# For the second s

Volume 29 Number 1 | January 5, 2023 A Free, Not-for-Profit Newspaper Serving Gorbam Since 1995

### And the Winner is...

Cynthia A. Smith, Great Falls Construction



Photo courtesy of Gorham Tree Festiva

The winner of the Gorham Tree Festival 2022 is Chiropractic Clinic of Gorham-congratulations! A big thank you to all the participants this year, it was a very hard decision. All the trees were wonderful! We look forward to next years' trees-Happy New Year!

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 8

### School Policies Being Tested in FOAA Controversy

#### **Gorham Times Staff**

Recently, Gorham parent Kelli Deveaux wrote a Community Voices commentary for the Portland Press Herald, in which she alleged that outside interests are behind the recent unprecedented number of Freedom of Access Act (FOAA) requests that the Gorham School Department has received, contributing to huge, unanticipated increases to the school budget. She used such words as "witch hunt" "fear campaign" and "politicized firestorm" in her PPH column and went on to connect the FOAA requests to other recent events, such as allegations that some individuals had been making on certain private social media sites. She charged that these sites have been spreading false and defamatory allegations against school department employees and town officials, in an effort to eliminate certain school policies on diversity, health and sexuality education, and gender identity.

these attacks are being directed against certain school employees and officials. She also confirmed that the district's additional \$150,000 to \$160,000 of legal fees and staffing costs for 2022 are almost entirely caused by the few people behind all the allegations.

As in the Community Voices column, Deveaux stated that it all appears related to a small number of individuals who are opposed to Gorham Schools having a strong policy of providing a safe and welcoming space for all students, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Deveaux believes that these individuals have resorted to placing falsified or "rigged" screenshots targeting health teachers, librarians, and administrators on certain websites because efforts to

### Property Tax Reassessment Reviewed for Gorham

Kathy Corbett and Sheri Faber, Staff Writers



Photo credit: Nattanan Kanchanaprat from Pixabay

No one likes to pay taxes and, as Gorham Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak put it, "Taxes are the most unpopular contact with city government." In 2022 Gorham homeowners experienced the town's first mass reassessment in over 10 years and most saw significant increases in the assessed value of their property. Although the Town Council reduced the mil rate from last year's \$19.40 to \$12.85, 75% of homeowners saw their taxes increase as well. There were many valid reasons for higher assessments, but some taxpayers questioned the process or were unclear about the reasons for their higher 2022 tax bills.

Reassessment is intended to determine the market value of property for tax purposes. According to Aaron Chadbourne, a local realtor, "real estate values always go up over the long term, but in the last five years residential property in Greater Portland more than doubled." Chadbourne attributed this to inflation, low interest rates, a shortage of available housing units, and an increased demand fueled in part by outof-state buyers during the pandemic. Although inflation and price increases may be slowing down, the Portland Press Herald reported in December that the median price of units sold

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GHS Winter Concert-Jan. 11



Gorham Times staff contacted Deveaux to seek further comment, and also contacted Amanda Cooper, a Gorham Middle School teacher who is the head of the Gorham Education Association.

Deveaux confirmed what she said in the Press Herald commentary, then went on to provide even more details about the negative social media campaign and explained why she thought force Gorham Schools to change their policies have been unsuccessful. She believes that these individuals have a goal of undermining confidence in Gorham's teachers. She commented that in this process "they could destroy careers", by creating "a culture of conspiracy." They, in turn, believe that their values are under attack.

Deveaux concluded by saying that students at Gorham High School are increasingly becoming aware of the controversies, and some have been

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Photo credit: Roger Marchanc

The Gorham High School Music Department will be holding its Winter Concert on Wednesday, Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. (Note, this is a change from the original scheduled date) at the McCormack Performing Arts Center at Gorham High School.

The Jazz Band and Concert Band will perform under the direction of Isaac Hawkins. Three vocal groups, the Chamber Singers, Basslines, and Treble choir, will all perform under the direction of Matthew Murray, accompanied by Katheen Scott, piano. Admission is free and all community members are welcome.

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#### **NEWS FROM AUGUSTA**

Policy on News from Augusta: The Gorham Times asked our three state legislators from Senate District 30, House District 109 and House District 110 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.

### Let's Start the New Year with Heating and Housing Assistance

#### Sen. Stacy Brenner

As with every New Year, I find myself simultaneously reflecting on the successes and struggles of the past year and hoping that 2023 will bring more successes than struggles. This hope has already been met with the announcement of committee assignments over the holiday break. I'm happy to serve again as Chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, in addition to serving on the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. From my experience as a farmer with focus on environmental protection, it's an honor to start this new legislative session by continuing my work from the past two years.

While I look forward to the opportunities I will have to make positive change for our communities this year, I'm also aware of the challenges that many Mainers still face. While the holidays can be a time of joy and comfort, many in our communities were also worried due to high heating costs and winter storms. Additionally, with the end of the Emergency Rental Assistance program, many are at risk of being evicted from their homes and left with nowhere to go. The rapid drop in temperature and the weekly snow storms are only making this situation more dangerous and urgent.

On Dec. 7, I was one voice among many who submitted testimony at the public hearing before the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs in favor of LD 3, "An Act to Establish the Winter Energy Relief Payment Program to Aid Residents with High Heating Costs and to Finalize the COVID Pandemic Relief Payment Program." The stories from fellow Mainers all over the state formed a chorus of voices describing the heartbreaking experiences of those suffering without homes and without heat. It was heartwarming to hear from the people who work on the frontlines of this crisis to give food and provide shelter for those who are hurting the

The stories from fellow Mainers all over the state formed a chorus of voices describing the heartbreaking experiences of those suffering without homes and without heat.

most. With each person who testified about those experiencing homelessness and families sleeping in their cars, the message became clear: We must provide relief now.

On Jan. 4, my colleagues and I will have a second chance to give the people of Maine the assistance they so desperately need. After the disappointment of Dec. 7, we will try to pass LD 3 which would provide \$450 relief checks to approximately 880,000 Mainers who are struggling to survive with today's heating costs. The bill would also give supplemental funds to programs like the Home Energy Assistance Program and the Emergency Housing Relief Fund in an effort to provide further assistance to those struggling to heat or remain in their homes. While the bill isn't ideal, I believe that doing everything we can to help our constituents, neighbors, coworkers, friends and family survive the below-freezing temperatures this winter out-weighs the concerns. Given the extent of the crisis, providing assistance must be our top priority, especially after hearing from so many constituents over the last year.

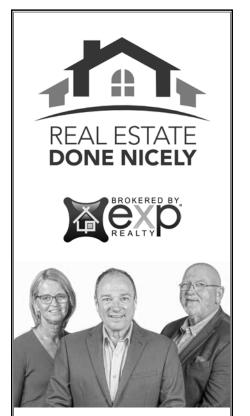
With the beginning of the first regular session of the 131st Legislature next week, I am hopeful that we will make positive changes in Maine. As I'm writing this, we haven't yet passed LD 3 through the full Legislature, but I'm hopeful that by the time you read this, the bill will be signed into law. Should we pass this emergency measure, checks are scheduled to go out by the end of January, providing the people of Maine with the assistance they need to stay warm this winter.

If you have questions, ideas or comments throughout the legislative session, please feel free to contact me at Stacy.Brenner@legislature. maine.gov or my legislative office, (207) 287-1515. You can also follow my Facebook page at Facebook.com/ SenatorStacyBrenner for more frequent updates.



Sen. Stacy Brenner, (207) 287-1515 stacy.brenner@ legislature.maine.gov Stacy Brenner is serving her second term in the Maine Senate, representing Senate District 30, which

includes Gorham, part of Buxton, and part of Scarborough. She is the co-owner of Broadturn Farm in Scarborough and is also a certified nurse-midwife. Aide: Ellie Sato, ellie.sato@ legislature.maine.gov



### Around Town

Holistic Healing Transformation is a new business in Gorham that offers holistic coaching and Reiki healing with compassionate guidance to heal emotional, physical, mental and/or spiritual conflict, and assist in the release of unbeneficial thoughts and emotional patterning, creating an empowered life through internal awareness and self-discovery. In-person sessions are 60 or 90 minutes, taking place at 88 State Street, 1st Floor, in Gorham. (207) 318-8049

Rustic Taps and Catering of Gorham, the catering and mobile bar service, has been restoring a distressed property in Gorham back to a green space that will allow them to grow herbs and produce on-site for a true farm-to-table experience, with kitchen prep facilities for their mobile services. Learn more at https://rustictaps.com/

### **Gorham Times**

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#### 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

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### **SHOP LOCAL**

Sand is available to residents Gorham Public Works. Please take only (2) 5-gallon buckets per storm. You will need to bring your own buckets and shovels. If you need help, ask in the office.

The Gorham Economic Development Division is seeking public input to help identify the needs of businesses and the Gorham community as a whole. Folks can share input via this survey link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Gorham\_BRandE2022.

GHS alumni, do you own a business in Gorham?

We want to hear from you, celebrate your accomplishments, and tell others about your good work in this town.

Write to editor@gorhamtimes.org and tell us about you, your business, your employees, and your customers.

