was formed more recently to review possible options for additional renovations to meet increases in enrollment.

USM continues to be a valuable resource for our community. First opening in 1878 as the Gorham Normal School, the university annually hosts community events such as Gorham Night and a Halloween Party. USM also partners with GHS students, among others, for athletic events and online classes.

Originally proposed in 1999, a new \$5 million public safety building was unveiled in 2016. The complex now houses the fire station and a new 10,000-square-foot police station. The municipal offices moved into the former Shaw Junior High School on South Street in 2006. Baxter Library added a 10,000-square foot addition in 2003 and remains a fixture in the community.

Traffic concerns and subsequent studies were documented in several of our earliest publications and date back as far as the 1989-1993 MDOT Route 25 Corridor Study. The Bernard Rines Bypass went out to bid in 2007

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GO CAM YouTube

### FROM THE FOUNDER, MAYNARD CHARRON

*The Gorham Times is a testament to close to 200 people, over 25 years, who have contributed to producing a quality community newspaper for their friends and neighbors. I hope everyone in Gorham will continue to appreciate the interest, commitment, and skill, that all GT staff has given to their town.*

*As newspapers, big and small, around the country are in trouble or folding, it is critical that everyone in Gorham, the GT staff, the readers and certainly the advertisers, keep up the good fight and keep the GT alive.*

*Real honest news, real community. I believe that is what we all want.*

## FROM THE FOUNDING MEMBERS

*It's amazing that an all volunteer, non-profit organization has been able to continue to fulfill the original vision outlined during the planning meetings in the spring of 1995. We wanted Gorham Times to actively support local businesses, to strengthen community ties with our schools, to provide information about important local issues, and to celebrate all that is best about living in a great small town like Gorham.*

*As the Features Editor, I have enjoyed working with many writers and local small business owners who contribute articles in their area of expertise. Several local history buffs write columns that connect Gorham's past, present and future.*

*I love writing about the our Gorham graduates in the Where Are They Now column. We can be assured that our tax dollars are well spent because our grads go on to do amazing things. I also love writing occasional humorous pieces, business profiles, and articles highlighting the work of local organizations.*

*Even after all these years, I still get excited to read each and every issue.*

CHRIS CRAWFORD, FEATURES  
EDITOR

*As a lifelong newspaper reader, I was delighted with the concept of having a newspaper that would cover Gorham. This was an opportunity to report on the Town Council, School Committee, and Planning Board meetings so residents would know what the issues were. It would also be an opportunity to focus on our schools and recognize students for their academic and other achievements. In addition, we have been able to report on new projects for the Town and private developers, keep tabs on criminal activity as well as real estate prices, local arrests, new businesses, and other information of general interest such as the Blotter.*

*Over the years, much has changed for the Gorham Times as it has for all of us, but we are still committed to "bringing the news to all of Gorham" and hope to continue to do so well into the future.*

SHERI FABER, STAFF WRITER

## 25 Years in the Making CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and was completed in 2008, improving traffic flow by allowing commuters to avoid the center of Gorham.

In reference to land and new construction, Dailey said, "The average cost of land per acre in Portland (\$263,300 per acre) is about five times the cost of the average acre in Gorham (\$59,100). This trend in land prices means that for the average family in this region a home is much more affordable in a place like Gorham, Standish, or Windham."

A total of 146 subdivisions were approved (although not necessarily built) between 1996 and 2014. Between 2016 and present day, 30 new subdivisions have been approved consisting of 323 dwelling units. On the commercial side, 51 projects were approved, illustrating the upward trend in commercial activity which is beneficial to Gorham's tax base. Housing sales for Gorham in 1997 (the first year records can be found) totaled 84. In 2019, the total was 311 homes.

Non-profit organizations like the Gorham Business Exchange and the Gorham Village Alliance work together with Gorham's Department of Community Development to support local business growth and enhance the community we live in. In the last five years, the town has been transformed.

On Main Street alone, the demolition of the old Mobil station made way for a new shopping complex which now houses Aroma Joe's, Subway, 9Round, and Nail Xperts. MK Kitchen fills the space at 2 School St offering residents fine dining close to home. The Blue Pig Diner revamped the old Centre of Movement dance studio at 19 State St, and Erin Flett moved her manufacturing/textile business to 2 Main St. Upcycle Maine Home Furnishings moved into 18 South Street while Amato's and Gorham House of Pizza continue to anchor the Village intersection.

The property at 18 Elm Street was razed in 2018 and a new building was constructed for Carter's Green Market. CBD American Shaman occupies the second commercial unit. Station Square now fills the corner at 7 Railroad Drive and includes a bowling alley, a restaurant, and a wine bar as well as housing units. Hannaford Supermarket had a facelift in 2018-2019.

Sebago Brewing built its new headquarters on Lower Main Street in 2018 to offer the public a tasting room and restaurant. Its old location in the Gorham Industrial Park was immediately occupied by Portland-based Lone Pine Brewing. Angelo's Pizza renovated the space formerly occupied by Tots and Teens at 474 Main St. in 2019.

Also in 2019, Harvey Performance broke ground on its new manufacturing plant at 49 Raceway Drive, home of the 62-acre former racetrack. Harvey became the first project at the sprawling site, owned by Shawn Moody's company, and is expected to help boost the town's tax base.

With the town's original industrial park almost at capacity and the Olde Canal Business Park located off of Mosher Road quickly filling, the Gorham community recently approved a referendum to purchase 141 acres of land from the M.P. Rines Trust. Located along Libby and Cobb Road and abutting the current industrial park, the new project will allow the Town to attract more businesses to further ease the tax burden on residents.

Recreationally, Gorham is leading the way with access to public trails. As part of the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust, residents have their pick of walking trails in Gorham and surrounding communities. In 2005, Shaw Brothers Construction gave the Town of Gorham and its citizens Shaw Park, a 7.5-acre community park on the Presumpscot River. The walking and biking trails at Shaw Cherry Hill Farm opened to the public in 2019. Gorham boasts numerous bike trails and a pump track generously cared for by volunteers from the Gorham Conservation Committee, Portland NEMBA, and the local community.

On a lighter note, Gorham broke a Guinness World Record in 2006 when nearly 1,500 residents came out in Groucho-Marx style "nose and glasses;" former GHS teacher Bob Crowley became a local celebrity in 2008 when he appeared on the TV hit show "Survivor" and won the grand prize; and former New England Patriots star Rob Gronkowski thrilled fans when he visited Gorham High School in 2016 to deliver \$30,000 worth of football equipment.

The Gorham Times has celebrated our students throughout their school days and during graduation. We have supported our athletes during hometown match ups and state championship games. We have applauded the musical and artistic talents of our many residents - young and old. We have introduced and promoted Gorham businesses. We have mourned the deep losses in our little town.

The Gorham Times is an integral part of our community. Our volunteers look forward to 25 more years of informing our readers about all facets of life in Gorham, Maine.

# Gorham Times

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

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## UPCOMING DEADLINES

AUGUST 26  
SEPTEMBER 9  
SEPTEMBER 23  
OCTOBER 7  
OCTOBER 21  
NOVEMBER 4

# It Has Been an Honor to Serve Gorham in the Maine House

REP. ANDREW MCLEAN

While this summer has been unusual because of COVID-19, I hope everyone has had an opportunity to enjoy the exceptionally warm days and gorgeous summer weather, although a little more rain would be good for the grass. We can only hope the beautiful weather continues into September. In this update from Augusta, I write to let you know that it will be my last. I resigned my seat in the Maine House of Representatives effective August 16. While term limits would prevent me from running for another term regardless, I am resigning my seat four months prior to my term's expiration as I have taken a job that requires me to leave my seat.

This past May, I graduated from the University of Maine School of Law. I am grateful to have three years of intense legal study behind me, but equally grateful for a formative, top-notch legal education. I have come to learn that Maine Law is an indispensable asset to our state—providing a strong legal education to students and contributing significantly to Maine's social, economic and legal fabric. Since graduating, I have been offered a job as a law clerk with the Maine Superior Court, Maine's trial court. Since I will be working in the Judiciary Branch, state law prohibits me from also serving in the Legislative Branch. Thus, in order to start my job, I must resign from my

seat in the legislature. I want to take the opportunity to reflect on my time in the Legislature and thank you—the citizens of Gorham—for your support over the last eight years.

