

Superintendent Shares Initial Thoughts on Fall School Opening

GORHAM TIMES STAFF

In her May 12 blog post, Superintendent of Gorham Schools, Heather Perry, spoke about the possible scenarios for schools opening this fall. She shared the initial framework only as details are still being worked out.

"Basically, the framework we are working with has us set up into three 'levels' of operations that will be based on the specific conditions we may face as the school year opens and as we continue to move through it," said Perry.

"THE GOAL IN CREATING THESE 'LEVELS' IS TO BE ABLE TO CREATE AN OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR THE COMING YEAR THAT ALLOWS US TO FLUIDLY MOVE BETWEEN THESE TYPES OF CONDITIONS WHILE MAINTAINING OUR FOCUS ON EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING," SAID PERRY.

Level 1 would be continuing distance learning much like everyone is doing now, but the "stakes" would likely be a little higher. Although the focus would still be on the social/emotional needs of students, academics will also likely play a larger role now that Gorham has devices for all students, an ability to solve connectivity issues, and a better understanding of teaching required.

Level 3 would be operating schools under very "traditional" environments. There may be a few restrictions, but not many. This level would be as close to "normal" as schools will likely get prior to a vaccine being widely available.

Level 2 is in between 1 and 2. Schools may be able to do some face-to-face instruction, but they would need to find a way to limit the number of students and staff in the buildings at any given time to maintain social distancing. There would also be significant protocols in place for sanitization and the mandatory wearing of face masks along with other safety measures.

"The goal in creating these 'levels' is to be able to create an operational

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Gorham Business Exchange Announces Business Person of the Year

COURTESY OF THE GORHAM BUSINESS EXCHANGE

The Gorham Business Exchange (GBE) honors one Gorham business person annually who goes above and beyond for the Gorham community, serves as a mentor and leader, and leaves a lasting impression on all those he or she helps along the way.

"We are very excited to announce Dr. Rob Lavoie, owner of Chiropractic Clinic of Gorham, as the 2020 Business Person of the Year. Dr. Rob has made a positive impact by helping many patients recover quickly, being a past board member of the Gorham Business Exchange, and for the tremendous work he has done with the Gorham Conservation Commission. Dr. Rob truly cares about the Gorham community," said GBE President Ethan Johnson.

Lavoie grew up in Aroostook County, close to the Canadian border in the small town of Frenchville. He aspired to be a chiropractor as early as high school, going so far as to list it as his future goal in the Wisdom High School yearbook. His undergraduate



Photo courtesy of Amanda Lavoie

years were spent at the University of Maine before attending Palmer College of Chiropractic in Iowa.

He graduated in 2004 with a Doctorate of Chiropractic degree and returned to Maine to practice. After working with other chiropractors for a couple of years, Lavoie decided to

open his own practice in Gorham. What he saw in Gorham initially continues to appeal to him and others alike...Gorham is a place that continues to grow but maintains a small-town feel with a strong sense of community. Lavoie knew this was a place he could call home.

He opened his doors in 2006 and began building his practice, first at The Old Richardson building on Lower Main Street and then on Elm Street. In 2010, Lavoie moved into the Gorham home he shares with his wife, Amanda, and their two children. In 2014, they purchased the historic Charlotte Millett house at 88 State Street. The refurbished 1890s Maine home is the current location of Lavoie's practice, Chiropractic Clinic of Gorham.

Rob and Amanda enjoy raising their family in Gorham. Their daughter Alexandra (5) and their son Louie (3) keep them busy, but Rob still finds time to stay very active in his community. He has served on numerous committees. He has acted as a mem-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Gorham Realtors Adjust to New Norm

DIANE ABRAMSON
 Staff Writer

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the real estate industry, like so many other sectors. However, the market is still extremely active due to limited inventory and low interest rates. Kelley Skillin-Smith of Century 21 First Choice Realty, said, "I currently have multiple properties under contract and have had two closings. All have had multiple offers and the properties are being sold at or above asking price."

Peter Mason of Po-Go Realty echoed Skillin-Smith's sentiment, "buyers need to be ready to go. We are seeing low inventory and multiple offers. It's not uncommon to see offers \$10,000 to \$30,000 over asking price depending on the price range of the house."

Julie Chandler of Po-Go Realty attributes the record low inventory to "sellers being more hesitant to list right now due to COVID-19 concerns."

However, the industry has shifted to protect the health and safety of

all parties involved. Based on guidance from the Maine Association of Realtors, David Willis of Willis Real Estate shared, "We are no longer hosting open houses. For serious buyers, we are providing virtual tours of the properties they are interested in and then asking the potential buyer to conduct a 'drive-by' of the location. Buyers can then select one property to view, with the approval of seller. For the walk-through, we are requiring all individuals to wear masks, gloves, and foot coverings."

Tammy Ruda, Legacy Properties Sotheby's International Realty, said, "sellers and buyers should work with a broker who is following a safe protocol and who will only be allowing qualified buyers to enter their home. We do showings now with only one person entering a home with a broker at a time. Sellers are leaving all the doors open, cupboards and closets open, and lights on. It is a lengthy process but well worth the safety of all of our client and ourselves."

Buyers do need to be aware that they can no longer attend home



Photo courtesy of Kelley Skillin-Smith

The real estate industry has shifted to protect the health and safety of all parties involved. Kelley Skillin-Smith of Century 21 First Choice Realty is shown above.

inspections. According to new statewide guidance on real estate activities issued by the Maine Department

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

NOTE TO READERS

While the Gorham Times is committed to bringing you the latest Gorham news, we are temporarily limiting the length of our printed edition to accommodate our volunteers and advertisers during this time.

inside theTimes **GOCAM**

2 Augusta	3 Living	4 Town/Municipal
6 Schools	10 Sports	11 Community

NAMI MAINE LAUNCHES TEEN PEER SUPPORT TEXT LINE
PG. 7

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.

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Congratulations to our Graduating Seniors

SEN. LINDA SANBORN

Graduation is such a special time. For students, it's a moment to celebrate their hard work, look back on their accomplishments and think about their future. For their families, it is a time to show their pride and their affection for their child as they enter a new stage in their life. For teachers, it's a bittersweet moment as they say goodbye to students they have taught and forged deep bonds with over the years. It's an important moment for our community too, as we congratulate another group of students who are marking an important milestone on their journey toward adulthood.

Of course, this year is different. We won't have the usual graduation ceremony in the packed auditorium, brimming with the excitement of our graduates and their proud families, friends, teachers and community members. We won't have the big parties or school events celebrating our graduates and all they've accomplished. And regrettably, students won't get to spend the last few months in school with their friends and teachers before they go on to their next adventure.

While social distancing measures are completely necessary to protect the most vulnerable members of our community, it's still sad, and it's not fair to the students, parents, and teachers who have worked so hard to get to this point. We'll never really be able to replace what was lost, although

we will try, with modified graduation ceremonies, small gatherings of fewer than ten people, videoconferencing parties, road signs, and congratulatory messages.