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> UPCOMING ADVERTISING DEADLINES January 11 January 25 February 8 February 22 March 8

### Record Turnout at New Year Gorham 2022

Krista Nadeau, Staff Writer

New Year Gorham (NYG) 2022 was an enormous success. The festivities started at 2 p.m. with ice skating at USM where hundreds of people took to the ice over two hours.

At the peak, it is estimated that more than 500 people were enjoying the events held at the Gorham Recreation Department and Gorham High School. "We are happy to report the best attendance in the last several years, going back to before COVID," said Tom Hasbrouck, NYG committee director.

Families packed Shaw Gym to see unusual animals up close and personal, brought in by Wildlife Encounters. Down the hall, others were being entertained and awed by Mad Science of Maine, and many left with colorful balloon animals twisted up quickly by a Party Palooga balloon twister, or a delightful face painting.

At GHS, the door to the gym was open and music echoed out into the night. Sizzlin' Suzzin' kept the music spinning while Flamin' Raymin' kept everyone two-stepping, doing the pirate dance, or moving to the long-time hit YMCA.

Delicious food was brought in by Northern Force FIRST(R) Robotics



NYG Committee, L to R: Danielle Laughlin, Patricia Quang, Rebecca Sither, Albina Johnson. Other committee members not in the photo: Virginia Wilder Cross, Donna Kennie, Douglas Johnson, Tom Hasbrouck (coordinator), Mark Eyerman, and Krista

Nadeau

Team 172. Those enjoying the food in the cafeteria were also able to learn about and watch robotics demonstrations. Across the hall in the library, and for the first time this year, award-win-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

### **December Barn Fire**

Deputy Chief Philip MacCallum, Gorbam Fire Department

At 6:33 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10, 2022, the Cumberland County Regional Communications Center received a telephone call from a fire alarm monitoring company reporting a fire alarm activation at #156 Barstow Road in Gorham. As dispatchers were in the process of notifying Gorham Fire Department responders, they received a 9-1-1 call at 6:34 a.m. from the homeowner at #156 Barstow Road reporting a barn on fire.

Due to the report of active fire and the property's location in a remote area of town, three engines, two ladders, three tankers, two ambulances, and a heavy rescue were assigned to the response at 6:35 a.m. The three on-duty members of the Gorham Fire Department responded, along with several "on call" personnel.

The structure and all of its contents were destroyed, resulting in an estimated loss in excess of \$1 Million. There were no injuries to any civilians or responders, and the fire was brought under control



Photo credit:Fire Chief Ken Fickett

within thirty minutes. The Gorham Fire Department was assisted at the scene by members of the Standish, Windham and Scarborough Fire Departments. The Scarborough Fire Department also provided station coverage while crews brought the incident under control.

### where are they now Think Outside

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer



Rachelle Curran Apse hikes with her family son Tobin, husband Colin and daughter Mara at Acadia National Park.

Rachelle Curran Apse GHS '95, likes to think outside, no box required. Since 2015, she has worked hard to preserve open spaces for future generations as the executive director of the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust. From its humble beginnings in the 1980s in Gorham the Land Trust has grown to encompass the towns of Gray, Standish, Windham and Westbrook.

A graduate of University of Maine, Curran Apse earned a bachelor's degree in environmental science in 1999 and a master of arts degree from Humboldt State University in 2003 in the social science program, with a focus on environment and community.

During her 25 years in the environmental field, she has worked with the Environmental Health Strategy Center, Maine Audubon, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and Massachusetts Public Interest Research Group. Her efforts were recently acknowledged when she was named one of Maine Magazine's "Mainers of the Year," in the field of Outdoor Recreation.

Growing up in Gorham, Curran Apse was as an avid runner on the GHS cross-country team. To stay in shape, she ran the informal forested trails in town. Being outdoors inspired her curiosity and appreciation of nature and lead her to study environmental science.

Knowing that since she was a kid, Gorham has nearly doubled in size, continues to motivate her to lead the organization. "Most of the trails I loved running on when I was a kid are now subdivisions, and many of the forests, fields and trails are gone because the land was not conserved," she said.

With her leadership, the Land Trust has grown to encompass 18 preserves and 2170 acres, protecting land in the fast-growing communities west of Portland. The most recent project is a 750-acre parcel larger in size than Bradbury State Park.

The Land Trust also oversees the 28-mile Sebago to the Sea Trail. It also recruits and trains volunteers who take water samples of the Presumpscot River and its tributaries for the Maine DEP. This important work helps monitor the health of the Presumpscot River watershed to keep it safe for wildlife and humans to enjoy.

Curran Apse and the Land Trust Board worked to earn National Land Trust Accreditation by meeting strin-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

Wishing you all a Happy New Wea





#### LIVING

### Car Care: Happy New Year and Safe Travels

#### Doug Carter, Contributing Writer

The tire pressure light signal is that funny-looking horseshoe-shaped light with the ! in the middle. What does it do and why do we need it?

In 1996, 258 people died, and several hundred people were injured in Ford Explorers and similar vehicles' roll-overs because the tread on the Firestone tires separated. One cause of the problem was that the tire pressure specified by the vehicle manufacturer was too low, so the tread heated up and deteriorated.

Several lawsuits were filed against Ford and Firestone and an outcomes government mandate decreed that vehicles needed to warn the driver when the tire pressure was too low.

If the tire pressure light is on steady it means one of the tires has low pressure. If the light flashes when first starting the vehicle and then remains steady, it means the system itself is malfunctioning.

The most common design at this time is a sensor mounted to the valve stem on the inside of the tire, consisting of a pressure sensor, battery, and transmitter. The pressure is transmitted to the same module as the remote door lock receiver. The valve stems are aluminum which can corrode over time and can cause leaks. The batteries seem to last about 10 years. The battery is not replaceable, so the whole sensor needs to be replaced. To do that, the tire needs to be broken down, then mounted and balanced.

Newer vehicles have a different system that uses a wheel speed sensor located in each wheel to determine low pressure. This sensor is also used by the Anti-Lock Brake System (ABS) system. When a tire loses pressure, it turns slower because of the difference in diameter. This signals the tire pressure light to turn on. When the tire pressure is corrected the pressure sensor in the tire will transmit the new pressure and the light will go off.

Most of the newer systems are designed so the centrifugal force of the rolling tire triggers the sensor which transmits the pressure signal. The wheel speed sensor system usually has a button on the dash for the customer to reset the system. This button

should only be used when the tires are at the correct pressure. If the system is reset with a tire that has low pressure the light will stay off and the tire could be damaged.

The systems are sensitive: it only takes a 10% change in pressure to activate a light. Most passenger vehicles are 30 PSI to 35 PSI, which means that a 3 to 4 PSI drop in pressure will turn the light on.

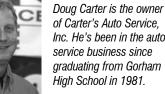
Here in the north as the temperature drops, so does the pressure in the tires, causing the light to turn on. Every fall we have several customers come in to have the tire pressure set and the system reset.

It is important to use the vehicle manufacturer's specified tire pressure, not the maximum pressure listed on the tire. Another government mandate requires a placard on the driver's door jam listing the tire size and pressure specified for that vehicle.

Some vehicles display the pressure for each tire on the dash, so the driver knows which tire is causing the problem. This works great until the tires are rotated. To correct this, the system has to relearn the tire locations. Manufacturers use different ways for this relearn process and usually there are special tools required.

You may think this system is a pain to deal with and it may seem like government overreach in mandating it. But millions of gallons of fuel can be saved if every vehicle runs with correct tire pressure. Low tire pressure can also wear the tires prematurely, and can affect the handling of the vehicle.

All vehicles manufactured after Sept. 1, 2007, are required to have a Tire Pressure Monitoring System. Hopefully, a better understanding of the importance of tire pressure will make you pay more attention to the light. If your vehicle is older than 2007, you should check your tire pressure on a regular basis.



of Carter's Auto Service, Inc. He's been in the auto service business since graduating from Gorham High School in 1981.



### **EPR Packaging Law**

#### Chris Crawford, Staff Writer

Maine is known as a leader in environmental issues with bans on single-use plastic bags and foam food containers and by charging bottle and can deposits. This past summer, Maine again stepped forward to become the first state in the nation to pass an Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging (EPR) law which is designed to save taxpayer money by holding big corporations accountable for wasteful packaging they create.

Washington Oregon, and California are beginning to move in this direction, too, while Australia, Brazil, most of Europe and parts of Asia already have EPR Packaging laws. In five Canadian provinces, there is a lengthy list of over 500 well-known international companies already participating, with more provinces set to join the effort.

People in Maine understand that our economy and the good quality of life we enjoy depend on our beautiful, clean environment. According to the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) when "the polluter pays," companies are incentivized to reduce wasteful packaging and to create greener products that can be more easily recycled or reused.

When fully implemented, it is estimated that the projected recycling rate will double, saving Maine taxpayers \$16-17 million annually, helping to reduce the amount of trash in landfills, incinerators, and our environment. Confusion about what can be recycled will be simplified.

