New Hours at Food Pantry

By DIANE O’NEILL
President, Gorham Food Pantry

The Gorham Food Pantry recently announced a change in operating hours. The Pantry has always been open Thursday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m., but to better accommodate client needs, the Pantry will also be open the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 6 to 7 p.m. The consistency of days and times, they hope, will make it easy to remember the hours of operation, which applies to clients and volunteers, as well as community members who donate produce during the summer growing season. If fresh produce is donated on Wednesdays, these items can be given to clients on Wednesday evenings or Thursday mornings. Keeping everything as fresh as possible. Additionally, evening hours will allow individuals who work during the day to better access the Pantry’s services.

Demand has increased over 20 percent in the last four years at the Pantry, which is up from 80 households per month to over 120 households served each month in Gorham. In 2012, new households per month were served. The Pantry has also seen a significant increase in the number of families with children.

The Gorham Food Pantry is located at 299B Main Street (in the Saint Anne’s Church parking lot) across from Narragansett Elementary School. For more information, please contact Gorham Food Pantry at info@gfpmaine.org. For regular updates of interest, please like the Pantry’s Facebook page, “Gorham Food Pantry Friends.”

Winter Photo Contest

In a recent contest posted on the Gorham Times’ Facebook page, Robin Mercier posted a photo of her two-and-a-half year old son Kason Mercier catching snowflakes on his tongue. Robin won tickets to a Portland Pirates game. Stay tuned on Facebook for more contests.

GHS Senior Volunteers at Presidential Inauguration

By STACY SALLINEN
Gorham Times Staff Writer

Forrest Genthner, a senior at Gorham High School, was selected among the many thousands of applicants to volunteer at the President’s inauguration ceremonies. Shock set in when he learned that not only would he be volunteering, but also attending one of two official balls—the Presidential Inaugural Ball.

Genthner spent four months volunteering for Obama’s reelection campaign. Assigned to the Windham office, he captained a team on the phone banks two days a week and spent his weekends knocking on doors to campaign in New Hampshire. When Genthner heard the president had been reelected, he was again inspired to volunteer his time. Genthner submitted his application to the Presidential Inauguration Committee under the direction of Senator King’s office. While in D.C., Genthner toured the national landmarks in capital city, the White House, and also attended policy briefings. He was assigned to volunteer at the candlelight celebration for the President’s donors on Sunday, January 20, where he provided directions to guests.

A highlight for Genthner was watching the President and First Lady dance at the ball to Al Green’s “Let’s Stay Together” and watching Alicia Keys perform “Girl on Fire,” cleverly tweaked by Clinton.

Knowing what it felt like to go without pay for months at a time, Angelo decided to start a community foundation dedicated to helping people in need during times of crises who may not have the financial means and a similar public reputation.

Photo courtesy of Forrest Genthner

GHOP’s Reed Allen Community Foundation Begins First Phase

By KAREN D’DONATO
Gorham Times Editor

Often positive events are sparked from negative ones. According to Fotine Sotropoulos, daughter of Angelo Sotropoulos, owner of Gorham House of Pizza (GHOP), Angelo found a blessing in disguise despite a fire that devastated the GHOP building in April of 2012, and a subsequent cancer diagnosis. Through community support, money was raised to help GHOP’s employees, Angelo recovered from surgery and the building was reconstructed. Feeling surprised with the community support he received, Angelo wondered what would happen to people with lower community profiles than his. Would they receive as much if any community support? Knowing what it felt like to go without pay for months at a time, Angelo decided to start a community foundation dedicated to helping people in need during times of crises who may not have the financial means and a similar public reputation.

The idea of the Reed Allen Community Foundation was born to honor Angelo’s good friend John Reed, Angelo’s longtime friend and Gorham police officer, and Mark Allen, whose son, Dana Allen, died from cancer in his 20s. The foundation, still in its infancy, will consist of a board that will meet regularly to decide how to distribute the money based on incoming requests. One of the first to volunteer as a board member was Jon Smith of Great Falls Construction, the company Angelo chose to reconstruct the building.

With Angelo’s community-helping idea, his daughter’s keen corporate America business sense, and the help of social media, they auctioned off the first 50 lunches, with each bid serving five people. The luncheon would also serve as the restaurant’s soft opening. When the money started flowing in from individuals, companies, and even children, Fotine decided to offer the meals to anyone who pledged money. In just one week, the foundation raised $5,875 in seed money. Participants included National Attachments, Moody’s Collision Center, PlusTech, Inc., Joy Ruby, Shaw Brothers, V&M Equipment Rentals, Party Time Rental, Great Falls Builders, Gorham Sand and Gravel, Demetrius Team-The Real Estate Group, The Jamess Gang, Gorham Recreation Department, The Barnards, O’T Motorsales, Willis Real Estate, Stacy Burns, and Jill Mansir.

The Reed Allen Community Foundation is only in the first phase of being created. After meeting with lawyers and fully forming the board of directors, more information will be announced as it becomes available. To pledge money or to request more information, please contact Fotine Sotropoulos at fotropoulos@hotmail.com.
NEWS FROM AUGUSTA

It’s Time to “Get to it” in Augusta

BY SEN. JIM BOYLE
State Senator

I am still adjusting to the fact that my passion for Maine, our environment and natural resources, and our people led me to where I am today, serving Gorham, part of Scarborough, and part of Westbrook as State Senator. This is a true honor and I am looking forward to working with my colleagues during the 126th Maine Legislature.

After my colleagues and I were sworn in last month, I was named Senate Chair of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources, and a member of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee. Since then I have been busy meeting with constituents and community leaders, preparing committees for the upcoming session, and considering legislation.

There is a lot of work to do this Legislative Session, and Democrats outlined their top priorities on January 9. Legislative Session, and Democrats out-lined their top priorities on January 9.

by strengthening our economy and building the middle class by:

• developing Maine’s workforce by addressing the skills gap
• strengthening Maine’s public schools and early childhood education
• lowering health care and energy costs for more families and small businesses, and

• investing in Maine’s future through research and development and maintaining Maine’s roads and bridges.

Addressing each of these areas will be crucial to putting Maine’s unem-ployed and underemployed back to work in good paying jobs, and preserv-ing these jobs in Maine for the future.

A recent study noted that between now and 2018, there will be 4,000 unfilled jobs in Maine because Maine workers do not have the necessary skills. Wanting lists for job training programs like nursing are part of this problem. These are good paying jobs, and ensur-ing access to education is necessary.