Serving in the Maine House of Representatives and representing the citizens of Gorham has been a true privilege. Indeed, it has been the privilege of a lifetime, and I remain humbled and full of gratitude for your faith and trust you have placed in me for eight years. There has not been a day that I have walked into the State House and forgotten the trust that was placed in me to serve those I represent. While serving in elected office can be challenging for a variety of reasons, it has nonetheless been an overwhelmingly positive experience. While it may not make the press often, there is so much good work being done by so many talented people in Maine—people who are collaborative and solution-oriented, people who are committed to creating a more fair and just world, and people who are innovating and creating opportunity for people in our state. Our state is small, but mighty. Maine people are smart, ingenious, and hard-working. They are compassionate, collaborative, and forward-looking. We should be proud of the amazing work being done in all areas of our state. I am proud of the work we have accomplished in Augusta over the last eight years, and I am grateful to have

contributed to the success of that work.

When I first ran for office in 2012, I knocked on 5,000 doors between April and November. I believed it was my obligation to meet you and hear your concerns face to face. I met several thousand of you at your door. We talked about your hopes, your dreams, your frustrations, and your concerns. While I have not been able to solve each and every problem, I hope you know you were heard. Every day, when I went to Augusta, I tried to the best of my ability to represent our communities' interests on issues ranging from education to business to civil rights and so many more. I always kept our conversations in the back of my mind while working on solutions to our most challenging issues. During our conversations, we oftentimes agreed on issues; however, there were times when we did not. But I still appreciated and valued the perspectives you shared with me. In fact, many times my views on issues changed because of the perspective you shared with me. So, too, did my vote on legislation. You should know that your conversations with me made a difference. I have also been humbled by the people who have changed their own views on issues based on what I have shared with them. Our ability to listen and learn from one another seems like a lost art these days, but I believe each and every one of us possesses that ability. I hope we continue to have spir-

ited debates on issues, but that we do so civilly, listening to others and seeking a deeper understanding of each others' views and experiences.

In addition to thanking the voters of Gorham and Scarborough for their support, I must also thank my family—my husband, Kyle Bailey, my parents, and my chosen family here in Gorham. It is true that serving in elected office takes its toll on relationships and families. A significant amount of time is spent away while in session, and in addition to working a job, additional time attending events and working on constituent issues takes away from time otherwise spent with family. My family knows how important this work is to me, and without their support and advice I would not have been as successful.

I cannot begin to express my deepest thanks for the trust you have placed in me. It has been an honor and privilege to serve the people of Gorham (and Scarborough) in the Maine House of Representatives for the last eight years. While I regret to resign my term before its natural expiration, I leave with much humility and a deep sense of gratitude for each and every one of you. And while I will no longer represent our community at the State House, I am nonetheless here to assist you in any way I can. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can ever be of assistance. I wish each and every one of you well.

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be fewer than 300 words, signed with a first and last name, typed or e-mailed and include a phone number. 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,

We are writing to express our deep disappointment in the way that Proposed Order #20-85 Resolution to end systemic racism, the oppression/misrepresentation of minority groups, and to continue to assure that law enforcement honors equal justice for all in Gorham was handled by the Gorham Town Council. The proceedings contained both factual and procedural issues.

The words movement and organizations were inappropriately conflated. A movement uses emotional commitment for widespread change, whereas an organization uses structure, resources, and power for specific outcomes. Black Lives Matter is a movement, and there is also a Black Lives Matter organization. The resolution was clearly acknowledging the Black Lives Matter movement.

During the Civil Rights Movement many organizations were established using different ideas and methods to carry out the movement. It was clear that Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X led different organizations.

After the marathon bombing in Boston, there was not an issue with the Boston Strong tagline. Saying Boston Strong did not mean that other cities were not as important but rather Boston was hurting and needed our attention. Saying Black Lives Matter does not mean that other lives do not

matter, but it has become vividly apparent that we need to acknowledge the pain felt by Black lives.

We are also concerned that there were multiple letters submitted in response to the resolution, and only two were read aloud.

We ask that when the Town Council reconsiders the resolution in September it respects the work that was led by people of color and truly value the voices of the Gorham community.

Kyle Ouillette

Co-Founder, GARD (Gorham Anti-Racism Development)

Rev. Christine Dyke

First Parish Congregational Church, UCC, Gorham

Dear Editor,

I'm a singer-songwriter, teaching artist, and parent living in Gorham who met Stacy Brenner through farming friends years ago, and I'm thrilled she is running to represent us in the State Senate. I value Stacy's kindness, compassion, and ability to listen. I also appreciate Stacy's creative approach to running Broadturn Farm, her leadership with the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Organization and Maine Farmland Trust, and her ability to roll up her sleeves and work hard. Stacy lives her values, supporting her employees and using her voice and business to lift up others in our state and community.

I'm a working parent who's been

deeply impacted by the pandemic, and I believe Stacy, who is a parent and also a nurse midwife will be a champion and fierce advocate for the issues that affect families and children, like education, childcare, and healthcare. She has the understanding and perspective of how these structures work from the inside.

I believe she will work for racial justice as well as protecting our environment. Stacy also knows what it means to be fiscally responsible and I know that she'll be a collaborator, which we desperately need.

Please join me in supporting Stacy Brenner for Senate District 30.

Emilia Dahlin

## AROUND TOWN

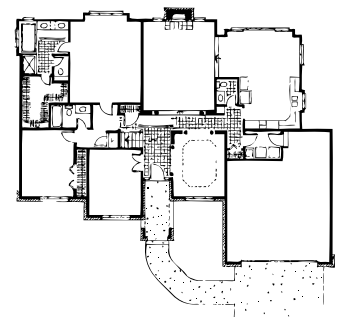
The Town Council has approved some changes in the village to increase the amount of available parking. Two hour parking will be available on both sides of College Ave. There will also be changes on Ballpark and Railroad Avenues including painting a center line on Railroad Avenue.

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# Grand Central Wine Bar Reinvents Itself



Photos courtesy of Karen Nason

LESLIE DUPUIS  
Editor

After a five-month closure, Grand Central Wine Bar is reopening on August 20, but there's a twist. Owner Karen Nason will now be offering what she calls a "Grand Central Lifestyle" with products including desserts and wine to go, candles, lotions, cut flowers and plants, soaps, and much more.

By adding a retail aspect to the wine bar, Nason hopes that she can attract those who may not be comfortable coming inside the bar for extended periods of time, but who want to do a little shopping and have a quick cocktail while they do.

Nason said, "I want you to come in and while I'm wrapping your gift, go have a cocktail or a martini, have some

cake, sit down and relax. It's creating a lifestyle that makes you comfortable at home. This is a way to reinvent and get business going again."

For those who do want to linger, Grand Central Wine Bar will be reopening for both indoor and outdoor seating Wednesday through Sunday from 5-10 p.m. Live music will fill the space on Friday and Saturday evenings. While bar seating is still unavailable due to the current restrictions, tables in the lounge and on the upstairs deck will be open to those wanting to enjoy a night out.

And while she's been busy reinventing Grand Central Wine Bar, Nason hasn't been sitting idle. She has recently partnered with a New York City developer to bring a new creation to Gorham. The details behind this well-kept secret will be revealed soon.

# Gorham Founders Festival Scheduled for September



Photo courtesy of Founders Festival

GORHAM TIMES STAFF

Organizers are cautiously optimistic to have some form of the Gorham Founders Festival in September. Originally planned as a two-day community celebration with activities that emphasize Gorham's vast background, this year's festivities have been pared down to a few events that will allow for easy social distancing, yet can be mutually enjoyed by all.

Fireworks are planned for Saturday, Sept. 12, at 9 p.m. and will take place at the old racetrack property off Narragansett St. where the new Harvey Performance building is currently being built. The rain date is Sunday, Sept. 13, at the same time/location.

In celebration of Maine's bicentennial, the group will sponsor a parade through Gorham Village on September 13 at 3 p.m. which will include a contest for Maine-themed floats as well as other categories of competition. There will be cash prizes for the winners. Groups and organizations are welcome to participate.

Other events happening throughout that weekend include a virtual 9/11 race (<https://www.facebook.com/911Memorial5K>), the Gorham Farmers Market, and a Craft Fair at Shaw Gym ([www.gorhamcooppre-school.org](http://www.gorhamcooppre-school.org)).

For more information, or to sign up for the parade, visit [www.gorham2020.com](http://www.gorham2020.com). For those interested in hosting an event, contact Suzie Phillips, [sphillips@gorham.me.us](mailto:sphillips@gorham.me.us) or 892-9847.