The cost of recycling in individual towns has skyrocketed, according to the Maine Municipal Association. The money saved will help pay for schools, roads, or even help lower taxes. The law specifically exempts most of Maine's small businesses

Plastic pollution is a major threat to our natural environment, climate, and public health. It litters our waters, forests, and open spaces. Only 9% of plastic waste is recycled globally. Some 12% is destroyed through incineration, and 79% is either in our landfills or polluting our natural environment.

Scientific research shows that plastic breaks down into hard-todetect microplastics. The toxic chemicals used to make plastic are harmful to human health. Production of plastic also creates greenhouse gases that fuel the climate crisis.

Microplastics are so pervasively part of our food chain that researchers found we eat about a credit card's worth of plastic every year. Shockingly, plastic has even been found in babies' very first stool.

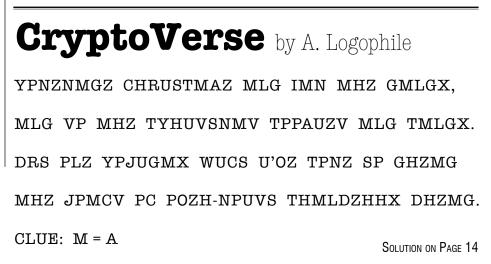
Scientists at the Shaw Institute in Blue Hill, studying microplastics in Maine's coastal waters found an average of 17 pieces of micro plastic per liter of sea water. They also found the average Maine oyster and mussel contains 177 plastic particles per animal.

which are the economic engines in Maine's small cities and towns.

The new law represents years of collaborative work between residents, municipalities, local businesses, health organizations, lawmakers, and the environmental community. Thirty-one Maine towns have passed municipal resolutions in support of EPR for Packaging. According to (NRCM), Gorham is not on that list.

It is estimated that the first municipal checks may not be received

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



### **Volunteer Distribution Person**

The Gorham Times is seeking a distribution person to take over our "Western Route" - 120 papers to 12 businesses, along Ossipee Trail (Route 25). This is a great opportunity to meet interesting people and learn about community organizations.

Have an interest in Gorham and how the paper operates? We'd love to have you join us for production meetings held every other Monday at 4 pm at Gorham Rec.

Contact us for more information.

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#### Sheri Faber, Staff Writer

Male, 33, of Windham was arrested for violation of a protective order.

Male, 33, of Windham was again arrested for violation of a protective order.

Female, 40, of Standish, was arrested for unlawful possession of scheduled drugs and violating conditions of release.

Male, 19, of Biddeford was arrested for operating after suspension and unlawful possession of fentanyl powder.

Male, 38, of Windham was arrested for eluding an officer, theft by unauthorized taking (2 counts), and burglary of a motor vehicle.

Male, 27, of South Portland was arrested for domestic violence assault.

Male, 29, of Gorham was arrested for violating conditions of release.

Male, 27, of Gorham was arrested for violating conditions of release.

Female, 43, of Gorham was arrested for failure to appear.

Male, 40 of Gorham was arrested for failure to appear, violating conditions of release, criminal threatening, and bail revocation.

### **Town Manager** Report

#### **Gorham Times Staff**

The Gorham Town Manager's report of Dec. 16 had several important reminders.

Citizen volunteers are needed for Town boards and committees.

January 31 is the deadline for dog license renewal. Did you know that 90% of annual dog licensing fees go directly to the Maine Animal Welfare Program? Renew online by visiting https://apps1. web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog\_ license/index.pl

Residents have access to a maximum of two (2) 5-gallon buckets of sand per winter storm. Folks will need buckets and shovels. If assistance is needed, stop in the Gorham Public Works Office. Silver bullet recycling containers are available at Public Works, to help collect overflow from curbside recycling (e.g. cardboard, plastics, glass, aluminum, etc.)

The Gorham Economic Development Division is seeking public input to help identify the needs of businesses and the Gorham community as a whole. Folks can share input via this survey link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ Gorham BRandE2022.

Sign up to receive the Town Manager's monthly report by e-mail at the Town of Gorham website.

### **October Arrests** | **Planning Board Discusses** Rezoning

Sheri Faber, Staff Writer

Approximately 30 people attended the Planning Board meeting on December 12 to respond to a potential rezone of an area from the Gorham bypass to the roundabout on Rt. 114. This area would be rezoned for higher density and become a mixed-use district. Only multi-family units for three or more families or mixed-use and commercial properties would be permitted. The entire area runs from Brackett Street off South Street, goes down to the Stroudwater River, and includes part of Straw Road, which currently has CMP power lines.

Board Chairman, Jim Anderson, noted that to also include public water and sewer in the area, the residential density would need to increase to pay for those utilities. The former Gorham Country Club (200 acres) was seen as a potential site for 55 and older residential units.

The Turnpike spur which has been under consideration for many years is now in the permitting phase.

Numerous residents of the McLellan and Washburn Roads spoke out vehemently against the proposed spur for reasons including that currently this is not a high-density area but would become a high-density area in the future with no single-family dwellings. The Planning Board Chairman and Tom Poirier, Director of Community Development, noted that to preserve open spaces, high-density housing is needed, adding that South Gorham will also need public water and sewer.

### **December Planning Board Results**

#### Sheri Faber, Staff Writer

At the Dec. 5, 2022 meeting of the Planning Board, all of the following items were approved on a 5-0 vote with one board member absent from the meeting.

A proposed amendment to the Land Use and Development Code and Zoning Map to implement the comprehensive plan to adopt the So. Gorham Crossroads District was discussed and referred to the Town Council with a recommendation to adopt.

A proposed amendment to the Land Use and Development Code and Zoning Map amendment to implement the comprehensive plan to adopt the South Gorham Commercial Corridor was discussed and referred to the Town Council with a recommendation to adopt.

A proposed amendment to the Land Use and Development Code and Zoning

EPR Packaging Law CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

until 2027. Before the law can be implemented, the Maine DEP must undergo a lengthy and thorough rule-making process. Interested stakeholders are welcome to participate in the rule-making process by attending (in person or virtually), a series of meetings scheduled about once a month from now until Dec. 2023. There will also be time for any member of the public to share comments.

Map to implement the comprehensive plan regarding Phase 3 of the Village Expansion District was discussed and referred to the Town Council with a recommendation to adopt.

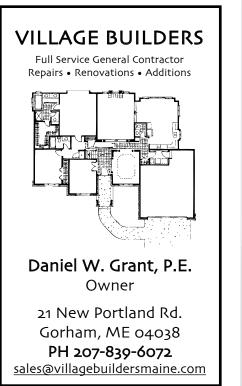
A proposed amendment to the Land Use and Development Code regarding accessory dwelling units was discussed and moved to the Town Council with a recommendation to adopt.

A request for approval of a subdivision for the Industrial Park was discussed and tabled.

A proposed amendment to the Land Use and Development Code and Zoning from rural industrial and agricultural industrial to Mosher Corner Planned Development Area was discussed and moved to send to the Planning Board Comprehensive Implementation Committee.

You can send an email to MainePackagingEPR@maine.gov to be added to the DEP's email distribution list.

Or contact the National Resources Council of Maine at nmrc@nmrc. org or call Phone: (207) 622-3101 Toll Free: (800) 287-2345



### **Grand Jury** Indictments

Sheri Faber, Staff Writer

Jeffrey Calvino, 35, of Gorham was indicted for criminal mischief and aggravated criminal mischief on charges brought by Cumberland County Sheriff's Office.

Heather Carlow, 36, of Chester was indicted for theft by unauthorized taking (2 counts) and violating conditions of release on charges brought by Gorham Police Department.

Timothy Dane, 42, of Gorham was indicted for burglary and theft by unauthorized taking (priors) on charges brought by Gorham Police Department.

Khalicl Gurhan, 28, of Gorham was indicted for unlawful possession of cocaine (2 grams), unlawful possession of cocaine (priors), unlawful possession of cocaine base and unlawful possession of scheduled drugs, trafficking in prison contraband, criminal OUI, and operating after suspension on charges brought by Portland Police Department.

Melissa Solak, 44, of Standish was indicted for trafficking in prison contraband, operating after suspension, and violating conditions of release on charges brought by Gorham Police Department.

Paul Williams, 47, of Naples was indicted for aggravated assault, reckless conduct with a dangerous weapon, and leaving the scene of an accident with personal injury on charges brought by Gorham Police Department.

Chandler Wilson, 46, of Gorham was indicted for burglary, theft by deception, and two counts of violating conditions of release on charges brought by the South Portland Police Department.

### You're in the Know. **Gorham Times**



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### Town Council Seeking Citizen Volunteers for Various Positions

#### **Gorham Times Staff**

The Town Council Appointments Committee is seeking citizen volunteers for various boards and committees. The board and committee vacancies available are as follows: Planning Board, 2; Gorham Economic Development Corporation, Conservation Commission, 3; 2; Board of Appeals, 3; Board of Trustees-Baxter Memorial Library, 3; Historic Preservation Commission, 3; Fair Hearing Board, 1; Board of Assessment Review, 1; Board of Vote Registration Appeals, 1; Revolving

Load Fund Committee, 4; Board of Health, 1.

