

Gorham Times

Your Community Paper

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A FREE, Non-profit, Biweekly Community Newspaper since 1995

Village Launches Revitalization

GORHAM TIMES STAFF

The Town of Gorham is the latest municipality in Maine to join the Maine Downtown Network, a program that uses a proven economic development approach to downtown revitalization. Maine Downtown Center Program Director Anne Ball announced Gorham's acceptance into the program at a "Toast to Main Street" event in Westbrook on November 9.

"We are thrilled to have Gorham as part of the Maine Downtown Network program. During our visit to Gorham, our site visit team was particularly impressed by the diverse group of stakeholders that are enthusiastic and willing to support the long-term efforts to revitalize Gorham Village. It was clear that the municipality, local businesses and organizations and residents are all at the table and ready to work together," said Ball.

The Maine Downtown Center,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Town and DOT Discuss Concerns About Dangerous Intersection

SHERI FABER
Staff Writer

State Representative Andrew McLean is "very concerned about the number of accidents and the severity of them" at the intersection of Libby Ave. and Main St. (Rt. 25).

McLean asked several top officials from the DOT, including the commissioner, to come to Gorham and meet with Fire Chief Lefebvre and Police Chief Dan Jones and others to "discuss concerns about this intersection and to talk about interim measures that can be put into place to ensure this intersection's safety, along with some of the long term fixes that the DOT envisions for this location."

A meeting is scheduled for December 4 at 8:30 a.m. in the fire station conference room. The public is welcome to attend.

Since a recent article about plans to install a traffic light at this intersection, along with other road improvements, in 2020, the Gorham Times has heard from many readers about the need to address this dangerous location well before that timeframe.

The problems are exacerbated during busy times when there can be long waits for vehicles attempting to cross Rt. 25 leading some of those drivers to try to cross when it is not safe to do so.

Rolling in With the Holidays



Photo credit Roger Marchand

Santa came to Gorham on November 26. He and Mrs. Claus toured the village as part of the Gorham Tree Lighting festivities. Fire and Town trucks were brightly decorated for the season as they made their way to Robie Park. After the parade, Santa and Mrs. Claus met with boys and girls in the municipal center.



Holiday Giving Opportunities in Gorham

COMPILED BY LESLIE DUPUIS
Editor

The holidays are upon us and Gorham has many families who could use a little extra help this time of year. While there are numerous ways to assist others in our community, a few are outlined below:

The Town Clerk's Office is collecting funds for the Gorham Fuel Fund. Donations can be made in person at the Gorham Town Clerk's Office or mailed to: Gorham Fuel Fund, Gorham Town Office, 75 South Street, Gorham, Maine 04038.

The Town Clerk's office also has opportunities for individuals to Pay It Forward. You can help by sponsoring a family for Christmas. This is a great way for a community group, organization or a whole family to get involved. To learn more, call the Town Clerk's office at 222-1670.

The Gorham Food Pantry accepts donations of food and money so that it can offer food assistance at no cost to any Gorham resident in need. Items may be brought to the Gorham Food Pantry at any time and left in the dropbox outside the door at 299-B Main St. The Gorham Food Pantry is currently in need of the following items: canned potatoes, canned spinach, canned beets, canned creamed corn, toothpaste and toothbrushes.



Photo courtesy of Blue Pig Diner

Home Instead's "Santa for Senior" program is one way to help others in the community this holiday season.

Donations of \$10 Hannaford Helps boxes are also appreciated to supplement Christmas baskets and to have on-hand for emergency food when the Pantry isn't open. Please be sure to mark the boxes for Gorham Food Pantry. For more information, please call the Food Pantry at 222-4351 or email info@gorhamfoodpantry.org.

Home Instead Senior Care in

Gorham is once again sponsoring its "Santa for Seniors" program. Last year, the effort provided gifts for over 300 seniors. "We know there are a variety of gift initiatives out there, and are so grateful to have our partners and community come together to support this important cause that will bring some much-needed holiday spirit to many of our senior neighbors," said Kathy Damon of Home Instead.

"Santa for Senior" trees are located at Sebago Brewing, The Blue Pig, Gorham House and Home Instead through December 6. Holiday shoppers can choose an ornament, buy the requested gift and return it with the ornament attached. Volunteers will wrap and deliver the gifts.

Baxter Memorial Library has a Giving Tree dedicated to teens and tweens, although gifts for any age group are appreciated. Donations of pet food and toys are also being accepted for the library's "Pet-a-Tree" and will be given to the Animal Refuge League in Westbrook.

Many other Gorham businesses, organizations and churches are involved with holiday efforts such as Coats for Kids and Toys for Tots to help those in need in our community. Be sure to check around town for more holiday giving opportunities.

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HOLIDAY BREAK

After the December 14 edition, the Gorham Times will enjoy a short break. The next issue will be dated January 11.

Policy on News from Augusta: The Gorham Times asked our three state legislators from Senate District 30, House District 26 and House District 27 to provide us with "News from Augusta." We publish their articles on a rotating basis. The submissions are devoted to updates of legislative and administrative news, proposed and passed bills and laws, and developments and events that are of interest and have an impact to Gorham residents. The Gorham Times reserves the right to edit the submissions and it further reserves the right to reject any submission, in its sole discretion.

Working to Eliminate Lead Exposure

SEN. AMY VOLK

Before 1978, lead-based paint was popular among homeowners because it is both washable and durable. It was endorsed by government at all levels and specified for use on government-owned buildings until the mid-1970s. Its popularity peaked in the 1920s at a time when little to nothing was known about the dangers of lead poisoning, particularly for infants and young children. By the 1940s, the use of lead paint for interiors was on its way out and by 1978, the federal government banned all consumer uses of lead paint.

While much is still unknown about lead poisoning, we do know that exposure is most detrimental to infants and young children, and that it can affect nearly every system in the body, causing a number of long-term side effects including developmental delay, learning disabilities, lower intelligence, language or speech delays, behavioral problems, hearing damage and seizures. It can also cause irritability, appetite loss, weight loss, fatigue, stomach pain, vomiting or constipation.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that today, at least four million homes are exposing the children living in them to high levels of lead. In the United States, approximately half a million kids between the ages of one and five

have levels of lead in their blood that are considered to be detrimental.

Here in Maine, the Maine State Housing Authority estimates that more than 350,000 homes built before 1978 were likely painted with lead paint and that half of Maine homes built before 1950 are likely to have high levels of lead.

This is a major public health problem since, according to U.S. Census data, nearly 30,000 children under the age of six reside in these homes built before the 1950's. Areas hit especially hard with childhood lead poisoning in Maine are Lewiston-Auburn, Bangor, Portland, Saco-Biddeford and Sanford. Collectively, these communities account for 40 percent of all cases in Maine with 80 percent of the affected children living in rental housing units.

In 2015, I sponsored a law to make Maine's state standard for lead exposure in children consistent with the federal standard, lowering the standard amount of lead detected in a child's blood that triggers a home inspection. This law also provided funding for new inspectors and significantly increased penalties for landlords who refuse to have their units abated.

Now that some time has passed, we are beginning to see the benefits of this new measure. Last year, under the old law, we would have identified only 34 children statewide as lead poisoned. But under the new law, an

additional 386 children – who otherwise would have been left to get sick – were identified as lead poisoned and provided with the intervention needed to address the lead hazards in their environments.

I'm so glad to see that this new law is meeting its intended goals of helping children and families before early on, but there is so much more that needs to be done. Just last week, the Sun Journal highlighted how this issue is affecting children in Lewiston, Maine's Ground Zero for childhood lead exposure. The State CDC, the city of Lewiston and the federal government are working hard, but in my view we need to do even more both to make people aware of the dangers of peeling, chipping or flaking paint in a language they understand and to continue to clean up apartments where children live.

If you reside in or own a home that was built prior to 1978, please visit www.mainehousing.org for information and resources on lead. While abatement can be expensive, the long term costs of doing nothing are much greater.



(207) 287-1505,
(800) 423-6900,
amy.volk@legislature.maine.gov

Around Town

Shawn Moody of Moody's Collision Centers recently announced his plans to run as a Republican candidate for governor in 2018.