## GFWC GORHAM WOMAN'S CLUB

100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the  
19<sup>th</sup> Amendment



On August 26, 2020, women throughout the United States will celebrate the centennial of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, which prohibits state and federal governments from denying any citizen the right to vote on the basis of their sex.

The motion for women's suffrage was first submitted to Congress in 1878, but its ratification was the culmination of 72 years of formal organizing and the work of thousand of dedicated activists committed to the enfranchisement of women.

(It wasn't until 1965 that everyone had the right to vote.)

"Let us never forget how they fought, how they suffered, and how they persevered. Let us always remember to honor who they were. Let us always rejoice what they accomplished. Let us always be thankful for the gift that they gave us. Let us never forget and always remember to pay tribute to them & vote." Mary Ellen Brock, GFWC International President 2018-2020

The Gorham Woman's Club is donating books about this time period to the Baxter Memorial Library.

For more information:  
Gorham Woman's Club  
PO Box 4, Gorham ME 04038  
Nancy Kenty 839-7093  
[GorhamWomansClub@gmail.com](mailto:GorhamWomansClub@gmail.com)



# Clerk's Corner: An Early Look at Election Day

Laurie Nordfors  
Town Clerk

I hope everyone is staying safe and cool this summer. It certainly has been one to remember. Fall is around the corner and the days are growing shorter. With fall comes cold nights and busy days here at the Town Clerk's office.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 3. This election will be a bit different from past elections because of the current pandemic. To help keep everyone healthy and safe, the Town of Gorham and the Secretary of State's Office is highly recommending absentee voting. You may request an absentee ballot by calling the Town Clerk's office or by visiting the State Election website at <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absent.html>. Once the ballots are available, they will be mailed to you and you can vote in the comfort of your own home. You can return the ballots by mail (two stamps are required) or drop them off in the ballot drop box at the Municipal Center.

Voter registration is conducted at the Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours, Monday-Wednesday

from 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Thursday from 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m. and Friday from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Please be sure to have photo identification and proof of your residence address when registering to vote. You can register to vote up to and including Election Day in person. If you register by mail, your voter registration card must be received in the Town Clerk's Office by October 13 to be eligible to vote in the November election.

College students who are attending school outside of Gorham can register online now then request an absentee ballot. They can also request a green registration card which can be mailed back (before October 13). College students who register at college will have to vote in the town or state where he or she registered.

Nomination papers are now available for the Municipal Election to elect two (2) persons to the Town Council and three (3) persons to the School Board. Completed nomination papers must be submitted to the Town Clerk's office no later than 1 p.m. on Friday, September 4.

Please do not hesitate to call the Town Clerk's office at 222-1670 with any questions.

# Anti-Racism Proposal Under Further Review

KATHY CORBETT  
Staff Writer

At its August 4 meeting, the Gorham Town Council (TC) voted to table until September the proposal sponsored by Councilor Virginia Wilder Cross that called on the Council to resolve to “end oppression/misrepresentation of minority groups,” affirm and acknowledge that “Black Lives Matter,” and assure “that law enforcement honors equal justice for all in Gorham.”

The resolution had been drafted by students from Gorham High School and USM who worked in conjunction with other Gorham residents after a joint meeting with Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak and Police Chief Christopher Sanborn.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, several residents spoke in favor of the resolution while others expressed opposition.

“We have all these young kids who have been empowered by their teachers,” RYANNE JOSLIN said. “They’re saying can we take steps to agree that in this community Black Lives Matter, which also means people of color. What they are asking for is just to hear the adults in their community support them.”

Charles Pearson sent a complete rewrite of the resolution to the Council. Among other objections, Pearson wrote that by supporting the Black Lives

Matter movement, the Council would “become a partisan political body” that had endorsed a radical far-left agenda.

Councilor Ben Hartwell expressed agreement with Pearson’s BLM objections, while other councilors were concerned about the language of the resolution. Councilor Lee Pratt said, “I don’t want to see this go away, but I don’t want to back a political party.” Councilor Ron Shepherd, former Gorham police chief, objected to “partnering” with the Gorham Police Department, saying that the Town Council’s role is leadership. Councilor Jim Hager moved to table the motion for the resolution to the September meeting. It passed (5-1, Kuech; Phillips absent).

Councilor Kuech, who voted against tabling the resolution, said that “a resolution is not a legal document, but it lets the youth and adults know that we support them.”

Wilder Cross said later that she was “working with the group to consider some of the changes that were suggested” at the TC meeting but added, “I know that none of us wants to ‘water down’ the importance of addressing systemic racism in Gorham.”

In agreeing to bring a revised version to the September meeting, Wilder Cross said she wanted only a one-month delay because, “We want to say that we have a problem in the town.”

## G.A.R.D. Holds Anti-Racism Teach-In Event



Photo credit Sierra Cummings

G.A.R.D. organizers (shown left to right) Tatianna Jonk, Kyle Ouillette, and Mariam Beshir speak at a Teach-In event on August 8. Participants added their personal experiences with racism to a wall at the middle school.

GRACE FLYNN  
GHS Student Intern

On August 8, G.A.R.D. (Gorham Anti-Racism Development) hosted an Anti-Racism Teach-In on the sports fields at Gorham Middle School. As stated on their website, G.A.R.D. is a “local social justice movement, created by the Gorham Black Lives Matter Organizers.” It is made up of community members, Gorham students and alumni, and Gorham educators.

Member and GHS senior Katy Morin

stated that G.A.R.D. was formed “because we know Gorham is not a racism-free community. In an effort to combat this, we feel an organized, diverse group specifically dedicated towards eradicating racism is necessary in order to achieve a town where everyone is free from discrimination and bias based on their skin color.”

Organizers included GHS alumni and leading organizers at G.A.R.D. Mariam Beshir, and Kyle Ouillette, GHS senior

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## TOWN/MUNICIPAL

# Public Works News

ROBERT BURNS  
Public Works Director

After eighteen years of service to the Town, R.W. Herrick declined to renew its trash collection contract with the Town of Gorham, citing the difficulty of finding employees with commercial driver’s licenses. In those eighteen years, the Public Works Department never had to assist R.W. Herrick to complete the work and they did a fine job.

Gorham was fortunate to find a new company, Pine Tree Waste, also known as Casella Waste Systems, which took over June 1 and has been doing well so far. One current issue with recyclables collection is that towns pay \$35/ton to ecomaine for all recycling, but if more than 26% of the recycling is contaminated by trash then the cost becomes \$73/ton.

This was a concern in regards to the mechanical collection option for trash and recycling. This style, with

the automatic arm, collects everything that has been put out and provides workers no opportunity to leave behind non-recyclable items, thus increasing recycling cost. When recycling is collected manually, workers can remove many items that are non-recyclable, enabling the Town to stay within the 26% limit.

Although the “silver bullet” recycling containers were moved from behind the Public Safety complex to the Public Works facility several years ago, many people continue to drop off non-recyclable items which have a negative cost impact to the Town. One local resident has been monitoring the silver bullets trying to eliminate the extra fees for non-recyclable items and, sadly, has been threatened by people who are attempting to illegally dispose of trash at the containers. Public Works now has a camera in operation at this facility and is working with the Police Department to curb the trend of illegal dumping.

## Recycling Reminder

Ecomaine encourages people to continue to re-use and recycle as much as possible during the pandemic. “We’re really not following the state’s waste hierarchy for solid waste as well as we were beforehand,” Matt Grondin from ecomaine said.

Unsure of what should go in your recycling bin? Gorham residents can help prevent contamination of the recycling stream by referring to ecomaine’s detailed list of recyclables and non-recyclables at ecomaine.org.

## Gorham Sightings



Photo credit Roger Marchand

Do you know where in Gorham this photo was taken? Join our visual trivia discussion by entering your best guess on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/gorhamtimes](http://www.facebook.com/gorhamtimes) or email us at [gorhamtimes@gmail.com](mailto:gorhamtimes@gmail.com). The photo in the August 6 issue is a humorous reminder to “protect the flock” in the Heartwood subdivision.

