Former Mobil Station Continues to Deteriorate Sheri Faber

For most of us who drive up and down Main St. (rt. 25) there is one notable eyesore: the former Mobil Station located on a half-acre lot in front of Hannaford. This property, which was formerly owned by Ron Meserve, was purchased at auction on August 4, 2005 for $200,000 by an agent of the Boulos Real Estate Company, listed at 108 Main St, LLC. The property was resold April 20, 2006 for $245,000 to AMG Investments, LLC, 921 Augusta Road, Bowdoin, ME. AMG Investments is the current owner of the property; Loren Goodridge, the owner of the current Subway Sandwich shop on Main St., is the principal of AMG.

Goodridge initially planned to build a new building on the site and move his existing Subway shop to that location; however, several years ago, after many meetings with the Planning Board and other town officials, the two sides were unable to reach a satisfactory consensus. Since that time, the property has remained vacant and has continued to physically deteriorate. The property is currently for sale with an asking price of $375,000. The assessed value of the property is $311,000 and the annual taxes are currently $5,069. As long as the taxes are current and the property is not deemed hazardous, the town cannot step in, as the town does not have the right to force property owners to maintain their property.

The Hathaway Family of Gorham won the Fresh Air Fund’s 2011 Summertime Pleasures Photo Contest by entering this picture of Fresh Air visitor, nine-year-old Alexis, flying a kite with host sibling, Connor Hathaway.

What’s On Your Ballot? Compiled by Sue Dunn

Referendum Elections

These are an important part of the public’s ability to determine the direction of the state of Maine. As a service to all local voters, the Gorham Times has published the referendum questions that will appear on the November 8 ballot. Quite often when voters get to the polls, there is confusion based on the manner in which the questions are written. In order to ensure accuracy, please refer to the sample ballot printed. The questions, which will appear in the same order as on the November 8, 2011 Referendum Election ballot, are:

Question 1: People’s Vote
Do you want to reject the section of Chapter 399 of the Public Laws of 2011 that requires new voters to register to vote at least two business days prior to an election?

Question 2: Citizen Initiative
Do you want to allow a slot machine facility at a harness racing track in Brushfield or another community within 25 miles of Scarborough Downs, subject to local approval, and at a harness racing track in Washington County, with part of the profits from these facilities going to support specific state and local programs?

Question 3: Citizen Initiative
Do you want to allow a casino with table games and slot machines in Lewiston, with part of the profits going to support specific state and local programs?

Question 4: Constitutional Amendment
Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to change the years of redistricting the Maine Legislature, congressional districts and county commissioner districts from 2013 to 2023 and every 10th year thereafter to 2021 and every 10th year thereafter?

County Commissioner
Also included on November 8 will be a special election for County Commissioner. The Cumberland County Charter, approved by voters at the November 2, 2010 General Election, effected many changes in county government including increasing the number of county commissioners from three to five. The new districts become effective on January 1, 2012. District 1 includes Gorham as well as the municipalities of Baldwin, Bridgton, Harrison, Scarborough, Saco and Standish. Party designation will not be included on the ballot. Those running for District 1 County Commissioner include: Neil D. Jamieson Jr., Scarborough, Analee Rosenblatt, Scarborough, Lisa R. Villa, Harrison.

For more information before you vote, the “Citizen’s Guide to the Referendum Election” is a good source. The Division of Elections, in conjunction with the Attorney General, the State Treasurer and the Office of Fiscal and Program Review, created the Guide. Included is a list of the referendum questions, the legislation each question represents, a summary of the intent and content of the legislation, an explanation of the significance of a “yes” or “no” vote, an estimate of the fiscal impact of each referendum question on state revenues, appropriations and allocations, and public comments in support or opposition to each measure.

To access this guide log on to http://maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/upcoming.html and click “Citizen’s Guide to the Referendum Election.” Don’t forget to check the next Gorham Times for information on each local candidate.

Plans for Plan-It Recycling Sheri Faber

The town of Gorham is moving forward with plans to coordinate disposal of the approximate 27,000 cubic yards of trash at Plan It Recycling with the sale of the property. R.J. Grondin and Sons, developer of the Industrial Park, offered $175,000 to Bank of America, the primary mortgage holder of Plan It Recycling, along with a lesser amount to a secondary mortgage holder if arrangements can be made to dispose of the trash—primarily construction and demolition debris—at the town’s closed landfill.

The Department of Environmental Protection said using the town’s landfill for Plan It Recycling’s trash would be acceptable. The site, located in back of the Public Works Garage, currently contains construction and demolition debris and adding similar material to the landfill is unlikely to cause problems. The cost of disposing the trash at Gorham’s landfill is unknown but because there would be no tipping fees and the travel distance is only a few miles, it appears to be the least expensive way to clean up the site. The estimated cost of taking the trash to a commercial landfill would be $750,000. Plan It Recycling is insolvent and has no money to pay to remove the trash. The mortgage holders have no legal responsibility to pay to clean up the site. Grondin and Sons would pay the costs to dispose of the trash, which is an eyesore for the Industrial Park, especially for the businesses located close to Plan It Recycling.

The Town Council is scheduled to vote on October 18 authorizing the town to reopen the landfill for the purpose of taking in the trash from Plan It Recycling. If an agreement is reached with the various parties involved—including the courts—trash removal could begin with the next month. Once the property is cleaned up, Grondin and Sons is expected to sell it.

Law Aimed Toward Texters

As of September 28, texting is illegal to send text messages while driving. According to the new law, texting is punishable by a minimum fine of $100.

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Locating Energy Efficiency Grants and Incentives

Sen. Phil Bartlett

Over the summer, I highlighted a new program designed to help homeowners make energy efficiency improvements to reduce consumption, and save money. The Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program has been a popular initiative and I thought I would share more information about other available resources that may be helpful.