Gorham Sightings



Photo credit Leslie Dupuis

Do you know where in Gorham this photo was taken? Join our visual trivia discussion by entering your best guess on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/gorhamtimes or email us at gorhamtimes@gmail.com. The photo in the November 16 edition is the sign at the North Gorham fire station.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be fewer than 300 words, signed with a first and last name, typed or e-mailed and include a phone number. The Gorham Times reserves the right not to publish letters that include personal attacks or inflammatory language. Letters are solely the opinion of the writer and not that of the Gorham Times. They are published at the discretion of the Gorham Times and are subject to editing.

Dear Editor:

I went to the Gorham Veterans Day ceremony at the Town Hall, wearing my Viet Nam fatigues, and was greeted in the entrance lobby by 25 to 35 Girl Scouts handing out these "Thank you for your service" cards to the Vets as we entered.

How things have changed since the summer of 1970 upon my return from Viet Nam when we returnees were either ignored or avoided.

Thank you, Gorham Girl Scouts, for making my Veterans Day so special!
Ken Aldrich

Dear Editor:

The Gorham Food Pantry is busy at this time of year working with area churches and other local organizations to provide holiday meals for families in need in our community. We're also focused on stocking our shelves for the winter months ahead for clients who face hunger as they head into cold weather with the added burden of winter fuel bills.

Many people don't realize how many of their neighbors are food insecure and need assistance on a regular basis. The GFP has been serving Gorham families for over 20 years by offering food assistance at no cost to residents in need.

No one knows when life's greatest challenges may face each of us personally – or when we might need support ourselves to get life back on track. The Pantry is supported with gifts from the Gorham community throughout the year, along with a network of community food partners and volunteers. Heading into the holiday season, we'd like to thank our friends, neighbors, volunteers and good-hearted people everywhere, who contribute to making the lives of GFP's clients so much better through their generosity and time.

To combat our increasing costs, the unending challenge of obtaining food at reduced prices, and our growing client numbers, we are reaching out to the community for help in offsetting our rising expenses. We depend entirely on the generosity of community members, and we ask for your support as you consider holiday and year-end donations. Contributions can be sent to PO Box 547, Gorham, ME 04038. We also offer automatic deposits from any bank or financial institution directly into the GFP's savings account at Gorham Savings Bank. Donations can be from \$5 per month, up to any amount. For more information visit www.gorhamfoodpantry.org.

Diane O'Neill, GFP Board President

Gorham Times

BRINGING THE NEWS TO ALL OF GORHAM
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The Gorham Times is a free volunteer-run community newspaper distributed every other Thursday to more than 100 pick-up sites throughout Gorham.

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Of Interest gorhamtimes@gmail.com
Calendar item gorhamtimes@gmail.com
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School News SchoolnewsGT@gmail.com

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Ad deadline is the Wednesday of the week prior to issue date. Go to www.gorhamtimes.com and click on the advertising link for schedule.

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The Gorham Times takes all reasonable care to prevent errors and disclaims all legal responsibility for any such errors, omissions, or typographical errors. The Gorham Times will print corrections if notified within 48 hours. We reserve the right to refuse publication of unsolicited materials. All submissions are subject to editing. Opinions expressed in the Gorham Times do not necessarily reflect those of the staff or publishers.

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ON THE SQUARE



GBE SPOTLIGHT: FLAGGSHIP LANDSCAPING



Quality and Hard Work Lead to Success

BAILEY O'BRIEN
Contributing Writer

Gorham's Flagship Landscaping, one of Southern Maine's expert landscaping services, had humble beginnings. Nick Flagg, owner of Flagship, recalls the early days when running a thriving business felt miles away.

"I started the company part-time back in 2002 with just a Jeep Cherokee, a snowmobile trailer, and a John Deere riding lawn mower I bought on a credit card," Flagg said. These days, it's a full-time operation and growing so quickly that the company just moved to a larger space.

"We have more than doubled in size over the last two years and were busting at the seams. The new property at 298 New Portland Road allows opportunity for future expansion, better visibility, and increased efficiency," he said.

So to what does he attribute his success? It seems as though a company that starts out with "never saying no to job opportunities and focusing on communicating with our customers" will blossom.

Flagship offers landscaping services for residential, commercial, and associa-



Photo courtesy of Nick Flagg

Flagship Landscaping owner Nick Flagg has seen his company grow into a thriving business since opening in 2002.

tion properties throughout the region and shows no signs of slowing down. "Hearing our customers tell me how great our staff is and how they love working with certain members of our team is the best part of owning this company," said Flagg. "It makes all the hard work worth it."

Beyond customer satisfaction, Flagship aims "to be the best landscaping company to work for in Southern Maine. We truly care about our staff and do all we can for them," he shared.

Whether his team is perfecting a

front yard, tidying a business' hedges, or donating landscape services to area nonprofits, Flagg is confident it's their best work.

"Always doing the right thing, standing behind our word, and doing quality work are the real reasons why the company has seen tremendous growth while doing almost no advertising," he said.

For more information, visit <http://www.flagshiplandscaping.com>, call (207) 510-7777, or stop in their new office at 298 New Portland Road.

Save the Date for New Year Gorham

VIRGINIA WILDER CROSS
Contributing Writer

The countdown has begun! It doesn't matter what your age, there is something on the program that will give you reason to come and celebrate with the Gorham community. If you like to laugh, dance, entertain (audience participation is awesome), tap your toes, be amazed, watch fireworks, volunteer a little of your time while having fun, you will want to be where the action is on New Year's Eve.

Volunteers make New Year Gorham possible, and they extend their fun beyond being part of the audience. If you would like to join the group that organizes this event, there are still volunteer opportunities, such as decorating the buildings, hanging posters, making puppets, greeting guests and more.

Along with our dedicated volunteers, generous businesses and individuals have sponsored many of the performances, and have made it possible for the admission cost to remain at \$5 per person, with a \$20 cap for families.

If you would like to volunteer or contribute in any way, please call 222-2248. In the meantime, mark your calendar for the best New Year Gorham EVER, and look for a complete program listing in the next edition of the Gorham Times.

Additional information is available on Facebook and <http://www.new-yeargorham.org>.

Contact Person: Sherri Adams
Telephone: (207) 839-7000
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Gorham Community Chorus Kicks Off 25th Year



Photo courtesy of Tony Rimkunas

Long-time Gorham Community Chorus members (from l to r) Jane Malloy, Cindy Smith, and Kerry Dyer enjoy a break in rehearsal with director John Rimkunas.

TONY RIMKUNAS
Contributing Writer

On December 3, the Gorham Community Chorus will begin the celebration of its 25th year with a Prelude to Christmas Concert at 3:00 p.m. at Gorham High School. Admission is free but a suggested \$5 donation is appreciated to support scholarships for Gorham music students.

Over the years the annual concert has developed from a dedicated holiday concert to one that now includes more variety. Director John Rimkunas confirmed this concert features something for everyone - several songs that the chorus has done before, some that are entirely new.

"We are doing showy music, like 'Waitin' for the Light to Shine,' and intellectual music, like the 'Cantique de Jean Racine' by Faure. We're doing music that is a mixture

of a cappella and accompanied. I think it's an eclectic program," said Rimkunas.

One of the highlights of the Prelude to Christmas is getting to perform with the Gorham High School Chamber Singers. Rimkunas said, "We all really enjoy the chance to work with them and hear them sing."

The Gorham Community Chorus is comprised of Gorham residents and members from surrounding communities, and includes singers of all ages and abilities. The goal of the group is to have fun and make great music. There is no audition. Rehearsals for the Spring Concert begin in January and new members are always welcome.

"A big goal for the community chorus is to grow," said Rimkunas. For more information, visit the Gorham Community Chorus Facebook page, or email gorhamcommunitychorus@gmail.com.

Creating Warmth This Winter

Gorham pickleball players were among almost 100 volunteers who committed acts of kindness by turning out to assemble 398 insulated window inserts that will help keep folks in Gorham and 15 surrounding towns warmer this winter. An average size window insert will save approximately 10 gallons of fuel per year, so people will be helping Planet Earth and will save money on their fuel bills, too. If you missed an opportunity to participate in this project, or would like to order window inserts, it's not too late. You can contact WindowDressers, a non-profit, volunteer organization at <http://windowdressers.org/> to find out more. Pictured front row L to R: Lucia Conicelli, Dan Fenton, Bob McNally, Gary Farmer, Teresa Brady, Terri Morin (project organizer with Miriam Rubin (not pictured). Back row Bruce Gove and Lew McGouldrick.