## Real Estate Transfers March 2020

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	PRICE
5 TINK DRIVE	WEBB, LORRAINE & WILLIAM	W.W.WOOD PROPERTIES, LLC.	\$269,900
254 COUNTY ROAD	SERIKOV, OLEG	ADAMIRE ENTERPRISES, INC.	\$126,000
21 DOUGLAS STREET	CORNISH, SUZANNE	BARTER, JOHNNIE	\$200,000
3-15 FREEDOM DRIVE	ROBIE HOLDINGS, INC.	S.B. ENTERPRISES	\$1,274,000
23 STEPHEN WARD DR UNIT 6	BARTER, RONALD & MARYANNE	SUSAN DUCHAINE, LLC	\$313,500
70 ICHABOD LANE	BIETTE, BRUCE & EUGENIA	GILBERT HOMES, INC.	\$461,678
23 WAGNER FARM ROAD	MARQUIS, NATHAN & LAURA	O'CONNOR, PETER & MARIPOSA	\$359,000
4 PRIMROSE LANE	CHUM, PEAKDEY	MARQUIS, NATHAN & LAURA	\$242,000
5 SAMUEL'S WAY	BANKS, JULIE & JUSTIN	CUMMINS, PAUL	\$400,000
397 SEBAGO LAKE ROAD	BARR, CHRISTOPHER & REBECCA	COLE, DEAN & DENISE	\$277,000
10 LINCOLN STREET	DONOVAN, CARRIE & DOUGLAS	FILES, ELIZABETH	\$262,500
42 CLAY ROAD	FED. HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORP.	NEWREZ, LLC	\$110,700
50 LINCOLN STREET	CONSTANTINO, NICHOLAS & KERRY	UNITY POND IRA	\$242,000
12 LAWN AVENUE	ROMMEL, COREY	MILLS, CYNTHIA & WESLEY	\$250,000
34 GATEWAY COMMONS	FOSS, RYAN & DURR, LAUREN-MARIE	WHITTEN, AARON & LYNDEE	\$337,000
97 DAY ROAD	WHITTEN, AARON & LYNDEE	SIBLER, JEFFREY & MICHELLE	\$385,000
4 MUSKET DRIVE	DOODY-BOUWEN, BOUWER, JOHANNES	BNO, LLC	\$390,000
210 SOUTH STREET	HOWE, COLIN	DELONG, CODY & VERITY	\$379,500
97 MOSHER ROAD	FITZPATRICK, BETHANY	DIVERSIFIED PROPERTIES, INC.	\$285,000
16 WOODSIDE DRIVE UNIT 4	ZISK, JACLYN & MATTHEW	POWERS, CHRISTOPHER & MICHELE	\$247,000
53 WESCOTT ROAD	KARST, MATTHEW	LEMERY, KELLY-JOY & BARRY	\$270,000
16 ELM STREET	RODERICK, RYAN	MANISCALCO, PAUL & MARGARET	\$325,000
290 COUNTY ROAD	TOOTHAKER, LAUREN & TYLER	SMITH, DUNSTAN & TETRAULT, ALISON	\$270,000
87 ICHABOD LANE	ST. PIERRE, LAUREN & JASON	GILBERT HOMES, INC.	\$412,000
58 WATERHOUSE ROAD	JMGG, LLC	W W WOOD PROPERTIES, LLC	\$120,000
24 NASON ROAD	KING, DAVID	DYER, DARRYL & BETTERS, JEANENE	\$125,000
3 MARYANN DRIVE	ELY, BENJAMIN	RURAL HOUSING SERVICE	\$235,500
573 GRAY ROAD	THACKER, GINGER & KENNEY	CHAMPAGNE, HOPE	\$9,000
215 NORTH GORHAM ROAD	PERVISION RE LLC	EMBRACE HOME LONAS, INC	\$119,000
203 MAIN STREET	JORDAN, GARY & GRANT, DONALD	CURTIS CENTER HOLDINGS, LLC	\$320,000
6 RYAN'S MEADOW	CLARK, COREY & NICOLE	SWANSON, TODD & TABITHA	\$439,000
40 MOSHER ROAD	HERMAN, DANIEL	MECAP, LLC	\$270,000
8 PAIGE DRIVE	VEUVE, LEOPOLD & KATHRYN	NASH, JEFFREY & SANDRA	\$279,000
7 RAINBOW LANE	AL ASADRI, MAHER & IMRN, ZAINEB	MORGAN, ELISHA & JOHN	\$350,000
31 MURRAY DRIVE	NELSON, STEPHANIE	DUNGAN, JASON	\$375,000
95 CUMBERLAND LANE	HOWEN, CHRISTINE	LEWIS, BRENDA	\$250,000
33 JOSEPH DRIVE	FERNANDES, DIEGO & CAITLIN	ELLSMORE, JOYCE & KEITH	\$249,900

# Planning Board Results

**AUGUST 3, 2020**

A request by Gorham Savings Bank to amend its Contract Zone to construct a mounted solar array on the undeveloped lot adjacent to its Operations Center at 10 Wentworth Drive and relax the buffering and setback requirements to allow for the project size was recommended for approval by the Town Council.

Robin and Linda Hult's request for approval of a gravel extension to Homestead Lane was approved.

Tom Dore's request for approval of a four-lot subdivision off Dore Drive was discussed.

A proposed amendment to add new private way standards that would allow up to 25 lots, or dwelling units, was referred to the Board's Ordinance Subcommittee for review.

Proposed amendments to allow for varied density for mixed use developments was referred to the Board's Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee for review.

Community Development staff and the Planning Board discussed securing additional information earlier in the review process to streamline site plan and subdivision review.

# Town Council Meeting

**AUGUST 4, 2020**

JACOB ADAMS  
Staff Writer

Councilor Wilder Cross announced that the Gorham Village Alliance will be adding benches to the park next to Robie Gym and has already added picnic tables to Phinney Park and the green space next to Robie Gym to help the Village look nice and attract businesses.

Councilor Pratt reported that the Industrial Park Committee agreed on a road design for the new Industrial Park. The consultants will now start to design utilities and the process of DEP permitting.

Councilor Hartwell announced that he had training and took a test on implicit bias per a requirement for law school.

Councilor Kuech reported that she attended a live music event at Junction Bowl and the opening of Lone Pine's tasting room and was impressed with their creativity.

Town Manager Paraschak reminded people that the Town Clerk's Office is now open normal business hours for walk in service and suggested that people be patient during busy times and expect lines to be a bit longer than usual. The rest of the

Municipal Offices are by appointment only. He pointed out that absentee ballot applications are now available for the November 3 election. He reported that the Town has submitted another application for the COVID funds through the State to use for COVID-related business expenses.

Paraschak also reminded citizens that construction work is continuing on Main Street, which should be wrapped up by fall, and that improvements will start on sidewalks in Little Falls soon.

Amendments to the contract zone of Hans C. Hansen, Inc. were approved. (5 yeas, 1 nay: Pratt)

The Town Council approved amendments to the Land Use & Development Code.

A resolution to end systemic racism, the oppression/misrepresentation of minority groups, and to continue to assure that law enforcement honors equal justice for all in Gorham was tabled until the September Council meeting. (5 yeas, 1 nay: Kuech)

The Town Council selected Vision Government Solutions as the vendor to complete the Town's next revaluation.

A request for a qualifications process for a town-wide facilities inventory study was approved.

Staff was authorized to work with the Gorham School Department to remove dangerous trees between the high school parking lot and Robie Softball Field as recommended by an arborist. (4 yeas, 2 nays: Hager, Wilder Cross)

The Town Council formally voted for Ephrem Paraschak, Gorham Town Manager, and Jean-Marie Caterina, Scarborough Town Councilor, as continuing representatives of the MMA's Legislative Policy Committee's Senate District 30.

The Town Council forwarded regulations for Medical Marijuana Caregiver performance standards to the Ordinance Committee.

Amendments to Clustered Residential Development standards of the Land Use & Development Code will be forwarded to the Planning Board for a public hearing and recommendations. Amendments include Active Open Space requirements and removal of invasive species.

The full minutes and amendments can be read at <https://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. Submissions should include the year of GHS graduation and should be no longer than 75 words. Contact Chris Crawford at [ckck5@maine.rr.com](mailto:ckck5@maine.rr.com), Kathy Corbett at [ktcorbett@aol.com](mailto:ktcorbett@aol.com) or Cindy O'Shea at [coshea2@maine.rr.com](mailto:coshea2@maine.rr.com).

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**Sun-Thurs:**  
11 am to 10 pm

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**Fri & Sat:**  
11 am to 11 pm

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**Turnkey Restaurant and Pub** located at 29 School St., Gorham  
Vacant and ready for your turnkey restaurant business! 3,744 square foot restaurant space with full hood & Ansel system, three walk-in coolers, and a bar available for lease. Open layout with hardwood floors, large kitchen, office space, storage, shared outdoor front patio space and a large bar. Existing tables and chairs are included in leasing agreement. Shared parking lot & ample street parking available.