Luckily, this year's graduating class is a group who knows how to adapt and respond to an unprecedented crisis with dignity, compassion and creativity. When schools ended classroom instruction in March, students, teachers, and parents quickly took the steps they needed to move to remote instruction. This meant using new technology, coming up with new lesson plans, figuring out how to make good on the school's obligation to ensure their students had access to nutritious food, making sure they had the needed internet access, and so much more. It was a massive, fundamental change for our entire educational system, and it happened over a few short weeks in the middle of a pandemic.

With everything going on, it would have been understandable if teachers and students had decided to stick to the script and do the bare minimum to get through the final months of school. In the Gorham schools though, students and teachers alike found ways to go the extra mile.

In their first few weeks away from the classroom, Gorham High School students produced a public service announcement video called "Protect Nana," which urged folks to adhere to social distancing guidelines to slow the spread of COVID-19. The video has

been featured on NewsCenter and by the Maine Department of Education, and online versions on YouTube and Facebook have been viewed by thousands. I must say, as a "Nana," I appreciated their message.

Gorham High School teachers and students also worked together to create and promote the #SeparatedButNotDivided campaign to raise funds for the Gorham Backpack program and the Gorham Food Pantry. Their efforts raised more than \$10,000 to help feed the hungry in Gorham.

Congratulations to all of our graduating seniors. You have shown yourselves to be an impressive group of young adults, and I am confident that whatever you do next, you will excel at it. But for now, take a moment to celebrate in whatever way you can. You earned it.

If you ever need help or want to express your thoughts on an issue, please reach out to me.



Linda Sanborn is serving her first term in the Maine Senate, representing Senate District 30, which includes Gorham, part of Buxton, and part of Scarborough. She previously served four terms in the Maine House, and practiced family medicine in Gorham for 25 years. Senator Sanborn lives in Gorham with her husband, Jeff, a Gorham native. They have three adult sons and one granddaughter. (207) 287-1515, Linda.Sanborn@Legislature.Maine.gov.

Letter 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,

As some are already aware, I have decided not to run for a second term in the Maine State Senate. This was not an easy decision, and I truly want to express my gratitude to the community for the trust they have put in me over the past 12 years. While I continue to address the needs of our state and constituents as we work through the COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, I also look forward to traveling and spending more time with my family living on the West Coast.

The decision to step down became much easier when a great candidate, Stacy Brenner of Scarborough, stepped up to run for Senate District 30 (Gorham, Scarborough and Buxton). Stacy has the experience and skills needed to be your State Senator.

For instance, I'm thrilled that Stacy has a strong healthcare background, including a master's degree in nursing and 10 years of work at Portland hospitals. As the call came for frontline

health care providers to step up when they were most needed during this pandemic, Stacy returned to labor and delivery nursing at Mercy.

But Stacy's decision followed curtailment of much of Broadturn Farm's business, which she co-owns with her husband, due to the pandemic. Like thousands of small business owners across Maine, Stacy has struggled, but I know this experience will make her a powerful advocate for small, family-owned businesses.

Stacy has co-owned the farm for the past 14 years, where she has become a successful entrepreneur and grown a thriving business. Stacy's leadership skills have also been exemplified by her serving on the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association and Maine Farmland Trust boards.

Stacy Brenner is the best kind of leader: hardworking, compassionate, and collaborative. I'm "all in" for Stacy Brenner for Maine Senate.

Senator Linda Sanborn



When life changes, let's review your goal.



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**NEXT GORHAM TIMES DEADLINE:
JUNE 3 - GRADUATION ISSUE**

Around Town

The Gorham Rec Department announced that courts, fields, and playgrounds will be open for public use on June 1. These facilities will not be disinfected. Residents are asked to follow CDC guidelines.

Residents who use the Town's curbside trash collection program can purchase a tag and attach it to a regular commercial bag for weekly pickup instead of using a Gorham trash bag. Trash tags, sold in a sheet of five, are for use with non-recyclable trash and are available at the Town Clerk's Office, Public Works and Gorham Hannaford.

Plummer Family Brings Years of Experience to Gorham Ace Hardware

LESLIE DUPUIS
Editor

For the second time in three years, Ace Hardware has changed ownership and a new sign will soon appear at the Main Street store. The Plummer family, who has been in the business for four generations, purchased the store from Bill and Holly Chandler on April 1. The Chandlers took over from the Cook family in 2017 but decided to sell the business to focus on their Yarmouth store.

The new owners are Troy Plummer, his brother Garrett Plummer, and their cousin Chris Sanborn. The Plummers currently own Ace Hardware stores in Buxton, Limerick and Waterboro. Cindy Plummer, who is married to Troy and is the financial manager for the company, said, "Percy Plummer was the first generation of the Plummer family to open a general store a little over 100 years ago. He continued to grow the business with his sons having three locations at one point. The three stores merged into the one location in Buxton in the 1960s selling both groceries and hardware following the general store model. As the business grew, an addition was built in the 80s, and the hardware store had its own storefront for the first time."

The family added stores in Limerick and Waterboro in the 1990s. With nearly 100 current employees among the three locations, the family took over the Gorham location during a difficult time.

"Purchasing the business right in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic has been a challenge. Approximately a third of our workforce across the locations needed a leave of absence for various reasons. We are holding positions for all of these workers until they can return but I have been hiring additional employees to help fill in," said Plummer.

The Plummers have retained all current employees. Jim Rines manages the Gorham store. Plummer said, "The current staff is amazing. They have all been pleasant and receptive to our ideas. The only new faces you will see are the newly hired employees to help fill in the gaps."

As the store was deemed "essential," it remained open all along but did shorten business hours temporarily due to staffing issues. The hours have been extended slightly in May and the Plummers hope to be back to normal business hours in June.

When speaking about the preparation needed to meet the new restrictions set by the State order, Plummer said, "Within a day of the change, we implemented cleaning procedures and store occupancy limits. By the second week, we had our contractor install plexiglass barriers at the registers to help maintain separation."

In looking ahead to the future, a "store reset" is planned in June which will include moving the location of the registers to improve the flow of



Photo courtesy of Cindy Plummer

The new owners of Ace Hardware are (left to right) Garrett Plummer, Chris Sanborn, and Troy Plummer.

the space. A design team from Ace will develop a new floor plan and will help implement the reset. As Plummer said, "There will be some disorganization for a short time, but the results will be a better product selection and better flow going through the checkout process. We hope to take the best of the old and add some new ideas to provide the best shopping experience for the Gorham customers as well as a good working environment for our employees."

Plummer's Ace Hardware is located at 57 Main St. Current hours for the month of May are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday. To contact the store, call 839-4856, go to www.plummershardware.com, or visit the Plummer's Ace Hardware Facebook page.

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Maggie, the Cook's Hardware Cat



Gorham Times reader Mary Jane LeCours shared old photos of Maggie the cat from her many years working at Cook's Hardware. Maggie lived on Preble Street with her owner Lenora Trussell but quickly adopted the store as her second home in the early 2000s. She roamed the block, guarded the store, and even slept on the shelves and in the tool drawers recounted LeCours. Some customers believed she was a stuffed animal. She was loved by the store employees and missed greatly when she disappeared without a trace one day.