LIFE IN MOTION

Spasms, Cramps, and Charley Horses...Oh My!

MIKE MORAS

Ever been woken in the middle of the night with that horrible cramping pain in your foot and your poor toes all curled up? Or been in the middle of a great jog and all of a sudden been hit by a muscle cramp, spasm, or charley horse? There are various causes of muscle spasms in muscles that attach to bone, muscles that we typically have voluntary control over such as the muscles of our hands, feet, arms.

Common causes of muscle spasms:

Overuse or muscle fatigue. Doing too many repetitions of an activity, doing it too quickly, or doing it with poor mechanics can place abnormal demand on the muscle.

Dehydration. Muscles need hydration to create a proper contraction. If the nerves to the muscles are deprived of water and sodium they can become over sensitive and involuntarily contract or spasm.

Electrolyte imbalance. Muscles need the right balance of glucose, sodium, potassium, calcium, and magnesium to produce an effective contraction.

Atherosclerosis, or narrowing of arteries, reduces blood flow to muscles which alters the oxygenation, hydration, and electrolyte supply.

Chronic Pain can send impulses to the brain that tell muscles to contract and guard against further injury.

Pinched nerves can alter signals to

the muscle causing them to be painful and cramp.

Some medications can cause spasm or cramping.

Ways to manage muscle spasm pain:

Put some weight on it. If it is your calf or foot try standing up. If it is a muscle in your hand or arm try putting your hand on a table or wall and leaning some body weight into it.

Self-massage/trigger point pressure can counteract the muscle spasm and help bring blood flow to the muscle increasing oxygen and electrolytes.

Apply direct pressure to the sorest part of the muscle spasm and hold for 60-90 seconds and release.

Gentle stretching can counteract the effects of the spasm by elongating the contracted muscle tissue. Common stretches include wrist stretches, hamstring stretches, and calf stretches.

Ice/heat: Heat is typically better for muscle spasms because heat can be relaxing and also increase blood flow to the muscle spasm. Some people respond better to ice because it reduces the pain which can reduce the muscle spasm; but be careful, ice can be an irritant and cause the spasms to worsen in some people.



Mike Moras is Portland Clinic Director and Physical Therapist at Back in Motion Physical Therapy.



Photo credit Chris Crawford



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NOVEMBER 14, 2017

Town Council

JACOB ADAMS
Staff Writer

Town Clerk, Laurie Nordfors, reported that the November 7 election had a 31% turnout.

Ron Shepard and Suzanne Phillips were elected to the Town Council. Dennis Libby, William Benson, Jennifer Whitehead and Kate Livingston were elected to the School Board. Thomas Grant was elected to be Gorham's Portland Water District Trustee.

The State Referendum question results were: Question 1 – NO; Question 2 – YES; Question 3 – YES; Question 4 – YES.

Laurie Nordfors swore in newly elected Councilors Ron Shepard and Suzanne Phillips.

The Town Council elected Ben Hartwell as the Chair and Sherrie Benner as the Vice Chair for the 2017-2018 year.

Councilor Benner reported that she, along with Councilors Hartwell and Stelk, attended a Toast to Main Street where it was announced that Gorham was selected as a Main Street Community. The announcement was the result of a lengthy application process started by the Gorham Economic Development Corporation and continued with the Gorham Village Alliance.

Councilor Stelk thanked Kathy Garrard and Dee Dee Perkins for all of their hard work with the application process. She stated that there is always room on the Gorham Village Alliance Committee for new members and anyone else who might like to get involved.

Town Manager, Ephrem Paraschak, reported that Becky Sladen, of Baxter Memorial Library, was presented with a 10-year service pin.

Paraschak reported that he will be meeting with the Maine Turnpike Authority to get an update on the Gorham Connector Project.

Chairman Wright thanked the Gorham Fire Department and Police Department for their help during the recent power outages. He reported that Gorham was able to open up two schools to families without power for three nights. The schools served a total of 199 residents without power. He also thanked the Gorham Business Community for donations of food and other items during the power outages.

The following people were appointed to the below committees:

1. Finance Committee: Jim Hager, Chair; Suzanne Phillips, Paul Smith

2. Ordinance Committee: Sherrie Benner, Chair; Ron Shepard, Marla Stelk
3. Appointments/Personnel Committee: Marla Stelk, Chair; Sherrie Benner, Suzanne Phillips
4. Economic Development/Capital Improvements Committee: Ron Shepard, Chair; Jim Hager, Paul Smith
5. Representative to Greater Portland Council Of Governments: Marla Stelk, Ephrem Paraschak
6. Representative to Eco Maine: Sherrie Benner
7. Representative To Jetport Noise Abatement: Jim Hager
8. Representative to Pacts Policy Committee: Bob Burns
9. Representative to Metro Regional Coalition: Ron Shepard
10. Gorham High School Building Committee: Suzanne Phillips, Paul Smith
11. Gorham Athletic Campaign Committee: Jim Hager
12. Cable Franchise Committee: Ron Shepard, Jim Hager

The Town Council approved the new State annual maximums for the General Assistance Ordinance.

The Town Council amended the Land Use & Development Code definition of Day Care Homes and Day Care Centers to include adult day care.

A renewal liquor license for Lucky Thai Restaurant, located at 563 Main Street was approved.

The Town Council partially abated taxes in the amount of \$1,125.52 for the property at 53 Jordan Drive for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 fiscal years to correct an overvaluation error in the town's assessment.

A proposal to amend the Land Use & Development Code Minimum Standards for the allowance of mobile vending units (food trucks) was sent to the Planning Board for a Public Hearing and their recommendation. The proposal will allow food trucks in the following areas: Roadside Commercial District, Industrial District, Narragansett Development District, Agricultural/Industrial District, Village Commercial Area. (5 years, 2 days: Benner, Smith)

The Town Council approved the transfer of \$1,675 to the Town of Gorham seized in a criminal case. The Town Manager is authorized to sign the approval form on behalf of the Town of Gorham.

Complete minutes are available on the town's website at www.gorham-me.org.

Grand Jury ~ September

Nathaniel Cupka, 18, of Gorham, was indicted for reckless conduct with a dangerous weapon, two counts of assault, refusing to submit to arrest and violating conditions of release.

Daryl W. Terry, 19, of East Baldwin, was indicted for eluding an officer, driving to endanger, criminal speed, refusing to submit

to arrest, operating after suspension and violating conditions of release on charges brought by Gorham PD.

Jacob M. Nelson, 21, of Windham, was indicted for aggravated assault, assault and criminal threatening with a dangerous weapon on charges brought by Gorham PD.

NOVEMBER 6, 2017

Planning Board

Central Maine Power is requesting approval to upgrade the substation on Shaws Mill Road. At the request of applicant, the item was tabled until the December 4 meeting.

Webber Properties, LLC is requesting approval for a 1,600 sf expansion (Phase 1) off the north side the existing Plas-Tech building and a future 5,700 sf addition off the rear of the building. The property is located at 22 Bartlett Road. Approved with findings of fact and conditions of approval.

W. A. One is requesting approval for a 9-lot cluster subdivision on 41.5 acres located off Gordon Farms Road and Madison Way. Item was placed on consent agenda.

Bramblewood, LLC is requesting approval to amend Glenwater Village Subdivision to revise the horizontal curve on Dogwood Lane. The prop-

erty is located off Glenwood Avenue. Approved with findings of fact and conditions of approval.

Risbara Properties, LLC is requesting approval of Deering Road Apartments, a five-unit apartment complex consisting of two duplexes and a single unit building located on Deering Road. Item was discussed.

An amendment to the Land Use & Development Code to update Chapter 1 Section 1-16 Narragansett District to meet recommendations of the 2016 Comprehensive Plan was discussed and referred to the Planning Board Comp Plan implementation committee for review and recommendations.

An amendment to Chapter 2 of the Land Use & Development Code to modify the requirement for extension of sidewalks was discussed and moved to the next available meeting for a public hearing.

Fatal Accident on County Road

SHERI FABER
Staff Writer

One person was killed and two suffered serious injuries in a head-on collision on November 22. Kyle Phelan, 21, of Limington, was driving a 2008 Ford Edge eastbound on County Road when he crossed the center line and struck a 2008 Ford Taurus driven by Richard Green, 75, of Gorham.