Every month, the Governor’s Office of Energy Independence and Security (OIES) produces an updated report with a directory of energy incentives for homeowners, businesses, non-profits, and government entities. As a member of the Legislative Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee, I am aware that cost is a significant barrier for any energy project. OIES is able to identify programs that address this barrier through tax credits, rebates, low-interest loans, deductions for energy efficiency production and purchases, research and development, and pilot programs.

Many of the resources allow for projects such as energy efficiency for electric, heating and cooling systems; weatherization improvements; energy conservation in appliances; lighting, equipment, and other components; and the use of renewable energy sources like biomass, biogas, wind, solar, tidal and geothermal energy.

The OIES’ “Grant Connector” directory includes a variety of state and federal resources, along with a brief summary of each program. For example, the Finance Authority of Maine (FAME) offers innovative financial solutions to Maine businesses access capital to start up, continue in operation, expand or compete more effectively in the global marketplace. Efficiency Maine promotes more efficient use of electricity and helps Maine residents and businesses reduce energy costs.

There are also targeted programs for rural areas, farms, and forests. This clearhouse for energy efficiency programs is a helpful “one-stop” location for those looking for financial incentives. A complete list can be found online at: www.maine.gov/oies/grants.html. The site is updated as new opportunities become available.

One often hears - since it is now fall, I would like to pass along a great feature offered by the Maine Department of Conservation. It is the Maine foliage website. The site provides a weekly update on the foliage conditions around the state to help those interested in viewing Maine’s colorful fall scenery.

Dear Gorham Times,

I am writing this letter in support of Neil Jamieson for Cumberland County Commissioner. I have known Neil for many years in both a professional and private capacity. I believe that Neil has the right balance of education, experience and commitment to chart a course for Cumberland County.

Neil was elected to the Cumberland County Charter Commission and helped draft our current Charter during the past two years. He is a small business owner who knows what it means to cut costs and balance a budget. He has also demonstrated a great deal of involvement in community, civic and public activities/organizations. In Scarborough he has served on the Scarborough Soccer Travel Board as the Tournament Director and as a Scarborough Youth Lacrosse Coach for a number of years. He and his wife, Heather, served on the Scarborough YMCA Committee. Neil has also been on the Board of Directors for the Kids First Center for ten years serving as its president several years ago.

His work in helping to draft and implement the Cumberland County Charter will be critical to the new Board of County Commissioners as they begin their first full term under the new Charter. His expertise as a trial attorney will also serve the Cumberland County Commission as well. In short, Neil has the skills, the integrity and the know how to do a great job as our County Commissioner. Please join me in supporting and voting for Neil Jamieson on November 6th.

John Wise, Gorham

Dear Gorham Times,

Recently Westbrook gave its citi zens an opportunity to properly dispose of e-waste. They do this once a year as a free service. All they required from the citizen was proof of residence and they were limited to two items. People brought their items to a central location for collection. Westbrook doesn’t have a pay-per-bag system like we do. Their taxes pay for curbside pickup of their recyclables and non-recyclables.

So, I called Public Works to see if Gorham would be holding such a day. I was told that our town didn’t provide that service and was informed that Riverside Recycling would take my items for a fee. My next thought was to email the town manager to ask why Gorham couldn’t offer such a day once a year as a service for its citizens. My family has been recycling and composting long before our pay-per-bag system was instituted.

Unfortunately, I never received a response to my question. I realize that an e-waste disposal day is an expensive endeavor. However, once a year this could be a way for the town to say thanks for voting in the pay-per-bag system and for not dropping your e-waste on a back road some dark night somewhere in Gorham. By the way, our property taxes aren’t all that low for the services we receive.

I may be the only one who’d like to see our town sponsor such an event, but if I’m not, please call or email the town manager. Maybe we can have the same opportunity as towns around us enjoy.

Steve Pomelow

THANK YOU, JULIE CHANDLER!

Julie Chandler recently completed her second term on the Gorham Times Board of Directors. Her first term was from 2006 to 2008, and her most recent term began in 2009. Thank you, Julie, for your great insight and for having a strong interest in the community and well being of the paper.
Natalie Poulin, a licensed aesthetician and member of Associated Skin Care Professionals, recently opened her new practice, Skin Care Clinic of Gorham. The clinic, located at The Carriage House on Elm Street, shares office space with the Chiropractic and Massage Clinic of Gorham.

A native of Nashua, NH and recent graduate of Spa Tech Institute in Westbrook, Poulin dabbled with a fashion merchandising and business administration education before realizing that skincare had always been her passion. “I’ve always loved skincare and makeup,” says Poulin, “probably from watching my mom take such good care of herself when I was a child.”

Skin Care Clinic will offer facials, peels, body treatments and waxing, says Poulin, who has had advanced training in waxing, including the eyebrow, lip, leg and bikini areas. A customized facial will generally include a five minute consultation while your feet soak in a warm, aromatic foot bath followed by makeup removal, cleansing of the skin, exfoliation, steaming, extractions, facial massage, mask and moisturizer. All this is performed while comfortably swaddled on a heated bed table in a dimly lit room with relaxing background music.

Glycolic and enzyme peels are used to reduce the appearance of fine lines and wrinkles by shedding dead skin cells and replacing them with new, softer skin for a more even skin tone and youthful appearance. Body treatments are especially effective when skin is extremely dry, explains Poulin. The moisturizing body wrap (herbal, mud, seaweed, or salt) and exfoliation process enable the skin to absorb and retain moisture more readily.

Poulin, who says she loves educating her clients about skincare, says the most important skin tip she can offer women of all ages is to “moisturize, use sunscreen and especially wash your face at night.” The clinic will use a professional skin care line called Bioelements that contains no synthetic fragrances, no animal by-products and no artificial colors. It is a product line created to treat individualized skin needs, from anti-aging to acne. Poulin believes with the commitment of her patients, she can help make a significant difference in the appearance of most skin problems. “I love working with people and making them feel good about themselves,” says Poulin. To learn more about the Skin Care Clinic and services it provides visit www.skincaregorham.skincaretherapy.net.