We must also make sure our stu-dents are receiving the best possible education in our public schools. Providing our children with quality early childhood education and ensur-ing our teachers have the tools they need to be successful will be critical to Maine’s economic future.

The burden of rising energy and healthcare costs are making these times ever tougher for Maine families and small businesses. We can put more money in their pockets now by sup-porting measures to increase energy efficiency and improve care manage-ment. For our long-term economic growth, we need to diversify our ener-gy resources and emphasize preventive health care.

Investing in research and develop-ment and Maine roadways is economic common sense. Recent research by the Maine Technology Institute shows that $1 invested in research and development will bring $12 in economic ben-efts to our state. Fixing our worn-out infrastructure will create jobs now.

There’s a lot of work to do, and it’s time to roll up our sleeves and get to it! I want to hear from my constitu-ents, as it is my job to represent you in Augusta.

By Sherrie Benner

Gorham Times Staff Writer

Gorham recently welcomed the New Year with New Year Gorham, which featured a variety of performanc-es, snow sculpture contest, spaghetti dinner and a spectacular grand finale of fireworks. Event activities were located at various venues throughout the village. During the late 1920’s and up through the 1940’s, Gorham held an annual Winter Carnival on Alden’s Hill (beyond the intersection of College Ave and Flagg Meadow Road, behind the current location of Edgewood Animal Hospital). It was a much-antici-pated celebration. Sponsored by the Gorham Village Community Club, it was a mid-winter event that drew large crowds. One year the Portland Press Herald reported over 2000 cars parked on Ossipee Trail and a thousand people. The fun began with a dog race over a six-mile course. There were also snowshoe dashes and bag and potato dashes with contestants on snowshoes. Bag dashes were carried on with bags placed overhead and the potato races required picking up potatoes along the course. Additionally, there were cross-country ski races, downhill ski-ing and snowshoes races. Villagers displayed flags and many homes sported snow sculptures in their front yards. While this year’s snow replica of the newly renovated Gorham House of Pizza won first prize. As we enter the New Year’s Eve Gorham sculpture competi-tion, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln were the subjects of snow sculptures back in the day.

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GHS Graduates Make a Big Difference in Elections

By Chris Crawford
Gorham Times Staff Writer

Three Gorham High School graduates made a big difference in the November elections here in Maine, as well as nationally. Aaron Duffey (GHS ’01) and David Loughran (GHS ’97) and their small Portland political consulting company, CD2, organized, wrote, produced and shot television ads for Mainers United for Marriage and developed the paid communications strategy for the Maine Democratic Party’s successful effort to gain majorities in the House and Senate.

CD2 also did work for the successful campaigns of Elizabeth Warren’s Senate bid in Massachusetts, Maggie Hassan’s gubernatorial campaign in New Hampshire, and Rep. Carol Shea-Porter’s Congressional race in New Hampshire, and for several candidates in Florida, Michigan, Maryland and Wisconsin.

David’s brother, Chris Loughran (GHS ’99), who owns a Boston-based video production firm No-End Media, shot some of the footage used in the ads. The ads that CD2 produced for the Yes on 1 campaign were noticeably different from typical political ads. Their powerful, poignant storytelling commanded the viewer’s attention as a variety of Mainers, from all walks of life, spoke about the importance of marriage for all. From the fireman urging support so one of their “brotherhood” could have the freedom to marry, to 90-year-old WWII veteran, Harlan Gardner and his family, hoping for marriage by popular vote. “CD2’s ‘marriage for all’ could have the freedom to marry, to 90-year-old WWII veteran, Harlan Gardner and his family, hoping for marriage by popular vote. “CD2’s ‘marriage for all’ could have the freedom to marry, to 90-year-old WWII veteran, Harlan Gardner and his family, hoping for marriage by popular vote. “CD2’s ‘marriage for all’ could have the freedom to marry, to 90-year-old WWII veteran, Harlan Gardner and his family, hoping for marriage by popular vote. “CD2’s ‘marriage for all’ could have the freedom to marry, to 90-year-old WWII veteran, Harlan Gardner and his family, hoping for marriage by popular vote. “CD2’s ‘marriage for all’ could have the freedom to marry, to 90-year-old WWII veteran, Harlan Gardner and his family, hoping for marriage by popular vote. “CD2’s ‘marriage for all’ could have the freedom to marry, to 90-year-old WWII veteran, Harlan Gardner and his family, hoping for marriage by popular vote. “CD2’s ‘marriage for all’ could have the freedom to marry, to 90-year-old WWII veteran, Harlan Gardner and his family, hoping for marriage by popular vote. “CD2’s ‘marriage for all’ could have the freedom to marry, to 90-year-old WWII veteran, Harlan Gardner and his family, hoping for marriage by popular vote. “CD2’s ‘marriage for all’

Aaron Duffey and David Loughran’s interest in the political realm began at an early age. When he was 10, Duffey remembers going door-to-door, handing out fliers for a friend’s dad who was running for Gorham Town Council. He also credits Gorham High teacher Dave Farrington with sparking an enduring interest in all things political. “His class was the first time I really got excited by politics,” said Duffey, who graduated in 2005 from the University of Pittsburgh with a major in Political Science and Communications. Loughran’s political career also began when he was young. He remembers going to the polls on election night with his mother, Connie, who was Deputy Town Clerk at that time. “I was absolutely fascinated watching elections being decided as the returns came in,” said Loughran.

In addition to their love of politics and their commitment to progressive causes, Duffey and Loughran also share a desire to live and work in Maine. “Technology changes everything,” said Duffey. “It means we can be here with our families, make a living and compete with firms anywhere in the country.” In 2011, their ad supporting marriage rights of Wisconsin working people brought them recognition from national journalists like Rachel Maddow and Lawrence O’Donnell. CD2’s website says it best. “They are storytellers for the digital age and the public responds to their work because it is heartfelt and honest.”

The future looks bright for this talented firm. They have proven they can produce campaigns that are powerful, poignant and compelling. They are winning over voters in New York and D.C. firms and win contracts based on the exceptional quality of their work. The Human Rights Campaign recently hired CD2 to produce a 30-second marriage equality television ad, with a voice over by actor Morgan Freeman, which aired in key markets around the country.

To learn more about their company or to see many of their ads, visit CD2 at www.projectstvcd2.com.

This past election was a huge success for us and for the people of Maine
David Loughran (GHS ’97)
Two years ago, a four-year-old dog named Nina was deemed untrainable and the owners were advised to put her down because of her aggressive nature. After biting an animal control officer, Jesse Dalton boarded Nina at his home. He exposed her to other dogs, other people, and in many environments. The root of the problem was that Nina was sensitive, afraid, and unsure how to act in various situations. Her first instinct was to protect herself. After her ten day “Board and Train” with Sit Means Sit, Nina reunited with her owners who were confident that their transformed dog could live a happy life without the presence of fear.