The Gorham Fire Department extricated Green and his wife, Marion

Green, 78, and transported both to Maine Medical Center with serious injuries. Marion Green later died from her injuries.

Buxton Fire/Rescue was called to assist and also transported Sidney Brown, 18, of Limington, to Maine Medical Center. Brown was a passenger in the Ford Edge.

County Road was shut down between Deering Rd. and Hodgdon Rd. for several hours. The crash is under investigation and charges may be filed.

Historical Society Seeking New Home for Archives

KATHY CORBETT
Staff Writer

The archives of the Gorham Historical Society may be housed in the old Wescott School building on Narragansett Road, according to Brenda Caldwell, the Society's executive secretary and former archivist. The historical artifacts and documents are boxed and ready to leave the city-owned brick building on School Street where researchers have used the collection for 40 years. That building needs major repairs and lacks parking. Mold has made it unsafe both for people and the Society's collection.

Shawn Moody owns the one-room school house next to his company headquarters and has used it for storage. He has offered it for the archives if the building can be made suitable for the Society's needs. It would provide a safe environment for the valuable historical resources which have been at risk in the water-damaged current location. Parking would be available on Moody's nearby lot.

Gorham Historical Society president Suzanne Phillips said the organization is also look-



Photo credit Kathy Corbett

The old Wescott School building on Narragansett Road (Rt. 202) near Moody's Collision Center is a possible option for the Gorham Historical Society's archives. In the late 19th century students in one of Gorham's nineteen districts attended classes at Wescott School.

ing at some other possible locations, including space on the USM Campus. "If anyone has an appropriate place we might consider,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Joint Signing Ceremony



Photo credit Amanda Landry

HAL D'AMICO
Sports Editor
AND ZACH MCGOULDRIK
GHS Student Intern

Ben Nelson and Grace McGouldrick (pictured front, center) signed college National Letters of Intent on November 9 at Gorham High School. The pair of senior stand-out student-athletes enjoyed sharing a simultaneous ceremony attended by many supporters, including family members, coaches, mentors, and teammates.

"We know it takes a lot of people, and a lot of hard work to get to this level, but I think being able to recognize it in the school is very important," commented Athletic Director Tim Spear.

McGouldrick, daughter of Phil and Heidi McGouldrick, will be attending the University of Maine at Orono, where she will play softball and plans

to study exercise science. Among her many athletic honors, the shortstop/pitcher was named All-State and packed a punch at the plate during the 2017 season, hitting .609 with 32 runs and 23 RBIs. The University of Maine at Orono competes in the NCAA Division I America East Conference. The team played in the conference finals in 2016 and 2017.

Nelson, son of Chris and Sara Nelson, will be attending Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts, where he will play baseball and plans to study mechanical engineering. Among his athletic achievements, the shortstop was among the 2017 Portland Press Herald Top-25 Players to Watch, led the SMAA with a .442 batting average as a sophomore, and was named to the 2017 USA Today All-USA Maine second team. Merrimack College competes in the NCAA Division II Northeast-10 Conference.

Success as a Student of Ultra Trail Running



Photo credit John Rodrigue

HAL D'AMICO
Sports Editor

Chad Allen holds the Vermont 100 Endurance Race finishers' belt buckle. He is pictured with his support crew: Chuck Allen, his father, and Kelly, his wife.

On Saturday, July 15, 2017, Gorham's Chad Allen joined a group of runners and milled about the starting area for a trail race in West Windsor, Vermont. It was 4 a.m. and the start time wasn't the only unusual aspect of the race. These runners would be attempting to cover 100 miles. No typo. This was the Vermont 100 Endurance Race, covering 17,000 feet of total ascent over rolling dirt roads, horse trails, and just two miles of pavement. Nothing like an average road race.

At about 1:30 the next morning, having witnessed a sunrise, a sunset, and into the distinct heart, sights and sounds of another rural night, Allen crossed the finish line in his first attempt at the distance. He finished 52nd overall, in 21 hours, 33 minutes, and was among 270 finishers in a race with 349 entrants. His support team included his wife, Kelly Pease, and his father, Chuck, as well as Ian Parlin, his pacer (a runner who may accompany the entrant through the final 30 miles).

Less than 90 days later, in early October, Allen and his father headed to Virginia to challenge the distance again at the Grindstone 100. It is a race with variables that make it more difficult than the Vermont race. With

GHS Rams Home/Local Schedule

Tuesday, December 5
Girls' Basketball vs. Gray-New Gloucester @ Windham HS,
Boys' Basketball vs. Brunswick, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 6
Girls' Ice Hockey vs. Biddeford, 8:30 p.m. @ USM

Saturday, December 9
Swimming @ Windham 12 noon @ St. Joseph's College
Girls' Ice Hockey vs. Brunswick, 6:20 p.m. @ USM
Boys' Ice Hockey vs. Cape Elizabeth, 7:50 p.m. @ USM

**All events are at Gorham High School unless noted*
***Schedules subject to change. ghs.gorhamschools.org/athletics/calendar*

USM Home/Local Schedule

Friday, December 1
Men's Ice Hockey vs. New England College, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 2
Wrestling: Ted Reese NCWA Invitational at USM, 8:00 a.m.
Women's Ice Hockey vs. Post, 1:00 p.m.
Men's Ice Hockey vs. St. Anselm, 4:00 p.m.

Friday, December 8
Women's Ice Hockey vs. Johnson & Wales, 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 9
Wrestling vs. Rhode Island College and Plymouth State, 11:00 a.m.

**All events are at USM unless otherwise noted.*
***Schedules subject to change. www.southernmainehuskies.com*

23,000 feet of elevation on more rugged rocky and stumpy terrain, and a 6:00 p.m. start time that puts most finishers through two sunsets, Chad was once again able to finish, coming in 43rd (24:45) among the 182 finishers in an original field of 237 entrants.

While slower ultrarunners may string together races without physical or psychological breakdown, it is rare for a runner to have so little time between races and finish in the top-20 percent, especially a novice.

The former hockey and football player from Brewer says he "hated running" during his former athletic life, from which he took a hiatus when he became a chemical engineering student at the University of Maine at Orono. In 2011, nearly a decade after he was prescribed medication

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

GORHAM'S TREE FESTIVAL



**Main Street and Beyond
November 26 thru New Years**

We now invite you, the community, to go visit the Festive Trees. After viewing the trees send an email to gorhamstreefestival@gmail.com to vote or use the QR code to scan for your favorite tree. Votes and comments are all welcome.

Please join us at New Year's Gorham where a winner will be announced at Gorham High School in the McCormack Performing Arts Center at 8PM. The winner will be presented with a traveling plaque and bragging rights for the year.

Here is our current list of participating Gorham businesses:

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Spire 29 • Gorham Arts Alliance • Great Falls Construction • ACE Hardware
Gorham Times • Party Time Rentals • Gorham Police Department
POGO Realty/State Farm • Atlantic Dance Arts • First Choice Title Company
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Success as a Student of Ultra Trail Running

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

for high blood pressure at 29 years old, Allen had an awakening.

"I was thirty pounds more than I am now and was miserable. I was working a lot of hundred-hour weeks. I knew I had to make a change," he said. He credits his wife with catalyzing the shift as she was planning to join the Gorham gym, MyFit24, and she "signed Chad up" with a family membership.

They attended boot camp classes and Allen mostly did gym work, but incorporated running as well. He decided to enter some Spartan and Tough Mudder races, which blend running with strength-and-technique obstacles. He quickly discovered at these events that, "The running, especially climbing and descending, brought a smile to my face."

Research led him to race events held by Trail Monsters, a Southern Maine trail running club, and in 2013 he entered his first race in the Bradbury Mountain Series. The club hosts running and snowshoe races and has regular group runs. He became part of this community, and met Parlin, a club founder. Training and racing on weekends with these runners, by 2015 Allen was racing 50k (31 miles) and built up to a couple of 50 milers in 2016.

A pivotal moment came in January 2017, when he decided to register for the Vermont 100 on his 40th birthday. The decision to train for such an event has an impact on family life. Allen's Saturdays would be filled with training and racing-as-training. He would typically leave the house at 5 or 6 a.m.

and return at 1 or 2 p.m., after logging long miles.

This sport can present logistical and lifestyle changes for families. Allen was quick to say, "I know it can be a selfish, self-indulgent activity." Pease counterbalanced the thought with, "It's his stress release; his outlet; and he's good at it. He's smiling as he's coming into the aid stations at races."