Skin Care Clinic of Gorham
8 Elm Street, Suite 1
Gorham, ME 04038
(207) 839-6800
www.skincaregorham.skincaretherapy.net
Old-Fashioned Library Gets New Librarian

Lorraine Jonassen, the new head librarian of the South Windham Public Library in Gorham, knows where to find every single book on the ceiling-to-floor shelves of the library without so much as the help of a computer or an old-fashioned index card catalogue. With only a moment’s thought, Jonassen pops up reading and highly recommends. What’s so unusual about that? Jonassen, who has also recently accepted the job as library treasurer, is just a few months away from her 90th birthday.

The “little yellow library,” located in the Little Falls neighborhood of Gorham, abuts the Presumpscot River Watershed and sits a few yards from the Windham town line. The original South Windham Library was located in a store across the street from the Windham Fire Department during the 1920’s, explains Jonassen, and after the fire department expanded in 1934, the town donated the 12 by 24 foot “hose-house” to the library along with $300 worth of books and cards. The building, now with its mustard colored exterior walls and green shutters, was moved across the river to its present site in Gorham. A 12 by eight foot addition was added to the original building.

Jonassen and her late husband, Norman, bought their home and land from S.D. Warren in 1978, and little did they know they had purchased the library as well, as the building had never been registered with the county’s Registry of Deeds. The Jonassens sold it back to the Town of Gorham in 1992 for a whopping $1. Although located in Gorham, the name ‘South Windham Public Library’ stuck. The shelves are filled to capacity; the newer bestsellers occupy the prime real estate on the aisle tables. Some of Jonassen’s favorites are Leon Gorman’s “LL Bean: The Making of an American Icon,” and James Witherell’s unauthorized yet friendly biography “LL Bean—The Man and his Company.” The classic collections of Nancy Drew, the Hardy Boys and the "Five Little Peppers Abroad," a book series written by Margaret Sidney between 1881 and 1916.

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Some investments are appropriate during your working years, while others are more suitable for retirement. But a Roth Individual Retirement Account (IRA) can provide you with benefits at virtually every stage of your life. Let’s take a quick journey through some of these stages to see how valuable a Roth IRA can be.

To begin, you can open a Roth IRA at any age, provided you have earned income and meet certain income limits. So if you’re just starting out in your career, put as much as you can afford into your Roth IRA and gradually increase your contributions—up to the contribution limit—as your income rises. A Roth IRA is an excellent retirement savings vehicle because it can grow tax free and your contributions can be invested into just about any investment you choose—stocks, bonds, mutual funds, CDs and so on.

At a young age, you might not be thinking much about retirement. But the earlier you start contributing to a Roth IRA, the more you could end up with—and the difference could be substantial. In fact, if you started putting money into a Roth IRA at age 30, and you contributed the maximum amount each year until you reached 65, you would accumulate more than $766,000, assuming you are in the 25% tax bracket and you earned a 7% return, compounded annually. But, given the same assumptions, you’d end up with only about $365,000 if you waited until 40 before you started contributing.

It clearly pays to contribute early and annually to a Roth IRA. (In 2011, the annual contribution limit is $5,000, or $6,000 if you’re 50 or older.) There are additional benefits to funding a Roth IRA, such as its flexible withdrawal options, which are available to you even before you retire. Since you already paid taxes on the money you put into your Roth, you can withdraw your contributions at any time without paying taxes or penalties. Generally speaking, it is certainly best to leave your Roth IRA intact for as long as possible. But if there is an emergency and you need access to the funds, you can also withdraw your Roth’s earnings tax free, provided you’ve held your account at least five years and you do not start taking withdrawals until you’ve reached 59 1/2 years of age.

Now, let’s fast-forward to your retirement. Unlike other retirement accounts, such as a traditional IRA or a 401(k), your Roth IRA does not require you to start taking withdrawals at age 70 1/2—or ever. If you don’t need the money, you can leave it alone, possibly to grow further, for as long as you like. This means that you might have more money to bequeath to your children or other beneficiaries, and they will not have to pay income taxes on withdrawals from either your contributions or your earnings, provided your Roth IRA account has been open for at least five years. Keep in mind, though, that your beneficiaries will be required to take distributions based on their life expectancy.

As you can see, a Roth IRA can be an excellent financial “traveling companion” as you go through life. So consider adding a Roth to your portfolio—and bon voyage.

Ed Doyle operates the Gorham branch office of Edward Jones. He is experienced in all aspects of financial planning, retirement income planning, tax-advantaged education savings plans. Printed with permission from Edward Jones.
Rachael Stewart to Appear in WPXT Game Show

Compiled by Stacy Sallinen

Rachael Stewart, an eighth grade student at Gorham Middle School, learned a highly coveted spot in WPXT’s new game show, “Kick Start.” Stewart will be competing against 26 other eighth grade students from around Maine for a $5,000 Neotensin College Investing Plan. Not only will she subject herself to rigorous trivia tests, but also to a messy showdown with a giant pie-wielding chicken.

“We wanted to create a show that was fun for kids,” said John Marshall, the show’s creator, producer and host, also the rabid chicken? Tune in to find out.

Stewart was asked what she wanted to do in her future. Her response: to be a photographer. She enjoys taking photographs and thinks it would be fun to travel and capture everything. While she isn’t completely certain of her path, she is interested in working for a magazine, possibly in the fashion industry or interior design.

“Kick Start” is part of a larger initiative aimed at getting seventh, eighth and ninth graders thinking about college. In partnership with NextGen, Warner cable and channel 51 on Dish network. The program, turn on WPXT October 20 at 7:30 p.m. WPXT is channel 12 on Time Warner cable and channel $1 on Dish network.