Jesse Dalton, in partnership with owner Dave Skoletsky, operates the franchise called Sit Means Sit, a Massachusetts-based dog training business, whose main focus is to renew the relationship between a dog and its owner. While Skoletsky handles the South Shore, Dalton covers the North Shore of Massachusetts, NH, and Maine. No matter the issue, the age or breed of dog, Sit Means Sit assures that every dog has the ability to learn and every owner has the ability to lead their dog in the right direction.

What makes this dog training business unique is that they are focus based. The main goal is for the dog to pay attention to the owner and minimize distractions that would otherwise cause disobedience. Just like every human being, every dog deserves a quality life, and one flaw does not define the dog’s character.

Sit Means Sit works with owners seeking help for their aggressive dog. To fully understand aggression, the origin must be pinpointed. There are two types of aggression: fear-motivated aggression and dominance-based aggression. Aggression can either be fear motivated or dominance-based. Learned aggression can be fixed whereas genetic aggression cannot be fixed, yet can be managed. Dalton also trains dogs with wide variety of other behavior issues such as submissiveness or just plain goodiness.

Sit Means Sit offers different programs where the owner learns to train their dog and the dog learns to act with obedience. Private lessons or board and train programs are available. Each lesson is one hour and they train anywhere and everywhere. They can come to your home or you can set up a place to meet where they include one-on-one training. They handle each dog individually because no dog is alike. Most importantly, they want to build confidence in your dog and ensure trust so your dog can follow your lead and respect you as an owner.

Sit Means Sit Massachusetts opened in 2010. Dalton’s training sessions operate right out of Gorham. For more information on training, visit mass.sitmeanssit.com or schedule a training session by calling (508) 444-8878.
The Importance of an Oil Change and Car Efficiency

By Doug Carter
Owner of Carter's Auto Service, Inc.

Changing your oil is the best maintenance you can do for your car. Everyone preaches it, but what is the reason? Oil is the lubrication of the engine. The internal combustion engine has been around for over a hundred years, and its basic concept has not changed much. What have changed are the materials and the refinements in the manufacturing of the engine. Turbo chargers, super chargers, four valves per cylinder and variable cam timing are all developments that technology has brought us.

The normal operating temperature of the engine is around 200 degrees while some components can run up to 600 degrees and even hotter. Oil prevents these components from destroying each other as they move inside the engine. For example, the bearings on the crankshaft never touch the connecting rods; there is a thin film of oil between the crankshaft journal and the bearing.

To improve efficiency and to lower exhaust emissions, car manufacturers have been lowering the viscosity of engine oil. Viscosity is the property of a fluid that resists the force causing the fluid to flow. So 5W30 has the characteristics of five weight oil at cold temperatures—when first starting the engine—and has the characteristics of 30 weight oil at normal engine operating temperatures. Additives are added to the oil to give it these characteristics, even though oil does not break down the additives well. After the additives have broken down, the remaining oil will start to lose its properties in the oil ports on the inside of the engine. Just like the arteries in your body, these ports can get restricted or blocked. When this happens, vital engine parts lose the lubrication they need causing the moving parts to grind together and cause severe damage.

You may not notice any problems if you let the oil change go over by a couple of thousand miles, but if this is done all the time, the resulting damage will become apparent with time. There have been reports in the media about oil changes not being needed for up to 5,000 miles. Just consider this fact: it is acceptable by most car manufacturers for new vehicles to burn up to a quart of oil every 1,000 miles. If the engine only holds four or five quarts, you could destroy an engine if the oil level is not checked. There are not many full service gas stations around anymore to check levels, and I do not think checking engine oil is high on anyone’s to do list.

The cost of changing the oil at least every 4,000 miles is minimal compared to major engine repairs. Synthetic oils are required in more vehicles today and they have longer lives too. 7,500 miles is the average recommended service interval. Synthetic oils can be manufactured to a zero weight, such as 0W20. This is not possible with conventional oils. Synthetic oil changes cost more, but with the longer service interval, it averages out to roughly the same cost. Obviously it is very important to check the level between changes.

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

Lessons from a Teen Mom-for-a-Day

By Megan Bennett
Gorham Times Intern

In December I was a teen mom for less than 24 hours. Although this may seem like so little time, I learned the responsibilities of caring for an infant requires tedious tasks and deprivation of sleep. Granted, this was a simulation baby designed for extra credit in my health class. The baby was a product of Nasco’s Ready-or-Not Tot. This mannequin was equivalent to a five-pound baby, was anatomically correct, and came in four different ethnicities. I was required to take the baby home from school at 2 p.m. until the time I arrived back at school, 7 the next morning. During this time, the doll demanded a student’s attention for periods of five to 30 minutes for each tending occurrence, in which I cried until I turned it off. To stop it from crying, which sounded like a cross between a cat screech and an alarm clock, I had to insert keys labeled “attention,” “diaper,” “change,” “feed,” and “buppy” into the back of the control box. The tricky part I did not know which one was going to stop the crying. To keep me from going insane, the program also offered a panic button to stop the crying momentarily without discontinuing the entire simulation. If that happened, I would have been required to log the time and how I was feeling at the next morning. During this time, the teacher managing the project could see if I tampered with the control box, abused the baby, or used the panic button.

I had to carry the baby with me to a Gorham Times Meeting that night, where most of the adults thought for a moment it was a real child. Even more embarrassing, it cried twice during the meeting interrupting everyone. Now I know how a mother feels when their baby cries in public and suddenly the spotlight is on her. It was frustrating and somewhat embarrassing. At this point I couldn’t imagine being a teen mom and having this actually happen.

Once I got home, it cried another four times before I even attempted to go to bed. This was probably one of the worst nights of my life, which is a stretch to say, but in all seriousness, I value my sleep. After waking up at least six times it was still only 2 a.m. and I was about to have a mental breakdown. My head hurt and my body throbbed every time the baby cried in public and suddenly the spotlight was on me. It was frustrating and somewhat embarrassing. At this point I couldn’t imagine being a teen mom and having this actually happen.

I am absolutely sure I learned the lesson my teacher was trying to stress. Babies are time consuming and require so much responsibility and I didn’t even have a real baby. This simulation was an excellent opportunity to understand the huge responsibility of just one night with a child. I know for sure that less than 24 hours was enough for me to comprehend that I will not be having a baby for a long time. Although this was just a school assignment, it was still a huge eye opener to the world of being a teen mom.

