



Tree House Café Opens Soon

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## Snow Piles Up, So Do Expenses

Bill Ambrose

As our winter snowfall totals climb ever higher, the Town's related expenses are mounting up as well. Bob Burns, the Director of Gorham's Department of Public Works, has measured 102-inches of snowfall at the DPW facility on Huston Road. In all, the Town has experienced 20 "winter weather events" since December.

Since a normal winter season is expected to have 13-14 plowable snowfalls, the DPW budget is already under pressure. The Town does not budget a specific amount for snowfall expenses, but instead builds them into the total DPW budget for the fiscal year. At the present time, the DPW has spent approximately \$1,100,000 of its

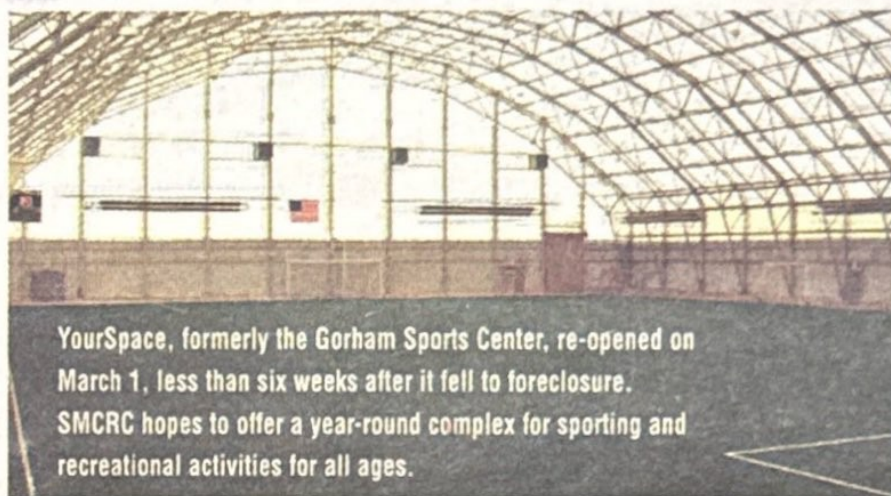
\$1,493,000 budget for fiscal year 2007/08, which ends June 30.

Fuel costs and overtime pay have exceeded the budgeted amounts. The prices of gasoline and diesel have risen dramatically since the budget was approved last spring. The price of road salt has risen by almost \$20 per ton since 2003, today costing \$51.90 per ton. Although the Town has not exceeded its anticipated amount, Burns said, "the supplies are rapidly diminishing."

The municipalities in the Portland area purchase their salt in bulk from a supplier who imports the commodity from Chile. Due to the difficult winter, that supplier is hard pressed to meet the demand for the product.

## YourSpace Now Open

Andrea Morrell



YourSpace, formerly the Gorham Sports Center, re-opened on March 1, less than six weeks after it fell to foreclosure. SMCRC hopes to offer a year-round complex for sporting and recreational activities for all ages.

YourSpace, formerly known as the Gorham Sports Center, re-opened its doors on March 1 under the new ownership of the Southern Maine Community Recreation Center (SMCRC), a non-profit all volunteer organization. On its opening day, the new facility was booked solid and the bookings continue through July and August—a great sign that this community recreation center is here to stay for the long-term.

Even though YourSpace cost over \$1 million dollars, SMCRC board member Adam Sturtevant believes they still got a great deal as the replacement value is estimated at \$3.3 million. All the board members, along with contributing members of the community, each bring valuable expertise that's helping them cut costs as they work on the facility.

"The response from the community has been really great," said Sturtevant. He has received many offers of support from individuals and groups. One Girl Scout troop is planning a fundraiser so they can buy two squares of insulation. Many volunteers are currently working inside the facility cleaning and painting it.

SMCRC's mission is to provide a year-round complex for sporting and recreational activities for all ages. They want

to hear from all different interest groups. "It's a work-in-progress to fit the community," said Sturtevant.

Upcoming fundraisers include a giant garage sale hopefully this month. In the summer, they will be doing specific sports camps and they are looking into potentially bringing the haunted hayrides back to Gorham in the fall. "The goal is to bring the community together in the sense of volunteers. It's a great way to help out with the center and build new friendships," said Sturtevant.

"We (SMCRC) would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has come out to support us and who has continued to come out and support us. We know we did the right thing by the response from the community."

The "Buy a Square and Show We Care" campaign has just been launched where families, businesses and civic groups can purchase squares of insulation. To get involved, contact Parker Cowand, SMCRC board member at 318-4259. Donations can be mailed to SMCRC, P.O. Box 325, Gorham, ME 04038 (see ad page 8).

Any organization interested in scheduling time at the facility should contact YourSpace at (207) 839-6767 or visit [www.yourspacemaine.org](http://www.yourspacemaine.org).

## GMS ATHLETIC FIELDS UNDER WAY



Photo credit: Masha Horne

Despite the heavy snow that has fallen, construction has already begun for new athletic fields next to the Gorham Middle School. The fields are being built to meet the heavy demand for fields from the Town's various growing youth and school outdoor sports teams such as soccer, baseball, softball, football and lacrosse.

## GHS Losing Principal

Kathy Garrard



Gorham High School Principal John Drisko has informed the school committee that he will be leaving his position at the end of the school year to become Head of the Upper School at North Yarmouth Academy.

"I was ready for a new challenge and this opportunity came up," said Drisko. "This was a very difficult decision because Gorham High School is a fabulous place to work, with excellent faculty and a high

quality student body. It will be hard to leave."

Drisko was hired as a social studies teacher at GHS in 1995 and became the principal three years later. He has a degree in history from Brown University, did some graduate work at Dartmouth College and completed a master's degree in educational leadership at the University of Southern Maine.

"I feel good about the work that's been done at the high school in the past few years, like rais-

ing academic standards and focusing on character development," said Drisko. He also cited the designation of Gorham High School as one of 14 high-performing Maine secondary schools in 2007 as "something I've very proud of."

The school dept. has advertised the opening and is in the process of forming a search committee, according to Supt. Ted Sharp.

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Photo credit: Jason Thurgood

### STATE TRACK WINNERS

Gorham's indoor track season proves a success.

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