Merit Scholarship Names Commended Students

Compiled by Stacy Sallinen

Gorham High School is pleased to honor five students for being named Commended Students in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program. A letter of commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation will be presented to the following seniors: Joseph DeRoy, Sophie Little, Olivia Marshburn-Ensek, Matthew Southard, and Ellyn Touchette.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2012 competition for National Merit Scholarships, the students placed in the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students who entered the competition by taking the 2010 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

“I am very proud of our five students from GHS,” said Principal Chris Record. “They each scored in the top 50,000 of the 1.5 million students who took the PSAT last October. More importantly, they each make positive contributions to GHS in the classrooms, the hallways, and through their involvement in multiple school activities. They are among the best of the best that GHS has to offer.”

Joc, Sophie, Olivia, Matt, and Ellyn make GHS a better place every day.”

Student Ambassadors Ready to Lead

Becky Fortier, Assistant Principal, Great Falls Elementary School

Sixty-five talented, motivated, and excited students were appointed to the role of Student Ambassadors at Great Falls Elementary School. Students from grades four and five were invited to apply for this appointment by completing a written assignment with their reasons for becoming school leaders, role models for others, and ways to make their new school even better.

With this appointment comes great responsibility. Student Ambassadors are very important members of the Great Falls school community, and have agreed to live the Code of Conduct every day. Student Ambassadors are an integral part in planning school-wide activities, such as work in the H.O.P.E. Garden, service learning projects, school assemblies, and more. They will also support younger students as they become acclimated to the school.

Student Ambassadors meet once or twice per month. During the first meeting in September, Ambassadors took their individual and group photos, recorded their pledge statement to be used during the first school-wide assembly on October 21, planned for their first Kindness Counts project, and started the CLYNK collection campaign to raise money for the H.O.P.E. Garden.

These busy students are ready to make huge contributions to the Great Falls community and beyond. We are looking forward to a great year with our Great Falls Student Ambassadors leading the charge!
Gorham High School
“ACES” It Forrest Plaisted

On September 21, students at Gorham High School (GHS) witnessed an assembly like no other. Organized by the Green Team, the school’s environmental club, students were educated by the Alliance for Climate Education (ACE). Gorham was not the only school to which ACE presented. A week before the presentation at GHS, ACE had just presented its environmental program to its one-millionth student, including 150,000 students in New England alone. ACE is a national organization that runs only on donations.

“It was amazing!” said Olivia Marshburn-Ersek, vice president of the Green Team. “I really loved how it had animations, how funny it was, and how it got kids interested in protecting the environment.”

Within one week of showing the presentation, the Green Team’s attendance skyrocketed. There were six times as many members at the meetings as there were before.

“We hope to take our knowledge and our love for the environment out to the people of Gorham,” said Forrest Plaisted, president of Green Team. “The climate crisis is one that we can solve, but it will take a united effort. We can’t nor should we sit back and say ‘Oh well, nothing I can do will help.’ However, with that kind of attitude, we seal our own death and the death of our planet that supports all living life – plants, animals and humans.”

The Green Team is now a partner with ACE, which provides projects in which all schools can participate. One project in which GHS will be participating is the “Biggest Loser,” a national competition to see which school can drop the largest amount of carbon pounds in four weeks. The grand prize is $1,000 to help the winning school become more energy efficient. There will also be a prize of $500 awarded to a regional winner for New England.

The Green Team’s long-term goal is to raise enough money for the purchase and installation of solar panels on the roof of GHS. This project would reduce carbon emissions by 70,000 pounds from GHS alone. The Green Team has been holding a number of fundraising projects during the past year and a half in an effort to reach the total cost of the project, which is $57,565. Donations from individuals and businesses are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible. If you are interested in donating, contact Forrest Plaisted at forrest.plaisted@gorham.k12.me.us.

Making a Difference Through Juice Boxes

Students from Mrs. Simmons’s fifth grade class at Narragansett Elementary School collected and sent empty juice pouches to TerraCycle, a recycling company that paid them two cents per pouch. Students then donated the money to Kiva, a non-profit organization whose mission is to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. Kiva envisions a world where all people have an ability to create opportunity for themselves and others by providing safe, affordable access to capital to help those in need. Pictured counting juice pouches are Haley Thompson, Michael Knight, Tucker Himuston and Riley Jerome.

school notes

For more information on the following Gorham Adult Education classes, please visit www.gorham.maineadulted.org.

MaxOSX Wednesday, 10/19, GMS, 6-9 p.m., $21
Windows Operating System Wednesday, 10/26, GMS, 6-9 p.m. $21
The Hula Hoop Workout for All 6 classes, Tuesdays, 11/1-12/13 (no class 11/22), Village School, 6-7 p.m., $35
Brand Aide Tuesday, 11/1, GMS, 6-8 p.m., $50

Catherine McAuley High School focuses on girls—so they can focus on academic achievement, winning championships, championing their causes and succeeding in college.

McAuley Open House
Sunday, Oct. 23 at 1pm

Catherine McAuley High School 631 Stevens Avenue, Portland, ME 04103
Register at mcauleyhs.org or call 797-3802 x 2022

Want to be a champion?

Dedication Ceremony and Community Open House Great Falls Elementary School

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2011
2:00 P.M.
73 JUSTICE WAY
GORHAM, ME

- Featured guest speaker will be Donald Shviski, Maine State Superintendent of Instruction
- Guided tours provided by Great Falls Student Ambassadors
- Unveiling of the Dedication Plaque
- Choral and Poetry presentations by Great Falls students
- Light Refreshments

Great Falls Elementary School is situated on 20+ acres of former farmland just off of Route 237, and features energy-efficient and other design elements that take advantage of the natural setting.

The public is cordially invited

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO CELEBRATE THE DEDICATION OF THE brand new GREAT FALLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WITH A PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE.