What keeps him studying and participating? He describes his experience as, "A moving meditation. In a race, chances of failure are extremely high and I'm ok with that. It's a process and a journey that's not about time, or even so much about finishing on any given day." He continued, "So much of life we're mitigating risk, especially with a family. Things can get really ugly out there on the course, and in a culture that avoids discomfort it's a place where I can take an uncomfortable risk and where I can spend time with myself."

Allen peppered reiterations of the marriage between solitude and the necessity and joy of community among the Trail Monsters. Parlin said of Chad's relationship with the club, "Chad just got it right away. He's a generous and hardworking guy, he was volunteering. Our members have a passion to participate and to acknowledge that no one is alone in this sport."

If the entrance lotteries go well, Allen's next 100 will be out west, using the time to combine a family vacation with altitude acclimation.

Bruins Academy



Photo credit Hal D'Amico

HAL D'AMICO
Sports Editor

The Southern Maine Youth Hockey Association (SMYHA) hosted the Boston Bruins Academy Learn to Play program at USM for four Saturdays in October. According to SMYHA President John Reidy, approximately fifty kids new to skating and hockey from the region took advantage of the opportunity to develop their skills. Included in their registration fee was a full set of equipment at no charge, with a retail value of \$500, a vital part of the Bruins' sponsorship.

Several experienced and skilled SMYHA players from Gorham assisted as mentors on the ice. Kids worked their way through skills sta-

tions that reinforced basic balance and confidence, with chairs and buckets available to those needing a hand. Gorham's Brady Alexander, Joe Cowen and Jack Reidy were youth mentors, and Tier 4 Coaching Director David Sjostedt was also instrumental as a host. The sessions included a free-skate warmup and approximately 10-minute rotations at the skill stations.

Heather Whittaker, an alternative education teacher at Gorham Middle School, was in the stands. Her son, Trent, a second grader at Narragansett Elementary School, enjoyed his introduction to ice hockey. She described the Academy sessions as "super organized," while the coaches and mentors also, "let them be silly kids."



Sunday, December 10, 2017

Silent Auction 10am to 3pm
Winners will be announced at 4:30pm
(must be present to win)

Santa Claus will make an appearance 12pm to 2pm along with a Marine Corp Sponsor from Toys For Tots and several members from The Maine Warden Service.

Plenty of food, coffee and hot cider will be available compliments of The Lady Stripper and her helpers.

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Celebrating the Life of Dahlov Ipcar

Several staff members at Narragansett discovered that they shared a mutual love for the work of Dahlov Ipcar and the mural she painted on the wall at Narragansett in 1981 (see photo at right).

Staff felt that November, her birthday month, would be a significant time to appreciate this irreplaceable work of art at Narragansett and renew awareness of this treasure within the community.

It dovetailed nicely with recognizing acts of Compassion at Narragansett. During an assembly, personal stories were told from special guests Deb Buker and Heidi Whelon, Baxter Memorial Librarians, who had the honor of spending time with Ipcar before she passed away. They shared photographs from their visit with her and presented Narragansett with a poster board of those photos.

Students also had the opportunity to hear and sing some of Ipcar's favorite folk songs. The singing was accompanied by illustrations of the folk songs and images that can be found in the mural.

In the hallway, student artwork and writing, along with newspaper articles from when the mural was being painted, continued the celebration.

Baxter Memorial Library also displayed her books in the children's area during November and The Bookworm joined in with a lovely display of her books. The Gorham Historical Society also came to take photos for its archives.

DECLAN BOWLEY AND
JACOBI CHINCHILLA
Third-Grade Students
at Narragansett School

Dahlov Ipcar was an artist who painted nature. She was born in the state of Vermont on November 12, 1917. She died on February 10, 2016. She lived to be almost 100 years old.

Her parents were William and Marguerite Zorach. They were artists also. When she was a child, she lived with her family in the summer in Maine at a farm on Georgetown Island, which is six miles from Bath, and in the winter in New York City. She went to Oberlin College in 1930.

It was there she met her husband, Adolph Ipcar. He was a teacher. She loved Maine so much that she and her husband moved to her family's farm at Robinhood Cove in Georgetown Island for the rest of their lives.

They had two sons, Robert and Charles. The family lived with no electricity, used a wood stove for heat, used oil lamps, and had an outhouse, just like Colonial times.

Besides painting murals and illustrating books, she also made paintings, cloth sculptures, hooked rugs, and drew graphics. She painted every day. Her art is on display at the Portland Museum of Art through



December 23 at the Lewis Gallery. Her work is also on display at the Portland Public Library right now, in honor of her birthday month.

Her art never gets old. People like

her work because of her great use of color. It's creative and interesting and shows her skill. Her mural at Narragansett (textbox at left), in particular, will be a treasure forever.

School Notes

A group of students in the Gorham School system are working together to create a new library for students in Africa. There are collection boxes at the entrances at Gorham High School, Gorham Middle School, and Village Elementary School. The goal is to collect 1,000 children's books to send to Africa so that children there may enjoy the opportunity for Education. FMI email: gorhambooksforafrica@gmail.com.

The GHS freshman class is sponsoring a "Parents Night Off" at the high school on December 16 from 4:30-8:30 p.m. for kids between the ages of 4-10 (potty trained only). There will be a pizza dinner, crafts, a movie, cookie decorating, and more. Tickets are \$20 per child and can be purchased at <https://gifttoptime.brownpapertickets.com/>. FMI, contact Sarah Drury at sarah.drury@gorhamschools.org.



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Over the Veterans Day weekend, 12 Gorham High School (GHS) students participated in the annual Maine Youth in Government session at the State House in Augusta. This model legislative program brings together students from across Maine for three days of presenting, debating, and voting on bills addressing a wide range of current statewide political, social, economic, educational, and environmental issues. Over 100 bills were considered at this year's session, including five sponsored by Gorham students. Youth in Government is offered each fall at GHS as an extracurricular program and is open to all interested students. Pictured left to right is Emelia Nejezchleba, Olivia Paruk, Virginia Hugo-Vidal, Kasey Jiang, Ben Nault, Hailey Morrill, Sarah Stevens, Grace Terry, Jacob Dupuis, Sam Pocock, Bruce Wyatt, and Ryan DeSanctis.

A group photo of the 2019-2020 Student Government members. The group consists of approximately 20 students, both male and female, posing in a school hallway. They are arranged in two rows, with some standing in the back and others kneeling or sitting in the front. The students are dressed in a variety of styles, from formal suits and dresses to casual hoodies and t-shirts. The hallway has a wooden floor and a blue wall in the background.

Members of the cast and crew of "Radium Girls."

With a cast of 14 actors, and a crew of 13 members, the show discussed an actual series of events that happened in the 1920s, when young women (now referred to as Radium

In addition to being harmful to the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



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These businesses and individuals have made it possible for the 10th Annual New Year Gorham to be the best yet! Watch for the complete program in the next issue of the *Gorham Times*.

Count Me In for Attendance

Fifth grade student Alison Smith entered a poster contest about daily attendance, sponsored by Count Me In, which works to improve student attendance, engagement, and academic achievement. Her poster was chosen for publication out of many from across the state. On November 14, Susan Lieberman presented Smith with multiple copies of her poster in a brief celebration in front of her peers.



Photo credit Stacy Smith

GHS Club Partners with Local Company for Fundraiser



Photo courtesy of Catalyst for Change

Gorham High School's Interact Club recently sold t-shirts to help raise money for the new Gorham Backpack Program. Pictured from left to right is Club Advisor Neile Nelson, Aaron Farr, Abbie vanLuling and Catalyst for Change founder Kyle Poissonnier.

ZACHERY MCGOULDRIK
GHS Student Intern

Gorham High School's (GHS) Interact Club recently held a fundraiser selling t-shirts. The company who provided the shirts is Catalyst for Change, located in Westbrook and run by Kyle Poissonnier, who is from the small town of Smithfield, Maine.

The company focuses on donation, helping different charities each month, with a special focus on ideas such as suicide prevention. The merchandise revolves around the singular idea that being from Maine is not something to loath, but something to cherish.

One of their most popular designs, while arguably the simplest, is a

t-shirt that, in plain white text, says, "Just a kid from Maine." The Interact Club approached Poissonnier about changing the design to say "Just a Kid from Gorham," and he accepted.

