

# Gorham Times

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## Gorham Names New Fire Chief



Photo credit Sheri Faber

Adapted from Town of Gorham Press Release

Ken Fickett, a 47-year veteran of the Gorham Fire Department, was appointed Chief of the department by Gorham Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak. Fickett will serve as only the second full-time Fire Chief for the Town of Gorham since 1987, having served as the acting chief since the August 2020 retirement of Robert Lefebvre.

Chief Fickett's career in the Fire Service started with the Call Company for Gorham Fire in 1974. He became a full-time firefighter/EMT with the department in 1999. He served as Call Company Deputy Chief from 1989 through 2001, and as full time Deputy Chief since 2001.

Raised in Gorham, Chief Fickett completed his post-secondary education at SMCC, SMVTI, the National Fire Academy, and additional fire science coursework at numerous schools across Maine and New Hampshire. Chief Fickett attributes his passion for Fire Service to the late Westbrook Fire Chief Byron Rogers, retired Gorham Fire Chief Robert Lefebvre, and his two older siblings who entered the field early in life.

Regarding his initial goals as Chief, Fickett aims to maintain and encourage Call Company participation and service through continual professional development and training, and noted the critical role that the Call service and full-time staff play together to provide public safety for our Town of approximately 17,978 (2019 U.S. Census population estimate). Between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020, Gorham Fire and Rescue responded to 2,771 calls through the collaboration of 10 full-time personnel and 100 Call Company members. Chief Fickett's primary goal in the coming

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## Gorham School Nurses Work Hard Against COVID-19



Photo credit Collette Andreasen

From left to right: Carrie Chasse, Village Elementary School; Collette Andreasen, Narragansett Elementary School; Joyce LaRue, Gorham High School; Alicia Murray, Gorham Middle School; Melissa Tringali, Great Falls Elementary School.

KATHY CORBETT  
Staff Writer

The school nurse is often thought of as the person whose office is a welcoming place, where a student is treated for a playground scrape or comforted when they get sick at school. But nurses have many more professional and record-keeping duties in a normal school year. And since last spring, Gorham school nurses have taken on new and expanded responsibilities in the district's efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

The three elementary school nurses, Collette Andreasen of Narragansett, Carrie Chase of Village, and Melissa Tringali of Great Falls, along with Alicia Murray from Gorham Middle School (GMS) and Joyce LaRou from Gorham High School (GHS), spoke about their experiences working in this unique situation.

A student who has tested positive for COVID or has been identified as a close contact cannot return to school until they test negative or the quarantine period is over. "With K-5 students I have a lot more communication with parents by phone and email about absences," Andreasen said. "I have much more desk time, but with only one-half of students in school at a time there is not as much recess, so fewer ice packs for minor injuries."

Students are screened for symptoms every day before coming to school. Tringali said, "We are very strict about screening, so there may be even fewer kids in school."

Chase agreed, but added, "We are just as busy because there is an increase in communication educating parents and students about COVID."

Decisions about when to quarantine are made by the Maine Center for Disease and Prevention (CDC),

not by nurses or administrators, but the nurses have responsibility for explaining the regulations. "Parents don't always understand when students have symptoms," Andreasen said. "Nothing is 'just a cold,' and it is difficult for parents who don't always remember when the student first had symptoms."

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THE SCHOOL NURSE IS OFTEN THOUGHT OF AS THE PERSON WHOSE OFFICE IS A WELCOMING PLACE, WHERE A STUDENT IS TREATED FOR A PLAYGROUND SCRAPE OR COMFORTED WHEN THEY GET SICK AT SCHOOL. BUT NURSES HAVE MANY MORE PROFESSIONAL AND RECORD-KEEPING DUTIES IN A NORMAL SCHOOL YEAR. AND SINCE LAST SPRING, GORHAM SCHOOL NURSES HAVE TAKEN ON NEW AND EXPANDED RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE DISTRICT'S EFFORTS TO MITIGATE THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.

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Tringali added, "However, for every rule there is a situation that does not fit and the guidelines change often."

In addition, for privacy concerns nurses cannot give out as much information as parents want. "We err on the side of caution," Andreasen said. "Our goal is to mediate spread and we see things parents don't."

Tringali agreed, "But parents are getting better at the routines, and the kids have the routines down." All agreed that students are very cooperative in mask wearing, hand washing, and keeping a safe distance, but they don't like missing school. Fortunately, when a student can't

attend school there is usually one parent working from home. "But students don't like that they have to get a doctor's clearance and wait for test results before coming back," Tringali said.

"K-5 students like a set schedule and structure," Andreasen said, "and they worry some about if they have symptoms."

The nurses at GMS and GHS see more student anxiety. "I have only been a month on the job," Murray said, "but I have seen palatable anxiety. It is difficult for middle school students to be isolated from their peers."

LaRou agreed and added that she was very worried about students' mental health. "There is a huge amount of anxiety and depression," she said. "If sports were closed down again it would be a big letdown for students."

All agreed they could not do the job in this situation without each other. "We talk with colleagues every day and talk out our frustrations," Andreasen said. "We abide by the same rules. Some days are very hard, which is common for most professionals in this time."

Tringali added, "We work as a team and are all on the same page."

Chasse agreed, "There are days when we feel overwhelmed managing the concerns of students, staff, and parents. We appreciate the constant support and communication with administration."