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Lessons from a Teen Mom-for-a-Day

Lessons from a Teen Mom-for-a-Day
Town Council Report

By ROBIN SOMES
Gorham Times Staff Writer

An item commanding much attention at this month’s Town Council meeting was an authorization for a referendum to be presented on June 11 for voter approval. The referendum was regarding a Public Safety facility for the fire and police departments at Little Falls School at a cost of $6.3 million.

Owens McCullough, a member of the Public Safety Building Committee, made a presentation highlighting the needs for new accommodations, options offering different scenarios, and the Committee’s recommendation. Committee members include Chair Brenda Caldwell, Councilors John Pressly, Michael Phinney and Suzanne Phillips, ex officio members David Cole, Police Chief Ron Shepard and Fire Chief Robert Lefebvre, and community members Kathy Garrard and Owens McCullough. Brian Curley and Adam Holmes of PDT Architects are team consultants.

An investigation of the Public Safety Building resulted in a long list of issues, many representing safety hazards. McCullough reviewed many of the issues that included:

- Lack of adequate space for emergencies
- No sprinkler system
- Lack of space for training and meetings
- Lack of a chemical and biological hazard decontamination area for removal of fire fighting related hazardous materials

Fire Department issues:

- Lack of separate overnight facilities, bathroom and showers for men and women
- Lack of appropriate and secure storage for medical supplies
- Inadequate vehicle storage/fire bays

Police Department issues:

- Bookings for arrests being performed in a nonsecure area
- Safety in the transfer of prisoners from vehicle to booking area
- Poor or no separation between staff and confrontational members of the public
- Inadequate evidence room that does not meet custody standards
- No impound area for vehicles or large pieces of evidence for pending court cases

McCullough described seven issues that included:

1) Renovate Little Falls School, construct a new fire station, and renovate the Public Safety Building for Police: $8,083,002
2) Demolish Little Falls School, construct a new fire/police facility: $6,703,038
3) Renovate Little Falls School for the fire department, keep police at the unrenovated Public Safety Building: $6,478,543
4) Renovate Little Falls School for fire and police, use the unrenovated Public Safety Building as a fire substation: $6,222,768
5) Renovate the Public Safety Building for fire and police, ignoring Little Falls School: $5,827,353
6) Relocate police to Little Falls, keep fire at the Public Safety Building: $5,496,908
7) Renovate the Public Safety Building for as much as $4 million will allow, but do not address all basic standards, Little Falls School or the replacement cost of South Windham Fire Station shared by Gorham and Windham.

McCullough reported that the Committee’s recommendation is option four, though option five presented the best alternative although it did not address Little Falls School.

The Councilors responded. Phillips noted that although she understood the importance and needs for this endeavor, she would vote against it because of the recent, weak economy that has affected Gorham residents whose taxes would pay for it.

Shonn Moulton pointed out that approving the referendum would allow the citizens to make the decision on this issue through their vote.

Phinney elaborated on Moulton’s response, noting that a Councilor’s duty is to devise plans and make recommendations for the benefit of the public, but that it should be the public who ultimately decides if an item is approved through voting. He also pointed out that with low interest rates, now is an optimal time to act.

Pressey agreed with Phinney regarding the current available tax rates and pointed out that prices in general will begin an upward trend and delaying the project implies a significantly higher price. He noted he is an advocate for Gorham’s future and supports acting prudently so the town can meet the needs of a growing population.

Chair Philip Gagnon stated he is supportive of the project but does not support moving fire and police to Little Falls since it is out of the vicinity of the town center and would be less beneficial to residents throughout southern Gorham.

The referendum was approved 4-2 (Gagnon, Phillips).

In other action, the Town Council voted:

- 6-0 to appropriate $175,000 from Capital Part 2 funds for environmental cleanup and demolition of White Rock School.
- 6-0 to rescind the order approved last September authorizing a referendum for $4 million for repairs to the Public Safety Building.
- 6-0 to authorize the town to submit an application for a Community Development Block Grant for up to $25,000 to update the Village Master Plan, with a local match of $4,000 from the Planning Reserve Account.

Meeting minutes are available at: www.gorham-me.org/Public_Documents.

Chief Shepard Reports

The Grand Jury returned the following indictments in January:

- Ryan Bell, 25, of Gray was charged with criminal threatening and assault by Gorham Police Department.
- David Fournier, 51, of Gorham was charged with theft (prors) and violating conditions of release by the Scarborough Police Department.
- Joshua Greenwood, 30, of Gorham was charged with possession of scheduled drugs by Maine Drug Enforcement Agency.
- Matthew lougee, 25, of Windham was charged with criminal threatening and assault by Gorham Police Department.
- Amanda Southard, 33, of Gorham was charged with theft (prors) by South Portland Police Department.
- Paul Tukeey, 19, of Gorham was charged with trafficking in prison contraband by the Cumberland County Sheriff’s Office.

Gorham Night: Connections with USM and Town

By SHERRI BENNER
Gorham Staff Writer

The University of Southern Maine and the Huskies’ Athletic Department recently hosted “Gorham Night,” a well-attended reception and the first in a series of events to celebrate the connections between the University of Southern Maine and the Town of Gorham. Serving as a backdrop for the event, Gorham Night was held during the USM Huskies men’s and women’s basketball games against Plymouth State University at the Gorham Costello Sports Complex. While the event primarily was to focus on the longstanding partnership between USM and the Gorham Recreation Department (both games included halftime performances by the third and fourth graders in the Recreation Department’s Basketball Program), the overall objective was to explore ways to increase the relationship between the town and USM, to create and enhance a college-town atmosphere. Gorham residents and town officials were invited to join USM staff and Alumni for the reception.

In her remarks, USM president Theodora Kalikow stated that with 511 employees, USM is the town’s biggest employer and that 850 college alumni call Gorham home. Additionally, USM’s music, art, and theater departments bring 7,200 visitors to the campus each year and athletic events, such as the USM vs. Plymouth basketball games, are already a big draw to the campus with 275,000 yearly visitors. In addressing the need to increase the college’s presence in the village, Gorham Town Council Chairman Philip Gagnon suggested bringing university buildings into town adding that “it could help strengthen the village concept.” This event was seen as a success and a foundation for continuing opportunities for more collaboration between the college and the community. As for the outcome of the basketball games, Town Manager David Cole, with ties to both universities, wished each team the best of luck.

Photo credit Sherrie Benner

Rich Obrey Photography

- Portraits
- Family
- Sport
- Business

415-2705

PLANS FOR NEW BUSINESSES IN GORHAM

Gorham will see several new businesses opening in the coming months.