Photos courtesy of Mary Jane LeCours

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Caregiving in the Age of COVID-19

BILL JENKS

It is no secret that most older adults prefer to remain in their own homes as they age; most until the very end of their lives. Increasing numbers of people around the world are caring for these older adults at home. This is clearly evident right here in Maine where we have the highest median age of any state in the country (44.6 years old, vs. 38 for the country as a whole).

Mainers are famously fiercely independent (some would say stubborn), and slow to ask for or accept help. Still, the time comes when, like it or not, they will need help if they are to remain at home. Inevitably, we have a growing legion of adult daughters, sons, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and kind-hearted friends and neighbors who have become caregivers without even realizing it.

Helping an older person live out their dreams of remaining at home as they age can be challenging on a number of levels, especially for family members. Those challenges have been greatly magnified by COVID-19. Sheltering at home, physical distancing, repeated hand washing, not touching your face, masks, gloves, constant disinfecting, and worries about every possible symptom are not exactly conducive to a close, caring relationship.

If you're a caregiver for an older relative or friend, there are some things

to consider. When you're not with the person you're caring for, make sure you take care of yourself. This principle is always included in advice for caregivers, but usually at the end of a list. Since it can't be emphasized enough, I'm putting it as the first thing to focus on. Eat and sleep well, exercise, manage stress, and treat yourself to at least one thing you enjoy every day is easier said than done, but definitely worth working toward.

When you are with the person you are caring for, keep your focus on them. Give them as much control over their own life as possible. Ask them what is most important to them, and support that rather than what you think is best.

Pick your battles. Explain the rationale behind wearing a mask. Wear one yourself, but if your loved one refuses, let it go. Likewise, the other precautions. They are all important but remember: the person you are caring for is likely not out in the community much, if at all. In terms of spreading infection, there is a minimal risk. In that regard you are much more of a risk to your loved one, so your own adherence to infection precautions takes precedence.

Limit or even prohibit visits from other family members and friends. This can be extremely difficult but is one of the primary ways to protect your loved one from being infected.

Strongly encourage those who are prohibited from visiting in person to visit virtually through Zoom, Facetime, or similar technology if available. If that's not an option, promote phone calls, cards, children's drawings, photos, "window visits," any kind of caring contact that can reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness.

In pleasant weather, take the person you're caring for outside if possible, being careful to maintain proper distancing from others. Sitting in the sun, watching the birds for a while, can be a true tonic.

Use music – and moving to music – to lift the mood and promote a positive atmosphere. Music that is meaningful to your parent, whether it is the Rolling Stones, Mozart string quartets, or favorite hymns, can be a powerful tool.

As much as possible, do things with rather than for the person. Keep them involved and engaged; give them purpose and meaning; provide a sense of being needed and valued.

Keep your sense of humor. Do your best but do not expect perfection. When all else fails, laugh!



Bill Jenks owns Home Instead Senior Care, which provides non-medical home care throughout Cumberland County. He is also Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Alzheimer's Association, Maine Chapter.

State Primary & Referendum Election

COURTESY OF TOWN OF GORHAM

Per Governor Mills' Executive Order and as part of continued social distancing efforts, the State Primary and Special Referendum Election previously scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, has been rescheduled to Tuesday, July 14.

The election has been called for the purpose of electing candidates for United States Senator, Representative to Congress (both districts), all 35 State Senate districts, all 151 State Representative districts, and the following county offices, which vary depending on the county: Judge of Probate, Register of Probate, County Treasurer, Register of Deeds, Sheriff, District Attorney and County Commissioner.

Secretary of State, Matthew Dunlap, encourages absentee voting as a proven and safe way to vote and to prevent the spread of COVID-19. You may request an absentee ballot by calling the Town Clerk's Office, visiting the Town Clerk's office once reopened, or requesting one online.

To be counted, a voted absentee ballot must be delivered to the Town Clerk's Office no later than 8 p.m. on Election Day. Any absentee ballots received after this time will not be counted.



Chris Burton



Julie Chandler



Jane Mason



Mike Griffin



Peter Mason



Benjamin Taylor

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GORHAM \$359,900 - Gorgeous 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom condo offering 1254sqft of living space all on one level. 1 car garage, full basement & worry free water/sewer.



NEW LISTING
WESTBROOK \$229,900 - Offers 1300sqft w/ a 2-3 BR floor plan. Master BR w/ bath & laundry. Renovations have been started but need finishing. Convenient 4.21 acre lot w/ public water.



UNDER CONTRACT
GORHAM \$185,000 - Super cute 1 bedroom tiny house on a 1.42 acre lot. Excellent location just 2 miles from Gorham Village. Efficient use of space and new heat pump for heating and cooling.



NEW LISTING
LIMINGTON \$264,900 - Brand new 28x40 raised ranch with 1 car garage. Offers a sunlit open floor plan with luxury laminate floors, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath and future expansion on the lower level.



BROWNFIELD \$18,900 - Nice Level building lot w/ shared beach rights on Pequawket Pond. Septic design done & power at the street. Come build your home here!



BALDWIN \$34,900 - Rural wooded lot offers road frontage on both Saddleback Road and Mountain Road. Ideal for a year round privacy or a weekend retreat!



STANDISH \$65,000 - Wooded parcel with a mix of upland and wetland. Frontage on desirable Oak Hill Road. Located in Standish's Rural District which allows for duplexes.



NEW LISTING
BIDDEFORD \$359,000 - Don't miss the opportunity to own this well maintained 2-unit w/in-law apt. Lovely yard, patio, new heating system, new roof, updated electrical box, new steps, etc. Large apts & plenty of parking.



SOLD
11 KINGFISHER CT \$309,900 - Desirable Pheasant Knoll condo located in the Ridgefield Condominium Association. Peaceful 1st floor living at its best! Enjoy sidewalks to Gorham Village & worry free public utilities.



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Town Update

GORHAM TIMES STAFF

All public Memorial Day activities were cancelled due to the current Stay at Home order. A small ceremony did take place and was recorded to be rebroadcast at a later date.

Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak confirmed that there is no plan to extend the property tax due date beyond June 15. Individuals can pay their taxes after the new deadline with interest and there is a poverty abatement process in place that individuals can still apply for if needed.

Paraschak also confirmed that some municipal offices, including the Clerk's Office, will reopen by appointment only starting June 1. The date was chosen to align with the opening of State government as well as to give the Town time to install protective measures for staff and the public as well as come up with transitional plans.

Specific information on the opening and how residents can make appointments will be released soon. Appointments can be made online and also by phone for those who do not have access to a computer. The Town is anticipating significant demand for appointments in the first few weeks and encourages anyone who is able to conduct their business online or over the phone to do so.

The new Industrial Park project (Rines property) is still moving forward. The Town's consultants are currently surveying and working onsite to bring more information back to the Industrial Park Steering Committee. Construction is not expected until 2021.

Gorham Realtors Adjust to New Norm CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of Economic and Community Development, for all residential real estate activities, "inspections must be completed by the building inspector only. Building inspectors must wear a cloth face covering, foot coverings, and gloves when entering properties." Buyers will receive pictures and a copy of the inspection report.