**Station Square** located at 7 Railroad Avenue, Gorham





**Residential**  
Spacious, bright and modern one- & two-bedroom units available! The building boasts a roof deck, new appliances, garbage disposal, on-site laundry, parking, and ample common room space on each floor.

**Commercial**  
Come join professionals working in the heart of the Gorham Village. Design your own brand-new space which includes a dedicated floor and common first floor lobby space, elevator access, generous sunlight with 360-degree windows and ample on-site parking.

## School District Continues Work on Reopening Plan

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dents will get an informational video that describes a typical day at their school.

A survey was sent out to all parents asking them to indicate whether or not they wanted their children to participate in the plan for their grade, or if they wanted to opt for a separate course of on-line virtual instruction. Selection of the independent virtual plan is a semester-long commitment, although students can move from the hybrid plan to on-line instruction during the semester.

Parents also confirmed whether or not their children would need bus transportation, even if they expected to sometimes bring them to school. Once the district knows how much classroom and bus space will be needed, schedules can be finalized to meet the state requirements.

All schools have established protocols for bus travel which include sanitizing procedures and students showing the driver that they have had a wellness check at home that morning. Procedures for dropping off and picking up students from school are in place for each school.

Under the K-8 hybrid plan, a student will be in school Monday and Wednesday (A group), or Tuesday and Thursday (B group). When a holiday falls on Monday, as it will the first school week, the A group will attend on Wednesday and Friday. Although there will be some opportunity for virtual face-to-face instruction on the other three days, students will mostly work independently at home on assignments and projects. Times for classroom

instruction for Special Education students will vary according to the student.

Except for lunch and recess, elementary students will spend most of the in-school day with approximately 11 classmates. GMS students, while still part of their traditional teams, will stay with "cohort groups" of 10 to 15 and teachers will rotate to them. They will leave classrooms for lunch and Allied Arts escorted by teachers. Principal Quinton Donahue indicated that there are tentative plans to start athletics and after-noon clubs. If that happens, the school will offer late buses with limited seating.

The district has made every effort to communicate with parents and guardians of all Gorham students. Anyone with additional K-8 concerns and questions is encouraged to email Principal Brian Porter of Village Elementary, Principal Becky Fortier of Great Falls Elementary, Principal Cynthia Renick of Narragansett Elementary, Principal Quinton Donahue of GMS, or Director of Special Education Kathy Hamblen.

At press time, GHS opening plans were still in flux. The Town Council held a special meeting on August 13 and authorized the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with the Gorham School Department for temporary use of municipal facilities, sites and/or rooms.

Principal Brian Jandreau and Assistant Superintendent Chris Record will respond to email questions about the GHS plan. Email addresses for all administrators are available on the Gorham School Department website.

The Gorham School Department recently held three Q&A zoom sessions for parents to ask questions about the start of the upcoming school year. Present in each session were Superintendent Heather Perry, Assistant Superintendent Chris Record and building principals.

Links to each session's recording are posted on the Gorham School Department's social media sites or for the **K-5 session visit:** <https://networkmaine.zoom.us/rec/share/weh-vA463qFxlT7PG5WzGXA87RZXAT6a8gSAfrqEMnh7bkI7OVfEwtGOngoyehrf>

**6-8 session visit:** [https://networkmaine.zoom.us/rec/share/79FxmIrl0qmVIWrf2tRrBdJYFRtjPeaa81CZN\\_qJbyROA2zWDNRP3ctINwwJF9nBf](https://networkmaine.zoom.us/rec/share/79FxmIrl0qmVIWrf2tRrBdJYFRtjPeaa81CZN_qJbyROA2zWDNRP3ctINwwJF9nBf)

**9-12 session visit:** [https://networkmaine.zoom.us/rec/share/z8dVBaPQ5H9LEp3tsmi-DRYollo64X6a81iFP8\\_sKzh5bdP44XZMexe\\_VZGFncsv](https://networkmaine.zoom.us/rec/share/z8dVBaPQ5H9LEp3tsmi-DRYollo64X6a81iFP8_sKzh5bdP44XZMexe_VZGFncsv)

## G.A.R.D. Holds Anti-Racism Teach-In Event

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Tatianna Jonk, GHS counselor and Civil Rights Team advisor Trisha Cherry, and Gorham community member Kristi Grand.

The Teach-In was open to any interested community members. It aimed to "provide anti-racism information, information on the movement 'Black Lives Matter,' a voter's registration table as well as information on the topic of 'defund the police' and what exactly that may look like in our community," said Morin.

The event also included a slate of speakers, some of whom volunteered in the form of an Open Mic. Informational tents were set up around the basketball court. Each tent provided specific information on educational resources and actions to take at the event itself. This included an informational tent on Gorham High School's Civil Rights Team as well as an educational tent which provided Anti-Racism pledges for adults and kids, free books donated by Baxter

Memorial Library, and a scavenger hunt for kids to take with questions such as "What is the definition of legislation?" and "How old do you have to be to vote?"

The event also included a wall of Gorham community members' personal experiences with racism in Gorham and surrounding communities.

The Teach-In closed with a "Privilege Walk" which had attendees line up along the length of the soccer field, and an organizer posed privilege-related statements such as "If you studied the culture or history of your ancestors in elementary school, take a step forward." The goal of the activity was to display different levels of privilege that exist within the community.

The Anti-Racism Teach-In is intended to be the first of multiple events organized by G.A.R.D. as the organization continues its outreach in the community.

## School Note

Kindergarten screening appointments will be made for August 31 and September 1. Parents who need to initially register incoming Kindergarten students, or who haven't received an appointment date, should contact school principals.

## School Committee Meeting

AUGUST 12, 2020

KATHY CORBETT  
Staff Writer

At the last regular School Committee (SC) meeting held via Zoom, Kyra Hamblen, Gorham High School (GHS) sophomore, used the public comment opportunity to say that most students want to be in school, if only for two days a week. Superintendent Heather Perry said that both the administration and the SC are in agreement and fully committed to finding a way to open GHS to in-person instruction safely for students and staff.

In her report, Perry said that the district is in line to receive \$2M in federal funds for technology, staffing, facilities needs, and personal protection equipment (PPE). Governor Mills' 10% reduction in the state budget probably will not affect the state education subsidy. She also said that the district is still hiring people to work in nutrition, cafeteria and playground monitoring, and van transportation.

There was intense community reaction to the SC's vote to open GHS with virtual learning. Committee members used the opportunity to speak about their desire to return to in-person education at GHS as soon as possible. Everyone involved is working together in good faith to find the best solutions.

The SC voted on two teaching positions. Lindsay Eli will teach at GMS and Cooper Power will teach adaptive Phys. Ed. They also voted to approve a bond

issue proposal to send to the Town Council that had been developed by a joint committee. The \$7,475,000 bond would fund projects prioritized to meet capital improvement needs five years out, such as the HVAC system at GMS, ball field lighting, and bus turnarounds.

They discussed moving to in-person SC meetings, perhaps at the high school. There were questions about space requirements and sanitation schedules. Perry said she would investigate further.

Rob Roy, Gorham Teachers Association president, reported on a survey of 75 GHS staff members. The 41 responses were split evenly in favor of opening in "red" or "yellow." Superintendent Perry and GHS Principal Brian Jandreau described three possible scenarios for a GHS hybrid plan. Two would bring 430, or half, the students to school at one time; the other would have one-fourth at a time receiving in-person instruction. Questions were asked about mask breaks and state distancing requirements under each plan. Perry is checking with the DOE on these and other current requirements.

Perry has been communicating with organizations in an effort to find space for GHS classes. The SC voted for her to continue working with the Town Manager and the Town Council to identify town-owned space, ideally at the Municipal Center, that could be used as classrooms. They voted for Phil Gagnon to serve as SC representative to that working group.

The SC agreed to hold a special Zoom meeting on Tuesday, August 18, for administration to present at least one revised opening plan for GHS that will include some days of in-person learning.

## Rovin Devotes a Year to Birthday Bags



Photo credit Heather Richards

Roxy Rovin, an eighth grader at Gorham Middle School, spent the last year developing, planning, and implementing a "Birthday Bags" project as part of her Bat Mitzvah studies. With community donations she is thrilled to have assembled 100 bags that will be distributed through the Gorham Backpack Program. Bags include cake mix, icing, small gifts, candles, some have balloons or other decorations.