"Our Club, through this fundraiser, sold 317 t-shirts, which essentially means that after all our expenses are paid, we will have netted about \$2,700," said Neile Nelson, a GHS teacher and the club's advisor. According to Poissonnier, this was a record in Catalyst for Change's school program for the most shirts sold.

The Club is donating 50 percent of its earnings to the Gorham Backpack Program, a new program that provides weekend food to students in need.

GMS Receives STEM Grant

GORHAM TIMES STAFF

Gorham Middle School (GMS) announced recently that it received a \$5,000 STEM grant from the Toshiba America Foundation. These funds will support various exploratory experiments in the field of neuroscience.

The grant money will be used to purchase specialized equipment from Backyard Brains (backyardbrains.com), giving students the tools and procedures to perform experiments, such as: tapping into the nervous system of a cockroach to control its movements; looking at the electrical signals generated by our own brains that cause our muscles to move; and even using the signals generated by our movements to manipulate a robotic hand.

Neuroscience isn't really a field that many people have the opportunity to explore, which is what makes the acquisition of this equipment so powerful. The purpose of buying these materials is to give students the chance to experience what it might be like to go into this field in a hands-on, engaging and age-appropriate way.

During the experiments, students will focus on using the scientific process, taking data and analyzing results, and blending outcomes with design thinking to imagine what kind of problems could be solved with this knowledge.

Toshiba's grants fund projects designed by individual classroom



Photo credit Terri Dawson

Paul Hickey, of Toshiba America Foundation, presented a \$5,000 STEM grant to Terry Bartick (center), STEM Coordinator for GMS, and Angela Gospodarek, GMS seventh grade science teacher.

teachers. This "direct-to-teacher" approach brings immediate results. Teachers are able to change the way they teach Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) subjects because the grant supports equipment for hands-on experiments and inquiry-based approaches to the curriculum.

The grants provide teachers with the tools they need to be more effective educators, making the classroom a more exciting place for both teachers and students.

Kindness Matters



Photo credit Diana Blanchard

Village Elementary School began "Kindling Kindness" in the month of November with celebrations of appreciation, letters of thanks to Veterans, and will continue to do community service projects throughout the month of December. To kick off Kindness Week, Gorham Police Officers served lunch, assisted with tray disposal, and chatted with students during all three lunches. Pictured (left to right) is: Officer Todd Gagnon, Officer Dean Hannon, LT Mike Nault, Officer Mark Sanborn, School Resource Officer Mike Coffin, and Animal Control Officer Scott Nystrom.

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Village Launches Revitalization Effort

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a program run by the Maine Development Foundation in Augusta, is the state coordinator for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Program. The program follows a specific approach to downtown revitalization that is currently used in more than 2,200 communities in 44 states.

Taking an organized approach to implementing changes in Gorham Village has been researched and discussed by Town officials and the Gorham Economic Development Corporation (GEDC) for several years. To that end, both the recently updated Main St. Master Plan and Comprehensive Plan include a recommendation to participate in one of the Maine Downtown Center programs.

Earlier this year, several GEDC members formed the Gorham Village Alliance (GVA) to complete an application to become a Downtown Network community and lead the initiative. The GVA Organization Committee consists of volunteers representing business, residential, community and municipal interests.

"With new businesses and development attracting more and more people to the Village, the time is right to take a more structured approach to improving the Village and realizing its

full potential as a vibrant downtown center. As a Downtown Network community, we'll have access to resources, training and ideas to build on what we already have," said Kathy Garrard, GEDC Board member and GVA Co-Chair.

Downtown revitalization through the Downtown Network program is a community-led, community driven, and

inclusive effort.

"Gorham has a great deal of community pride and spirit and people want a welcoming downtown area where they can support local businesses and attend events.

There are many ways interested Gorham residents and businesses can participate in this initiative, either by joining one of the four committees – Organization, Design, Promotion, Economic Vitality – or by volunteering to assist with a specific project," said Dede Perkins, GVA Co-Chair. "GVA will be reaching out to businesses and residents over the next few months to provide information about this effort and recruit volunteers."

Gorham will have Downtown Network community status for 2018 and 2019. At the end of the two years, the Town has the option of remaining a Downtown Network community, applying to become a Main Street Maine community, or leaving the program altogether.

To volunteer or learn more about the Gorham Village Alliance call/text 207-233-2373 or email gorhamvillagealliance@gmail.com.

"GVA WILL BE REACHING OUT TO
BUSINESSES AND RESIDENTS OVER THE
NEXT FEW MONTHS TO PROVIDE
INFORMATION ABOUT THIS EFFORT
AND RECRUIT VOLUNTEERS."

Historical Society

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

she said, "we would love to hear from them." The archives are traditionally closed for the winter, but Phillips would like to have the collection available for researchers and visitors this spring.

After years of dwindling membership, the Gorham Historical Society is seeing renewed community interest. At the October annual meeting, members accepted a bequest of \$10,000 from the estate of Almerly H. Hamblen, Sr. Descended from one of Gorham's founding families, Hamblen was a long-time member of the group with an interest in genealogy and local history. The Historical Society also announced that John McCarthy, the nephew of Jim Eddy who had donated his homestead several years ago, gave the society \$62,000 to build a barn on the property.

New officers were also elected at the annual meeting. Jan Labrecque is secretary and Kelly Towle Dearborn is now treasurer. David McCullough was re-elected to the role of vice-president of projects. Dearborn also became archivist, succeeding Caldwell, who retired from the position. Other officers are Phillips, vice president Amanda Pearson, executive secretary Caldwell, and past president Ronald Shepard.

GHS Production of

"Radium Girls"

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

girls, the radium was also being used to help cancer patients and was being sold in a liquid solution to help vitality. Roeder was caught in the decision between helping himself by continuing to sell the radium dials and the well-being of his workers.

His internal and external battles with his emotions and other members of his company were played out as Fryer's health continues to worsen. The play ends with a leap to the future and Roeder thinking back but not being able to remember the girls' faces.

With strong talent among the performers, as well as the crew, the production was entertaining, informative, and pleasing to the audience. The acting done by all members of the cast was phenomenal and emotionally involved.

The attention to detail involved, such as the Radium Girls using their mouths to point their paint brushes (which was the leading cause of their deaths), enhanced the performance. Although a somber and devastating topic, the show was a success.

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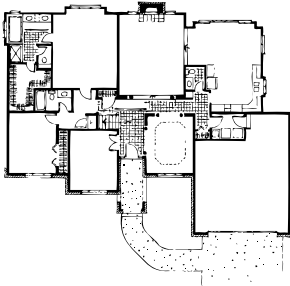
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Real Estate Transfers March 2017

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	PRICE
16 PRIMROSE LANE	MCCARTHY, JOSEPH	BELL, RACHEL	\$250,000
19 MERCIER WAY	GOULART, THOMAS	CAMPBELL, WAYNE & KAREN	\$439,000
208 BRACKETT ROAD	COLE, NICHOLAS	PEREZ, KIMBERLY	\$158,000
195 NORTH GORHAM ROAD	SAUNDERS, ALISA	MERRIFIELD, LAWRENCE, JR.	\$93,800
98 OLD DYNAMITE WAY	DESIGN BUILD ASSOC. OF MAINE	HIGGINS BUILDERS, INC.	\$90,000
42 OSBORNE ROAD	BOUCHER, LAURA & ROBERT JR.	NAPLES, RUDOLPH	\$113,000
73 SHAW'S MILL ROAD	LAPHAM, MICHAEL	ALLENWOOD, ROBERT ESTATE OF	\$225,000
58 SOUTH STREET	ADAMS, EDMUND	MCGRAW, THOMAS & MCGUIRE, SARAH	\$205,247
8 COLLEGE AVE.	GREAT FALLS BUILDERS	DREGER, DUANE	\$85,000
222-4 HUSTON ROAD	STJ, INC.	GILBERT PROPERTIES, LLC	\$150,000
120 ICHABOD LANE EXT.	GILBERT HOMES, INC.	SAM STRUMPH BUILDERS, LLC	\$87,500
90 ICHABOD LANE EXT.	GILBERT HOMES, INC.	SAM STRUMPH BUILDERS, LLC	\$87,500
4 BRIARWOOD LANE	NATHAN MOODY	TOWN OF GORHAM	\$50,000
20A GREEN STREET	HODGKINS, JANE & HAWS, CHARLES	HINES, JOHN NICHOLAS	\$140,000
9 BOREAL DRIVE	ONGE, JOHN & DECKER-FARIA, NICOLE	CONDREAY, NICOLE & RICHTER, PATRICK	\$437,000
23 LAURA LANE	EC BUILDERS, LLC	BAUER & GILMAN, CONST. LLC	\$66,000

A Look Back at the Fire of 1880

COMPILED BY KATHY CORBETT
Staff Writer

The following article is from the May 17, 1880 issue of the Eastern Argus, published daily in Portland. Many versions of this event are part of the historical lore of North Gorham, also known at the time as Great Falls. This is the one reported by the press. Today we would not call a person with a disability a cripple. We do not know how Marshal Bridges persuaded Anderson to confess, but he seemed eager to defend his actions. (Today he would have been read his Miranda Rights.) Nor do we know if he was convicted.