Thankfully, agents are not experiencing delays with closings. According to Mason, "title agents are still open for closings. Most are done in their office so they can control the environment (cleaning) before and after the closing. Buyer and seller are closing either in separate rooms or at staggered times. They have asked brokers not to come to closings. It's a really strange feeling not accompanying buyers and sellers at closing after you've worked hand in hand (with rubber gloves on) for six to eight weeks. We have not done any electronic closings but we've done plenty of mail away closings."

Willis has found that processes are actually running more efficiently because everyone is more readily available due in part to the new statewide guidelines and stay-at-home orders.

Keith Nicely of Bean Group provided a summary of what to

Lewiston Man Arrested After High Speed Chase

SHERI FABER
Staff Writer

On May 13, at about 7:30 a.m., Sgt. Nate Therriault was driving northbound on Route 114 as a 2002 Honda Accord, passing a car on a double yellow line on a curve while driving at a high rate of speed and coming into the northbound lane, caused Therriault to swerve and drive off the road in order to avoid a collision. Therriault was able to regain control of the cruiser and turned around to initiate a traffic stop.

The Honda failed to stop and Therriault pursued it but discontinued the chase. He was able to locate the vehicle a short distance away on Milt Brown Road in Standish and the driver was located, arrested, and taken to jail.

Scott Frisco, 28, of Lewiston was charged with reckless conduct, criminal speed, operating without a license, eluding a police officer, leaving the scene of an accident, refusing to submit to arrest and having an outstanding warrant for violating conditions of release. He is being held without bail.

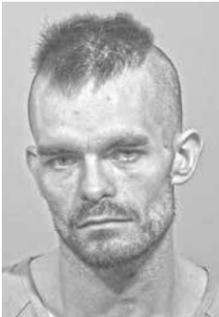


Photo courtesy of Cumberland County Sheriff's Office

Planning Board Results MAY 18

Gorham Solar, LLC's (formerly Nexamp, Inc.) request for approval of a PV Solar Ground-Based Array with associated equipment, gravel access and perimeter fence, located south of 412 Fort Hill Road, was postponed until the June 1 Planning Board meeting.

A proposed amendment to the Zoning Map to expand the Development Transfer Overlay District to include the area in the vicinity of Mosher's Corner was moved to the Town Council with a recommendation for adoption.

A proposed amendment to the Zoning Map in the area of Harding Bridge Road to match the Future Land Use Map in the Comprehensive Plan currently zoned as Rural to Suburban Residential was moved to the Town Council.

A proposed ordinance to amend the Land Use Code to adopt a Marijuana Cultivation or Manufacturing Licensing Ordinance and add permitted uses in the rural, industrial and Olde Canal zoning districts was moved to the Town Council and recommended for adoption.

GBE Business Person of the Year CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ber of the Gorham Business Exchange and has been involved in organizing the Gorham Marketplace event as well as participating as a business owner. He has served as chair of the Gorham Conservation Commission, which has been a catalyst for his true passion: mountain biking and trail building.

Along with a handful of Gorham friends and fellow outdoor enthusiasts, Lavoie has been instrumental in mapping out and building 30+ miles of trails through the beautiful acreage of Gorham. He has collaborated with landowners, formed respectful land use agreements, and has effectively made Gorham a destination for mountain biking as well as multi-purpose trail use.

Lavoie has also served as a board member as well as president of the Greater Portland chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association and has been the connection between this group of mountain biking enthusiasts and their hundreds of hours of volunteer work to help build, maintain, and improve trails here in Gorham.

Cindy Hazelton, Gorham Recreation Department Director, said, "Rob Lavoie has a passion for mountain biking and all that it entails. He has given freely of his time and vision for mountain biking and Gorham riders of all ages have benefited from his sweat equity and steadfastness in accomplishing these goals."

Lavoie also had a vision for Gorham to be a place where its community members can recreate outside and enjoy a happy and healthy lifestyle. In addition to his work on the trails, he most recently was the backbone behind Gorham's new Pump Track,

aply named the Lavoie Bike Park, off of Weeks Road.

"Rob's efforts to transform a patchwork of small trails into a professionally built pump track and a 30+ mile network spanning public and private land has been a huge win for the town. His ability to coordinate - and motivate - dozens of dedicated volunteers, arrange fundraisers, and maintain solid relationships with local landowners was the driving force that made this all possible, and the results have definitely made Gorham an even better place to live," said Bill Moreno, Gorham Conservation Commission member.

"Rob has a can do attitude and a second to none work ethic that allows any organization he joins to reach new heights. On behalf of the entire Gorham Business Exchange, I'd like to congratulate Rob on his well deserved recognition and thank him for his many contributions to the business community and the Town of Gorham as a whole," added GBE board member David Willis.

When he's not caring for his patients, building trails all over Gorham, and serving on committees to better his community, Lavoie has been found volunteering at various Career Day events in the schools, working with Happy Healthy Gorham, and supporting other local businesses in Gorham. Occasionally, he can be seen riding his mountain bike...usually with a big smile on his face. He has often said, "How you do one thing is how you do everything." He practices what he preaches by giving his all to his family, to his business, and to his community.

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School Notes

Gorham High School's (GHS) parade to celebrate the Class of 2020 will commence at 7:45 p.m. on Sunday, June 7, beginning at the Gorham Industrial Park and conclude at GHS. The route will follow Route 25 and Main St. and then turn left onto South St. and enter the GHS campus at Morrill Ave. Members of the Gorham community are invited to line the parade route to cheer and wave signs that celebrate Gorham's seniors. Participants and spectators should maintain a six-foot-physical-distance and refrain from throwing candy or any other items from cars or toward the parade.

Gorham Schools' technology director, Dennis Crowe, was able to procure free laptops for all students in grades K-3 from the Maine Department of Education. These Chromebooks were distributed between May 11-22 to students in these grades. Having these laptops for the last few weeks of the "normal" school calendar helps to ensure all students have equal access to successfully being able to close out this year and transition to the coming year. Gorham is also allowing all families in current grades K-11 to keep their laptops over the summer so that they will have easier access to any online summer learning opportunities that may be needed to assist them in their learning.

Recognition for Gorham's 2024 & 2027 Classes

COMPILED BY ANDREA MORRELL
School News Editor

Gorham Middle School (GMS) has scheduled its eighth grade recognition night for Thursday, June 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. The rain date is Monday, June 15.

Instead of the traditional graduation celebration and dance, Gorham's Class of 2024 will have a car procession loop around the middle school. The route will begin on Quincy Dr., then to Caitlin Dr., to Weeks Rd. Cars will be able to loop around and pass the cars driving in so students can see each other and cheer their friends on. Students will have their names on a sign on the passenger side of their car to help identify them.

The plan is to have music, the Gorham Police Department, the Gorham Fire Department, and all of GMS' teachers spaced out cheering the cars on as they approach. Assistant principal Tom Smith and principal Quinton Donahue will read student names over a speaker system and hand out certificates and bags that will include t-shirts, books, and copies of the slide show on a thumb drive.

In order to keep everyone safe and healthy while celebrating, only teachers and GMS staff are allowed outside of vehicles while on school property. Masks and gloves will be worn by all staff participating in the recognition ceremony.

