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USM Parking Answers New Years Gorham

Lori Arsenault, *Managing Editor*



Photo credit: Lori Arsenault

Parking signs available in each lot.

In the past several months, there have been growing concerns and numerous complaints about USM's new Pay by Plate parking system that was installed in August of this year. From the cost of citations, to the need to pay for parking at all, this article seeks to answer some of the questions people are asking, and provide information people need to continue to enjoy services that the University offers.

In a recent interview with the Gorham Times, Justin Swift, Chief Business Officer at USM said, "USM wants to be a good community member and be fair and equitable with everyone. We are committed to improving and enhancing the parking experience which would include taking feedback from employees, students, and community members." Addressing the complaints, he said, "USM has established a new Parking Committee composed of representation from many departments on the campus and student representatives."

Swift said, "This committee has been tasked with identifying opportunities for improvement, exploring and proposing solutions to parking situations, and reviewing and proposing changes to parking policies. As issues are addressed and improvements implemented, we are open to reviewing the representation of the committee and making necessary changes in the future."

One of the improvements includes an agreement with the vendor, Parking Revenue Recovery Services (PRRS) to mail citations within one to eight business days. This was in response to a delay in many of the early citations this fall. Swift was quick to say, "However, we do not want citations being issued. Ideally, anyone parking on campus should get the parking permit ideal for their respective situation (one-time visitor, regular visitor, student, employee, etc.)."

Acknowledging a barrier for those who do not have smartphones, he

said, "We are currently looking at offering parking permit stations on the campuses." Departments that regularly host events have the option to have a tablet that will be set up with the parking permit software to allow guests to get a permit at the event. Some departments, such as the Osher School of Music, have the QR code available inside so patrons will not have to locate a sign outside.

Swift added, "We've also recently learned that some of the parking equipment had been vandalized which resulted in problems such as a vehicle being recorded as entering but not leaving when in fact it had. In this case, we worked with the parking enforcement vendor to dismiss those citations."

Many people want to know why the University charges for parking. Swift said, "Our parking operation, which includes transportation, is considered an auxiliary enterprise at the University. One of the expectations of an auxiliary enterprise is that it be self-supporting."

He said there are "many costs such as general maintenance of the surface lots including striping, snow removal, sanding, resurfacing, etc. USM is also the only campus within the University of Maine System to have and be responsible for maintaining two parking garages (Portland) and surface lots on three campuses (Portland, Gorham, and Lewiston)."

"Students pay a comprehensive fee" he continued, "where a portion of that fee supports parking and transportation. Employees also pay for parking permits to park on the campus." However, the total of these fees does not completely support the parking and transportation operation.

He continued, "We also have looked at the expense budget in this operation to look for efficiencies. This has included exploring options for transportation, automation of some services, partnering with a snow plowing contractor, and other items."

He also said that the new parking system is one of the efficiencies that costs less than the previous paper ticket system. Even with these efforts, this year's expected revenue of \$1,600,000 and expenses of \$2,773,875 means the parking and transportation operation is expected to operate at an approximate \$1.2 million loss this fiscal year.

Swift emphasized, "We cannot sustain these losses and have limited options to equitably and fairly address them." He said that the University does not want to increase student fees, and labor agreements limit what employees can be charged. He continued, "If everyone utilizing parking on campus pays their fair share, it limits the cost for everyone

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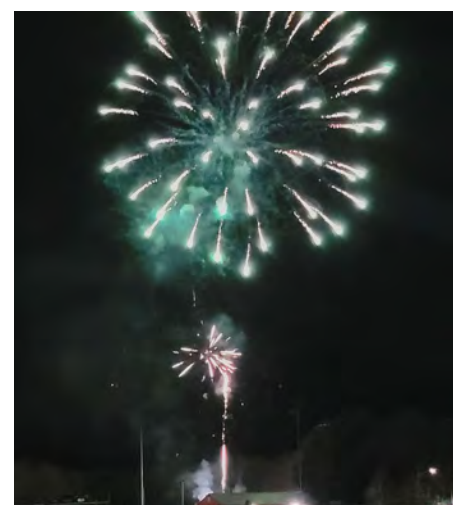


Photo credit: Kelly Roussel

"Great way to bring in the New Year! Time with friends (new and old) and a beautiful display of fireworks! Great job Gorham!" -Kelly Roussel

Visitor Parking at USM

For the Gorham campus, visitors and guests may park in the following lots with an appropriate permit:

24/7 parking: Lots G4, G2, G2A, G13, G14 G16, G17, G19, G20, G12A, GS1.