"There is an emphasis in Gorham on inter-school cooperation," Tringali said.

Andreasen added that "Gorham is a good, small town with lots of parental involvement in the schools." But she spoke for all five nurses when she said, "I'll be glad when we wrap this up."

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ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS  
ARE COMING TO GORHAM  
SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 3

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.

# Setting the Record Straight on PPP Taxation

REP. MO TERRY

Maine small businesses are struggling. As a small business owner myself, I know just how devastating and exhausting the past year has been. Many businesses are still in need of aid in spite of state and federal loans, programs and grants helping them survive. Over the course of the pandemic, multiple stimulus packages have been passed in an effort to help individuals, businesses and states stay afloat. These are taxpayer funded programs. As your representatives it is our job to be good stewards of taxpayer money.

Over the past week there has been some confusion around one of these programs in particular; the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) which is a loan or grant available to eligible businesses. Folks seem to be most concerned with a discrepancy in how Maine and the federal government plan to handle taxation of these loans. At the time of this writing, the Mills administration is still working through some of these details and is trying to find the most economically sustainable way to provide the greatest benefit to Mainers. However, I do want to help clear up some of the miscommunication and misinformation that has surrounded this issue.

The federal government regularly runs a budget deficit, meaning it spends more money than it brings in. However, Maine's Constitution requires us to maintain a balanced budget. The Mills administration recently submitted her plans for this upcoming biennial budget

as well as a supplemental budget to the Legislature. The Legislature will refer the budget to our Appropriations and Financial Affairs (AFA) Committee which will go through it with a fine-toothed comb and make any changes or adjustments it deems necessary. While it does this work, AFA will enlist the relevant policy committees and will open up the conversation to Maine citizens by way of public hearings. With input from the policy committees as a result of these livestreamed hearings and work sessions, the AFA Committee will then formulate recommendations to the full Legislature which will then vote on the final measure.

I serve as House Chair of the Legislature's Taxation Committee, and over the past two weeks, my colleagues and I have begun to dig into parts of the supplemental budget proposal that have to do with taxation. This is where we've seen substantial confusion regarding the state's handling of the PPP loans. The most recent proposal from the Administration would treat the forgiven PPP loans as income for the purposes of determining state taxes but would also conform with the deductions offered under federal law. This will be a wash for most businesses with forgiven PPP loans, resulting in a net zero tax liability. On the federal level, businesses will get a greater tax break on top of the net zero liability Maine is providing because the federal government is permitted to run a deficit and so has the available funds.

The claim that this is a tax increase is disingenuous. Loans that are forgiven,

like foreclosures, are treated as income under state and federal taxes. Meaning that they are subject to the same marginal tax brackets as income earned from wages.

However, the Governor has expressed a willingness and a desire to revisit this portion of the supplemental budget as stated on maine.gov. The problem our state currently faces is that if we are to fully conform to the federal treatment, we would need to come up with roughly an additional \$100 million to balance Maine's budget before the end of June. Governor Mills is looking to see where we might be able to pull together that sum, but it is a herculean task that would require additional support from the federal government.

In the meantime, while all of this is playing out, I want you to know that I am working diligently with my colleagues across the aisle to dig into these details and make sure that Mainers' tax dollars are spent wisely and economically. I welcome your continued input and engagement as we work through these complicated matters.



Rep. Maureen "Mo" Terry, D-Gorham, is serving her third term in the Maine House of Representatives. She serves as House Chair of the Taxation Committee. She is a chef and small business owner with more than 25 years of experience in the food service industry. Contact her at maureen.terry@legislature.maine.gov.

## 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,

I'm writing to let everyone know that this year's huge Engineering Expo at the University is going to be held "virtually" instead, on February 27th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, and beyond. We regularly meet several thousands of people—kids and adults—but this year, as you can imagine, it's going to be different.

Engineering comes from the Latin "ingens", and ingenuity is something everyone gets involved with. Our Expo brings in hundreds of engineers and companies just to visit with you and show you what we do here in Maine. From pulling a rubber-band to launching a spacecraft, it's all engineering. From infancy on, we just naturally do it. Some might even say we "ingenuite."

It's looking like we'll have a couple of Mainers telling us what they do these days, from NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy to young inventor Paige Brown, co founder and CEO of WindBorne Systems.

Look us up at [www.engineeringME.com](http://www.engineeringME.com) to see how to get involved. And be patient as we work out all the details over the next few weeks.

Pete Mickelson, P.E.  
n.p.mickelson@ieeee.org  
Secretary, Maine Engineering  
Promotional Council

To the Editor:

Democracy?

Who amongst us can say with a straight face, that the system isn't broken? That we, and the country aren't split?

When legislation at state and federal levels, time after time, is passed or defeated by one or two votes ON PARTY LINES, rather, it would appear, than upon merits of the bill, something is wrong. Someone is not working together.

Has anyone in the legislature ever read "Mending Walls" by Robert Frost, and got the meaning of what he says? This is not a new thing, merely, it seems, just getting worse.

Too many times it appears the representative is voting in a manner so as to please their party, perhaps looking forward to the next election for their support. Fear of "party retribution" seems to be rampant and neither party seems any more subject to it than the other, as far as the major two are concerned. "See which way the

wind blows, then I will vote safely?"

Be it involving impeachment, abortion, or global warming, the story - at least to an "outsider" looking on - appears the same. "The party" says vote YES, then the vote must be YES.