Principals of the three Gorham Elementary Schools said they will also have parades for fifth graders (Class of 2027) who are moving on to GMS next year. Zoom meetings with parents, slide presentations, t-shirts, virtual talent shows, and other creative measures will take the place of the usual end-of-year activities.

The Great Falls fifth grade recognition parade will be held Friday, June 12, at 2 p.m. The route will begin at the Public Works parking lot at 80 Huston Rd. Cars can begin lining up at 1:30 p.m.

If vehicles are to be decorated, it should be done so prior to arrival so occupants can remain safely inside. The parade route will travel along Huston Rd. and take a left on Route 237 before taking a right onto Justice Way and heading into the bus loop and looping through the staff parking lot before exiting back at Route 237. The Gorham Fire Department will close out the procession.

Teachers and staff will be spaced along the walkway greeting and cheering students on, with the path of the procession through the bus loop decorated with congratulatory signs and support.

Students should sit on the right side of the vehicle. When vehicles arrive at the front of the school, the fifth grade student's name will be announced. The classroom teacher will approach the vehicle for a quick, socially-distanced photo that will be shared with families. Each fifth grade class was assigned a

color to identify which class community they belong to. The colored paper was given out when students arrived to pick up their materials at Great Falls. The student's name should be on the colored paper and it should be displayed on the passenger's side of the windshield. This will allow staff to prepare for each arriving student.

Only teachers and Great Falls staff are allowed outside of vehicles while on school property. Masks will be worn by all staff participating in the recognition ceremony.

Village will be continuing its tradition of providing each student with a special t-shirt and a fifth grade slideshow. This year's slideshow will include pictures of students learning from home and teachers will host virtual "watch parties" with their classes the week of June 8.

Additionally, Mark Curtis, from Gorham Sand and Gravel, donated a large boulder to the school for fifth graders to sign. The boulder will serve as a special memorial for these students who thrived despite the unexpected shift to distance learning.

As a final celebration, Village will host a fifth grade drive-by parade on Wednesday, June 10, from 9-10 a.m. Families are invited to drive through the bus loop as Village staff members cheer and say goodbye - from a safe distance.

Narragansett will be having a fifth grade celebratory parade through the bus loop on Wednesday, June 10, at 6 p.m. to honor its 33 fifth graders.

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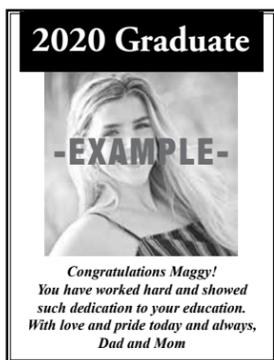
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NAMI Maine Launches Teen Peer Support Text Line

GORHAM TIMES STAFF

Maine's chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Maine) announced the launch of a Teen Text Support Line, a new mental health program for Maine youth between the ages of 14-20, which aims to provide mental health support during the coronavirus crisis and beyond.

The Text Line can be reached at (207) 515-8398 (TEXT) and operates from noon-10 p.m. each day. It provides adolescents who may need additional mental health support with a safe space to talk with another young person. Staff providing support via the Teen Text Line are between 19 and 23 years old.

According to the 2019 Maine KIDS COUNT Data Book, Maine's youth have the highest rate of diagnosed anxiety in the nation, and the country's third highest rate of diagnosed depression among children aged 3 to 17.

The Teen Text Line is not a crisis line. If someone is in crisis, contact the Maine Crisis Line by phone or text at (888) 568-1112.

For more information, visit www.namimaine.org/page/teentextline, or contact NAMI Maine's CEO Jenna Mehnert at (207) 907-0303 or jenna@namimaine.org.

Traveling Hope Garden



Photo credit Heather Richards

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and in an effort to bring awareness to mental health, Gorham Middle School (GMS) students from the Civil Rights Team and other groups have been painting rocks with messages of hope for two traveling Hope Gardens. These Hope Gardens are part of The Yellow Tulip Project (YTP). The YTP is a non-profit created by a Waynflete School student in 2016 to bring communities together and plant yellow tulip gardens around the world to help give hope and to eliminate the stigma surrounding mental illness. People have been writing inspiring words like "hope" and "love" on these rocks. They have also been writing inspiring messages, inspirational quotes, or drawing fun pictures. The traveling Hope Gardens are currently located at Hops and Vine on Main St. and at Gorham House of Pizza. They will be moving to different locations around Gorham in the coming weeks. To contribute rocks with messages of hope, bring them to GMS and place them in the Hope Garden near the front entrance. On May 31 at 5 p.m., the YTP will hold its annual Hope Day celebration virtually on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. It's a day for building community, reminding people that they are not alone, and taking on the stigma of mental illness through music, speeches, poetry, and hope.

Initial Thoughts on Fall School Opening

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

plan for the coming year that allows us to fluidly move between these types of conditions while maintaining our focus on educational programming," said Perry. "As you can imagine, the logistics for these levels, especially Level 2, offer some significant challenges which is what we are working on figuring out now."

Perry went on to say that she has "full faith that we will have a very solid and detailed operational plan outlined before the end of this school year that can be shared with everyone so you all can have the summers to plan appropriately."

She recently shared her completed third draft of the operations plan with the medical advisory group and planned to incorporate any feedback. Additional drafts will be shared with the district leadership team and teacher leader groups from around the district before being brought to the School Committee (SC) for a final presentation.

"My hope is that the MDOE (Maine Department of Education) has their 'checklist' for opening of school complete in early June so that while we are working to put finishing touches on our plan, we can incorporate their requirements in there to 'tweak' and then align with their work," said Perry.

Perry would like the SC to approve the operations plan by its last meeting in June. Once finalized, she plans to share it broadly with all stakeholders.

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School Committee Meeting MAY 13

KATHY CORBETT
Staff Writer

At the last regular School Committee (SC) meeting, held on Zoom, Superintendent Heather Perry reminded everyone that Governor Mills' phased reopening did not include schools. Some outdoor facilities may be opened for use in June, but distance-learning will continue until the end of the school year. Devices that students are using will not be collected over the summer. She announced that the Maine Department of Education has provided 900 Chromebooks for grades K-3.

Perry reported that all district staff is working and at least 97% of their students are receiving instruction from their teachers. Only 80 students are not in communication. The staff is preparing 400 meals daily and 100 backpack lunches every week. Some of the meals are for residents in Avesta housing.

The SC attended a workshop with the Town Council (TC) on May 12 to discuss the proposed FY21 budget. The TC expressed concern over increasing the mil rate at this time so a second workshop was scheduled for May 27. The TC must vote on the budget by mid-June for it to be included on the July 14 ballot for voter approval.

All SC members thanked the district staff for their work under difficult circumstances. Darryl Wright asked what the district is doing to reach out to the

students who are not participating in distance learning. Perry reported that teachers, guidance counselors, social workers, and principals are making every effort to reach these students. She also assured Phil Gagnon that there are no eligibility requirements for receiving meals.