Restricted Parking:

Visitors may park in the following lots 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. G7, G11, G12, G2B.

Blue-signed lots - Visitor parking after 3 p.m. Monday to Friday

24hrs Sat and Sun. G1, G3, G6, G8 and remaining blue-signed lots.

ADA parking is allowed in any lot with a payment to park or a valid USM Permit. A legal ADA placard or plate must be visible.

Bus and oversize parking is in lot G20 or G13 and the bus rate should be selected.

Carpool and Reserved spaces are by special permit only.

If anyone is unsure, the "Pay Here to Park" QR signs (when scanned) or online "Book Now," will show "not available." No payment will be allowed, meaning visitor parking is not available for this lot. Lot rules can also be viewed online: <https://usm.maine.edu/parking-services/>

Please contact parking services for drop-off or loading information. They are happy to help with accommodations for those in need. Permits are available for those who frequent campus. The grace period is being extended to 30 minutes before a payment is required.

Gorham Campus Map: <https://usm.maine.edu/about-our-university/wp-content/uploads/sites/581/2022/09/gorham-campus-map.pdf>

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PREVIEW PAGE 7

One Year in Review as a Councilor

Seven Siegel, Councilor, Gorham Town Council

In November of 2022, I was elected by the great people of Gorham to serve as a Town Councilor. Having moved around so many times in my life, I am ecstatic to finally have a place to call home and a community to call my own. I plan on living right here in this house for the rest of my life.

Now, as 2023 ends, I am reflecting on my past year as a Town Councilor and what I learned. As I write this, I'm also looking at my two-month-old baby next to me and thinking about the future and the Gorham where she will grow up. This is the perfect opportunity to share three lessons I've learned over the past 12 months and what the next year holds.

Lesson 1: Change is Possible but Slow and Small

I often walk from my house over to Narragansett Elementary and back again. Along that walk are two green Garbage to Garden compost bins next to the pickleball courts. One of the first motions I put forward as a councilor was getting composting in Gorham. Seeing those green bins, free for anyone in town to use, reminds me that I can make change, even if it happens very slowly

and in small ways. Change won't happen overnight, but we can take incremental steps to make this town better every single day.

Lesson 2: Change is Hard and Preservation is Harder

This year I began reading the "History of Gorham Maine," by Hugh McLellan. It's a tome containing incredible details and anecdotes from even before settlers arrived on the land of what is now Gorham. Gorham has a spirit and a culture that I want to preserve, but the tools I have as a councilor to preserve and conserve land are very limited, especially when up against private property rights being leveraged by for-profit developers. This means to properly keep the spirit of Gorham strong, I need to work harder at creative solutions for funding, land, and ordinance changes. It will take all of us to preserve the Gorham we love.

Lesson 3: Some Change Needs to Come with Help from the State

When I speak to councilors in other towns, I hear stories that remind me Gorham isn't alone in the problems we are facing. Many municipalities in Maine are struggling with housing costs, school

budgets, and preserving farmland, just to name a few. Each town working alone will not be able to solve these problems. When "Gorham problems" are actually state-wide problems, that is when the state legislature needs to work on solutions, and it is on me to bring my voice, expertise, and perspective as a Town Councilor to help fix these problems for Gorham and our neighbors.

What does the next year look like? For my next year as a councilor, and for the first year of my baby's life, I think it is most important that we all stay optimistic, put in the work, and make positive changes where we can. What makes Gorham truly unique are the people; the volunteers and the town staff put in so much hard work, and no other town has such amazing people dedicated to their community. Seeing others care so much about Gorham is what keeps me going on tough days, and in the next year, I hope the work I do keeps you going on a tough day.

Please reach out if you want to talk about anything happening in town. You can email me at ssiegel@gorham.me.us, or call/text at (207) 200-7341.

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 and hometown. 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 as space allows and are subject to editing.

Dear Editor,

I am writing today to oppose the expansion of Shaw Brothers Brickyard Quarry which is on the agenda for the Planning Board at their January 8 meeting. As a resident who lives close to Shaw Brothers, I get dust particles from their current operation every time the wind blows from their direction. This has gone on for years and we are constantly cleaning the dark sooty dust from outdoor areas and furniture. We don't dare leave a window open.