Papa John’s Pizza hopes to open in March in the space next door to Dunkin Donuts on lower Main Street.

AT&T plans to open next door to Papa Johns but details have not yet been firmed up. A third storefront at that location remains available for lease.

An auto sale and repair business will be opening in part of the former Carpet Barn location at 664 Main Street.

A business that plans to have a used car lot at 669 Main Street (next to Crockett Furniture) is applying to the Zoning Board of Appeals for permission to tear down the existing building on the property and replace it with a new building.

Tinsel Bright has rented out the back part of their space to a nail and massage parlor. Access will be through the entrance on School Street.

Anderson Equipment has been approved to move forward with their plans for the former Plan-It Recycling site but have not yet started work on this site.

Clerk’s Corner

First Half of the Year Overview

By Connie Loughran
Town Clerk

Happy New Year. As we start off 2013 I wanted to give you an overview of the first half of the year. There has been a change in the fees charged for the use of credit and debit cards. The fee is 2.45 percent of the transaction total with a minimum fee of three dollars.

Currently we are in the grace period for licensing dogs. A late fee and license fees will go into effect on February 1. The Unlicensed Dog list will be turned over to the Animal Control Officer who will be visiting homes to ensure all dogs are licensed. Maine vets are currently required to forward to the state copies of all rabies certificates issued. Several times a year the state forwards these certificates to the town in which the dog is living. These dogs are entered into our database and listed as unlicensed. Dogs may be licensed in our office or online through www.gorham-me.org.

In February we will start looking for citizens who would like to serve on boards or committees of the town. For a complete list and description of boards and committees visit our website where there is an application available. If you would like to submit an application, include a brief resume with your application.

In June we will have the School Budget Validation Election. Every three years citizens are asked if they wish to continue approving the School Budget through the Budget Validation Election process. Also on the June ballot will be a referendum question regarding issuing bonds to expand, renovate, improvement or replacement and equipping of the old Little Falls School as a Public Safety Building.

These are some of the items on which we will be working in the Clerk’s office. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Town Clerk Connie Loughran can be reached by e-mail at cloughran@gorham.me.us or by phone at 222-1670.

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School Committee Report

By Robin Somes
Gorham Times Staff Writer

Beginning January’s School Committee meeting, the commit-tee voted unanimously for Kathy Garrard to fill the position held by Anne Lawrence, whose move out of Gorham forced her to resign. Garrard previously served on the Committee for three years.

Speaking as a community member, Kathy Garrard began an overview of the Gorham Schools Business Roundtable, a group that has been meeting since November 2011, to address the subject of preparing students for success after graduation.

She noted the media attention on the gap between skills employers require and what young people are able to offer, which the group was formed to address. Members of the local business community were made aware of what has been going on in the schools, especially regarding career preparation. Garrard commended the business people who have been participating in moving the agenda forward, and listed the following group members: Michelle Belliveau, Gorham House; Demetra Chadbourne, Demetra’s Team Real Estate; Shaun Moody, Moody Collision Centers; Dede Perkins, Gorham Business Exchange; Jon Smith, Great Falls Construction; and Becky Winslow, Gorham Savings Bank.

Recent participants are Mike Wing from USM, GHS Principal Chris Record, Village Elementary Assistant Principal Jodi Mezzanotte, and GHS Guidance Counselor Kim Bedrosian.

Garrard cited two areas of focus:
1) What are we doing to expose kids to the career options that are out there?
2) How can we best prepare students to enter the working world?

Discussions included what schools have been offering such as the GHS Senior Internship program where seniors spend two weeks in a business environment, eighth grade Career Day where visiting speakers talk about their careers, and support from the guidance department in helping students in the career/college process. The guidance department now uses Naviance, a web-based tool that helps bridge K-12 education to appropriate college/career goals by revealing skills, personality profiles, career profiles and college searching options.

Another initiative being considered is a Cooperative Education program, where students work part of the school day and receive course credit along with related class instruction. Although this is not a common program throughout Maine, it has been researched and could be a future possibility. Currently underway is a partnership with the Gorham Marketplace. Garrard pointed out that this is a good opportunity for students to be exposed to various businesses in one location. It is anticipated that this would start small, with subsequent growth occurring over time.

Dede Perkins of the Business Exchange is facilitating this effort.

GHS Principal Chris Record also spoke about available programs. He talked about the Junior Job Shadow program, noting that “although class time is invaluable, so is getting students out into the field” and experiencing things firsthand. Juniors spend one day with a professional at a business, organization, institution or school. The objectives Record noted are:
1) Gain information about possible future career interests
2) Observe the daily work routine, from the start to the end of the day
3) Gain insight into the academic, technical and personal skills required of that particular occupation
4) Understand the connection between school and work
5) Set goals

Record commented that 137 students participated in the program this past November, with professionals including law enforcement, school social work, teaching, veterinary, audiology, underwater writing, television, and chiropractic care. Feedback from this program has been great, according to Record, whose hope is that this will lead to senior internships. He introduced Bree Hoyt, who spoke about her Junior Job Shadow experience. She explained that through persistence, she was able to secure a job with Dr. Martha Hart, a large animal veterinarian at the Blackstrap Hill Veterinary Clinic in Cumberland. The day included visits to a pig breeding farm, and another farm where Dr. Hart gelded a stallion. Hoyt expressed her appreciation for the opportunity and stated that the “day confirmed my choice of what I want to study and what I want to be.”

African Library Project

Led by fourth and fifth grade classes, students from Village School are teaming up to volunteer their time and donate their gently used books to start a 1,000 book library for a school in Swaziland, Africa. Over 700 books have been collected and over $200 has been raised to cover the $500 shipping cost. If you would like to contribute funds or books, please contact Victoria Reynolds at vreyolds1981@hotmail.com or place donations in the box located in the entrance of Village School.

Gorham Holds Annual Geography Bee

By Jeff Carpenter
GMS Student

The 2013 Gorham school district Geography Bee was held on January 22 at the Gorham Middle School auditorium. Forty-two students qualified for the event but due to illnesses and rescheduling conflicts due to weather, twenty-five students were able to participate. Missed preliminary questions brought the group to the top ten. Tied for third place was seventh grader Christian Hubbard and sixth grader Will Zidle. Second place went to seventh grader Andrew Harpula.

ADK Advisory Committee Work Continues

By Stacy Sallinen
Gorham Staff Writer

Since October, the All-Day Kindergarten (ADK) advisory committee has held several meetings to explore the possibility of expanding Gorham’s current half-day kindergarten program to an all-day kindergarten program.