It just doesn't sound like what my father and the old one room school at Levi Hall taught me that democracy was all about. In his years on the Gorham Town Council, he prided himself in voting the subject and not the party. He dedicated himself to acting the "mediator" and was elated when the two sides had melded.

John Alden was another involved in those times. They had their opponents, however they worked things out TOGETHER WITHOUT THE AID OF PARTY NAMES, OR EVEN AFFILIATION.

Of course back in those days, and when I was on the school board, we voted on the issues and not the PARTY (perhaps a blessing that they were not as much a curse in those days?).

What is it beyond the "relatively meager" salaries paid our representatives, that draws anyone to want the job? It must be something besides the glory and the wish to serve?

John Labrecque Jr.

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Ad deadline is the Wednesday of the week prior to issue date. Go to [www.gorhamtimes.com](http://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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## Upcoming Deadlines

February 10  
February 24  
March 10

# Electric Vehicle Chargers Are Coming to Gorham

BRUCE WEBB  
Guest Writer

In response to an Efficiency Maine incentive program, two Gorham organizations were awarded grants to install electric vehicle charging stations in the downtown area. The First Parish Congregational Church and Hannaford Brothers, in collaboration with the Town, were among 11 award-ees in Maine. The program's goal is to support the construction of an electric vehicle charging infrastructure along main transportation corridors in Maine in response to the anticipated growth of electric vehicles.

Christine Dyke, lead minister at First Parish, commented that "our church is committed to the sacredness of creation, and we are always searching for opportunities to live out our values. The installation of these charging stations will encourage our members and the general public to make sustainable choices and reinforces our efforts to promote environmental and social justice."

Kevin Jensen, economic development director for Gorham, is very supportive of the projects. "This

reinforces our commitment to the Town's sustainability plan, supports our economic goals, and puts Gorham in the forefront of a new technology that improves the livability of our town." The addition of high level charging capacity corresponds with plans to add electric vehicles to the Town fleet.

Installation of these units will begin soon, and they should be fully functional by summer. The Level 2 smart technology will recharge EV batteries at a much faster rate than home-based charging units. The stations will be linked to the Internet which facilitates location, payment options, and data collection. Customers of local businesses will benefit from the ability to top off their batteries while shopping, going for appointments or doing errands in town.

The technology also aligns closely with the Maine Climate Action Plan which promotes the use of electric vehicles and anticipates that more than 40,000 EVs will be on Maine roads by 2025.

EVs sales are picking up so check out the newest models when you buy your next car.

## LIVING

# How to Set Successful Goals

STACEY COLEMAN

Simplistic goal setting does not work. The "choose a goal and start sprinting toward it as fast as possible" routine is doomed to failure. While an enthusiastic beginning is wonderful, I know from many years of professional work with clients and also from my own personal experience that there are no shortcuts.

It is hard not to feel discouraged when you have excitedly begun working on a goal, only to have all that eagerness end in disaster because you did not take the time to develop a good plan. Lack of planning leaves room to get distracted, to fall off course, or even worse, to become discouraged and never actually reach your destination.

This article will explain how to plan for success by setting confident, realistic goals. By learning how to set goals that plan for success, you will be on your way to being the champion in your own life: a person who has developed habits that help you achieve the things you want most. I teach my clients Three Simple Steps to Set Confident & Successful Goals.

1) You've Got to Meditate. Sit down and take time to really think about your current situation. Take real measurements. Honestly assess where you are right now. Without truly defining your starting point, you are literally lost to begin with. How can you possibly set

a destination, if you don't know where you are now? It is difficult to navigate the best route to your destination or to determine how far you have come, without knowing your starting point.

2) Aim for your goal. Decide what you want, why you want it and identify what obstacles are in your way. Are you aiming for a temporary goal or a sustainable life transformation? Imagine how you will feel when you have reached your goal. What would you look like? How would it impact those you love? Taking the time to dive into the "WHY" of your goal can increase your motivation to succeed.

Now, think about the obstacles that are in your way. Let's compare that to drawing an actual map to a destination. Done correctly, you will know what mountains you will climb and what rivers you will cross. You will have an estimate of the tolls you are going to pay. You would never set out on a road trip without knowing these things. If we skip this step when setting goals, we run the risk of wandering

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



Stacey Coleman is a certified professional in fitness, nutrition, and mindset, with 20 years of experience. She and husband Jesse are Owners of My-FIT-24 and Living a Champion Life.

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## Since You Asked...

Dear SYA,

How can we find common ground now that the election has ended? My granddaughter has two grandmas with quite different political views. I am doing my best to act appropriately with the "other grandma," but I'm not really feeling it. Help!

Wanting to Play Nice

Dear WTPN,

The world has a lot of healing to do right now. It is great that you are focusing on what is good for the next generations, as your granddaughter has important lessons to learn about diversity, getting along when she doesn't feel like it, and having empathy for others. Empathy and boundaries may seem like strange partners, but you can model both. Kindness never has a bad outcome, as long as you establish boundaries. It takes the brain six times as long to absorb a positive thought as it does a negative one, so be prepared to work six times as hard to make a positive impact. It's what we have to do to make the world a better place. It's just what we have to do.

Please send your questions to [gorhamtimes@gmail.com](mailto:gorhamtimes@gmail.com)

*Patrice Lockhart, MD, has been a Gorham resident for over 20 years. She has raised 3 marvelously well-adjusted adult children, and has a dog named Judy.*

## New Fire Chief CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

year is to ensure a smooth transition and to support our first responders wherever possible as we push through the pandemic.