Folks willing to apply to serve on any of the Town boards and/or committees can visit the Town Clerk's Office for more information. Applications are available online at http://www.gorhamme.org/home/webforms/town-gorhamcommittee-application and will be accepted until Jan. 20, 2023. For more information contact the Town Clerk's Office at (207) 222-1670 or email the Town Clerk Laurie Nordfors a lnordfors@gorham.me.us.

### Portland Water District Budget

Michelle Clements, Portland Water District

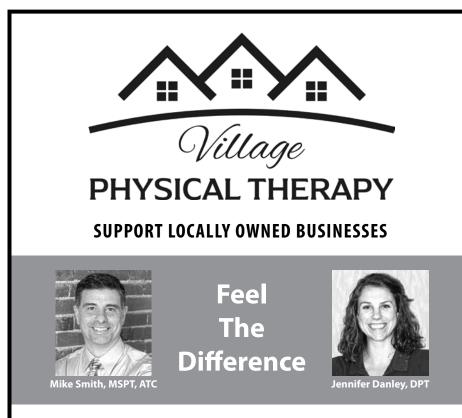
Portland Water District's Board of Trustees unanimously approved a combined \$55.5 million water and wastewater operating budget and a \$23.1 million capital budget for 2023 at the November 28, 2022, meeting. The capital budget allocates \$8.6 million to water projects, \$7.0 million of that is specific to replace aging water mains. An additional \$11.9 million is targeted at wastewater projects. \$8.0 million of that for a new North Windham Wastewater Treatment Facility and \$2.1 for upgrades at the East End Wastewater Treatment Facility in Portland.

The budget incorporates a 5.6% water rate adjustment, which is estimated to add an additional \$1.28 to a typical monthly water bill for a

single-family residence. The adjustment will take effect in January 2023. A public hearing on the rate adjustment occurred earlier in November and a notice was mailed to customers recently.

The water and wastewater operating budget represents roughly a 10.9% increase over the 2022 budget, while capital expenditures decreased slightly from 2022. Much of the operating increase is attributed to higher biosolids disposal costs, related to new requirements from the state of Maine for PFAS management. Labor, chemical costs, and debt service are also significant factors.

The 2023 Comprehensive Budget can be found on PWD's web site at www.pwd.org.



#### Property Tax Reassessment Reviewed CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in Cumberland County had risen by 10.42% since November 2021.

Real Estate appraisals are based on the same criteria as those used by assessors for tax purposes. Key factors for pricing residential property are location, size (sq. ft.), acreage, and the condition of the building, Chadbourne said. Assessors also compare a property to similar properties in the area. For example, the assessed value of a residential property in North Gorham nearly doubled from what it had been valued in 2008, although there had been no changes other than routine maintenance. However, the newly assigned value was in line with the recent selling price of comparable properties in the area.

Homeowners have questioned why there was such an increase in the assessed value of their residential property when some similar properties had smaller tax increases and even tax reductions. Because the value of property in Gorham has increased nearly 73% since 2008, new valuations may have generated tax increases of as much as 20%, even with the lower mil rate. However, homes built within the last few years were at that time assessed nearer to 2022 market values, so the increase was less. Because of the lower mil rate, their taxes might even have gone down. In Gorham, about 25% of residential properties had tax decreases or no increase. Some decreases, of course, would have reflected the condition of the property or other changes that reduced its value.

In addition, the tax burden is shifting from commercial property to residential. During the last decade, the value of homes went up more than commercial values. In Gorham only 10% of property is commercial. The value of commercial property rose only 24% which resulted in tax decreases. Commercial values are not rising as fast due in part to labor shortages, online shopping, and people working from home. "Gorham needs to diversify and attract more businesses if it wants less reliance on the residential tax base," Chadbourne said.

The same mil rate applies to all property, so when the increase in value of commercial property is less than that of residential property, more of the tax burden falls on residential owners. Jim Walker, a Gorham resident who has raised many concerns about the assessment process, advocates lobbying the state legislature to permit a different mil rate for commercial property.

"Wholesale revaluations are done by



5:00-6:00 P.M.

www.gorhamknights.org

formula and errors will happen, innocent errors and errors of judgement," Chadbourne said. Despite the many reasons for tax increases, Gorham homeowners who believe their 2022 tax bills did not reflect the true value of their properties and are concerned should contact Cumberland County Regional Assessing. The Town of Gorham contracted with them to oversee the 2022 property valuations for tax purposes. The town no longer does its own assessing. The Town Council hired the appraisal firm, Vision Government Solutions, to collect data for the revaluation.

Working in the spring of 2022, assessors visited all Gorham properties. The assessors sometimes asked to see the inside of the house, but homeowners could refuse them entry since they had information about the property from previous assessment records. According to Thompson, homeowners concerned about COVID may not have let assessors into the house. "However, there are always errors in assessment," Ben Thompson, director of Cumberland County Regional Assessing, said, but added, "all the data Vision and the County was aware of was accurate"

In fact, COVID set the revaluation process back six to eight months and some homeowners felt the process was rushed. The town had been under a time crunch because it had been more than ten years since Gorham had a major assessment and there was the potential for penalties from the state for the delay.

Both Paraschak and Thompson encourage homeowners to look at their assessment records, or "cards," even if they are not protesting an increase. Errors stay on the cards until they are removed. To access a card go to the Town of Gorham website and click on the Vision link and enter the address. All the criteria for the assessment are on the card, along with the history of previous assessments and changes made to the property. "Make sure you have all the exemptions you are entitled to," Thompson said. If there are mistakes, the homeowner should call Cumberland County Regional Assessing at (207) 699-2475.

Those who believe there are significant errors in their assessment should contact the assessor's office before the April 2, 2023 deadline to request an abatement hearing. Thompson, who is still the Assessor for Gorham, emphasized, "Everyone is entitled to meet with the assessor."

As the cliché goes, nothing is certain but death and taxes. Taxes are the price we pay for schools, plowed roads, and public safety. However, it is incumbent on everyone – government, assessors, and taxpayers – to make sure the burden of taxation is distributed fairly and equitably.

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FMI call 839-8390 or email gorhamtimes@gmail.com

#### Record Turnout at New Year Gorham 2022 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ning mime Antonio Rocha worked with a group of willing participants, teaching mime to a story that would later be told and acted out in the auditorium. Also, new to the list of entertainers was Gorham's own Timmy and the Sophomores.

Back by popular demand, ace fiddler Don Roy and his ensemble took center stage and were joined by the talented Arnott family. Attendees were also blessed with the sweet sounds of the GHS Chamber Singers and Gorham Community Chorus. World-renowned storyteller, Antonio Rocha charismatically told the story of the Frog Prince,

reminding people to be kind to one another. Magician Matt Roberts had the audience fully engaged with his impressive magic and well-placed humor. Fun was had by all.

Everyone was excited that the forecasted rain turned out to be mere sprinkles. What was not forecasted was fog, which had rolled in. Despite that, the fireworks went off as planned. One attendee said her kids were excited to "see the sky change colors." And with that, NYG 2022 came to a successful close. May you all have a healthy and happy 2023. The NYG Committee will see you there next year!











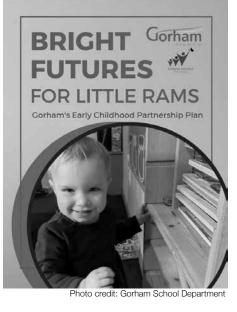
### SCHOOL **School Department Awarded Early Childhood Grant**

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

In Heather Perry's Dec. 16 Blog, the Superintendent of Gorham Schools provided an update on the Maine Department of Education grant that the department had applied for as part of the Little Rams Early Childhood Project.

Superintendent Perry stated, "I've shared our intentions to open two new Pre-K classrooms with half-day programs for Gorham families starting in the Fall of 2023 in previous blogs. I also shared that we had written a grant application to the MDOE to assist in funding some of the one-time upfront costs including playground upgrades, and the purchase of curriculum materials and classroom equipment. Just wanted to share that we found out last week WE WERE AWARDED THE GRANT!"

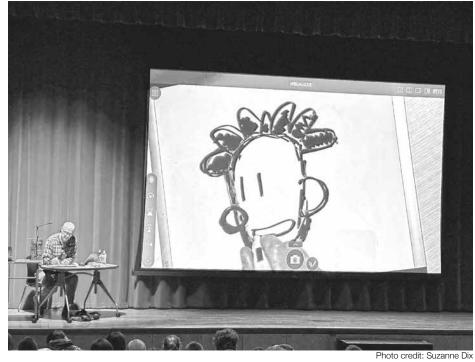
The Little Rams Early Childhood Project is a partnership of schools, child-



CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

### **Big Nate Creator and Cartoonist, Lincoln Peirce** Presents to GMS Students

Suzanne Dix, GMS Librarian



Lincoln Peirce draws his famous cartoon character, Big Nate as the students of GMS look on.