207.650.2832

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RealEstateDoneNicely.com

# Girl Scouts Helping to Keep Gorham Students Safe



Photo credit Sheila Daigle

Gorham Girl Scout Troop #618 is working hard to make sure every Gorham student returning to school this fall has a mask available to them. Pictured (left to right) are: Back: Amari Deprez, Amelia Winkler, Henrietta Copperberg, Lauren Drenski, Sabrina Bowler, Hannah Symanski, Emma Spiller, and DeeDee Boissonneault; Front: Emily Watson, Camryn Allen, Lizzy Bradshaw, and Rhiannon Boissonneault.

## GORHAM TIMES STAFF

Gorham Girl Scout Troop #618 are fourth grade students who are working on a project to help the Gorham community. The goal is to keep Gorham students safe as they enter school this year.

With the coronavirus pandemic still an issue and modifications needed to open K-8 schools in a hybrid model, students will be required to wear masks while at school. These Girl Scouts decided to help by making masks available to Gorham students.

They have a three-tiered goal. The first goal is to donate a mask to each fourth grader in all three elementary schools. The second goal is to donate a mask to every student in the three elementary

schools. The third goal is to donate a mask to each Gorham student attending school at the start of this school year, which is approximately 2,000 students (not including Gorham High School students, who, at press time, will be starting the school year remotely).

These goals, however, cannot be completed without the community's help. Please contact one of the troop leaders if you can donate fabric, elastic, thread, or a monetary donation for the girls to purchase these materials.

Additionally, time and sewing talents are also needed to help sew the masks. A template will be provided, and materials can be donated to those who need it.

Contact: gsme618@gmail.com or Sheila at: 939-6965, Jenn at (508) 269-0875, or Carol at 632-1067.

## FOCUS ON FAMILY

# The Silver Lining

ELIZABETH WILKINS

In turbulent times like these, we have to look for silver linings. Many of us are grappling with the reality of children not returning full time to school in the fall. This will undoubtedly have a negative impact on many aspects of parents' and children's lives. We rely on the school system to not only educate our kids in the academic sense but also to provide structure in our daily lives and tools for being organized and functional in the world outside the family circle.

But we need to remember that in order for children to be successful in these aspects of school, they require more than just rigorous lessons and the proper 3-ring binder; they need a wealth of opportunities to develop physically, emotionally, and socially. These other aspects of learning have been pushed to the back burner in schools for a number of decades as academic performance became the top indicator of a "good" education. But without these life skills, bringing academic content to a young person is like trying to build a house on a sandbar. The waves of life, whether it's illness, conflict with friends, or intense emotions, can sweep through and the child is forced to pay attention to repairing the cracks in the foundation as opposed to focusing on constructing the walls of the house. Higher learning skills (math, reading, writing) depend heavily on the foundation of a healthy body and sensory system, the ability to regulate emotion and attention, and skill in navigating social situations. And here is the best part, you don't need a classroom to develop these skills. They are best developed outside of a classroom setting, in play.

Play is never "just play" but involves many complex systems learning to work more effectively on their own and together. For example, let's look at the vestibular sense. Just as your eyes are the seat of the sense of vision, the inner ear is the seat of the vestibular system. Starting

in utero, the organs of the inner ear respond to any change in the movement of your head, helping you to determine where you are in space in relation to gravity. As a child grows up, this system needs a huge amount of input to develop well, which explains why most kids love to do things that move them in all directions - swinging, spinning, being thrown in the air, tumbling down hills, and hanging upside down. Not only is this important to figuring out how to get from point A to point B, but the vestibular system is tied to other crucial aspects of the brain such as the ability to pay attention, the ability to effectively use our eyes for vision, and even in regulating our emotions. Developing a strong, robust vestibular sense can have a ripple effect on all these aspects of a child's development which can have lasting effects into adulthood.

You may be one of the families that find themselves spending more time outdoors during the quarantine, and I'm here to tell you, don't stop now. I consider this a gift to the children of today, who are more scheduled, more hooked up to technology and under more pressure to perform academically than children of the past. Kids need to play for long stretches of time, preferably outdoors and maybe now they are finally getting the chance.

So no matter what this school year brings, I encourage you to see the silver lining. If our kids have less time sitting at a desk in a classroom and more time in unstructured play, it may be just what their brains and bodies have been needing.

SEE AD ON PAGE 14



Elizabeth Wilkins, owner of TimberNook of Greater Portland Maine, is a licensed occupational therapist, long time teacher and parent of three. She and her family live in Gorham.



Jan and Paul Willis  
ERA Agency 1  
839-3390

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# Keep Your Gardening Pictures Coming!

The pandemic has sent most of us into stay at home mode with schedules and expectations thrown into disarray as we each find a new normal. Even the weather here in Gorham has been unusual with a frost on June first and a true heatwave, the first in nine years, this July. But an unexpected outcome from this paradigm shift is a huge increase in home gardening. Everything from flower pots on the front stoop, to vegetable plots in the side yard, to full fledge food forests right in the front yard. Look around, people are gardening like never before. Gorham residents have replaced so many patches of lawn with inventive structures, unique garden layouts, and beautiful flower varieties. So show us your garden! The Gorham Times would like to display your gardening talents, big and small, in one of our future issues.



We invite you to submit your favorite photo to [gorhamtimes@gmail.com](mailto:gorhamtimes@gmail.com) FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN A GIFT CARD TO ONE OF OUR LOCAL ADVERTISERS.



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## PRIMARY CARE WITH A PROMISE OF SAFETY

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- 1** We are reducing the number of people in our reception areas.
- 2** We are disinfecting high-touch surfaces and public spaces more frequently.
- 3** We are requiring masks or face coverings for all visitors, patients, and employees.

Maine made us prepared to keep you safe and healthy. Through these new measures, we're continuing to make healthcare work for you. Learn more at [MaineMadeUs.com/MercyPrimaryCare](http://MaineMadeUs.com/MercyPrimaryCare)

Please call ahead of your visit if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

**Northern Light**  
Mercy Hospital

# Trail Network in Gorham Is Expanding

DESTINY COOK  
Sports Editor

During a time of social distancing, getting outside is certainly something to look forward to. Thanks to Sam Morton and a dedicated group of volunteers, the Gorham trail system is being updated and expanded. Currently, there are over 25 miles of trails in Gorham which can be used for biking, hiking, snowshoeing and walking.

Morton's main interest is biking; he's on mountain bikes in the summer and fat tire bikes in the winter. "Before kids I used to rock climb, kayak, and hike," he said. Unfortunately those activities often required a full day or multiple days away from home, and with a young family they became more difficult to do. It's his love for biking that gives him a vested interest in the trails in and around Gorham.

Some of the trails are owned by the town of Gorham and are a part of the Gorham Conservation Commission, however, much of the trail system is on privately owned land. "Landowners have been very generous to allow access; it is great for the community and they are protected from liability by state law," Morton said.

After a ride this past winter, Morton and a few friends happened to have a conversation with Charlie and Deidre Hamblen about the trails, which ultimately led to the possibility of creating new trails on their property.

First, the group went to the Hamblen property to map out the trails, and after the Hamblens gave the green light, it was time to get to work. "The vision is multiple miles of multi-use 'people powered' trails on the property off Libby Ave," Morton shared. "The project was in concept phase until a plan was formed on a trail work day," he added. And thus, the project became known as the "The Hamblen Project."

At the time, Morton said there were several volunteers working on a new trail at the Alden property behind USM. Jamie Wright, owner of Gorham Bike and Ski (originally located on Main St. in Gorham) and Rob Lavoie of Chiropractic Clinic of Gorham came up with the idea to rent an excavator for building the new trails. The

group received a generous donation from Wright to get them started, and Chris Kelly from V&M Rental offered a significant discount which allowed the group to rent an excavator for the full month of June.

Additional support came from GPNEMBA (Greater Portland Chapter of New England Mountain Bike Association) with a financial contribution as well as the use of tools, equipment, and assistance coordinating volunteers. Over 50 volunteers helped with the trail work, accumulating hundreds of hours through the month of June. "It was amazing to see so many people come out to contribute," Morton said.

There are currently two miles of new trails built; one of the trails is named "1783," the year the Hamblen family purchased the land. Access to the trails will come from a connecting trail beginning in the Wagner Farms development, which should be completed by mid-August.

"There will also be access from Harrison Way when/if it becomes a public road. It's currently private with the new development, a perfect spot for a new home if folks like access to the woods!" Morton shared. These new trails will be a great way to extend a ride, hike, or run by connecting from the Claire Drew trails on the town-owned Chick Property, and also from the Tannery Preserve.

"Trail users have a huge amount of gratitude to the Hamblen family and other land owners who have allowed access. It's part of what makes Gorham such a great town and community to live in," Morton said.