The ADK committee was originally scheduled to present its findings to the school committee in a workshop scheduled for the end of November, but requested an extension after realizing that a thorough, data-driven report could not be completed within the timeframe provided. The advisory committee hopes to have a recommendation ready to be presented to the school committee in February or March.

Minutes from the ADK advisory committee meetings can be found at www.gorhamsschools.org. The public is welcome to attend meetings.
Physics in Action

BY BARBARA MORGAN
GHS Instructional Technology Specialist

This year I have been co-teaching in classrooms with the intent of assisting teachers in the use of technology as a means of moving beyond the traditional lecture model of classroom instruction. By using the co-teaching model, I am able to work with the content area experts and learn the expectations of the 21st century education classroom. This enables us to create technology integration opportunities that fit the unique climate and specific curricular needs of the students. We are also able to implement learning strategies that enhance student engagement and help foster motivation for student-centered learning. We are able to spend more classroom time working cooperatively as educators, as well as on a one to one basis with students as they acquire content using diverse teaching techniques and learning strategies.

This semester I will be actively participating in a physics class using this co-teaching model. We will be using iPads for data collection, accessing online resources and lab activities. The teacher will be equipped with an iPad to use as an interactive whiteboard for content creation and lecture demonstrations. She will also be able to record her lectures and notes, mark-up documents and create screen-casts of lab experiments and post them on a website for easy access. Supplementing text materials will be infused in the learning process for online interactive simulations, lab projects and investigations using e-textbooks (provided by www.ck12.org). The iPad will provide the opportunity for flexibility and differentiation of student learning while simultaneously providing access to multiple physics resources provided by the teacher.

The digital content is not saved to a classroom computer, but rather on a website that will be seen in the months ahead. Students will be given rights to the material on a one to one basis with students as they acquire content using diverse teaching techniques and learning strategies. This enables us to create technology integration opportunities that fit the unique climate and specific curricular needs of the students. We are also able to implement learning strategies that enhance student engagement and help foster motivation for student-centered learning. We are able to spend more classroom time working cooperatively as educators, as well as on a one to one basis with students as they acquire content using diverse teaching techniques and learning strategies.

The teacher will be equipped with an iPad to use as an interactive whiteboard for content creation and lecture demonstrations.

BY LIZZY LEMIEUX
Student

In December, several teachers and one student from Gorham Middle School were awarded grants from Berlin City Auto Group’s program ‘Drive for Education’ totaling $6,000. The awards will be used to benefit education in various ways throughout the school each day, as well as across the sea this summer.

Among the winners was Tracy Williamson, a music teacher at GMS. Mrs. Williamson’s grant will be used toward iPads benefiting the steel band that has grown significantly over the past two years. The technology will give participants the chance to further their musical knowledge through a new app specifically designed for the practice of steel drums.

Evy Turnbaugh, a GMS student, was awarded a grant that will go toward the John Phillip Sousa European Tour, taking place this summer. It will support many students in this opportunity to see the world, providing valuable life experience as well as creating memories not soon forgotten.

A grant to be used for technology was awarded to Mrs. Fotter, a social studies teacher. She plans to add iPads to her classroom, furthering her students’ knowledge of technology as well as adding a new element to her teaching strategies.

Heather Whitaker, a teacher in the GMS alternative education program, won yet another grant to provide opportunities to her students that go beyond the classroom. She uses the natural environment to teach many skills, including agriculture, healthy choices, and team building. To participate in those outdoor excursions, however, students require the appropriate gear, which the grant will help provide.

With the remarkable advancements teachers will be able to make, the new experiences teachers will be able to provide, and the unique opportunities students will be given, these grants have made many differences in the school that will be seen in the months and years to come.

GMS Benefits from Berlin City’s Grant Program

The GHS music department is holding a mattress sale fundraiser on Sunday, February 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to raise money for a trip to Washington, DC. All styles and sizes with over 20 different mattress sets. 30-60% off retail prices - starting at $199. Credit, debit, cash, or checks accepted.

The Gorham High School Guidance office is collecting data from the Class of 2012 on students’ post-graduate placement. Members are encouraged to contact Kim Bedrosian from the guidance department at 222-1088 to complete a quick survey or can visit the following link: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dHJvnkZHlWhrtvdfumdtWl9Jbzrud1e6mQ

Gorham Adult Education is looking for volunteers to tutor English language learners. If you have a few hours per week to volunteer, they would love to hear from you at 222-1095. FMI or to register, visit www.gorhamadulted.org and click the “News” tab.

Gorham Adult Education’s new Winter/Spring 2013 Course Catalog is out. They are offering several personal enrichment courses geared towards a healthy lifestyle. FMI or to register, visit www.gorhammaineadulted.org or call 222-1095.
Boys' Swimming: Nate Roberts finished third in a five-team slalom meet January 18 at Shawnee Peak with a time of 1:42.63.

Girls' Skiing: Marissa Roberts was named the Portland Press-Herald girls' Skier of the Week on January 24 after a slalom victory of nearly 12 seconds in a five-school meet at Shawnee Peak on January 18. She remained unbeaten on the season with a giant slalom victory in a six-team meet on January 25.

Boys' Swimming: Tim Smith won two individual events in a three-team meet January 19 including the 200-meter freestyle with a time of 1:56.40 and the 100-meter butterfly with a time of 1:58.59. Smith also joined Caleb Goodall and Timmer Sposato to win the 200-meter medley with a time of 1:40.42.

Girls' Swimming: During a four-team meet on January 19, Lindsey Thomsen won two individual events: the 200-meter medley with a time of 2:25.85 and the 100-meter breast-stroke with a time of 1:15.02. She was also a member of the winning 200-meter freestyle team (1:54.03) that included Logan Letourneau, Ashley Clark, and Megan Thomson.

Boys' Hockey: Two big wins against Bonny Eagle (5-2) and Portland (6-5 in overtime) vaulted the Rams into fifth place in the Western Maine Class A rankings. Against Bonny Eagle, goalkeeper Justin Broy stopped 38 of 40 shots while Blake Babineau scored one goal and earned two assists. Chris Hardy, Spence Cowand, and Dylan Turner all finished with one goal and one assist. Against Portland, Chris Hardy scored three goals while Mick Mansir scored two including the overtime game-winner. At press time, the Rams were 6-6-1 on the season.