Features include:
- Guided tours provided by Great Falls Student Ambassadors
- Unveiling of the Dedication Plaque
- Choral and Poetry presentations by Great Falls students
- Light Refreshments

Great Falls Elementary School is situated on 20+ acres of former farmland just off of Route 237, and features energy-efficient and other design elements that take advantage of the natural setting.

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WATERBORO 40 ACRES—Great location to build your new home! Potential to create small subdivision. Price! $109,900

PERFECT DAYCARE LOCATION
Walkability close to Buxton’s new school. Former medical offices w/ income from 2nd flr qtr. $209,900

GORHAM $214,900—2 BR home w/ hwd floors in sunny living room. 2 car garage w/storage and workshop. Level half acre lot.

BUXTON $49,900—1 ac lot ready for your home or mobile home w/ drilled well, septic, power, driveway & concrete pad on site.

CUMBERLAND MILLS AREA
Perfect meeting hall or could be a two unit, located in Westbrook, 4,096 square feet. $99,900

GORHAM VILLAGE LOT—Walk to everything from this level lot on Aiken Lane. Water & sewer available. $65,000

HOLLIS 8.7 ACRES—Possible 2 lots, level sandy soils (great drainage), R.O.W. to privacy, yet close to schools, major roads. $55,900

STANDISH 18 ACRES—Building lot close to Saco Lake. Survey work completed as split lot after 5 year waiting period. $69,900

GORHAM $239,900—3 BR, 1.75 BA Colonial on 1 A7 acre lot. Custom cherry kitchen, hwd/tile floors, 2nd flr laundry, walk out bsmt.

BUXTON RANCH $159,900—One floor living! 3 BR, 1 BA, hwd flrs, updated systems, 1 car garage. Lovely flower gardens & private backyard.

HOME ON 7 ACRES—Raised Ranch w/large deck on 3 sides w/views & gazebo. Great entertainment room! $389,900

STANDISH 18 ACRES—Building lot close to Saco Lake. Survey work completed as split lot after 5 year waiting period. $69,900

GORHAM $124,900—2 BR home w/ hwd floors in sunny living room. 2 car garage w/storage and workshop. Level half acre lot.

HOLLIS 8.7 ACRES—Possible 2 lots, level sandy soils (great drainage), R.O.W. to privacy, yet close to schools, major roads. $55,900

GORHAM 1.38 ACRE LOT—Excellent location on the Westbrook side of Gorham just 5 miles to Mall area. Overlooking rolling fields. $69,900

BUXTON $49,900—1 ac lot ready for your home or mobile home w/ drilled well, septic, power, driveway & concrete pad on site.

WATERBORO 40 ACRES—Great location to build your new home! Potential to create small subdivision. Price! $109,900

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HOLLIS 8.7 ACRES—Possible 2 lots, level sandy soils (great drainage), R.O.W. to privacy, yet close to schools, major roads. $55,900

STANDISH 18 ACRES—Building lot close to Saco Lake. Survey work completed as split lot after 5 year waiting period. $69,900

GORHAM $239,900—3 BR, 1.75 BA Colonial on 1 A7 acre lot. Custom cherry kitchen, hwd/tile floors, 2nd flr laundry, walk out bsmt.

BUXTON RANCH $159,900—One floor living! 3 BR, 1 BA, hwd flrs, updated systems, 1 car garage. Lovely flower gardens & private backyard.

HOME ON 7 ACRES—Raised Ranch w/large deck on 3 sides w/views & gazebo. Great entertainment room! $389,900

STANDISH 18 ACRES—Building lot close to Saco Lake. Survey work completed as split lot after 5 year waiting period. $69,900

GORHAM $124,900—2 BR home w/ hwd floors in sunny living room. 2 car garage w/storage and workshop. Level half acre lot.

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GORHAM 1.38 ACRE LOT—Excellent location on the Westbrook side of Gorham just 5 miles to Mall area. Overlooking rolling fields. $69,900

BUXTON $49,900—1 ac lot ready for your home or mobile home w/ drilled well, septic, power, driveway & concrete pad on site.

WATERBORO 40 ACRES—Great location to build your new home! Potential to create small subdivision. Price! $109,900

PERFECT DAYCARE LOCATION
Walkability close to Buxton’s new school. Former medical offices w/ income from 2nd flr qtr. $209,900

GORHAM $214,900—2 BR home w/ hwd floors in sunny living room. 2 car garage w/storage and workshop. Level half acre lot.

BUXTON $49,900—1 ac lot ready for your home or mobile home w/ drilled well, septic, power, driveway & concrete pad on site.

CUMBERLAND MILLS AREA
Perfect meeting hall or could be a two unit, located in Westbrook, 4,096 square feet. $99,900

GORHAM VILLAGE LOT—Walk to everything from this level lot on Aiken Lane. Water & sewer available. $65,000

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Gorham Arts Alliance Receives Strong Community Support

Amy Valentine, President of GAA

The Gorham Arts Alliance (GAA) was formed in February 2011 with the mission to inspire, enrich and strengthen the community by offering cultural and educational experiences through the visual and performing arts. The GAA has accomplished so much since its formation.

The 2011 summer classes offered through the GAA and co-sponsored by the Gorham Recreation Department were a success. Classes offered included drawing, jewelry design, nature art, printmaking and an introduction to playing steel drums.

In addition, the Steel Drums Ensemble, whose purchase was facilitated by the GAA in April, involved students in grades five through nine, as well as adults from the community. Under the direction of Tracy Wheeler, the conductor at Gorham Middle School, the ensemble played in the Gorham Recreation Department’s summer concert series and at an event hosted by Matt Mattingly at PineCrest Bed and Breakfast.

The Steel Drum Ensemble is being offered this fall to students at GMS, and there is talk of starting an adult community ensemble in the winter or spring.

Many more opportunities will be offered throughout the fall and winter, including after school art classes, evening parent/child classes, Saturday workshops for both children and adults, and Gorham’s First Community Theater production of “The Universe and Other Stuff.”