In addition to Gorham Bike & Ski and V&M Rental, Morton extended thanks to many other local companies that have contributed to and supported the project, including Gorham Savings Bank, Mainway Landscaping, Dayton Sand & Gravel, Allspeed Cyclery & Snow, Bayview Signworks, and Maine Trail Builders. "Donations from these companies will ensure that the trail development and ongoing maintenance will be supported," he said.

Trail work will continue through the summer to meet the goal of an additional five miles of trails before winter. For updated info and status on the trails,



Photo credit Rob Lavoie

Volunteers (left to right) Bill Moreno, Anton Gulovsen and Brian Hamann work on the new "Hamblen Project" trails off of Libby Ave.

follow GPNEMBA on Facebook, or check out the Trailforks App for maps, parking areas, and trail information.

Morton shared, "While I still love adventures away from town, it's really awesome that with a couple hours we can find a mini-adventure right outside of Gorham Village."





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# GHS Welcomes New Boys' Varsity Soccer Coach

DESTINY COOK  
Sports Editor

After 20 years with Tim King at the helm of the boys' varsity soccer team, Nick Viola has been appointed the new head coach of the team. Athletic Director Tim Spear said, "Gorham Athletics is very excited to have Coach Viola joining our team. Coach Viola has a passion for coaching soccer and brings an enthusiastic and energetic attitude to the program. He is familiar with our program and understands the deep roots that soccer has in our community. I believe he is ready for the challenge in taking the helm of a top notch program."

Viola grew up in Portland with his parents, sister and brother. He started playing soccer when he was five years old and credits his supportive family for helping to advance his playing career. "I grew up playing in premier tournaments around the country as a kid, and having that chance to develop as a player would not have been possible without my family. This also helped fuel a transition into coaching," he said.

While attending Deering High School from 2005-2008, Viola played all four years on the varsity team and captained the Rams to a 13-3 record his senior year, losing to our own Gorham Rams in the SMAA South semifinals. Viola was selected first team all-conference and was the conference defensive player of the year as a senior. He went on to play four years of college soccer at Elmira College in upstate New York, where he obtained his Bachelor's degree in speech-language pathology.

Viola obtained his Master's degree in speech-language pathology at the University of Maine in 2014. After playing soccer at the semi-professional level in Boston in 2015, he moved back to Portland. "I've coached the

2003 boys' premier team at Roosevelt Soccer Club for the last three seasons, where we won two Maine State Premier League titles," he shared.



It is a difficult time to be a coach, let alone a new varsity coach, with Covid-19 still looming. With the fall sports season still up in the air, Viola said, "The pandemic has had a profound and unprecedented impact on all of our lives. Details surrounding the prospect of a season are still being formulated. We will do our part as a team and as a coaching staff to ensure a safe, competitive playing environment for all student-athletes. We will make the best of all circumstances, however frequently they may change."

Still hopeful for a fall season so he can get to know his players and coaching staff, Viola stated, "I hope to aspire to a standard of excellence, all the time. Not just on the field, but in the classroom and in representing our community."

Viola works as a Speech-Language Pathologist at Southern Maine Health Care in Biddeford. "I work in a rehabilitation setting, often with patients who have suffered strokes or brain injuries, who present with speech, language, cognitive, voice and swallowing disorders. I also work in pediatrics with developmental delays," he added.

It's a new era for Gorham boys' varsity soccer and Coach Viola is ready to get started. "Soccer is a great game and I love to share my knowledge and give back to the community like so many youth coaches did for me," he said.

# Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

CATHY WALTER  
Staff Writer

## Consider Laundry

The world has changed since your grandma used to do laundry. Today, consumers are led to believe that they need dozens of products to get that special kind of clean. But do we? Perhaps we should all step back and consider what we are doing and why. Is it working? Is it worth it?

According to Clean Homeguide, "The manufacturing, cleaning, and disposal of clothes has a huge environmental impact. From toxins in dyes and synthetic fibers that make their way into our water systems and the air to the energy consumption and water waste caused by simply doing laundry two or three times a week."

There are many little things that can be done to reduce the environmental impact of laundry. The use of natural products can quickly reduce the chemical pollution it creates. Washing in cold water is another simple change that not only reduces your carbon footprint but also puts dollars back into your pocket.

The biggest thing you can do is to only wash your clothes and towels when they are dirty. The simple act of hanging up your bath towels to dry and reusing them for a week can dramatically reduce the number of loads/week depending on your

family size. Humans are creatures of habit and laundry has become one for most of us. Maybe it's time to look at our habits with new awareness and see if there are opportunities to Reduce, Reuse & Recycle.

**Reduce:** Consider using a clothesline again, at least for bedding and towels, and see if doesn't entice you to do more. A single bit of rope between two trees, a dog run, or small drying rack from your local hardware store is a good way to start getting the benefits of drying your laundry free of cost with zero carbon footprint and with the bonus of that wonderful fresh air smell.

**Reuse:** If you can't stop using single use dryer sheets consider all the things you can do with the used ones. They are great for dusting your electronics and anywhere you want to not only clear off the dust but repel it, like baseboards, lampshades, etc.

**Recycle:** When making purchasing decisions on laundry products consider the recyclability of the packaging as one of the attributes to be weighed along with effectiveness and price, then be sure to recycle it.

*Editor's Note: We continue our RRR series which highlights a specific theme and then looks at several ways to Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. If you have an idea for a new topic to consider, please submit to gorhamtimes@gmail.com.*



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## REMEMBER WHEN

# Just One Room

WILMA GOULD JOHNSON  
*Contributing Writer*

Today's children are experiencing a vastly different school experience than their parents, grandparents or great grandparents ever had. When the older generation talks about "The Good Old Days," they just might conjure up memories of attending a one-room school house, reached after walking at least a mile in knee-deep snow during the winter.

Until the 1950's and into the early 60's, many of Gorham's elementary students attended one of five, rural one-room schools or the two-room school at White Rock. These buildings housed students in grades K-6 or K-8 at the White Rock School. The one-room schools were heated by wood burning stoves and had no running water. A water cooler with pointed paper cups provided drinking water, supplied by the teacher or janitor. Unheated restroom facilities were outside. White Rock School did have running water, a cafeteria, a coal furnace and inside bathrooms.

Children in the Village attended the large, modern Campus School located where the Ridgewood Senior Housing is on School Street. This building was warmed by a coal furnace in the basement and had inside bathrooms and running water.

The West Gorham School opened in 1939 with Miss Edith Pitts as the teacher. Students remember that the desks were attached to a metal floor rail and that neighbor, Ginny Dorr, sometimes brought soup for the children's lunches. It closed in 1951 and was leased to the West Gorham Community Club.

The Longfellow School, on Longfellow Road, was built in 1897 and remained open until 1951 with Miss Grace Gordon, who taught for 46 years, as one of the long-time teachers. One teacher, Adeline Colpits, felt fortunate to teach in that school and noted that the classroom was well supplied with its own piano, projector, and lots and lots of maps. It was sold as a meeting house and then became a private residence but was lost to fire in 1965.

The Elmwood School, located on Route 114 on lower South Street, was built in the early 1900's and closed in 1959. It was later used by the Gorham Lions Club. The Elmwood School was very similar to the West Gorham School.

The Whitney School on North Street was dedicated in 1927 and closed in 1963 when it became the garage for a private residence.

The Wescott School, located on Fort Hill Road, was closed in 1959. In 1977 it was moved from its location to Narragansett Street.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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## Just One Room CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

At White Rock School, kindergarten through grade four were taught by Miss Kermis Weeks and Carlton Watts taught grades 5-8. The White Rock School closed in 1962 and was given to the White Rock Community Club.

Two former students of the Whitney School shared memories of what it was like attending school in just one room. A big pot bellied stove to the left as you entered the room, was stoked early by a janitor to keep the children warm. Two small rooms on each side of the entrance served as a place to hang coats. During cold winter months, wet clothing could be hung from hooks to dry by the warmth of the potbellied stove. Children brought their own lunch which might include a potato to cook on a shelf inside the wood stove so it was hot and ready to eat at lunch time. The milkman made daily deliveries of bottled milk with cardboard caps and each child had their choice of white, chocolate or even strawberry.

Their teacher, Mrs. Sanborn, usually had a student teacher. At times, Mrs. Sanborn would address all of the students and other times, she would work individually with a grade while the other children worked on their homework. Mrs. Nina Bailey, the music teacher, traveled from school to school once a month. One student recalls riding her horse to school and not being able to find any place to tie him, so she tied him to the flag pole. The teacher did not approve and the horse did not return to school.