"Chief Fickett brings a wealth of knowledge and dedication to the position," shared Mr. Paraschak in a statement. "He has led the Gorham Fire Department through some of the worst months of the recent pandemic, and I have the utmost faith that he will continue to lead the department through any future challenges."

Chief Fickett lives in Gorham with his wife Jennifer and three dogs - two Goldendoodles and one Poodle.

## Setting Goals CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

without purpose or direction and missing our destination. And WHEN (not IF) you do hit an obstacle, you will not be prepared.

3) Make a Plan. Choose the route you want to take. Are you going to take the scenic route or do you want to take the fast track and get there as soon as possible? Or maybe you decide to take the short cut. Figure out how much help you might need and who might possibly provide it.

If we don't make a plan for success, we are bound to become overwhelmed, distracted, and lose focus. Choose the path that makes the most sense to you. Then get on it, and stick to it.

If you know where you are starting from, know exactly where you want to go, and have a good plan, you are ready to champion any 2021 goals.

## TOWN/MUNICIPAL

### Arrests DECEMBER

Mighty Street male, 52, was charged with domestic violence criminal threatening.

Portland male, 29, was charged with OUI (alcohol).

Harrison female, 30, was charged with violating an order of protection.

Portland male, 31 was charged refusing to submit to arrest and disorderly conduct.

Hollis Center male, 38, was charged with OUI (alcohol) and operating with a suspended/revoked license and violating conditions of release.

Narragansett Street male, 32, was charged with criminal threatening.

## CHIEF FICKETT REPORTS

### Gorham First Responders Getting Covid Vaccine

250 first responders from Gorham, Windham, Westbrook and surrounding communities have gotten the coronavirus vaccinations through the Gorham Fire Department. Chief Fickett hopes to include state troopers, FBI agents, county sheriffs and 10 remaining members of the Gorham Fire Department with the next 250 doses. Fickett noted that Gorham, Scarborough and Portland Fire Departments are all doing this and will continue to do so as long as they have the vaccine.

## SPORTS

### Rink and Trail Update

DESTINY COOK  
*Sports Editor*

According to Cindy Hazelton, Gorham Recreation Director, the three rinks (Narragansett, Little Falls Rec Area and Cherry Hill Farm Trails) are all in good shape. When snow comes however, it can be bothersome, so the Recreation Department will continue to try and keep up by using their small tractor to plow. With that comes the risk of breaking through, and Hazelton said there is such a thing as "too cold" to flood rinks. She went on to say when temperatures are in the single digits, water being added to rinks cannot flow as it freezes on contact. "Natural outdoor ice maintenance is a constant give and take," she said.

As for the trail systems, Hazelton said they are clear for walking at this time. With the lack of snowfall lately, she said there isn't enough to require snowshoes. As the winter months go on, they will get out with the groomer to maintain them for those who snowshoe and cross country ski, or for those who wish to give them a try! **The Gorham Rec rents adjustable ice skates and snowshoes for children and adults.** For more information visit [www.gorhamrec.com](http://www.gorhamrec.com).

The Gorham School Department plans to destroy special education records of former students who were born between January 1, 1994 and December 31, 1994.

Parents, guardians and/or former students may obtain their records on or before June 4, 2021. Proper identification will be required in order to obtain records.

For more information, please feel free to contact the Gorham Special Services office at 222-1002.

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# Former Gorham Resident Re-creates Best Marathon Time at Age 78

DESTINY COOK  
Sports Editor

Mike Parker, former Gorham resident, has been a runner for a long time. It is one way he spends time productively during the pandemic. In the summer months he swam a marathon distance (26.2 miles), 3/8 mile at a time on the Presumpscot River where he resides; and as he closed in on that goal, Parker toyed with other options. "I can no longer run on pavement, but I jog, hike and climb on nearby trails," he said. He also rides a road bike in the temperate months, and in the winter, he puts on his nordic skis any day he can find suitable snow. In the gap season when swimming ended and skiing hadn't started, Parker thought running a marathon in increments would be another goal for him to tackle.

Parker grew up in Pittsfield, Maine. When he was a freshman he had an experience that prompted his lifetime commitment to staying fit. It was then that he went out for JV football, despite not being "built" for it. He remembered "After a couple of weeks, I was sure I did not want to remain a target in the secondary for Billy Dean to block me into oblivion play after play." After practice one day he went to his coach, Paul Legge, and stated that he couldn't handle both football and a special Latin course he was taking. "Probably seeing through that ruse, he replied that fitness was a necessary part of learning, and that if I needed to drop one, it should be special Latin." Parker went on to say, "I survived both, and fitness has remained at the forefront of my agenda ever since."

By the time he was in his thirties, Parker was running marathons. He shared that he entered more than twenty marathons in over a decade, saying his best performance was the 1981 Marine Corps Marathon. During



Photo credit Mike Parker

Parker on the day he completed dash 422

that time he was serving at Bethesda Naval Hospital; Parker served 30 years in the Navy, first as a line officer, then as a Navy Dentist. "That was exactly half a lifetime ago," he said.