In August, we were awarded a grant from the retailer Target, which will be used to facilitate workshops and/or an artist in residency in music and theater to teach awareness of diversity, respect and inclusion. Additionally, in September, the GAA was awarded an Arts and Humanities grant through the Maine Arts Commission to enrich the third grade Gorham history unit. The grant includes working with local artists and the Gorham Historical Society to create a living history of Gorham through the eyes of a third grader.

The Gorham Arts Alliance continues to grow due to the strong support of this community. Its purpose is to offer opportunities to encourage creativity, life-long learning, and the participation in the arts through after school clubs, vacation camps and classes, art shows, and art exhibits. It also strives to foster community relationships by working in collaboration with the Gorham School Department, Gorham Recreation Department, Baxter Memorial Library and University of Southern Maine Gorham. It is our intention to involve citizens of all ages in the programs.

We invite you to become involved in “Celebrating the Arts in Gorham.” Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at the Baxter Memorial Library from 5:00 to 6:45 p.m. For more information visit www.gorhamartsalliance.org, e-mail gorhamartsalliance@yahoo.com or contact Amy at 318-0584.

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First Woman Truck Driver Wins National Championship

Cindy Gray of Gorham made history when she won the International Food Service Distribution Association National Truck Driving Championship on September 24 in Orlando. A driver for Hannaford Supermarkets, she bested 53 drivers from 40 states to win the five-axle, daily delivery competition and is the first woman ever to win the Association’s championship, which is in its 25th year.

“All the practice paid off,” said Gray, who works out of the Hannaford South Portland Distribution Center. “I was so pleased when I finished the course because I knew I had scored on every problem on the test.”

The Association holds its skills competition annually to highlight the importance of safety and professionalism. The competition includes a driving course that simulates everyday road conditions, a written examination, and a pre-trip vehicle inspection where drivers try to identify five deficiencies introduced into a truck.

Gray has driven for Hannaford for the past five years and has been driving trucks professionally for 15 years, but this is the first time she participated in the competition. She first entered the competition that Hannaford held within the company, and she advanced to the state competition as well as the national competition for Delhaize America (the parent company of Hannaford). Winning the Delhaize competition qualified Gray to compete in the Food Service Distribution Association event.

“Driving was my way of getting out and seeing the world,” Gray said. “I’ve been driving trucks since I was 17 years old. I’ve been driving professionally for 15 years. I’ve done everything from the Midwest to the West Coast."

Gray has been with Hannaford for the past five years and has been driving trucks professionally for 15 years. She has driven for the company, and she advanced to the state championship as well as the national championship for Delhaize America (the parent company of Hannaford). Winning the Delhaize championship qualified Gray to compete in the Food Service Distribution Association event.

“The written test, the course driving test and the test to find hidden defects were all very challenging,” Gray said. “To get ready, I studied hard for the written test and kept reviewing the pre-trip inspection process. I also did some extra driving.”

Looking ahead, Gray is not sure if she will compete next year. “This being the first time, I’m new to all this so I’m not sure,” Gray said. “I’m sure that I will be encouraged to do so but we’ll see how things go.”

The GHS girls’ soccer team started its season with a 10-0 record and ranked among the top teams in Western Maine Class A. Playing for the team are front row from left to right: Allie Lurvey, Sierra Peters, Captain Lindsey Smith, Captain Kiersten Turner, Captain Audrey Adkison, Katelyn Gearan, Alex Sturtevant and Sarah Perkins. Back Row: Head Coach Jeannie Zarrilli, Manager Courtney Burns, Marissa Roberts, Meghan Cushing, Shannon Folan, Kristen Ross, Sarah Fogg, Emily DeLuca, Jess Rexrode, Abbie LaPorte, Kali St.Germain, Kate Hopkins, Erin Smith, Libby Andreassen, Morgan Cushing, Manager Kristen Braley, Assistant Coach Ryan Watts and Assistant Coach Steve Martin. Missing from the photo is Emily Lewis.

Turner and Adkison have led the way in scoring, and German scored a hat trick early in the season. The offensive balance the team has exhibited was demonstrated in an October 6 win over South Portland in which the scoring came from five different players including Adkison, junior Erin Smith, Cushing, Lurvey and freshman Emily Lewis.

On the defensive side, Zarrilli is taking Perkins out of her customary role of goalkeeper at times and putting her in the field to take advantage of her speed, which Zarrilli says is the fastest on the team. Zarrilli is also giving time in goal to junior Marissa Roberts in case she is needed during the playoffs. Other players fulfilling key roles on defense include Lurvey, Peters, and Lindsey Smith as well as junior Sarah Fogg and sophomore Jess Rexrode. An aggressive approach to the team’s success has been the play of juniors Libby Andreassen and Shannon Folan, who have contributed effectively at different positions.

Looking ahead, Zarrilli said the team will focus on scoring goals. “Four of our wins have come by just one goal,” Zarrilli said. “Our defense is doing a great job keeping the other teams from getting good scoring opportunities, but unless we learn to finish more often on the other end, we will be in danger of losing a game, even if we dominate overall. When we come up against good defenses, we need to learn to take our creativity and hustle to the next level.”
Youth Football Program Participation on Upswing

The Gorham Football Boosters organization, which oversees the youth football program in town, has seen a recent surge in the number of players participating during the past two years. Increased interest prompted the group to add a team at the second/third grade level, called the Cubs, in 2010. The fourth/fifth/sixth grade level, called Junior Grizzlies, added a second team for the first time this year. The program also has a team at the seventh/eighth grade level called the Grizzlies.

The program first began in 1997 with the Grizzlies followed by the Junior Grizzlies two years later. Greg Yahm, who is in his first year as the Gorham Football Boosters president, said the program now has approximately 135 players across the four teams. “This is the most players we have ever had,” Yahm said. “Coaches have worked real hard to promote the sport to attract new players. They encourage the kids to just give it a try, and most of the time they love it.”