Principals reported on students' transitions to different schools in the fall. Elementary principals Becky Fortier, Brian Porter, and Cynthia Remick described parades for their fifth graders who will be going next year to Gorham Middle School (GMS). Zoom meetings with parents, slide presentations, T-shirts, virtual talent shows, and other creative measures will take the place of the usual end-of-year activities. Welcoming programming is underway for the 100 students who will be transferring to Narragansett School. Orientation for incoming Kindergarten students is still in the planning stage.

Principal Quinton Donahue described orientation plans for fifth grade students who will be entering GMS in the fall. Staff has prepared a slide show that explains middle school and Donahue is offering students a virtual building tour. All students will learn about their teams, schedules, and advisors by mid-June. Eighth graders who will be attending Gorham High School (GHS) in the fall will be recognized with a car procession, T-shirts, and music on June 11.

GHS principal Brian Jandreau announced that incoming ninth grad-

ers and their parents have had information sessions. Students will receive master schedules, view videos from teachers, and get summer reading assignments. He outlined plans for the Class of 2020 graduation that will permit students to graduate with friends and parents in small, spread-out groups. It will be followed by a parade through Gorham. The SC gave a shout-out to Jandreau and his team for coming up with an exceptionally creative substitute for a traditional graduation celebration.

The Finance Committee reported discussing the fund balance for 2021, the purchase of two buses for which the district will pay only 20% of the cost, and the possibility of receiving stimulus funds. The Facilities Committee is going forward with its capital improvements project list and has discussed the effect it would have on the budget or a potential bond referendum.

Votes were taken on three minor changes in school policies (7-0), approval of step-ups for probationary teachers (7-0), and a State requirement on retaining principals (7-0). The SC also voted on three hirings (6-1, Gagnon) and to permit the superintendent to transfer funds from one cost center to another if they total no more than 5% of the budget and have no effect on the total budget figure (6-1, Gagnon). Gagnon cited procedural objections to both motions he did not support.

GMS District 1 Honors Band and Chorus Festival Musicians

TRACY WILLIAMSON
GMS Music/Chorus Teacher

Earlier this year, Gorham Middle School (GMS) musicians celebrated their instrumental and vocal talent at the 2020 Maine Music Educators Association District 1 Honors Band and Chorus Festivals.

On February 28 and 29, the 7th and 8th grade District 1 Honors Band and Honors Chorus came together for a weekend of music at South Portland Schools.

This year's 7th and 8th grade Honors Chorus was directed by Thornton Academy choral director Catherine Murray while the 7th and 8th grade Honors Band had the opportunity to work with University of Southern Maine band director, Jackie Townsend.

Students auditioned in the fall to be accepted to the 7th and 8th grade Honors Festival and had an amazing weekend seeing old friends, making new friends, and creating beautiful music with students from all over Southern Maine.

On March 7, 6th graders from Southern Maine came together for the District 1 6th grade Honors Band

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



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GMS District 1 Honors Band and Chorus Festival Musicians CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

and Chorus Festival at Gorham High School (GHS). Students from Cape Elizabeth, Westbrook, Sacopee Valley, Scarborough, Gorham, South Portland, and Bonny Eagle were nominated by their school band and choral directors to participate in the festival.

The Honors Chorus learned some fantastic music while working with guest conductor Heather Guilfoyle from Massabesic High School and the Honors Band had the privilege of working with the Maine Music Educators Association President, Ben Potvin. Both groups performed a wonderful concert for the public in the McCormack Performing Arts Center at GHS that afternoon.

There were many other music festivals and events scheduled for this school year that unfortunately have had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic. It was fortunate to have had the opportunity for these two middle school honors festivals and concerts this year.

Congratulations to all GMS musicians who auditioned for, were nominated for, and participated in the 2020 Honors Festivals.



Photo credit Tracy Williamson



Photo credit Rose Skilling

TOP LEFT: 7th and 8th grade Honors Chorus. Back Row (left to right): Faith Lara, Kira Keniston, Lauren Pierce, Olivia Sawyer, Elsie Bradshaw, Logan Walsh, Payson Plummer, and Lily Rubin. Front Row (left to right): Raiyah Babinsky, Sofia Andrade, and Abigail Chamberlin.

TOP RIGHT: 7th and 8th grade Honors Band (left to right): Dylan Bauer, Emma Smith, and Gabriel Badeau.



Photo credit Rose Skilling



Photo credit Tracy Williamson

BOTTOM LEFT: 6th grade Honors Band. Back Row (left to right): Grace Lara, Gracen Roberts-Locke, Kaleigh Bauer, and Elizabeth Springer. Front Row: Gavin Monkiewicz (left) and Tyler Olson.

BOTTOM RIGHT: 6th grade Honors Chorus. Back Row (left to right): Pearl Nsumundele, Elle Hanley, Madison Hatch, Sophie Giberson, Lorisette Matta, and Ava DeVinney. Front Row: Ruby Couture (left) and Lily Beardsley.

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When There Are No Sports To Watch

DESTINY COOK
Sports Editor

About a year ago I wrote an article about being a sports fan. It was so much fun for me to write. I got to stroll down memory lane thinking of my Papa, my children being little in their colored rec shirts, and most of all, the thought of all the memories I would make with family and friends in the future. Fast forward to March of 2020 when for a sports fan, the unthinkable happens...every sport is cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Some of the big ones include the Summer Olympics, March Madness, NBA, NHL, and the MLB, and that's just to name a few.

For many of us, sports gives us an escape from our everyday lives; we look forward to seasons beginning and ending and all that comes with it. In my article last year I mentioned my "crew." We go to a lot of Patriots and Sea Dogs games together, and we discuss current sporting events via text almost weekly. I asked my Gorham group their thoughts on what sports means to them and how they are feeling as we navigate this uncharted territory as fans.

Travis Emerson (GHS '17) is one of my son Seth's best friends. He has been coming to Patriots games with us for five years. No matter the weather or the outcome of the game, he just wants to have as much fun as possible and he enjoys staying until the very end of the game. He said, "I love the whole production; the atmosphere from pro-events is unmatched. There is nothing like watching on TV or experiencing in person when the crowd erupts in cheers as your favorite team scores a game winning touchdown or sinks a big shot."

A week prior to the complete shutdown, Travis attended a Celtics game. "If this pandemic had not occurred, I planned to attend numerous spring sporting events. It was definitely a disappointment," he said. "In my opinion, this is the best time of year in regards to American sports, with many big events taking place: the start of the MLB season, the NBA playoffs, the NHL playoffs, the NFL draft and free agency, NCAA March Madness, and the PGA Masters tournament."

The lack of sports has left a void. That void is normally filled with gatherings of family and friends around these sporting events, and the impact of the cancellations has most likely driven a lot of fans stir-crazy. While solutions for re-opening safely are being discussed, Travis said, "The product that is broadcasted will

definitely look different without fans being in the crowd. For many sports, the crowd atmosphere has an impact on the game and the excitement projected on your TV screen, especially with sports like basketball and football."