Like children of today, no matter which one-room school you attended, students agreed that recess was the best of times. The children played games such as red rover red rover, duck duck goose, and also enjoyed sledding, and building snow forts and snowmen on the school yard, all with very little teacher supervision. Although former students at West Gorham School did recall that one teacher, Mrs. Harding, was a good sport because she actually enjoyed playing outside with the children during recess.

One by one, the rural schools closed and eventually all Gorham students attended either the Campus School or the new White Rock Elementary School. While it was sad for most children to leave the lifestyle of the country school, new friends were made and many of the one-room teachers continued teaching in Gorham.

Any one with a question or more information may contact Wilma Gould Johnson at iamwilma@comcast.net



Photo credit Mary Shiers

Former students shared their memories of attending one-room schools: Mary Nugent Landry/ White Rock; Ginger Grant Walker and Deb Tracy Davis/Whitney School; Carla Berry Davis/West Gorham; and Sam Johnson and his sister, Rae Johnson Bachelder/Elmwood.



Photo credit Portland Press Herald



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# blotter

## LOTS OF "SUSPICIOUS" ACTIVITY IN GORHAM

Suspicious person on Raceway Drive was private security working overnight.

Suspicious person on Main St. was the priest who lived at the property.

Suspicious people on Glenwood Avenue lived there.

Suspicious person at South Gorham Crossing was parked and drinking her coffee as she does when she is early for work.

Spiller Road caller reported a suspicious vehicle stopped in the road. It was the homeowner and she was getting her mail.

Suspicious persons on Huston Road were Lucas Tree Company employees who were early for work.

Female caller from Standish Neck Road (who was the ex-girlfriend of the person she was calling about), was speculating and had zero proof any alcohol was open or being consumed by her ex.

Vehicle on Flaggy Meadow Road was burgled.

Tanglewood Drive caller reported receiving threatening calls from a debt collector. She was referred to Family Court.

Exchange St. caller got a concerning text. Officer talked to sender who said he had accidentally sent it to the wrong person. He was told he should not have sent that text to anyone. Caller was told to block that number.

Officer clocked vehicle on Mosher Road doing 105 mph. He was unable to locate vehicle as it took off when driver saw police car.

Officer responded to Gray Road for a disturbance. Male had left. Female said he was upset over his cheating on her.

Caller reported a young woman on the side of Fort Hill Road and Dingley Spring Road who was upset, crying and talking to herself. She told officer she had been kicked out of the house. Her ride came to pick her up.

Caller reported neighbor on Settler's Way was working on property that was not theirs nor the callers but rather belonged to the Town. Caller was advised this was a civil issue and to call the Town. Caller called later to ask about Town noise ordinance. Caller was advised there is no specific Town noise ordinance.

Fort Hill Road caller passing by thought it was weird that there were several cars at a house. He said he knew the person who lived there but hadn't talked to them in two years. He was advised to talk to homeowner.

A vehicle on Gray Road was broken into.

Main St. caller wanted to know if it was illegal to trap live cats on his property. He was advised that stray or feral cats could be trapped and turned over to Animal Refuge League or Friends of Feral Felines. If cat's owner was known, cat needed to be returned to owner.

Complainant was disputing ATM withdrawal from her account. Bank Manager advised her to contact entity that owned card or placed funds on it. Funds were returned a short time later.

## Time for a Laugh...

**What do you call a fish without eyes?**

*Fsh*

**What do you do with a sick boat?**

*Take it to the doc already!*

**Why shouldn't you write with a broken pencil?**

*Because it's pointless.*

**What is the difference between bird flu and swine flu?**

*One requires a tweetment and the other requires oinkment.*

**What do you call a pig who does Karate?**

*A pork chop.*

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## COMMUNITY

### DEAN'S LIST

**Ryan Desanctis**, Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island  
**Kate Gilbert**, Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island  
**Matthew McCarty**, Maine Maritime Academy, Castine, Maine  
**Grace Perron**, Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island

### OF INTEREST

The **Gorham Lions** continue their fall schedule of dinner meetings on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday evenings at the Elmwood School at 414 South Street, starting September 8 at 6:30 p.m.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**, Gorham Memorial Post 10879 and former members of South Portland Post 832 will meet on September 8 at 5:30 pm. Any interested veterans may contact the post at [vfwpost10879@gmail.com](mailto:vfwpost10879@gmail.com) for location and membership information.

**Karalyn Kutzer (GHS '18)** a student at the University of Southern Maine, was recently awarded a Patriot Insurance Scholarship.

**Paddling the Presumpscot**, an annual fun family event, is taking place now through Sun, Aug 23, and will look a bit different this year. There will not be a group paddle, instead, it will be an online and solo paddling event with the Land Trust providing resources to help anyone from the experienced paddler to someone who has never been on the water before. Everyone who signs up will receive: a paper copy of the Presumpscot River Paddle Map, early access to the brand new digital water trail map, information on where to rent kayaks or canoes, and links to 'how-to' videos for beginner paddlers. There will be daily Facebook postings throughout the week and we encourage you to send us your photos to share as you get out on the water. Pre-registration is required at <https://www.prlt.org/event-signup-paddling>

The **Gorham Food Pantry** continues to offer drive-through pantry hours every Thursday from 10-noon. Beginning in September, the Pantry will also be open for clients on the 2nd and 4th Monday from 6-7 p.m. Any Gorham resident can take advantage of the Gorham Food Pantry - visit during pantry hours with proof of residency (a water bill, electric bill with name and Gorham address on it – not a drivers' license). The Pantry needs for September include a combination of food, school supplies and personal items. Food needs: Large/jumbo peanut butter, jelly in plastic bottles, baking goods (quick muffins/breads, cake mixes, etc.), Ramen noodles, cold cereal, baked beans, 1 lb ground coffee (both regular and decaf). Personal items: deodorant, shampoo, bar soap, toothpaste, toilet paper. School supplies: Pens, pencils, markers, 2-inch binders, backpacks, lunchboxes. Fresh vegetables from the garden are always welcome! Just swing by during pantry hours or message us on Facebook @ Gorham Food Pantry Friends to schedule a drop off time that works. Financial donations can easily be made on our website: <http://www.gorhamfoodpantry.org/donate.html>.

### LIBRARY NEWS

**North Gorham Public Library is once again open to the public.** Library hours are Mondays 3-5:30 p.m., Wednesdays 6-8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Home delivery and parking lot pickup is also available.

**Baxter Memorial Library is open to the public.** Specific information for in-person browsing, curbside pickup and interlibrary loan can be found on the website, [www.baxterlibrary.org](http://www.baxterlibrary.org). The library's virtual programming will resume on September 8. In September the library will be offering Virtual Preschool Discovery Time, Virtual Toddler Discovery Time, and Babies en Plein Air. Visit the website at [www.baxterlibrary.org](http://www.baxterlibrary.org) or call 222-1190 for program descriptions and the latest up-to-date information.

## CALENDAR

\*\* Baxter Library events will resume on September 8. \*\*

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

Gorham Farmer's Market, Municipal Parking Lot, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

Gorham Farmer's Market, Municipal Parking Lot, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

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### USM NOTES

**At USM, as COVID-19 made remote learning the norm, the School of Music students had spring performances on their minds and in their hearts.** But how do you perform when you can't occupy the same place at the same time? With the help of music recording and editing tools, students played their individual parts and professors helped edit the performances together. The final sound was one of beautiful unity. Watch videos online at <https://usm.maine.edu/publicaffairs/despise-pandemic-usms-school-music-didnt-miss-beat-spring-2020-performances>

**The health and well-being of students, faculty and staff, and visitors is of paramount importance.** All decisions and actions pertaining to the return to campus are grounded in protecting all members of the USM community from the spread of COVID. Learn more at [usm.maine.edu/healthy-huskies](http://usm.maine.edu/healthy-huskies)

**Actor Tony Shalhoub '77** has again been nominated for an Emmy Award for his role on the acclaimed Amazon Prime show, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel." In 2019, the alumnus of USM's Department of Theatre took home the Emmy for his portrayal of Maisel's fussy patriarch, Abe Weissman.



**The Pantry has been grateful to partner with Gorham Rec to make deliveries to Gorham neighbors who can't leave their homes.** Many times this summer, Cindy Hazelton and Jim Karcanes from the Gorham Rec Dept. have volunteered with the Gorham Food Pantry to assemble and coordinate deliveries to members of our community who are unable to travel or choose not to due to COVID.



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