On October 8 and 15 the Junior Grizzlies played in the program’s first two night home games. Most home games are played during the day at Narragansett School where the team also practices. The Cubs are coached by Wayne Young while Joe Hansen coaches the Maroon Junior Grizzlies team and Gabe Polchies coaches the Black Junior Grizzlies. The Grizzlies coach is Craig Bassingthwaite.

A whole new board was elected for this season and focuses strongly on fundraising. In addition to Yahm as president, the secretary is Donda Young, and the treasurer is Tracy Bassingthwaite. The vice-president position is vacant—anyone interested in filling this position is encouraged to contact Yahm. Other key contributors include Dave Kilborn, the GBHS varsity head football coach, and many Rams football players who come to practices on a regular basis to help the teams.

“We have benefitted greatly from their knowledge of the game,” Yahm said.

At press time the Grizzlies record was 4-2 after winning three games in a row, which also put the team in contention for the playoffs. The Cubs record at press time was 3-2, while the two Junior Grizzlies teams, which started their game schedule later, were both off to 1-1 starts.

“All the teams are playing well so far and looking ahead, we anticipate steady growth in the program,” Yahm said. “We hope to add a second team at the Cubs level next season and are working to make sure we have enough practice space.”

Senior Bowling Champs

Senior Bowling Champ: Gorham’s Linda Ford (right) won the women’s doubles competition and came in second in singles at the Maine Senior Games bowling competition September 22 at the Big 20 bowling alley in Scarborough. Competing in the 70-74 age bracket, Ford and her sister, Carol Varney (left) of Scarborough, teamed up to win the doubles competition with 471 combined pins for three strings each. In the singles competition, Ford knocked down 281 pins over three strings.
The hours for the Drop in Lakes Region Senior Center, at Little Falls School, 40 Acorn Street, Gorham are Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. FMI, lakes-region50@gmail.com or call Glenn Lynds at 893-9038, or drop by and check us out.

The 3rd Annual Frederick Robie Cup Adult Spelling Bee will be held on Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Old Robie School, 665 Gray Road, Gorham. Cash Bar and free food donated by The Sassy Dog Restaurant & Pub. Gorham Business Exchange members are encouraged to sponsor a team, to donate to the silent auction, or attend the event. Admission is $10. FMI, gorhamfilmaine.rr.com

The Gorham Business Exchange will sponsor a marketing/business development class through Gorham Adult Education called “Brand Aide” and “Brand Aide 2.” On Tuesdays, Nov. 1 & 8, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Gorham Middle School. Cost $50 per session. Marketing Manager Jason Terry for Genest Concrete in Sanford will be guest speaker. FMI, visit www.gorhammaineunited.org

Members of the Town Council, Rep. Jane Knapp and town officials toured New England Treads & Custom Millwork Inc located at 62 Sanford Drive. The company manufacturers custom made treads, risers, and moldings. The business relocated to Gorham as part of a concerted effort by the town to attract new businesses and increase economic development. Pictureed from left to right John Pressey, councilor; David Beaulieu, company president; David Cole, town manager; Rep. Jane Knapp; David Galbraith, zoning administrator; Noah Minier, councilor; Tom Johns; Tom Poirier, town planner; Tom Ellsworth, director of Gorham Economic Development Corporation; Matthew Robinson, councilor.

The Gorham Community Chorus started rehearsals for their holiday program with the Gorham Chamber Singers on Monday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Village School School. New members are always welcome. FMI, call Chorus Director John Rimkus at 839-3517 or email gorrima@verizon.net

The Friends of Baxter Memorial Library Book Sale will begin on Thursday, Oct. 13 from 9 to 9 p.m. at the Gorham Rec. Dept. (next to the library) for the Friend’s Member Preview Night. Not a friend? No problem. Join at door or buy pass for $5. The Public Sale begins Friday, Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. “Take what you want, pay what you want” Public Sale is Saturday, Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost $50 per session. Marketing Manager Jason Terry for Genest Concrete in Sanford will be guest speaker. FMI, visit www.gorhammaineunited.org

There will be a huge two-day Rummage Sale with low, low prices at the Crescent Road United Methodist Church, 81 Crescent Road, Gorham on Friday, Oct. 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 15 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Fill a grocery bag for $1 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday.) FMI, 839-3111.

A Chicken Pie Supper will be served at the First Parish Congregational Church in Gorham on Saturday, Oct. 22 at 5 p.m. $9/$5 under 12. All are welcome!

Fiddle-icious, Maine’s largest fiddle orchestra, will perform on Saturday, Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. at the McCormack Performing Arts Center at Gorham High School. Tickets at the door. $10/$8.

Save the dates for the 5th Annual Gorham Art Fair on Friday, Oct. 28 from 6 to 9 p.m. & Saturday, October 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Shaw Gym (behind Baxter Library). Spaces open for Vendors. FMI, www.gorhamartfair.wordpress.com or visit them on Facebook.

The Project Graduation team is off to a good start with two successful fundraisers! The GHS Project Graduation Committee will hold a Fundraiser Mattress Sale on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Robie Gym in Gorham. Brand name mattresses at 30-60% off, with delivery available. If you, or someone you know, is considering getting a mattress in the near future, please consider this sale... and spread the word! FMI, 632-0213.


The 15th Annual Gorham Marketplace will take place on Saturday, March 21 in the Costello Field House on the USM Gorham campus. Would you like to get involved “behind-the-scenes” of this annual event? FMI, email or call 892-5515.

Young Life, a Christian-based youth organization, hosts “Club” every Monday night at 7 p.m. (unless there is no school), October 17 through December 19 at the PTA Building/Old Robie School. Open to all high school students of any or no faith background. FMI, younglife@gorhammaine.com or 839-7857.