Now a 78-year-old runner, Parker said he can only fantasize about "gliding along comfortably for long distances" as he once did. He said he still measures his well-being by how well his legs are functioning. "Like many of my cohorts, I am always looking for ways to connect the present with past performance." Parker told of Nick Kirby of Gorham, who documented that he had run the mileage equivalent to the earth's circumference with the logs to prove it. Others, he said, have devised algorithms to adjust concurrent results such that a sixty-year-old can compete on an equal footing with competitors in their twenties. "We geezers have lots of time to ruminate on such contrivances, but I no longer have the stamina nor the will to compete head to head," he said.

Parker recently decided to calculate how long it would take to run 100 meters at the pace of his best marathon, which was 23 seconds. He then wondered if he could run at that speed for 100 meters; he figured there was only one way to find

out. The Windham High School Track Coach, Jeff Riddle, showed him the distance on the Windham High School track and how it was laid out; Riddle then encouraged Parker to give it a try. Setting his smartphone timer for 23 seconds Parker sprinted the 100m to the finish line, hitting it before the timer went off. "I shouldn't have been surprised that I had to go all-out to run that fast," he said. "Running all-out is scary business for a septuagenarian (a person who is 70-79 years old)."

"My stride contrasted with the one that I used to sustain for nearly three hours. Gone is the flight time when neither foot touches the ground. Gone, too, were both the mass and elasticity in hamstrings that I rarely stretched during my running years. Short stride or not, I had discovered a distance in which I could equal my best marathon pace." A marathon distance is 26.2 miles, but in metric terms it is 42.2 kilometers, or 422 dashes of 100M. "I could envision running a marathon at my best-ever pace, 23 seconds at a time. It was a captivating prospect that would preoccupy my next three months," Parker shared.

In his first session, Parker only ran two dashes. He said, "I noted a delicate balance between what was fast enough and what my hamstrings would tolerate. Ten dashes per session proved tolerable, but I made the mistake of experimenting higher." After two consecutive days of 20 dashes in late September, Parker said he had to spend most of October recovering. "In November I was able to settle into a fairly comfortable 10 dashes per session, icing my hamstrings almost daily."

November went by quickly for him, taking only a few days off for bad weather. In early December, Parker completed his 422nd dash with his wife Carolyn present. She FaceTimed the event with Parker's college classmate in Helsinki, Finland. According to Parker, his friend was one of the more enthusiastic fellow runners that supported his concept of re-running an old marathon. He stated "That was the entire gathering of fans, closing the book on an old guy's passion; two days later the track was white with the first snow." He went on to say, "I dedicated this challenge to the memory of Coach Legge, whose advice continues to shape such activities even this late in life."

Running has now been replaced by skiing and winter hiking. He said, "I have chased snow as far away as Sugarloaf and made frequent use at Gorham Country Club and the Daigle Sod Farm, skate skiing on as little as two inches of snow." And there may be yet another goal in sight for Parker; should the snow cooperate, it's within driving distance, and survives into April. "I stand a chance of reaching my goal of 79 skiing sessions," he shared.


He's sure his former coach would be happy knowing he still makes fitness a priority. For now though, Parker, at 78, proudly ran a marathon over a three month period, running each dash at the pace of his 39 year old self. He simply said, "Still smiling."

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**SCHOOL**

**School Note**

Gorham's incoming Kindergarten parent/guardian information meeting for the 2021-22 school year will be held virtually via Zoom this year on Tuesday, March 2 at 6 p.m. At this meeting, parents/guardians will meet school staff, learn about a day-in-the-life of a Kindergarten student, and receive information about the enrollment process. Enrollment materials will be available for parents/guardians to pick up at their student's elementary school the week of February 22. Visit [www.gorhamschools.org](http://www.gorhamschools.org) and click on the student's school and pre-register using the Kindergarten registration link. If unsure of which elementary school the student will attend, please call any of the elementary schools (Great Falls, Narragansett, or Village) directly to verify this information.

**Project Grad Committee Seeking Donations for Class of 2021**

GORHAM TIMES STAFF

This year's graduating class of 2021 is beginning their final months at Gorham High School (GHS) and parents and seniors alike are hoping to get one more high school game played or applaud their last school play before the year is over.

This class of seniors has missed out on so many events that they have looked forward to for years, which is why the Project Graduation Fundraising Committee is determined to provide a memorable celebration for this year's seniors.

Typically, project graduation is an all-night parent chaperoned celebration that is held directly after the graduation ceremony. The chemical-free event includes food, games, music, activities, entertainment, and lots of fun for graduating seniors organized and run by parents and other volun-

teers. While this year's celebration may not be exactly like year's past, the Committee is working hard to give the Class of 2021 the celebration they deserve.

The Committee continues to organize fundraising events and activities to raise funds, but the goal of \$100 per senior seems far reached without the help of local friends and businesses helping with monetary contributions as they have in the past.

Ram pride continues to be strong and these seniors have represented Gorham well over the years in sports, arts, and volunteering around the community. Any support is greatly appreciated to help give them one last gathering as the Class of 2021.

Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to the school at: Gorham High School, Project Graduation 2021, 41 Morrill Ave., Gorham, ME 04038. The Federal Tax ID is: 01-0511986.