"Big Nate" creator and syndicated cartoonist, Lincoln Peirce, visited Gorham Middle School on Dec. 7 to a roar of applause and appreciation. Peirce graciously shared his morning with GMS with two presentations for the entire student body about the craft of cartooning, his evolution in becoming a novelist, and the joy of working in a field that you love. Prior to the event, students participated in two contests to either be able to ask Mr. Peirce a question at the event or to win a copy of a "Big Nate" book to be autographed. Peirce, a Portland resident, is the creator of "Big Nate," a comic he started in 1991 that can be seen daily in the Portland Press Herald and other newspapers across the country. The comic strip has spawned a children's book series, activity books, comic compilations, a musical, and now an animated show on Paramount Plus.

Peirce's newest series "Max and the Midknights" has also been an instant sensation and tells the tale of a 10-yearold who dreams of becoming a knight.

Students left school inspired and

excited. Mr. Peirce is a dynamic presenter and absolutely knows how to connect with kids. In addition to Peirce's presentation, he included 10-15 minutes of live drawing. From recognizable characters from his comics to the fun of turning a scribble into a sketch and the art of facial expressions, Peirce gave the students of GMS a day they will not soon forget.

Copies of Peirce's books can be purchased at The Bookworm in Gorham and Print: A Bookstore, located in Portland.

Gorham students and families are anticipating the visit of novelist Jennifer Nielsen to Gorham's three elementary schools and GMS in April 2023.

Photo credit: Becky Sither and Krista Nadeau

### Mary Poppins, the Musical, at Gorham High School

**Gorham Times Staff** 

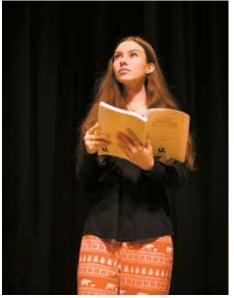
Gorham High School will present Cameron Mackintosh's stage adaptation of Mary Poppins, the Musical. With a cast of 17, the show is directed by Joshua Hurd and produced by Jocelyn Miller. The story is about the Banks family, their out-of-control children, and the mysterious young nanny named Mary Poppins, who takes the children on magical adventures, and brings even a lesson or two for the grown-ups.

The music, directed by Matt Murray, features songs from Disney, including "Practically Perfect," "Spoonful of Sugar," "Jolly Holiday," "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious," "Let's Go Fly a Kite, and "Step in Time."

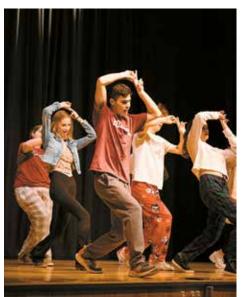
Performances take place at the McCormack Performing Arts Center at Gorham High School on Fridays and Saturdays, Feb. 3, 4, 10 and 11 at 7 p.m., and on Sundays, Feb. 5 and 12 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$14 for general admission, and available on Eventbrite.com.



The cast of Mary Poppins at Gorham High School



Maddie Downey (Mary Poppins)



Patrick Delaney (Bert) and the Cast of Mary Poppins at Gorham High School



#### Gorham Tree Festival CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Photo credits: Molly Breton & Company

Jenny Miner (Jane Banks), Maddie Downey (Mary Poppins), Patrick Delaney (Bert) and the Cast of Mary Poppins at Gorham High School.



Donna Hill, 65 New Portland Road Junction Bowl, 7 Railroad Avenue Casco Federal Credit Union, 375 Main Street Galilee Church, 317 Main Street The Bookworm, 42 Main Street Blue Pig 19, State Street



## THE 2022 **MEMORY OF CONTROLS** FOR EXCELLENCE

Every year, MEMIC recognizes outstanding employers for their commitment to identifying and removing hazards in the workplace, and to helping those who are injured regain their health and return to work. We salute these award winners who have built a culture of care and accountability throughout their operations. 2022 MEMIC AWARDS

The 2022 MEMIC Award for Excellence in Safety

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The 2022 MEMIC Award for Excellence in Injury Management

Sunday River, Newry



#### The 2022 MEMIC Award for Excellence in Workforce Partnership

Shawn Moody is our choice for the MEMIC Award for Excellence in Workforce Partnership. Known to most Maine people as a candidate for Governor and president of co-worker-owned Moody's Collision Centers, Shawn has been a relentless advocate for academic and technical higher education. He has the distinction of having served simultaneously on the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System and the Community College System. In addition, Shawn is the co-founder of the **Maine Blue Collar Scholarship**, which has distributed thousands of dollars to hundreds of students seeking to advance their technical careers.

In addition, Shawn recruited MEMIC to sponsor stipends for high school faculty to learn about advanced technologies by visiting various Maine employers where their students may one day be hired.

For all those accomplishments and his commitment to the workforce, he is the ideal recipient for this year's award.

Michael Bourque, President and CEO of MEMIC (I.) surprised Shawn Moody during his monthly radio program, Inside Maine, on WGAN to present the MEMIC Award for Excellence in Workforce Partnership.

MEMIC is an insurance specialist that makes workers' comp work better with compassion, trusted partnerships, and relentless commitment to workforce safety. memic.com/awards



#### School Awarded Early Childhood Grant CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

care programs, parents, educators, businesses, and local business and organization leaders. They have been meeting for over a year to collect data about the Gorham community and to develop the draft of a comprehensive plan to support children ages birth through age five. On October 5, the team updated the Gorham School Committee on their findings and next steps.

The Project surveyed childcare providers and parents and discovered that 63% of the programs report staff shortages. 67% of the parents report insufficient access to programs, and 75% spend \$300 per week for childcare. Using the data that they have collected, they have drafted a plan to increase the availability, access, and affordability of childcare programs, to strengthen and support the quality of childcare, intervention, and educational services, to strengthen "child find" practices and direct services and to improve the alignment of programs and transitions between them for families and children.

#### As part of the "Bright Futures for Little

#### Southwest Chicken Stew

- 1 can black beans
- 1 can navy beans
- 2 cans mushrooms, pieces & stems
- 3 cups chopped broccoli
- 2 cups chopped carrots

4 cups chicken stock 1 can Golden Mushroom Soup Salt & Pepper to taste 3 to 4 cups cubed chicken, seasoned with CAJUN seasonings

Rams Plan," this grant is very important.

It provides not only needed funding

for the beginning of the early child-

hood classes but also verification that

the committee is heading in the right

direction. The team continues to meet

in subcommittees to plan interventions

and programs to meet the needs of the

youngest members of our community.

Perry continued, "We are so excited at

the opportunities this will bring to our

schools, to our students, to our families,

and to our community! We have three

working groups that just started their

work earlier this week on putting the

"meat on the bones" of our plans and

we are planning several informational

events for community early care provid-

ers and families to learn more about this

program over the course of the next

few months so please stay tuned! For

now, if you want to know more about

how this program fits into our overall

plan as a community for early care,

please review our "Bright Futures For

Little Rams Plan" at https://tinyurl.com/

vsj33bfy with questions."

Saute chicken til done, add remainder of ingredients and slow simmer for 1 hour. This can be done in a crockpot. Simple recipe for a tasty meal... Can be served as a stew or over a bed of rice.

Questions about the recipe can be e-mailed to Barbara Schneider at <u>btsme21@gmail.com</u>.



#### School Policies Being Tested in FOAA Controversy CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

able to access websites containing the extreme allegations. She believes most students who learn about the allegations find the entire situation very troubling.

Amanda Cooper said that the FOAA requests and social media attacks have come from "a small group of people who are deeply upset with certain things about public education." She added "in Gorham, we've been hit pretty hard by FOAA requests".

She said the specific wording of the questions in the FOAA requests is "intended to defame and demoralize public school employees. It may be about an effort to create fear and doubt about public education and public school employees. I believe what we are facing is a deliberate effort to create wedge issues."

She added that teachers believe that "their job is to support students in becoming their best selves," and that students who have been marginalized need help from teachers "to make them feel welcome." She said that the FOAA requests are "basically coming from three people, and [to a lesser degree] from a few of their friends. There is nothing to hide, but the requestors are insinuating that we're hiding something."

Cooper continued, "This is hitting pretty hard at teachers who are just doing their jobs by teaching health or history, by calling health teachers 'creepy groomers.'" Referring to social media, she said, "we are being accused of indoctrination and 'grooming.'" She specified that "grooming" appears to mean "grooming or convincing them [students] to adopt certain gender identities." She mentioned that the requests often seem to focus on how educators respond when students ask to use a different name or set of pronouns.

Cooper went on to say that besides targeting health educators and librarians for allegedly promoting inappropriate sexuality and gender identity teaching, the lists of requested materials also include materials pertaining to diversity education for

students and diversity training for teachers. She said, "Maine is a pretty 'white' state, and we need that," referring to diversity education. "We are becoming more diverse. We need to do what we can to support our changing groups of students. Tons of historical data support what we're doing."

"My job is to support students to become critical thinkers, but I believe public schools should be nonpolitical." She said that just after the 2020 election, she was recorded on audio by a student who said he was going to get her fired for political indoctrination. She said she learned that certain websites have pushed parents to encourage students to record their teachers because of alleged political indoctrination in the classroom. She added that teaching civics requires her to encourage students to discuss elections in class, while not promoting any partisan viewpoints.

She also said that false allegations against a Gorham teacher were recently featured on a national rightwing website.