The Gorham Youth Soccer Association (GYSAA) participated in the Walk for Maine Children’s Cancer Program this fall, raising over $6200 for Lauren’s Team. Named after 11 year-old Lauren Hawkes from Gorham who played soccer, loved to dance, and was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia in 2001, but sadly died from her disease in 2003. The walkers included GYSAA kids, coaches, parents, and siblings.

**USM NOTES**

There will be a USM Open House on Sunday, Oct 23 from 12 to 4:30 p.m. at the Costello Sports Center in Gorham. Participants will meet faculty, staff, and students to learn more about the USM experience. FMI, (800) 880-4USM, ext. 62769 or www.usm.maine.edu/admit/campus-tours-and-events.
Mary Jenette Gray Lyons, 86

GORHAM — Mary Jenette Gray Lyons, of Gorham, formerly of Hiram and Baldwin, by the grace of God, passed into the presence of her Savior on September 30, 2011.

Mary was predeceased by her husband, Francis Lyons; her parents Laurence and Beatrice Gray; and her brother, Donald Gray and his wife, Joan; as well as a sister-in-law, Dorothy (Mrs. David) Gray. She is survived by her brother, David Gray, of Michigan; her sister and brother-in-law, Florence and George Cooper, of Naples, Maine; her daughters and sons-in-law: Marjory (Mrs. Harvey) MacLeod; Patricia (Mrs. Earl) Sanborn and Mary (Mrs. Kenneth) Walker; her sons and daughters-in-law: Francis (Deidre) Lyons; David (Delores) Lyons; John (Janet) Lyons; Paul (Beate) Lyons; Stephen (Nancy) Lyons; Matthew (Cynthia) Lyons; and Peter Lyons; thirty-three grandchildren; twenty-six great grandchildren; as well as ten nieces and nephews.

Visitation hours were held on Thursday Oct. 6th from 2-4 p.m. and 6 -8 p.m. at Dolby & Dorr Funeral Chapel, 26 State St., Gorham. A funeral service was held at Crescent Road United Methodist Church, 81 Crescent Rd, Gorham on Friday Oct. 7th at 9 a.m. Following the service, a reception was held at the church until noon.

There will be a private committal service for family members in Hiram, Maine.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Mrs. Lyons' memory may be made to: The Salvation Army, 297 Cumberland Ave, Portland, ME 04104.
Acorn Street caller reported that their neighbor’s chickens were running loose all over caller’s yard.

Nonesuch Road caller reported that there was a horse running around in the road.

Davis Annex caller reported they had asked their neighbors not to cross their lawn, but they did anyway.

Spiller Road caller reported that an individual threatened to burn their house down.

Dingley Springs Road caller reported a vehicle with a loud exhaust that had been driving around really slowly. Caller thought they were looking for residences to break into.

Elm Street caller reported a male at their restaurant who was intoxicated and was threatening to leave without paying.

North Gorham Road caller requested to speak with an officer regarding people calling on the telephone and offering caller money if they would pick up a green card.

Water Street caller reported that their “escape artist” dog was missing and somewhere in the woods.

Middle Jam Road caller reported a road rage incident where a female subject followed caller to their jobsite.

North Gorham Road caller reported receiving calls requesting they go to Walmart and buy credit cards to ship to caller.
THURSDAY, OCT. 13
• Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous will hold an Information Session from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Larrabee Village Admin Bldg. 
501 Liza Harmon Dr., Westbrook. The public is invited. FMI 775-2132 or www.foodaddicts.org.

FRIDAY, OCT. 14
• USM Music Fall Spotlight Concert Series, featuring Laura Kangur performing music of Franz Liszt, Corbell Hall, USM Gorham. $15/$10/$5. FMI 780-5555 to reserve seats.
• Gorham-Westbrook TRAD meeting, Gorham Town Hall, 8-4:30 a.m. FMI 839-5407.
• Friends of Baxter Library Book Sale, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Gorham Rec. Dept. (next door to library).
• Friends of Baxter Library Red Cross Blood Drive, 1 to 6 p.m., Shaw Gym (next door to library). FMI 1-800-DIVE-LIFE.
• Two-Day Rummage Sale, Cresey Road United Methodist Church, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCT. 15
• Mattress Sale, sponsored by Project Gorham Community Chorus, 7 to 9 p.m., Young Life, a Christian youth organization, Gorham town Hall, 8:45 a.m. FMI 839-4857. 
• Gorham Food pantry, 6 to 7 p.m. (located in preschool storytime for ages 3 to 5 yrs, TueSDAy, October 18.

TABLES, • Toddler Time, ages 18 to 36 mos., 10 a.m., Baxter Library, FMI 839-5001.
• Gorham Food Pantry, 9 to 11 a.m. (located in St. Anne’s Catholic Church parking lot)

TUESDAY, OCT. 25
• Preschool Storytime for ages 3 to 5 yrs, 9:30 a.m., Baxter Library, FMI 839-5031.

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 26
• Toddler Time, ages 18 to 36 mos., 10 a.m., Baxter Library, FMI 839-5001.
• Hot Dog Luncheon, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., St. Anne’s Catholic Church. $3.50. FMI 839-4857.2575.

THURSDAY, OCT. 27
• Story Hour for 3 to 5 yr olds, 10 to 11 a.m., No, Gorham Public Library. Stories, songs & crafts, FMI 892-2575.
• Baby & Me, birth to 18 mos., 9:30 a.m. at Baxter Library, FMI 839-5031.

FRIDAY, OCT. 28
• Preschool Storytime for ages 3 to 5 yrs, 9:30 a.m. at Baxter Library, FMI 839-5031.

SATURDAY, OCT. 29
• Toddler Time, ages 18 to 36 mos., 10 a.m., Baxter Library, FMI 839-5001.
• Gorham Food Pantry, 9 to 11 a.m. (located in St. Anne’s Catholic Church parking lot)
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