Girls' Hockey: With two games left in the regular season at press time, the Rams were 6-6-1 on the season. Chris Hardy scored three goals and one assist. Against Portland, Turner scored one goal and earned two assists. Chris Hardy, Justin Broy stopped 38 of 40 shots against Bonny Eagle goalkeeper. Against Portland, Turner scored one goal and earned two assists.

Boys' Basketball: The team completed an 8-6 regular season with 12 athletes qualifying for the SMAA Championship February 2 at USM:


Girls' Track: The team completed an 8-6 regular season with 12 athletes qualifying for the SMAA Championship February 2 at USM:


Six of these athletes—Benson, Jackie Turner, Laura Turner, Southard, Swiatek and Smith—had also qualified for the State Class A Championship at USM on February 18. At press time, Smith had turned in the third-best senior shot put distance of the season for the SMAA at 33-2 while Benson had turned in the third-best time for the junior 200 meters with a time of 27.96.

Boys' Track: At press time, Travis Grant had turned in the best triple jump of the season in the SMAA conference with a distance of 41-11. He had also turned in the third-best long jump at 20-00.

Julian Nijkamp had turned in the second-best time in the senior 55 meter hurdles with a time of 8.20 while Alex Johnson had the third-best pole vault at 11-00.
Cheerleading Competition

The GHS Cheerleading team placed second in the Western Maine Class A Cheerleading Championships at the Augusta Civic Center on January 26 to earn a spot in the State Championship that takes place February 9 at the Bangor Auditorium. The squad had also place third in the SMAA Cheerleading Competition held in Scarborough on January 19. Competing for the squad and pictured above, front row from left to right: Jennifer Pinkelman, Kara Stahl, Amanda Foster and Hannah Rozivladder. Middle Row: Maagan Yuskula, Ashley Aceto, Savoy Boyd and Allison Webber. Back Row: Kate Curley, Julia Pinkelman, Kara Stahl, Amanda Foster and Hannah Rovillard. According to Ginny Cross, founding president of the organization, the group’s first big effort was to organize a trade show for the membership. It grew into Gorham Marketplace, an event that involves the entire community.”

Over the last 20 years, the organization that is now called The Gorham Business Exchange (GBE) has supported the business community and the town of Gorham in ways large and small.

In 2012, GBE was an active community participant. The organization awarded two scholarships to Gorham High School seniors. One scholarship was given to a student with an incredible record of community service, and the other was given to a student with a bright future in the business world.

A team of GBE volunteers shopped, assembled, and distributed Thanksgiving dinners to nearly 60 Gorham neighbors in need. The organization supported health and wellness, as well as community spirit and pride, by sponsoring the water at the Burn-Off/The-Turkey Race and the horse-drawn carriages at New Year Gorham.

In 2012, GBE joined forces with the Gorham School Department and other business leaders to form the new Gorham Schools/Business Roundtable. This committee is dedicated to connecting Gorham students with the business community and is working to increase awareness of career opportunities in Maine’s “new” economy.

In addition, as it has done since 1993, the Gorham Business Exchange held monthly member meetings and receptions from September through June. The organization also published the annual Gorham Business Directory, ran Gorham Marketplace, awarded the Gorham Business Person of the Year, and organized the Fore-a-Scholarship Golf Tournament.

To celebrate its 20th anniversary and to improve the quality of its events, the Gorham Business Exchange recently hired Amanda Bacon to fill the organization’s newly created Event Coordinator position. If you would like to learn more about the Gorham Business Exchange or if you would like to join the organization, visit www.gorhambusiness.org.

Gorham Business Exchange Celebrates 20 Years

By DeDe Perkins
Executive Director of GBE

Twenty-odd years ago, a small group of Gorham business owners who had been getting together to discuss doing business in the town of Gorham and to share work strategies, decided that others might like to join their group. They wrote a mission statement, sent incorporation papers to the State of Maine, and in January 1993, the Gorham Business and Civic Exchange was born.

According to Ginny Cross, founding president of the organization, the group’s first big effort was to organize a trade show for the membership. It grew into Gorham Marketplace, an event that involves the entire community.”

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Holidays Tournament Champs

The Huskies Youth Hockey Association PeeWee Team consisting of 11 to 12 year olds from local towns including five players from Gorham, won its annual Holiday Tournament with a 3-2 win over Keene, NH in the title game. Players from Gorham include Holden Edwards, Trevor Gray, Jack Niles, Jack Richards, and Tyler Weeks. Pictured in the photo above is the entire team, front row from left to right: Cameron Chamberlain and Robert Maynard II. Second row: Jack Niles, Jack Richards, Alan Hutchins, Trevor Gray, Graham Payne, Tyler Weeks and Hunter Russo. Third row: Assistant Coach Robert Maynard, Assistant Coach Mike Payne, Head Coach John Spring, Brogan Kane, Holden Edwards, Domenic Lorenzatti, Zach Spring and Tyler Brackett.

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Sports Etc.

GHS Football to Move to Class B: As part of an overall review of class designations in all high school sports, the Maine Principal’s Association has approved expanding the number of classes for football from three to four. The GHS football team, which has played in Class A since the 2005 season, will shift to Class B as part of the realignment.

Three-on-Three Basketball to Fight Cancer: The 19th-annual Dr. Noel Paradise Memorial Co-Ed Swish-Out and Junior Swish-Out Childhood Cancer Challenge takes place February 10 at USM in Gorham. The adult tournament is a three-on-three, co-ed, double-elimination event open to adults 18 or older. Entry fee is $100 per team with all funds going to the Maine Children’s Cancer Foundation. For more information, contact Jon Paradise at 773-5671, ext. 273 or jparadise@mainecul.org. Entry forms can be downloaded at www.mainecul.org.

Lacrosse Clinic: The USM men’s lacrosse team hosts its annual Lacrosse Clinic for boys’ lacrosse players in grades 3-8 on February 10 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Costello Field House in Gorham. Participants learn defensive/offensive fundamentals and receive evaluations; they must bring full pads, basketball/tennis shoes (no cleats) and a mouth guard. The fee is $35 per player. For more information, contact Coach Sam Lane at slane@usm.maine.edu.
**Community Business Directory**

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January 31, 2013 | gorhamtimes@gmail.com | Gorham Times | 13
DEAN’S LIST
The following students were named to the 2012 fall semester Dean’s List:

Steven Albanese (GHS ’11), University of Delaware
Solange Carpenter, Lasell University
Sarah Doughy (GHS ’12), Saint Joseph’s College
Nicole Gile (GHS ’12), University of Wisconsin – Madison
Brendan Ham, Lasell University
Leigha Kerwin (GHS ’10), University of Connecticut
Adrienne Rosenblatt (GHS ’12), Cornell University
Deireann Stillson (GHS ’12), Quinnipiac University
Nellika Stirling (GHS ’09), University of New Hampshire
Alexandra Sturtvant (GHS ’12), Delaware Valley College
Seth Wing (GHS ’11), Bryant University

The following students from Gorham were named to the University of New England’s Dean’s List for the fall 2012 term: Melissa Deering, Angelika Kaskjanov, Ekaterina Kashmar, Kendal Nicey, Marissa Patton-Harris, Kelsey Polyno, Mason Roy and Haleigh Leigh.