She worries that all the additional stress will cause teachers to retire in excessive numbers and that today's college students will choose not to become teachers.

Cooper closed by saying "I firmly believe in what educators are doing to help students be their best selves, to be good people".

The Gorham School Department has recently posted all the requests for information under the FOAA law for the calendar year 2022 and has also included the number of hours that staff spent fulfilling the requests. The webpage can be accessed through this link: https:// tinyurl.com/7cpewmxs.

It appears there were 38 FOAA requests in 2022. All but two appeared to be from individuals pursuing the types of allegations described above by Kelli Deveaux and Amanda Cooper. The other two were from a Westbrook newspaper reporter researching a related story.



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### **Seeking Distribution Team** Member for our Southern Route

The Gorham Times is seeking a distribution person to take over our "Southern Route" down South Street/Route 114, 10 locations, 400+ papers, half go to Town buildings all clustered by the Town Hall/Baxter Library. This is a great opportunity to meet interesting people and learn about community organizations.

#### **SPORTS**

### Winter Sports Preview '22-'23 Season

Katie Brown, Sports Editor

If the upcoming Winter sports season is anything like the Fall season, it will be filled with triumph and thrills. The Varsity coaches share their teams' outlook for this season.

#### GIRLS ICE HOCKEY: COACH MARY VAUGHAN

The Gorham Ice Hockey team is looking forward to another fun and competitive year of hockey. The team won the SMAA sportsmanship award last year and has picked up exactly where they left off.

Coach Vaughan shared, "players to watch are Senior captain, Cadence Howard (Bonny Eagle), and junior captain, Emerson Homa (Gorham) are both forwards to watch who were allconference selections last year. Junior captain, Greta Grant (Fryeburg), was a defensive all-conference selection last year and will definitely be a player to watch on the blue line. Their leadership has set the tone for our talented newcomers and underclassmen."

She added, "Senior Ellie Keil (Gorham) is between the pipes for us this year and looks to have a strong season. She is a tremendous leader and embodies everything we want to see from our team.

New additions from Lake Region are senior Caitlin Lees (defense) and freshman Marissa Payne (forward). Marissa had 4 goals in our first win against the new Penobscot team, including a natural hat trick (3 goals in a row with no other goals from either team).

Sophomore forward/defender Katelyn Cyr (Gorham) will also be a key player this season. Senior Riley Maynard (Gorham) has stepped up her game and brings a contagious tenacity each and every day.

Vaughan emphasized, "We have a depth this year that we've never had before, and with so much shifting of other teams, it looks to be an exciting season. I think Cheverus will be the team to beat this year, as they only lost one senior. It looks like most other teams have had a lot of turnover, so I think it's anyone's season. We are looking to be competitive in all our games; it's going to be an exciting winter."

#### BOYS ICE HOCKEY: COACH SHAWN SULLIVAN

Coach Shawn Sullivan in his first year as head coach shared, "We're expecting a very good season out of the boys hockey team. Last year was an extremely down year for our boys finishing with a record of 5-14." Sullivan has been an assistant coach for several years and (GHS '15). vs Greely. The Rams won that contest 7-2. They improve their record to 3-0 with a 4-2 win @ Kennebunk and a 5-3 win @ York, going into the annual holiday tournament hosted at USM.

#### GIRLS BASKETBALL: COACH LAUGHN BERTHIAUME

Last year the Rams finished with an 18-4 record and crowned the Southern AA Regional Champions (State Runnerup).

This year's Captains are Senior Elizabeth Willette and Junior Ellie Gay.

Players to watch are Ellie Gay (JR), Kalin Curtis (JR), Summer Gammon (JR), Vanessa Walker (SO), Julia Reed (SO), Elizabeth Willette (SR).

Coach Berthiaume shared, "Gorham has six returning varsity players who gained valuable experience on a team that competed for the State Championship. We return one starter from that team, Ellie Gay."

Coach continued, "The players returning from last year were solid every day in practice against some experienced seniors and they were members of an undefeated JV team. This year we have a very good mix of speed and athleticism, and the preseason has provided a chance for team chemistry and growth." The Rams play an uptempo-style offense and move the ball to have balanced scoring.

Berthiaume added, "Our talented returners are joined by some excellent newcomers with lots of potential. This year we added sophomores Lindy Moreland and Payton Thibodeau along with three freshmen, Zoe Dellinger, Lauren Dunbar, and Logan Doughty. We are looking forward to competing with the top teams in our league as well as some of the top teams in our crossovers."

Games to watch will be Thornton Academy, Scarborough, Falmouth, Greely, Brunswick, Oxford Hills. The girls team is 3-1 going into the Holiday break.

#### BOYS BASKETBALL: COACH MARK KARTER

Last season the Rams ended with a record of 7-11 and a loss in the regional quarterfinal game.

Impact players this season are; Ashton Leclerc, (JR), G; Gabe Michaud, (JR), G; Caden Smith, (JR), Quinn Dillon, (SR), G; Devin Jacques, SR), G; and Wyatt Nadeau, (SO), C.

Coach Mark Karter shared, "The outlook for the rams is Leclerc, the SMAA Class AA rookie of the year who averaged 17.9 points, Michaud (7.0 points per game, 2.6 assists) and Smith (9.0 points) are returning starters for a team using a tough man-to man defense and up tempo style based offense." The team is still relatively young, brings back key experience and should be in the top half of the league. Taylor Mannix, co-host of middays on The Big JAB 96.3, states, "you can't keep Gorham out of the conversation of being a top contender down the stretch."

### Gorham Recreation Ice Skating Update

**Gorham Times Staff** 



The frigid cold of the last week in December set the ice for excellent skating at three rinks in Gorham. Narragansett Ice Skating Rink is at 284 Main Street. The Cherry Hill Farm Rink is off Route 25 near Sebago Brewing. The rink at Little Falls is behind the Old Robie School on Gray Road.

During the winter, the ice is not always ready for skating. If it's not cold enough and the ice is not fully set, walking on it, or trying to shovel



Photos courtesy of Gorham Recreation Department

it off can be dangerous, but it can also leave footprints, shovel tracks, and other imperfections that will freeze into the surface, which is less than ideal for skating. So, Gorham Rec. asks that we keep off the ice until it's ideal.

Gorham Recreation Department offers skate rentals for \$5 per pair, or \$15/weekend. The office is open Monday-Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you have your own skates, skating is free at these locations.



Coach Sullivan added, "This year we have 7 seniors on the roster. With the addition of a senior transfer and 3 skilled freshmen to the team, we have depth that we haven't had in years."

The boys' team is led by senior captains Jasper Crane, Jack Reidy, and Andrew Gaudreau, the Rams will look to compete for a spot atop of their conference.

Newcomer, Emmit Sullivan along with juniors Cole Allen and Corliss Ordway are all expected to have big years offensively.

The boys started off their season with a big test on Saturday, Dec. 10 at home

The Rams go into the holiday break 5-0 and pick up a win over Scarborough by double figures 65-48.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Photo credits: Lori Arsenaul

We found some friends gathered for night ice skating under the lights at Shaw Cherry Hill Farm. The ice is right next to the parking lot off Route 25.

#### Winter Sports Preview '22-'23 Season CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

#### SKI TEAM: COACH SEAN MUNKACSI

Coach Munkacsi shared, "The Alpine ski team is looking to build on the successes of last season when both teams had consistent top 10 individual SMAA finishes. The boys finished 3rd in SMAA and the girls were 4th. The girls will be led by Abby Fecteau, Brooke Stevens, Sophie Kasczmarek and Ari Flett."

The Coach added, "The boys team has high expectations with the return of all four of the top scorers: Owen Ballard, Sam Munkacsi, Ryker Spear and Trent Stevens."

Gorham will once again be home to Pleasant Mountain (formally Shawnee Peak), and sister resorts to Sunday River and Sugarloaf in Maine and Loon Mtn. in New Hampshire.

The ski team is eager to hit the slopes, as their pre-season includes a lot of "dryland" practices.

The conditions should be in line with the first ski race that is scheduled on Jan. 4. The Pleasant Mountain crew is working diligently to provide the best course conditions that allow the athletes to compete.

During the holiday break, the athletes will focus on strength training and pliability workouts. The team will practice at Pleasant Mountain on Jan. 3rd and 6th. If conditions allow, the team could potentially expect to practice with gates. The SMAA championships will be Feb. 10 with the Class "A" State championship @ Saddleback mtn., Rangeley Maine. February 15-16.

#### SWIM TEAM: COACH WILLIAM YORK

Coach York shared, "Last season our boys team finished second in the South-South West division, missing first by five points. Our girls team placed 5th with stiff competition. Last year our team broke seven school records, and this season we have already broken one school record and are on course to break those seven records plus potentially three others."

The captains this year are Senior Abby Rosingana, Senior Kate Pelletier, Junior Natalie Haskell, Junior Isaac Donson, and Junior Thomas Pritchard.

Coach York said, "All five bring a lot of leadership and talent to the team. We have a team of 24 this year with 11 new swimmers."