He thinks fans will cope with not being in the stands, however, he understands that a long-term plan will need to be put in place. "A large sum of revenue comes from fan attendance, concessions, and stadium-related sponsorship and advertising partnerships. "Once fans are allowed to attend games again, I believe that fewer fans will be allowed to enter stadiums and social distancing inside and outside the stadium will be enforced," he said. Whatever it looks like, Travis said, "It will definitely be a different stadium experience, as we begin to try and recover from the pandemic, but these sacrifices will have to be made in order to bring back our precious sporting events."

Mike (Grizz) Tanguay and I have been sports buddies since college. One of my favorite college memories was during March Madness when I lurked in the background enjoying the energy of Grizz and all the guys watching the games in the main lobby of our dorm. After college, when I first moved to Gorham, I lived with Grizz and his wife Lori. Upon my arrival, she was very excited that he had someone who loved sports as much as he did.

Grizz has followed the four major U.S. sports and NASCAR for at least 40 years. While he admits it's not realistic to watch every game, he tries to catch as many as he can. As each sport ends and another begins he said, "There's the anticipation of the start of the season, discovering the talent level that your team has as the season rolls on and then, hopefully, the expectation is for a long run through the playoffs." Before the unexpected cancellations, he said this was the case for his favorites, the Bruins and Celtics.

"Both were having strong seasons in 2019-20. Then came COVID-19 and the first shoe to drop was the NBA's postponement of the season, followed quickly by the NHL, NASCAR and nearly everything else in society," he shared.

Grizz added, "That loss of my outlet, my distraction, my source of camaraderie with friends and family has been a change as meaningful as anything during this pandemic." With sports, there is never a break of more than a few weeks and here we are at more than two months with no live sports.

There was a recent glimmer of what might be to come in this new sports

world for fans. "Finally, on May 18, NASCAR ran its first race again, albeit without fans in the stands. Once again I got to feel that emotion, that excitement of watching competition, except I was by myself at home. While it was enjoyable, I still was missing the camaraderie piece," he said.

We are just entering summer and the unknown of baseball season, but Grizz's thoughts also drift to fall and what that might look like. "Will there be some form of normalcy that allows me to attend my true favorite, a full day of traveling to and from Foxborough, to experience Gillette Stadium with my friends and family?"

While he is certainly missing sports, he also expressed compassion for the current situation. "I'm extremely thankful, first and foremost, that those around me have remained healthy during these crazy few months, and for those that have worked to keep the rest of society safe and moving forward."

As we navigate our way to a new normal, he shared, "I long for the sounds, smells and emotions that come with those games, those highlights, and those stadium experiences that I've become accustomed to over forty-plus years. At some point things will open back up and we'll be right back there with those same people, enjoying the games we love."

I have too many sports memories with my son, Seth Cook (GHS '17), to count. Among my favorites are when he donated his birthday money to the Jimmy Fund Telethon four years in a row. For his ninth birthday he raised \$700, and we took him to a game during the Jimmy Fund Telethon where he presented his check to Mike Andrews (former all-star Red Sox second baseman and Chairman of the Jimmy Fund at the time). As an added bonus, we were able to be on the field for batting practice and Seth met many of his heroes including Kevin Cash, Dustin Pedroia, Jacoby Ellsbury and Sean Casey.

Seth shared that it took temporarily losing sports to really appreciate just how much his life had been impacted. "I've always loved sports. I love the competitiveness, the teamwork, the way it brings people together." When the pandemic began and sports seasons swiftly came to a halt, Seth began to reflect on how many games he watched with people he cares about, and how often he

talks with the people close to him about the sports world.

He said, "My mom and I always seem like we're in an unintentional race to break sports news to each other. It's just so easy to bond over and it is so effective at enhancing relationships, as well as your life in general."

Seth stated matter-of-factly that with all the bad things that happen throughout the world on a daily basis, sports gives us something to be passionate about that doesn't have to be too serious. He said, "Politics, watching the news, all of those divisive topics, they can all be too real to have a casual debate about. They'll break people up, they'll ruin family gatherings, and they'll leave you feeling upset with the world."

He doesn't like to think about the tensions that cause those types of discussions. "But man," he said, "I know I'll never forget the Thanksgiving that we all saw the infamous 'butt fumble.' It didn't matter who had what political stance, or what people thought of whatever international situation was going on. All that mattered was that Mark Sanchez (the former NY Jets Quarterback) ran directly into the buns of another gentleman on his own team, dropped the ball, and gave up a touchdown to the Pats."

Sports is a temporary distraction from the troubles of the world. While Seth feels the unprecedented absence of sports is so devastating, at the same time he understands that the safety of players, fans, and workers is top priority.

"Being quarantined at home with all the time in the world and having no sports to watch feels like taking a surprise trip to the Bahamas only to find out that all the beaches are closed. I have to think that if we had sports, we'd all be a little more sane," he said.

My crew understands what had to be done. We know that things most definitely won't look the same should the seasons start again this year, and we also understand that it may never be the same again. We simply look forward to the start of each sports season, whatever it may look like, so we can get back to watching games together. We can't wait to get back to chatting via text about the latest topics in the sports world. These small things would bring an incredible sense of normalcy to sports fans.

Local Gyms React to Delayed Opening

Our next issue will take a look at how Gorham gyms and fitness centers have been affected by the pandemic and the recent announcement delaying a June 1 reopening. Town Council member, Ben Hartwell, is expected to bring an item before the Town Council on June 2 to assist local gym owners. Hartwell said, "My goal here is to have the Town of Gorham do everything it can to support getting our local businesses back up and running while allowing those who best know their business to make the decisions necessary to ensure the safety of the public." PLEASE SEE OUR JUNE 11 ISSUE FOR MORE DETAILS.

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COMMUNITY

GRADUATIONS

Ian Lander, Ocean Engineering, University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire

DEAN'S LIST

Kelly Aube, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine
Kyren Bettencourt, Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts
Nathan Brown, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine
Allison Bunker, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine
May Callahan, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine
Kristen Carlisle, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine
Anthony Chase, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine
Jenna Cowan, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine
Saoirse Herlihy, Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts
Jack Lamont, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine
Grace Libby, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine
Hannah Libby, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine
Andy Pham, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine
Katelyn Smith, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine
Brenden Waterman, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine
Alex York, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine

OF INTEREST



Girl Scout Troop 68 held a video chat to share the bird houses that they each made at home. They had big plans that were canceled this spring due to the pandemic, but are staying connected!



The Gorham Lions gathered on May 16, with the help of Carl Phillips from Phillips Towing and the Gorham Police Department, to raise nearly 100 Stars and Stripes on Main Street, School Street, South Street and Gray Road. The Gorham Lions are pleased to be of assistance with this effort that they have done for a number of years. They hope their contribution to our community will also raise local spirits during these difficult times. New members are always welcome. FMI 929-9182.

The 96th North Gorham Cemetery Association Annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 2, at 7 p.m. at the North Gorham Church located on Standish Neck Road in North Gorham. FMI, please contact Ben Gilman at bgilman@mainechamber.org or 838-7564 or Kathy Corbett at ktcorbett@aol.com or 892-4290.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gorham Memorial Post 10879, will meet on June 9 at 5:30 pm. The location is to be determined. Any interested veterans may contact the post at vwf-post10879@gmail.com.