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# Keeping Gorham Safe



Photo credits Jennifer Drenski

Thanks to the support and donations from the Gorham community and beyond, Girl Scouts from Troop 618 were able to donate over 900 masks to students and staff across the three Gorham Elementary Schools. The scouts collected material donations, sewed masks, and received sewed mask donations from talented community members throughout the summer and fall. All masks were sewn and delivered following all COVID-19 guidelines. Troop members would like to thank Gorham for helping them reach their goals in an effort to keep Gorham's community and peers safe. Pictured (left) are Camryn Allen and Lauren Drenski sewing masks and (below) Drenski, with Village principal Brian Porter, delivering masks to the school.



# Everyone's Welcome



Photo credit Erin Eppler

The Narragansett Elementary School Civil Rights Team met virtually for the first time this year in January. The goal of the team, comprised of fourth and fifth graders, is to ensure that every person who enters Narragansett's doors feels welcome and safe. The team will continue to meet regularly to implement projects dedicated to Civil Rights. Team members will be meeting with Superintendent Heather Perry at an upcoming meeting to share stories and, with the help of a grant obtained last year, continue building a Civil Rights section of the school library. Pictured (left to right) are fourth grade Civil Rights Team members Mia Johnson, Sarina Alden, and Cailyn Boswell holding diversity wreaths that the team created and are now on display throughout the school.

# Where's Frosty?



Photo credit Catherine Guinon

Narragansett Elementary School hosted a Snowman Scavenger Hunt on January 23. Families were invited to create a snowman-themed display at their home and submit their address, which was added to a Bingo card. Families picked up a Bingo card and snowman soup treat (the fixings for hot chocolate) and were then invited to drive by all the participating addresses to view the snowman displays. Pictured is second grader Jude Paul in Mrs. Hamilton's class.

## Carter's Green Market

### Valentine Specials

We are offering an assortment of cakes and sizes from *Two Fat Cats Bakery* as well as individually-sized cheesecakes from *Village Baking Company*.

Please stop by the market, call (222-0004) or email us [cartermarket@gmail.com](mailto:cartermarket@gmail.com) for pricing.

All orders due on February 9th for pick up by February 13th.

Carter's Market will also have an assortment of hot chocolate bombs, chocolate-covered strawberries and Valentine's Day cookies!



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**REMEMBER WHEN**

# Ice Storm of 1929

WILMA GOULD JOHNSON

If you were a Gorham resident in the late 1990's, you will undoubtedly recall the 1998 Ice Storm which wreaked havoc for three days, causing massive damage to power lines and trees, making roads impassable. Some of Gorham's more remote residents were without power for 14 days. Today, we have a wealth of documentation of that storm via newspaper articles, videos, and personal memories. And the ice storm damage can still be seen on many trees over 20 years later.

What you may not know is that in February of 1929, Gorham had a very similar winter snow/ice event. Times were much different back then. Snow removal was a remarkably more difficult task and there were none of the modern day conveniences such as generators, studded tires or four-wheel

drive automobiles. Ninety two years later, it is probably safe to assume there are no longer any Gorham residents who recall that storm and very little documentation of its occurrence other than from old photographs like these from my grandfather, and amateur historian, George Mitsmenn.

Storms like this remind us older residents of the old tire chains that used to hang in almost every barn and garage. They probably provided the only way to travel during that storm other than by horse and buggy or on your own two feet. Before the days of motorized snow plows, the snow on the streets was compacted by horse-drawn rollers pulled by a team of work horses.

*Wilma Gould Johnson was born and raised in Gorham and is a GHS '62 graduate. She enjoys sharing Gorham History with others. Any one with a question or more information may contact her at iamwilma@comcast.net*



*Photo credit David Fogg*

Harley Day using an old time snow roller on Main Street circa 1915 in front of what is now Amato's in this photo from David Fogg's book about Gorham.



*1929 ice storm Main St at the square*



*1929 ice storm Lincoln Street*

The Ice Storm of 1929 caused severe damage to the stately elms that once graced the Gorham's inner Village streets.




*1929 ice storm Green Street*




*1929 ice storm School Street*

*Photo credit George Mitsmenn*




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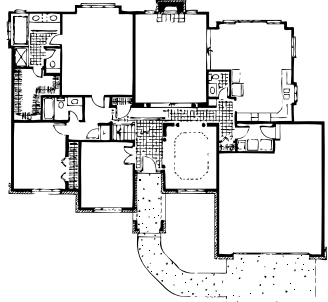
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# COMMUNITY

## GRADUATIONS

**Amy Albright**, Doctor of Philosophy, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama  
**Lauren Poirier GHS'17**, BS in Finance, Summa Cum Laude, Thomas College, Waterville, Maine

## DEAN'S LIST

**Hannah Benson**, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire  
**Megan Caruso**, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire  
**Brandon Desjardin**, Bryant University, Smithfield, Rhode Island  
**Madison Firmin**, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire  
**Narissa Libby**, Lasell University, Newton, Massachusetts  
**Haley Lowell**, Lasell University, Newton, Massachusetts  
**Taylor Nygren**, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire  
**Katherine O'Donnell**, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire  
**Kyle Ouillette**, Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts  
**Meghan Perrin**, Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts  
**Maeve Pitman**, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire  
**Bridget Rossignol**, Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts  
**Sara Slager**, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, Wisconsin  
**Christopher Tucker**, Bryant University, Smithfield, Rhode Island  
**Erin Wentworth**, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire  
**Cameron Wright**, Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts

## ACADEMIC AWARDS

**Tammi Lomonte**, Award of Excellence, Western Governors University  
**Robert Pellerin**, Athlete Award, Becker College, Worcester, Massachusetts

## OF INTEREST

**The Gorham Lions** are meeting at a new location, Moody's Collision Center at 200 Narragansett St. (Rte. 202). Regular meetings are the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is February 9 at 6:30 p.m. New members always welcome. FMI 929-9182.