The following students were named to the Dean’s List at Saint Joseph’s College for the 2012 fall semester: Meghan Garrard, Emily Hamblen, Christina Maiorino and Michelle Walls.

MILITARY NOTES

OF INTEREST
Adam Lord (GHS ’05) has earned a Master of Science in Nuclear Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Josh Pahigian, author of “Strangers on the Beach,” will talk about his work at the North Gorham Public Library on Thursday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m. The Maine writer’s debut mystery plays out on the sand and streets of Old Orchard Beach. FMI, 892-2575.

Meghan Garrard (GHS ’08), a Psychology major at St. Joseph’s College in Standish, recently completed a weeklong service trip to Haiti helping the people in a village on the outskirts of Port au Prince.

Paul Morse (GHS ’12), a Theology major at St. Joseph’s College in Standish and Caite Robinson (GHS ’10), an Exercise Science major at St. Joseph’s College, each completed a weeklong service trip to Guatemala volunteering in a village three hours west of Guatemala City.

GMS student Abby Eck, age 11, created a fundraising idea of selling photo cards she made. She collected $107 for her charity of choice, Canine Commitment, a local volunteer group that helped connect her with her adopted dog, Hailey. Canine Commitment greatly appreciated her support and commended her initiative.

Auditions for the all-new Portland Sea Dogs Dance Team will be held on Saturday, Feb. 9 at the Dance Studio of Maine in Gorham for boys and girls with dance, cheerleading or gymnastics experience. Auditions will be held from 1-3 p.m. for kids ages eight through 10 and 3-5 p.m. for ages 11 and older. An “open audition workshop” will be held on Friday, Feb. 1 from 6-8 p.m. for all kids and to meet the coach and get more information. FMI, call 839-6161 or email seadogsdance@hotmail.com.

The Gorham Woman’s Club will hold a meeting on Thursday, Feb. 14 at First Parish Congregational Church in Gorham. The group meets at 12:30 p.m. for refreshments with a 1 p.m. business meeting. Speaker Anne LaPlante from Hannaford’s in Scarborough will speak on “Making Healthy Choices.” All are welcome. FMI, 839-6375.

The Gorham Knights of Columbus Council #10221 will start their Friday Lenten Fish Suppers at St. Anne’s Catholic Church on Main St. in Gorham beginning Friday, Feb. 15 through April 5 from 5 – 6:30 p.m. Meal includes fresh haddock, (or cheese pizza for those not eating fish), mashed potatoes, peas, homemade coleslaw, roll, drinks, and dessert. 9 children/$5 children. FMI, Mike Foster 653-0057.

USM NOTES
Astrid Bowby, USM’s current Artist-in-Residence, is currently working on “EVERYTHING,” a drawing installation that will run through March 6 at the Art Gallery in Gorham. All events are free and open to the public 12-4 p.m. through Sundays. FMI, 780-5008 or www.usm.maine.edu/gallery.

The University of Southern Maine will be awarding nearly $1.3 million in new scholarships for first-time students who enroll for the fall of 2013. All eligible students who apply for admission by April 1, 2013 will be automatically considered for the scholarships. FMI, write to usmadm@usm.maine.edu or call 780-5670.

The USM School of Music presents “‘Maine’ by British Brass,” on Friday, Feb. 8 at 8 p.m. Corbett Concert Hall, USM Gorham. An outstanding group of USM faculty and alumni perform the best brass music in memory of the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble of England. $15/$10/$5. FMI, 780-5555 or usm.maine.edu/music.

USM presents “CreateMaine,” part of Maine Entrepreneurship Week and National Entrepreneurship Week where successful entrepreneurs from a variety of disciplines tell their inspiring stories to an audience of young people. Free with prizes! Monday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m., Corbett Concert Hall, USM Gorham. FMI, 780-5555 or usm.maine.edu/music and createmaine.com.

ON-GOING EVENTS
The Lakes Region Senior Center, 40 Acorn St. Gorham, offers a variety of daily activities and drop-in classes for seniors. Stop in for morning coffee or play pickleball, poker, bingo or cribbage. Join in on exercise, watch a movie or learn to knit. FMI, 274-3537.

The Southern Maine Agency on Aging will hold office hours every Thursday from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at St. Anne’s Catholic Church in Gorham to help seniors with questions regarding Medicare benefits, prescription drug programs, property tax and rent rebates and more. FMI, call SMAA at 396-6500.

The Gorham Cancer Prayer and Support Group will meet the first Tuesday of every month (Feb. 5) at 6 p.m. at the Crescent Road United Methodist Church. All are welcome. FMI, 321-1390 or 839-3111.

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**CALENDAR**

**THURSDAY, JAN. 31**
- Early Release for grades K-12.
- Baby and Me, baby story time for ages 18-36 mos., Baxter Library, 10 a.m. FMI, 839-5031.
- Gorham Food Pantry, 9-11 a.m., located in St. Anne's Catholic Church parking lot.

**FRIDAY, FEB. 1**

**SUNDAY, FEB. 3**
- Friends of Baxter Memorial Library Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Baxter Library.
- Toddlers in the Library, for children under 3 yrs., 10-10:30 a.m., No. Gorham Public Library, 2 Standish Neck Rd. FMI, 854-2575.
- Senior Community Meal, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., St. Anne's Catholic Church, $3.50. Everyone welcome. FMI, 839-4857.

**WEDNESDAY, FEB. 6**
- Prayer Shawl Knitting Group, 1-2:30 p.m., St. Anne's Catholic Church. All are welcome. FMI, 321-1390 or 839-3111.

**FRIDAY, FEB. 8**
- Westbrook-Warren Congregational Church Community Dinner, 810 Main St, Westbrook, 12-7 p.m. FMI, 854-9157.

**THURSDAY, FEB. 14**
- Baby and Me story Time, birth to 18 mos., Baxter Library, 9:30 a.m.
- Toddler Time, story time for ages 18-36 mos., Baxter Library, 10 a.m.
- Babysit for 2 children. FMI, 838-0132.

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