The Gorham Fire Department will be holding a sprinkler inspection class on Saturday, June 13, at Central Station's Training Room starting at 8:30 am. The anticipated duration of the class is approximately three hours. As an annual test/inspection of a sprinkler's suppression system is required, this class provides homeowners with the training required to conduct their own test/inspection (except for portions of systems having anti-freeze solution). Participants are encouraged to call 222-1618 or email cjarrett@gorham.me.us with questions and/or confirmation of attendance.

Gorham Community Access Media (GoCAM) has 216 videos online about local Gorham events. Check them all out at vimeo.com/user17448009.

Neighbors helping neighbors. Remember, not everyone has a computer to keep them connected. But neighbors are connected to neighbors who are connected, (and so on) and can help each other find what they need. Reach out and let someone know if you need something.

Gorham's small businesses need our support. Visit Gorham Strong, gorhamstrong.org to help support Gorham Businesses in a variety of ways.

CLASSIFIEDS

SERVICES

MEN'S GROUP forming: bbbillybigbe94@gmail.com goherenexttoday.blogspot.com thru blogspot.com Men with money encouraged to buy products you like from my site. 207-809-9461 leave a message if you'd like to join a Men's Group!

THE EMERGENCY ADVICE HOTLINE: I'll talk about anything. 1-808-201-1236 ext. 94567 1.99 minute or tinyurl.com/emotionalhealinghotline CALL ME TODAY! NOON-5PM M-F Maverick Ashley.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, MAY 28

Librarian Grab Bag Discovery Time, 9:30 a.m., Baxter Memorial Library

SATURDAY, MAY 30

Gorham Farmer's Market, Municipal Parking Lot, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

* The first half an hour is slotted for elderly and immunocompromised people.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2

Librarian Grab Bag Discovery Time, 9:30 a.m., Baxter Memorial Library

THURSDAY, JUNE 4

Librarian Grab Bag Discovery Time, 9:30 a.m., Baxter Memorial Library

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

Gorham Farmer's Market, Municipal Parking Lot, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

* The first half an hour is slotted for elderly and immunocompromised people.

TUESDAY, JUNE 9

Librarian Grab Bag Discovery Time, 9:30 a.m., Baxter Memorial Library

Veterans of Foreign Wars Meeting, 5:30 p.m. Location TBD.

The Gorham Food Pantry open hours are every Thursday from 10 a.m.-noon with curbside drive through procedures in place. Any Gorham resident can take advantage of the Gorham Food Pantry; clients need only visit during pantry hours with proof of residency (a water bill, electric bill with your name and your Gorham address on it). With weekly changes, it's important to follow Gorham Food Pantry Friends on Facebook for the latest info. Message via Facebook or email director@gor-hamfoodpantry.org for particulars. For elderly, immunocompromised, or those who need to explore other arrangements, please reach out to via Facebook messenger for alternatives to shopping at the pantry. The most pressing needs are large toothpaste, pancake mix and syrup, ramen noodles, mac & cheese, pizza sauce, laundry detergent, microwave popcorn. Hand sanitizer for the volunteers is always needed. Financial donations can be made at www.gorhamfoodpantry.org and help the pantry make purchases to fill in any gaps.

LIBRARY NEWS

At the Baxter Memorial Library, all programs are virtual (online). Some of the programs will take place on Facebook, some programs on Zoom, and some on the library website. All of the details can be found at baxterlibrary.org. The Librarian Grab Bag Discovery Time takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. You'll never know which Youth Services staff member will be performing. It could be a Musical Mr. Jeff, an Artistic Ms. Dani, a Movement Moment Deb, a Yogi Ms. Heidi, or an Artistic Ms. Becky. Tune in and collect them all!

Starting on June 15, kids will be able to sign up for the Baxter Memorial Library Summer Reading and Discovery Program. Also, save the date for A Nature Walk and Scavenger Hunt on June 17 at 10:30 a.m. exploring one of Gorham's many beautiful trails with a fun filled hunt created by Mr. Jeff. Also coming up is Baby Yoga on June 19 at 9:30 a.m. for babies 6 weeks old to new walkers. This program will focus on nurturing the baby/caregiver bond through gentle massage, stretching, and singing, and restorative poses for the caregiver. Learn more about all of these programs in the next Gorham Times issue, or online at baxterlibrary.org.

USM NOTES

When the pandemic struck, the **USM Composers Ensemble**, directed by Dan Sonenberg, had just completed writing repertoire for their Spring 2020 concert. They were preparing for an April performance of all world premieres. Instead, social distancing took hold, school went on-line, and ensemble performance became impossible. The loss of the spring concert was particularly painful, since this exact combination of 20 players and instruments will never be duplicated again. Working remotely, the group spent the rest of the semester creating an album, "Will There Be a Spring." The album was released on Bandcamp in conjunction with a live Zoom release party on Wednesday, May 27. FMI, visit <https://usm.maine.edu/music/will-there-be-spring-album-release-party>

The University of Southern Maine is open virtually, running classes, and preparing students for their courses of study. The Office of Admissions is available to meet with prospective students online. Learn more at usm.maine.edu/admissions, write to admitusm@maine.edu, or call 780-5646.



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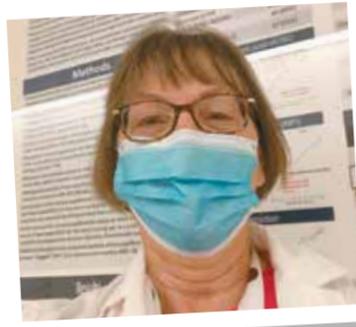
Goodbye From a Distance



Photos courtesy of Karla Wheaton

The Zahn family of Gorham said a bittersweet goodbye to friends on May 13 after learning that dad, Chief Petty Officer Chris Zahn of the U.S. Coast Guard, was being re-stationed to Minnesota. Chris, along with his wife Jordan Kovach, and their two sons, Sam and Emmett, were treated to a goodbye parade which was organized by friends and included Jordan's coworkers from the Gorham Fire Department. Pictured above are Chris and Sean Rumery with their homemade sign.

HOMETOWN *Heroes*



Thank you to our HOMETOWN HEROES who are on the front lines of COVID-19 and continue to provide essential services, and to those who make us smile.

Christine Lord is a Research Coordinator in the Neuroscience Department at Maine Medical Center.

Keeping Up with Reggie



Photo courtesy of Jenny Brackett-Gagnon

Gorham resident Jenny Brackett-Gagnon started a new Facebook page called "Reggie: The Life of a Misunderstood Duck" which follows the plight of the wandering White Rock area duck and his partner, Babette. Brackett-Gagnon said, "In light of recent shenanigans and the giggles it brought to a few, this page was created to help shed light into the often complicated life of Reggie, the most misunderstood duck of our times. Born a Muscovy, or meat duck, Reggie's past is checkered with narrow escapes, unsavory women and a plethora of bad decisions. Reggie can fly straight, but chooses not to. So, if you see him, just smile, wave, and keep on a trucking. He's 30 lbs of pure testosterone with a great hairdo, a bad attitude and most recently, a semi-permanent residence in the dog house."



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