**Veterans of Foreign Wars**, Gorham Memorial Post 10879 will be holding a virtual meeting in February. If you are interested in attending the February 9 meeting or for more information about the VFW, please contact the Post at vfwpost10879@gmail.com.

**Gorham Parks & Recreation Department** offers a variety of recreation opportunities for all ages, all seasons. Check their website at gorhamrec.com often to see what programs, events and activities are being offered, and like them at Facebook.com/GorhamRec. FMI 207-222-1630

## PUBLIC SUPPERS

**Pre-Order Bean Supper, White Rock Community Clubhouse**, 34 Wilson Road, Gorham Saturday, February 6, 4:30-5:30pm. Pre-order dinner to go, \$20 for double or \$10 for single orders. Meal includes kidney & pea beans, cole slaw, potato salad, macaroni & cheese, biscuits, hot dogs and a dessert bar. Please call 892-9521 by Friday, February 5th to reserve your order. Limited to the first 100 meals!

**The St. Anne's Knights of Columbus will hold a Pre-Pay Drive-Through Fish Dinner** on Friday, February 19 from 5 – 6 p.m. at St. Anne's Church at 299 Main Street in Gorham. Dinner includes baked haddock, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, peas, a roll and dessert for \$12. FMI, visit gorhamknights.org or call 207-550-1320. Check web site for snow date cancellation info.

## FOOD PANTRY UPDATE


**The Gorham Food Pantry** always has needs for baking items, baked beans, flour, sugar, spices, cooking oil, pudding, toothbrushes and toothpaste, ramen noodles, kids snacks, personal hygiene products and diapers size 5-6. The Gorham Food Pantry is open every Thursday from 10-12 noon. Check the website at www.gorhamfoodpantry.org for further updates on the other days they are open. "Thanks again to the Gorham Community for your generous donations throughout the year."


## LIBRARY NEWS


**Baxter Memorial Library** invites you to celebrate Harry Potter Book Night with us. The event is virtual this year but with the same great activities of our past years' events. Everyone's favourite English librarian, Kathy Stevens will read the first chapter of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" on Facebook Feb 4th at 6:00 p.m. Test your wizarding world knowledge with the trivia contest that will be located on the website. A magical prize will be awarded to the witch or wizard with the most correct answers. Visit the library anytime on or before Feb 4th to pick up your Harry Potter craft kit consisting of a wand to decorate, a necklace to make, and a chocolate snitch to enjoy (if you can catch it).


**More at Baxter ML** - Upcoming STEAM activities with Ms. Deb focus on bird adaptations, including the Bird Beak Buffet on February 10 for K-5, and the Great Backyard Bird Count on February 11 for 18mos – 3 yrs. Then join Mr. Jeff on Facebook for a Winter Scavenger Hunt. Enjoy watching Mr. Jeff traversing the trails of Cherry Hill Farm looking for winter themed items, including icicles, frozen puddles, animal tracks, boot prints, and more! Another STEAM activity coming up with Ms. Deb is Edible Marbles for K-5. In this program, participants will use science in the kitchen to create edible marbles. Once finished, they'll be able to quiz a partner. Can they detect what was used? And, visit the Library's Facebook


CONTINUED ON PAGE 10




  
Chris Burton


  
Julie Chandler

  
Mike Griffin


  
Peter Mason

  
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page to see Mr. Jeff's growing library of ukulele tutorials. All this and more at [baxterlibrary.org](http://baxterlibrary.org) and [Facebook.com/BaxterLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/BaxterLibrary).

**The North Gorham Public Library**, serving Gorham and Standish since 1897, is located next to the fire barn at the corner of Standish Neck Road and North Gorham Road. The library serves the surrounding community with a focus on fiction for adults and children, although most any book is available through inter-library loan. The library has WiFi service and computers for patron use. The library is open on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. Home Delivery and contact less parking lot pickup is also available. Visit on the web at [north-gorham.lib.me.us](http://north-gorham.lib.me.us).

**USM NOTES**

**Celebrate the holiday of love with the USM School of Music** as Ronald Lantz, violin and Laura Kargul, piano take a nostalgic look back at better times — when romance was unhindered by masks, social distancing and online dating! Program to include the Brahms Sonata in A Major for Violin and Piano, Sonata in D Major by Jean-Marie Leclair, and works by Massenet, Strauss, Amy Beach and Jacques de La Presle. A virtual concert will be available from Sunday, February 14 at 7 p.m. for 24 hours. Tickets \$15, [usm.maine.edu/music](http://usm.maine.edu/music)



**The USM Art Department's "Open Studios,"** typically held in person on the last Friday of classes, is now online. The second "Virtual Open Studios" shares the Fall 2020 work of USM's resilient students in a variety of modalities, including 2-D Art, Drawing Art, Media and Strategies, Ceramics, Visual Books, Paintings, Photography, Digital Art and Design, and Advanced Problems in Art. Visit the studio at [usm.maine.edu/art](http://usm.maine.edu/art)

**Detailed information regarding the COVID-19 response at USM** is available on a dedicated section of the University website, Healthy Huskies, that is updated regularly. Find answers to frequently asked questions — from new and returning students to faculty and staff to community members — that cover all facets of the institution. Visit [usm.maine.edu/healthy-huskies](http://usm.maine.edu/healthy-huskies).

the *Courtesy of the Gorham Police Department*  
**blotter**

**NUDE PHOTOS THROUGH PLAYSTATION**

**Dingley Springs Road caller said people from Florida had been taking nude photos of him through his Playstation. Caller advised not to use Playstation while in the nude.**

Suspicious persons at Gorham Middle School were some girls who were bored and just hanging out.