Photo courtesy of Barry Atwood

A photo of the Irish home at the corner of North Gorham Road and Standish Neck Road taken in the late 1800s. It was from the upstairs window that Henry Irish first saw the fire in the house across the street. The original house has seen some updates since, but still remains at the same location.

ARSON:

The Buildings of Oliver Dole at North Gorham Burned
Two Children Barely Rescued from Flames
The Incendiary Arrested Yesterday by Marshal Bridges
He Confesses the Crime But Says He Does Not Repent It

About one o'clock Saturday morning Mr. Henry Irish, who lives at Great Falls in North Gorham, some thirteen miles from this city, noticed a light shining in through the window of his sleeping apartment. He got up and approached and was startled to see the stable of his neighbor, Mr. Oliver Dole, wrapped in flames. He hastily dressed and rushed to Mr. Dole's. The family was sleeping soundly unaware of the fiery doom so close upon them. Mr. Irish aroused them not a minute too soon, for when he got there the roof of the stable fell in and the flames attacked the house with great fury. It was with the utmost difficulty that two small children, who

were sleeping upstairs, were got out of the blazing house. Very little of the furniture was saved. All of the contents of the stable including a horse, two cows, several carriages, and a lot of farming implements were burned. The house was 1½ storied with ell attached, each room very neatly and comfortable furnished. The loss is not far from \$1,500, and on the property was insurance to the amount of \$900.

Of course the question of how the fire caught was quickly agitated by the crowd of neighbors who thronged thither at daylight to survey the ruins. It was soon decided that it must be the work of an incendiary, and the people were not slow in charging the crime of arson which had nearly proved so fatal to human life, upon a young man named Edward Anderson, a relative of Mrs. Dole, who was known to have made threats against Mr. Dole. There is very strong circumstantial evidence against this fellow as will be seen fur-

ther on. Mr. Dole sent word to Marshal Bridges, by W.H. Libby, who drives the stage from North Windham to White Rock, requesting him to come out immediately and investigate the affair. Mr. Bridges lost no time in responding to this request and was soon driving post haste toward Great Falls.

On arriving there he found the tracks of this Anderson left fresh in the loam in the rear of the barn in the plowed ground next thereto, and where he had crossed the bridge as well as unmistakable traces of him for quite a distance along the road. Anderson is a cripple, walking with the assistance of a crutch and a cane, with prints of both of which supports were plainly visible on either side of the boot marks. From this and other evidence Mr. Bridges made up his mind to arrest Anderson at once, and accordingly rode to the place where Mr. Anderson made his home when not at work in Lewiston. But he was not there and had not been there, so the folks said, since Friday evening, when he left the house saying he was going to the store. Mr. Bridges procured a fresh horse and drove to a number of places in the vicinity where it was thought Anderson might be, but found nobody that had seen him since the fire. The Marshal then drove to Sebago Lake, but was told by the depot master there that Anderson had not got on the train from the depot since the fire. After visiting several other places, with like results, Mr. Bridges started for home reaching there at 11 o'clock Saturday night.

Some of the people at Great Falls expressed the opinion that Anderson might have thrown himself into the river, as he was noted for strange mental freaks, at times almost verging on insanity. Others thought he might be

hiding in the woods, and would be forced to come out by hunger in a day or two.

The latter opinion proved the correct one, and yesterday Mr. Bridges was notified that Anderson had been seen in the woods early that morning. He immediately rode out and arrested Anderson at the house of Elijah Emery, an uncle of the incendiary. At first Anderson was very reticent, but the marshal finally got a confession from him that he set the fire. Anderson said that Mr. Dole and his wife had lied about him and slandered him, and he was not sorry he burned his buildings. He said he stayed in the woods Saturday night and then came out and slept in a little shed until daylight, when hunger compelled him to go to his uncle's for something to eat. The marshal brought his prisoner into the city and lodged him at the jail, where he now remains.

Mr. Dole, whose buildings were burned, is said to be a fine man and respected by the community in which he lives. He said he knows no reason why Anderson should entertain ill-will against him. Anderson formerly owned an interest in the property, but Mr. Dole bought him out, paying him a fair price. But some of the neighbors state that Anderson was not satisfied at the trade and had declared repeatedly that Dole would not come out of it any better than he did. Mr. Dole is a trader at Great Falls and also postmaster.

Anderson, or Thompson, which he says is his right name, is a well-educated man, and has taught several terms of school. Lately he has been employed at a box shop at Lewiston. He left Lewiston about five days ago and went to Great Falls, undoubtedly, as the people there think, with a mature plan for burning Mr. Dole's property.

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COMMUNITY

OF INTEREST

Pat Weeks of Gorham was a guest speaker recently at a meeting of the local Beta chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa. Weeks, a talented artist, shared several insights into her painting techniques. She also showed many of her works and gave Beta members an opportunity to dabble with paints and brushes.

The Bookworm is asking customers to donate \$2 to purchase a gift-wrapped new book with a small toy attached to accompany Christmas baskets being prepared for needy families in the area. The Bookworm has donated more than 100 books a year for this effort in the past 15 years. FMI, 839-2665.



The local Beta chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, an organization for teachers and retired teachers, completed its annual Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox project. These boxes of gifts will be sent to areas of the United States or the world where children would otherwise be without a Christmas. Back row, l. to r.: Madeleine Bates, Anne Sullivan, Anne Tewhey, Jean Davis, Lynn Silcox, Barbara Caiazzo, Judy Wing, Christine Sawyer, Teresa Keahon, and Nancy Burnham. Front row: Susan Morneault, Regina Minot, and Ellen Durgin.



The Gorham Lions Club will be selling fresh-cut Maine Christmas Trees at Gorham Ace Hardware on Main St. from 11/30 – 12/17. FMI, Kenny Aldrich 929-9182.

White Rock Community Clubhouse, 34 Wilson Rd., will hold a Bean Supper Saturday Dec 2 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Homemade kidney and pea beans, hot dogs, cole slaw, potato salad, macaroni and cheese, homemade biscuits, as well as homemade pies for dessert. Adults: \$8/Children under 12: \$4. FMI, whiterockcommunityclub@gmail.com.

The Gorham High School swim team will be selling fresh-cut Maine Christmas trees on Saturdays and Sundays through Dec 17 from 10 am.- 4 p.m. at Robie Gym Lawn (corner of South St. and Preble St. Gorham). Gorham Ice Hockey will be selling holiday wreaths along with the swim team. Come support your local athletes.

Are you an adult fan of Legos (AFOL)? Perhaps you’ve heard of our Lego Club on Saturday mornings, but thought it was just for kids? If you are 13 and up, please join us at Baxter Memorial Library on Dec 13 at 5 p.m. Bring something you’ve built to share!

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension will be holding the Crazy 8’s 4-H Club at Baxter Memorial Library Wednesday on Dec 6 from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Space is limited to twelve participants in grades 3-5. The program is free and all the materials will be provided. The projects include: Flying marshmallows, spy training, toilet paper olympics, and more. Visit or call the library to reserve your spot for the eight-week course.

The Gorham Lions will meet on December 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Works Cafeteria off Huston Road, 6:30 p.m. New members welcome. FMI, 929-9182.

Gorham Memorial Post 10879, Veterans of Foreign Wars, will meet on December 12 in the Gorham Fire Department training room, 270 Main St. at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month.