York added, "Our boys team is pushing to win the South-South Westerns this year. The entire team is extremely strong but freshmen Brodie Berlinger and Junior Thomas Pritchard are working towards top three finishers at both regionals and states in a variety of events. Senior Kyle Brown and Sophomore Ryan Morrill also will be adding great depth as they continue to add state qualifying events to their resumes."

He also shared, "The girls team has a lot of new talent and depth. Three new freshmen girls who are top ten USA swimmers in their age group in Maine help to bring much needed depth after six graduating senior girls. Hanna Logan, Stella Moores and Maya Moores were 1-2 seconds off team records the past week at our first meet. Captain Abby Rosingana is pushing to be the fastest 500 free swimmer in the state this year."

In addition to this depth Gorham has new swimmers; Junior Julia Wareham and Junior Sophia DiPhilippo.

Coach York emphasized, "This looks to be a great year for Gorham Swimming, and we are excited to be back in the water without restriction and back to a normal season."

#### BOYS INDOOR TRACK: COACH JASON TANGUAY

Last season the boys' indoor team placed 3rd place in league championship and 5th place in the state championship.

Coach Tanguay shared, "Athletes to watch this year are; Jacob Lehmann, senior, jumps; Lucien Beardsley, senior, distance; Nolan Feyler, junior, hurdles, and sprints; Aidan Lee, junior, hurdles and jumps; Matt Sallinen, sophomore, distance; Kuba Kaczmarek, sophomore, jumps; Nick Munyaneza, sophomore, distance, and jumps."

This year's Captains are; Jacob Lehmann, Lucien Beardsley, Nolan Feyler, Jacob Mora, Owen Duplisea

Coach Tanguay added, "Our boys team graduated a handful of outstanding track and field athletes so we will be looking to find our identity this upcoming season. Over half of our team is made up of new faces of which some are even new to the sport so it will take some time for us to find our groove."

Coach continued, "With such a young team of numerous new student-athletes, the regular season meets will each provide opportunities for growth. The coaches are excited to see the progress we could make over the season."

The track teams opened their seasons against Kennebunk, Portland / TA. The next meet was postponed to after the holiday on Dec. 27.

#### GIRLS INDOOR TRACK: COACH JOHN CATERINA

Coach Caterina shared, "The 2023 Gorham Girls Indoor Track and Field team has 35 athletes competing this season. After graduating a very talented group of athletes from the 2022 Class A runner up team, several returning members and new additions look to keep Gorham very competitive in the SMAA."

Caterina added, "Gorham will be led by four senior captains. Rachel Cummings will be competing in the distance events and relays; Sadie Fiore will be in the high jump and shot put; Allie Sutton will be in the long jump and triple jump; and Mayla Wilson will be in the pole vault, hurdles and high jump."

Key returners include juniors Andi Cloutier (shot put and sprints); Rita Cummings (distance); Ella Downing (distance); sophomores Ashley Connolly (sprints); Emily Fadrigon (sprints).

Coach Caterina concluded, "There are several new additions to the team who should make an immediate impact. They include senior Erin Lawrence (mid-distance); juniors Lillian Andreasen (jumps, shot put) Ella Labrie (jumps), Meryk Lewellen (jumps); sophomores Piper Forgues (sprints); Bailey Hatch (sprints), Lindy Moreland (jumps, hurdles)."





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#### **COMMUNITY**

#### **OF INTEREST**

The Gorham Police Department was given a wallet on Aug. 8, 2022, belonging to Philip Candelmo. To have his wallet returned he should contact Officer Stephen Hinkley, Gorham Police Department, 270 Main Street, Gorham, ME 04038, desk phone number: (207) 222-1689.

Join the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust on Sat., Jan. 7 at 4:30 p.m. for a full moon walk at Randall Orchards in Standish and Gorham led by Master Naturalist, Jeanne Christie. The farm is protected by the Land Trust as farmland forever. Participants will meet at the farm at sunset for a guided walk exploring the 500-acres of conserved orchard and forest while walking or snow-shoeing in the moonlight. After the walk, hot cider from apples grown and pressed on-site at the orchard will be served. The walk will be about one mile and the program will last two hours. This event is free, but space is limited, and registration is required at www.prlt.org/events

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gorham Memorial Post 10879 will meet next on Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fire Department Training Room, 270 Main St. For information contact the post at vfwpost10879@gmail.com.

Gorham Lions meet on Jan. 10 and Jan. 24 at Moody's Community Room at 6:30 p.m. FMI, Ken Aldrich, (207) 929-9182.

The Gorham/Windham/Westbrook TRIAD meeting dates have been changed to the second Wednesday of the month starting Jan. 11 at 11 a.m. at the Gorham Police Station., Main Street.

Forest Playgroup: Fairies of Pride Preserve - Join the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust and the Forest Playgroup on Wed, Jan. 11 at 9:30 a.m. for a winter fairy-themed adventure at the Land Trust's Pride Preserve in Westbrook. A book about fairies will be shared or read, followed by a walk along the brook to a rock outcropping where fairy houses dwell and where participants can make some fairy houses of their own. Feel free to dress up in your most sparkly fairy costume! This event is for families with kids ages 2-5, siblings are welcome. Children must attend with a parent or guardian. The walking portion will be around a half mile total, on a wooded path with a modest hill. RSVP for this event at www.prlt.org/events

Climate Action: What Maine Towns are Doing - the third in a free film and discussion series by the Climate Caretakers. Fellowship Hall at First Parish Church, 1 Church St. Friday, Jan. 27, 6:30. All are welcome.





Gorham Lions Membership Chairman, Ken Aldrich visited PitStop Fuels, Waltz Propane and

the nomination form at https://www.ecomaine.org/tours-andeducational-outreach/eco-excellence-awards/  $\ensuremath{\mathsf{v}}$ 

The Gorham Food Pantry, located at 299-B Main Street (parking lot of St. Anne's Catholic Church) is open every Thursday morning from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and is free for any Gorham resident in need. FMI, (207) 222-4351, visit https://www.gorhamfoodpantry.org or message us on Facebook at Gorham Food Pantry Friends.

The Gorham Medical Closet located at the Municipal Center 75 South Street is free and available to Gorham residents in need of wheelchairs, shower seats, commodes, walkers, canes, crutches and more. Hours are by appointment with a volunteer. Call Gerry Day at (207) 839-3859 and she will connect you with a volunteer.

Gorham Rec's Walking Club takes place Monday through Friday from 8 - 9 a.m. in Shaw Gym at 75 South Street. This free program allows residents a safe space to walk indoors during the winter months. 16 1/2 laps around the gym is equal to 1 mile. FMI Jennifer Kenneally at jkenneally@gorham.me.us.

#### **SENIOR NEWS**

The Lecky Brown Senior Center at First Parish Church has reopened after the COVID-19 hiatus. Gather for Cribbage on Mondays at 10 a.m., all levels are welcome. Join the Originals guest speaker program on Wednesday at 10 a.m. Coming up next; "Loon Lessons" local author Jim Paruk, the Lost Kitchen of Maine, stained glass restoration in Florence Italy, Maine Button Society and more. Stay tuned for more upcoming events and activities. The group looks forward to meeting you. Contact Lisa Becker at Leckybrowncenter@gmail.com for more information.

Senior Meal Site is held on Wednesdays at 12 p.m., St. Anne's Church, 299 Main Street Social time begins at 11:30 a.m. Suggested donation is \$4. Meal site is closed if school is closed or delayed due to such reasons as weather. For updates on the meal and dates open/closed, visit gorhamrec.com or call (207) 222-1635.

#### **PUBLIC SUPPERS**

Public Bean Supper at White Rock Community Clubhouse, 34 Wilson Road, Gorham on Saturday, Jan. 7 from 4:30-6 p.m. Eat in or take out, no pre-orders. Meal includes baked kidney and pea beans, coleslaw, potato salad, macaroni and cheese, biscuits, hot dogs, and dessert. Wearing of masks for those who are not vaccinated is suggested. \$10 adults, \$5 under 12 Follow us on Facebook for updates: facebook.com/ whiterockcommunityclub

St. Anne's Fish Dinner - The St. Anne's Knights of Columbus will hold a drive-through Fish Dinner on Friday, January 20, 2022, from 5 to 6:00 p.m. at St. Anne's Church in Gorham. Dinner includes baked haddock, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, peas, a roll, and dessert for \$12. No seated service at this time. FMI, visit www.gorhamknights.org or call 207-653-9506.

#### LIBRARY NEWS

At the North Gorham Public Library, weekly story time with songs and crafts is open to children and their caregivers at 10 a.m. every Wednesday. The library is open on Mondays from 3 - 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 - 11:30 a.m. and 6 - 8 p.m., Thursdays from 3 - 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visit northgorham.lib.me.us, and facebook.com/northgorhampubliclibrary/ FMI. The North Gorham Public Library Book Club will be meeting Monday, Jan. 9 at 11 a.m. Participants will be discussing "When All Is Said" by Anne Griffin. Come even if you haven't read the book!