Officer went to Tow Path Road for a report of people on the trail shooting off guns. There were no firearms involved.

Caller wanted to know if the Police Department had a "safe spot" for an online sales meeting. He was advised he could park in front of the Police Department.

Gray Road caller wanted to lift a trespass order. She was advised if male showed up after the order was lifted, she would have to request a new one. Woman said she understood and emailed a request to lift it.

Caller asked for a welfare check for a woman walking on Buck Street. Woman declined a ride she was told to call if she changed her mind.

Sunset Lane caller reported dogs barking. Homeowner had just gotten home and had let the dogs out. They were barking at a neighbor who was leaf blowing.

Officer spoke with a woman sleeping in a car at the Park and Ride. She advised the officer she now had property up North in Maine and had pulled over to sleep.

Shaws Mill Road caller reported that someone appeared to be driving around in the lot. Officer checked the lot but no one was there.

Caller saw several cars and juveniles in the lot at Great Falls School. They were playing golf in the grass.

Caller wanted to report he found a gun shell and some suspicious activity going on in Biddeford.

Caller reported having seen a small car "acting suspiciously" about three hours earlier.

Longfellow Road caller wanted to vent about having to pay \$2500 in taxes.

Caller was upset that people were not wearing their masks in a store on Main Street.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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**Blotter** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Walnut Crest Road caller complained that cows at a nearby farm were making noise.

Newell Street caller wanted a record that his ex had sent a message to their daughter on her Facebook account. He was advised this was not a violation of a protective order.

Officer responded to Fort Hill Road for a harassment complaint. Both parties were advised not to have contact or to threaten each other in any way or charges would be brought.

The top of a tree was caught in electrical wires at North Street and Fort Hill Road. Gorham Fire and Police went to the scene to assist with traffic detail until CMP arrived.

Shirley Lane caller received an email, using her boss's email, requesting she order \$1000 worth of gift cards. She contacted her boss and made her aware of this and there was no financial loss.

Mason Lane caller reported a former tenant had left a crack pipe behind. Caller was told to throw it and any other contraband away.

Longfellow Road caller wanted to let police know people were hunting on his property. He had put up something so he could tell if they had been there. He did not request a call back.

Village School reported a man walking in the wood line next to the school. Bus driver who reported it was concerned as it was hunting season. Man told the officer that his dog had been missing for a few days and he thought it might still be in the area. Dog was later located.

Suspicious person on Maple Drive was a Spectrum employee working there.

Maple Ridge Road caller had questions about an incident that had occurred seven years ago and he wanted to know if he should report it as he was trying to get into the Coast Guard. He was told to mention any and all police encounters.

Caller reported hearing shots on South Street. They were fireworks.

Union St. caller had issues with his neighbors. Curtains were being left open and lights were on. Officers spoke with both parties.

Officers assisted in the rescue of a female subject who had fallen and hit her head after drinking too much at the bowling alley.

Suspicious person reported on Lombard Street was a postal worker. Caller thought the worker was going from house to house removing packages.

EBT card was found on the side of the road. Officer was unable to locate owner and DHHS phone number on the card was only for the cardholder's use. Card was given to the front office to be returned to DHHS.

Officer located a loose dog on Douglass Street but upon approaching the little thing, it barked and growled at the officer who was unable to catch it. Officer contacted the owner on Sunrise who said she had been unable to get the dog inside before leaving for work. She was coming to get it. She was advised not to leave the dog unattended outside again as it roams the neighborhood throughout the day.

**CALENDAR**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4**

Baxter Memorial Library  
Toddler Discovery Time with Ms. Dani on Facebook. (18mos-3 yrs), 9:30 a.m.  
Harry Potter Virtual Book Night, 6 p.m. on Facebook

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9**

Baxter Memorial Library, Preschool Backyard Bird Program with Ms. Heidi on Facebook. (ages 3-5). 9:30 a.m.

Gorham Lions regular dinner meeting, Moody's Collision Center, 6:30 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10**

Baxter Memorial Library, STEAM Bird Beak Buffet with Ms. Deb on Facebook. (K-5), 10 a.m.

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

Baxter Memorial Library, Toddler Backyard Bird Program with Ms. Dani on Facebook (18mos-3 yrs), 9:30 a.m.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14**

USM School of Music, Celebrate the holiday of love with Lantz and Kargul, virtual concert, 7 p.m., available for 24 hours.

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15**

Baxter Memorial Library will be closed in observance of Presidents' Day

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16**

Baxter Memorial Library, School Vacation Programming, baxterlibrary.org

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

Baxter Memorial Library, STEAM Edible Marbles with Ms. Deb on Facebook. (K-5), 10 a.m.

**Did You Know?**

- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
- A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.
- A snail can sleep for three years.
- An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.
- A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.





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Valentine's Day

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