HOLIDAY EVENTS

“Home for the Holidays” 27th Annual Scholarship Gala, Friday, December 1, 6 p.m., Corthell Hall, USM Gorham Campus. Gala tickets—\$125 individual / \$200 Host Committee (a portion is tax deductible). Tickets may be purchased over the phone or via email from: Binney Brackett at (207) 780-5003, brackett@maine.edu or Lori Arsenault at (207) 780-5142, loria@maine.edu.

The 3rd Annual Comfort & Joy Christmas Concert will take place on December 8 at 7 p.m. and December 9 at 3:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Spire 29. Free and open to the public. Donations for the Gorham Food Pantry will be accepted. Presented by Galilee Baptist Church, this gathering of local musicians seeks to present a mixture of Christmas songs along with the stories behind the songs. FMI, www.facebook.com/comejoy.

The Gorham Community Chorus and Gorham High School Chamber Singers present the Prelude to Christmas concert on Sunday, December 3, at 3 p.m. at Gorham High School McCormack Auditorium. \$5 suggested donation.

A Christmas Season Service of Comfort and Rest will be held on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. at the West Gorham Union Church Rt 15 (190 Ossipee Trail). The local Ecumenical Council along with Dolby & Dorr are co-sponsoring this service, which will offer a quiet place to reflect and realize no one is alone. Light refreshments will be served following the service. All are welcome.

Baxter Memorial Library will be holding a special holiday event on Tuesday, December 12, at 6 p.m. with Gorham’s own Chief of Police, Dan Jones. Conductor Jones will be reading “The Polar Express” by Chris Van Allsburg during a “pajamas highly encouraged” story time. This is an all ages program with no registration required. Hot cocoa will be served and all children will take home a small memento. (Snow Date is Dec 14 at 6 p.m.)

HOLIDAY FAIRS

North Gorham Public Library will host its annual Holiday Craft Fair & Book Sale on December 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Crafters may reserve a table for \$10 or half table for \$5. FMI, libng@north-gorham.lib.me.us or 892-2527

First Parish Church, 1 Church St., will hold its Holiday Fair on Saturday, December 2, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Silent Auction, Café Luncheon, Greens, Crafts, Gifts, Dessert Auction, Santa and more! FMI, 839-6751.

CLOSE TO HOME

Scarborough Free Baptist Church, 55 Mussey Rd., will hold a homemade bean supper on December 2 from 4 to 6 p.m. Two kinds of beans and hot dogs, chop suey, cole slaw, biscuits, brown bread and dessert. Half of the proceeds will go to the Youth Group trip to Kentucky. FMI, 423-5851.

A Christmas Carol, Sunday, December 10, 2:30 matinee & 7:30 evening show. Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME. Tickets: Adults \$20, Seniors & Students \$18. Reservations advised: 207-929-6476 or www.sacorivertheatre.org.

ON-GOING EVENTS

The Gorham Food Pantry, located at 299-B Main St (parking lot of St. Anne’s Catholic Church) is open every Thursday morning from 9-11 a.m. and the second and fourth Wednesday of every month from 6-7 p.m. Free for Gorham residents in need. FMI, 222-4351 or visit www.gorhamfoodpantry.org.

Lakes Region Senior Center, located at the Little Falls Activity Center, 40 Acorn St. is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Join them daily for coffee, tea, and socializing. Ongoing daily activities include Mahjong on Mondays – beginners welcome. FMI, Diane 892-9529; Tuesday crafts and card games. FMI, Avis 892-0298; The Memoir Writing Group meets the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. FMI, David 892-5604; Thursday Table games at 10 a.m. and Friday Art Workshop at 9 a.m. FMI 892-0299.

The Lakes Region Senior Center, in Gorham, is seeking volunteers who would be willing to teach an art class or a craft. This would be on a Friday morning, or early afternoon. It could be for a onetime class or a succession of classes. If you would be interested please call Gerry at 839-3859 or Blanche at 892-5604.

The Gorham Medical Closet located at the Municipal Center 75 South St is free and available to Gorham residents in need of portable wheelchairs, hospital beds, shower seats, commodes, walkers, canes and more. FMI 839-3630, 839-2484, or 839-3859.

Gorham Cancer Prayer and Support Group meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Cressey Road United Methodist Church, 81 Cressey Rd. from 6-7:30 p.m. This monthly non-denominational event is a prayer and support group for anyone dealing with cancer including patients and caregivers.

GHS GRAD NEWS: If you, or your son or daughter is a GHS graduate, we would like to share your achievements in the Gorham Times Of Interest section or in a Where Are They Now feature. Of Interest submissions should include the year of GHS graduation and should be no longer than 75 words. Contact Chris Crawford at ckck5@maine.rr.com, Kathy Corbett at ktcorbett@aol.com or Cindy O’Shea at coshea2@maine.rr.com.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY NOV 30

- Baby and Me (Birth to 18 mos) 9:30- 9:50 a.m. Baxter Memorial Library
- Toddler Time (18-36 mos) 10-10:30 a.m. Baxter Memorial Library
- Sewing Club (age 7 and up) 2:30-4:30 p.m. Baxter Memorial Library

FRIDAY DEC 1

- 10-11 a.m. Sensory Friendly Story Time. Baxter Memorial Library
- Home for the Holidays Gala, 6 p.m., USM Gorham, FMI call 780-5003 or 780-5142

SATURDAY DEC 2

- Bean Supper, White Rock Community Clubhouse, 4:30-6 p.m. Adults: \$8/Children under 12: \$4. FMI,whiterockcommunityclub@gmail.com.
- Holiday Craft Fair & Book Sale, North Gorham Public Library, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. FMI, libng@north-gorham.lib.me.us or 892-2527

SUNDAY DEC 3

- Gorham Community Chorus, Prelude to Christmas Concert, GHS, 3:00 pm. \$5 donation.

TUESDAY DEC 5

- Preschool Story Time (Ages 3 to 5) 9:30-10:15 a.m. Baxter Memorial Library

WEDNESDAY DEC 6

- Toddler Time (18-36 mos) 10-10:30 a.m. Baxter Memorial Library
- Crazy 8's 4-H club 3:30-4:30 p.m. Sign up required. Baxter Memorial Library
- Family Gaming Night 4-6:45 p.m. Baxter Memorial Library

THURSDAY DEC 7

- Baby and Me (Birth to 18 mos) 9:30- 9:50 a.m. Baxter Memorial Library
- Toddler Time (18-36 mos) 10-10:30 a.m. Baxter Memorial Library
- Sewing Club (age 7 and up) 2:30-4:30 p.m. Baxter Memorial Library
- Board of Trustees Meeting, 6:30 p.m. Baxter Memorial Library

SATURDAY DEC 9

- Lego Club 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Baxter Memorial Library

TUESDAY DEC 12

- Preschool Story Time (Ages 3 to 5) 9:30-10:15 a.m. Baxter Memorial Library
- "The Polar Express"Special Reading. 6-6:45 p.m. Baxter Memorial Library

WEDNESDAY DEC 13

- Toddler Time (18-36 mos) 10-10:30 a.m. Baxter Memorial Library
- Adult Fans of Lego, 5-6 p.m. Baxter Memorial Library

THURSDAY DEC 14

- Baby and Me (birth to 18 mos) 9:30-9:50 a.m. Baxter Memorial Library
- Toddler Time (18-36 mos) 10-10:30 a.m. Baxter Memorial Library
- Sewing Club (ages 7 and up) 2:30-4:30 p.m. Baxter Memorial Library
- Book Group Discussion, "Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit" by Michael Finkel. 10 a.m. Baxter Memorial Library.

Baxter Memorial Library, 71 South St.
Cressey Road United Methodist Church, 81 Cressey Rd.
Gorham House, 50 New Portland Rd.
North Gorham Public Library, 2 Standish Neck Rd.
St. Anne's Church, 299 Main St.
The Old Richardson Place, 510 Main St.
White Rock Community Club, 34 Wilson Rd.

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In celebration of Kindling Kindness week November 12-18, the town of Gorham came alive with kindness and generosity. Over 3000 acts of kindness were performed at Gorham Middle School, the Gorham Police Department served lunch to students at various schools in town, Gorham House Preschool distributed love notes with flowers throughout the town, Gorham House residents and Great Falls Elementary students sent thank you cards to staff and public servants, and the Interact Club at Gorham High School passed out Kindling Kindness booklets throughout the town to name just a few.



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