Baxter Memorial Library serves families with the Baby Discovery Time (birth-18 mos.), the Toddler Discovery Time (18mos.-3yrs), and the Family Discovery time (ages 2-5). Follow the Gorham Times calendar to schedule these events for your family. The Book Club will be discussing "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich on Thursday, Jan. 12 at 10:15 a.m. the Library is closed on Monday, Jan. 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Baxter Digs Reading! is a time spent with Baxter, a Standard Poodle Therapy Dog who loves to be read to. He visits the library on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Visit or call the library to sign up for a 15-minute slot to read to Baxter. On Tuesday, Jan. 17 at 6 p.m., author Philip W. Mason will visit to discuss his book, "Compassion for Life." Learn more at baxterlibrary.org.

#### UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE NOTES

The University of Southern Maine has a new website. The address is still http://www. usm.maine.edu, though some of the internal addresses have changed. To learn the latest USM news, visit https://usm.maine.edu/news/.

Dodge Fuels to give \$500 to each company for them to help customers who are having difficulties keeping warm. The Gorham Lions have had a very successful fund-raising year and are glad they can give back to the community. FMI. Ken Aldrich 207-929-9182

New Ventures Maine winter 2023 classes are starting soon. NVME offers classes and one-toone coaching in three program areas: building careers, managing money, and starting and growing businesses. Find class offerings at bit.ly/NVMEClasses, or contact Jennifer DeJoy, Jennifer. dejoy@maine.edu, (207) 621-3433.

Ecomaine calls for 2023 eco-Excellence Award nominations. Nominees can be businesses, schools, nonprofits, municipalities or staff, or individuals and will be selected based on the effectiveness, increased awareness, community impact, and ease of replication of their sustainability programs or initiatives. Preference will be given to nominees in the areas of sustainable waste management, recycling, composting, etc. Nominees may live in any one of ecomaine's communities (like Gorham). Preference will be given to nominees in the areas of sustainable waste management, recycling, composting, etc. Submissions will be judged by ecomaine's Outreach and Recycling Committee and awarded on Feb. 9, 2023. Nominations are accepted through Jan. 31, 2023. Find The Osher School of Music Faculty Concert Series opens the Spring 2023 season with Osher's resident organist. Artist Faculty in Organ Justin Murphy-Mancini presents a program of organ music from past and present exploring the many possibilities of variation form. The concert shows off the sonic capabilities of the Corthell Concert Hall organ. Friday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10/\$15. https://usm.maine.edu/music

The University's Art Gallery is collaborating with the Recovery Oriented Campus Center to host Yoga on the third Thursday of each month between January and March, the first one being Jan. 19, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. The USM community and the larger public are invited to participate in 'slow looking' at the artwork in the Gallery, facilitated by the movement and energy that accompanies any workout. A limited number of mats will be provided. On Jan. 26 from 6 - 8 p.m., the Gallery will host an opening reception for "Hidden Stories" featuring an Artist Conversation with Kate Cheney Chappell and Annie Lee-Zimerle. (207) 780-5008

Find out what's happening this spring in USM Theatre at https://usm.maine.edu/theatre, (207) 780-5151, and USM Athletics at https://southernmainehuskies.com/



Shaw's Mill Road caller wanted to put his cat up for adoption as they were moving and could not bring the cat with them. They were referred to the Animal Refuge League.

Primrose Lane caller was advised to call police when activity around her house was taking place, not 12 hours after the fact.

Day Road caller was very upset about being served with a protection from abuse order.

Man at an ATM on Ossipee Trail was trying to use a card that had been flagged as stolen. Officer contacted the car owner who knew the man had the card. She had called the credit card company the day before to get a replacement because the card was not working. Card had not been stolen.

Simona Shores Drive man explained that after talking to his friend, the friend found the item he had been accused of stealing from the owner's residence.

Caller wanted to know if there were any laws prohibiting him from wearing his Halloween costume on days other than Halloween. He was advised there were not.

George St. caller could not find his phone charger and wanted to know if police had it. He was advised they did not and suggested he should continue to look around his house.

George St. caller wanted the officer to kick someone out who was causing him stress. Officer advised him that the police cannot do that.

Officer advised a woman she would not be contacted by Facebook Messenger regarding a serious legal issue.

Partridge Lane caller reported someone had dumped trash on his property. Officer checked it out and they were all bottles. Caller kept them.

Juniper Circle caller said they had a protection order against someone who keeps driving by. Records were checked and there was no such order.

Ossipee Trail caller had a neighbor's pig in his yard. Owner was contacted and came and got it.

Harding Bridge Road caller thought that someone was breaking in. There was no burglary. The door to the residence blew open and scared the caller.

Mighty Street caller reported he had put a game camera in the woods on private property and the camera had been stolen. He was encouraged to contact the property owner and see if there were other people who had permission to use the property.

Sebago Lake Road caller reported hearing people arguing at a nearby residence. People were playing a drinking game and no one was fighting.

Mahlon Ave. caller was concerned about the arrival of four cars and a bunch of men in her driveway. They asked if she was renting the house and she said no and they drove off. Driver of another vehicle parked on the side of the road told officers that he and his crew had just moved in next door and accidentally entered her driveway. They were contracted construction workers from Texas who were working in Portland and were trying to find their new home.

Woman wanted to report a road rage incident that had taken place on State Street. Officer contacted USM Police and asked them to make contact with the individual and to remind them that road rage incidents can end very badly and to try to remain calm.

A fox was seen in the vicinity of Narragansett School. Officer stayed for a bit but did not see it.

Wassamki Drive caller reported their mountain bike was stolen.

#### Where are They Now? Think Outside CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

gent standards in fiscal responsibility, ethical conduct, strong leadership, governance, and lasting stewardship. This important designation also makes it possible to access a wider array of grant funds.

Curran Apse, along with her staff, has worked hard to develop and expand free outreach programs for ommunity members of all ages. She is deeply committed to providing more opportunities for families to get outdoors, close to home, on family-friendly trails, by creating scavenger hunts, fairy/gnome villages, and story walks on conserved lands. She believes these educational, recreational, and social programs have clearly met a community need. "Over 1,000 families as well as many adults of all ages have attended programs in the last two years," she said. According to Curran Apse, only about 2% of the town of Gorham is conserved as open space for the public to access. The Land Trust continues to work with interested private landowners and the town to expand

conservation land and access to the outdoors and nature. She is committed to expanding opportunities here in her hometown because access to the outdoors is important for our quality of life and for the local economy.

She added, "The Land Trust, has the opportunity to help ensure that as Gorham's development continues, there are also significant conservation and trail projects that protect the beloved informal forested trails that will provide access to nature close to home for generations to come."

#### CALENDAR

#### **SATURDAY, JANUARY 7**

Presumpscott Regional Land Trust Full Moon Walk, Randall Orchards, 4:30 p.m. White Rock Community Clubhouse Public Bean Supper, 34 Wilson Road, 4:30 – 6 p.m.

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 9**

North Gorham Public Library Book Club, "When All Is Said" by Anne Griffin, 11 a.m.

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 10**

Baxter Memorial Library Family Discovery Time (ages 2-5), 10 – 10:45 a.m. VFW Gorham Memorial Post 10879 meeting, Fire Department Training Room, 5:30 p.m. Gorham Lions meeting, Moody's Community Room, 6:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

Gorham Rec's Walking Club, Shaw Gym, 8 – 9 a.m. Baxter Memorial Library Baby Discovery Time (birth-18mos), 9:30 – 9:50 a.m. Presumpscott Regional Land Trust and the Forest Playgroup: Fairies of Pride Preserve, 9:30 a.m.

Gorham/Windham/Westbrook TRIAD meeting, Gorham Police Station, 11 a.m.

#### **THURSDAY, JANUARY 12**

Baxter Memorial Library Toddler Discovery Time (18mos-3yrs), 10 – 10:30 a.m. Book Club, "The Night Watchman" by Louise Erdrich, 10:15 a.m.

#### **MONDAY, JANUARY 16**

Baxter Memorial Library closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

#### **TUESDAY, JANUARY 17**

Baxter Memorial Library Family Discovery Time (ages 2-5) Baxter Digs Reading! 3:30 – 4:30 a.m. (sign up in advance for 15 minutes) Author Visit, Philip W. Mason discusses his book, "Compassion for Life," 6 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18

Baxter Memorial Library Baby Discovery Time (birth-18mos) Keychain Art Project (ages 8 – 18), an early release day craft, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

#### CLASSIFIEDS

#### SERVICES

Registration opens on Wednesday, Feb. 1 for the Summer Youth Music and Theatre Camps at the University of Southern Maine. Five unique summer camps for grades 5 - 12 on the Gorham campus. Easy online registration opens on Wednesday, Feb. 1 at 9 a.m. Register early. https://usm.maine.edu/osher-school-music/youth, loria@maine.edu, (207) 780-5142

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Curran Apse and her husband, Colin Apse live in Portland with their son, Colin and daughter, Mara.

She is the daughter of Al and the late Carol Curran. Her sisters Nilaya and Sally are also GHS grads.

Curran Apse wishes to acknowledge the many volunteers and supporters from Gorham and surrounding towns who make conservation and public access to the outdoors possible. To learn more and to get involved go to: www.prlt.org

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- And above all, featuring the many good deeds in our town.

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