When they began operations, we understood that Shaw Brothers would comply with height restrictions for the piles of gravel and use water to help keep the soot down - but these measures do not seem to be working if they are being used at all.

We have often wondered what breathing this soot might be doing to our lungs. My husband recently died of lung cancer and having never smoked a cigarette we can't help but consider this a contributing factor.

I have read an article from the National Institutes of Health about the dangers of living close to quarrying activities. To summarize the research, there are strong indications that breathing the dust created by quarrying is likely linked to reduced lung function, increased allergies, chronic cough, pulmonary disease, heart disease and silicosis which can lead to lung cancer and COPD. Based on this research and our personal experience as residents who live close to this operation, we appeal to the citizens of Gorham to join us in opposing the expansion of Shaw Brothers quarrying operations and indeed to ask government officials to investigate possible ways to mitigate the current environmental hazard being created by Shaw Bothers at this location.

Thank you for considering our appeal,
Nancy Sanderson, Gorham

To the Editor,

My name is Angie Wiggins. I have been living in Gorham with our family for the last 6 months. There is 6 of us so we go to almost every school, have spent countless times at the library and Shaw Park, had my credit card stopped working multiple times at

Hannaford (I'm sure they groaned when they saw me coming - here comes the foreigner who can't pay again!), joined a super fun line dancing class and the special Celebrate Recovery. Gorham has become home.

I just wanted to write and say thank you for having us. Gorham is magical in the snow, magical in fall, magical in the summer. We have loved taking up all the invitations we could to do the fun things the town and people in the town had to offer. The school district is awesome. We don't have school systems like this in NZ so it has been such a treat to experience it. Even if it means we get 23 emails a week!

I am grateful for all the people who have welcomed us so beautifully. For all our kids teachers and staff and bus drivers who have been kind to our kids. For all the people who make the woods trails happen. For the homeowners of the house on South St at the end of Ballpark Rd (your house is consistently beautiful and so enjoyable as the seasons change). For all the people who put up with me at Hannaford and those who put up with me when I was still learning to drive on the right-hand side of the road! For all the friends we've made and the people that have helped us do this adventure. We appreciate it so much.

Keep going strong Gorham. Embrace your newcomers with love just like you did with us. You are good. Thank you and have a wonderful 2024.

Angie Wiggins

To the Editor,

The relationship between Gorham and the University of Southern Maine is longstanding and one that is important to me and my administration. USM was created in part because the people of Gorham valued education and wanted quality schools in their communities. As a proud resident of Gorham, I see evidence of this continued support for USM as businesses in town provide discounts to those who have a valid USM Husky identification card, as local residents attend events on our campus, and in all the countless ways people show kindness to our students, faculty, and staff.

I understand some members of the Gorham

community are unhappy with the new parking system. Some have expressed that these policies are unneighborly, and the University is attempting to profit off visitors. I hear you and I care. For years, USM's parking services have operated at a significant financial loss - this year alone, the deficit is \$1.2 million - causing us to defer needed maintenance and creating strain on the University's budget. The roll out of the new parking system has been challenging, and we're committed to improving the situation. We've established a parking committee to review the current policies, including a review of the service providers with whom we are contracted.

USM is proud to be a cornerstone of the Gorham community, and beyond improving the parking situation, we are working to enhance the campus in ways that will benefit both our students and the town. These include:

- A restoration and renovation of the original Gorham Academy Building
- A new teaching lab in Bailey Hall
- A new game club space in Lower Brooks
- New batting cages on the athletics fields
- Plans for renovations to historic Robie-Andrews Hall

I thank everyone who's provided feedback to us, and I hope to see you on campus soon.

President Jacqueline Edmondson,
University of Southern Maine

Around Town

A reception was held in December to say goodbye to outgoing PRLT Executive Director, Rachele Curran-Apse and welcoming incoming Executive Director, Will Sedlack. Page 5.

Correction

Correction: Rep. Mo Terry's column that ran in the Dec. 7 edition mischaracterized some programs offered by Efficiency Maine. An updated version of the column is available online at: <https://www.gorhamtimes.com/resources-for-navigating-maines-heating-assistance-programs/>

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UPCOMING ADVERTISING DEADLINES

January 10
January 24
February 7

Norway Savings Food Drive

Aislyn McLean, GHS Student Intern

Norway Savings Bank does a whole lot more than just dealing with money in the Gorham community. In January, the local bank will hold a food drive for the Gorham Food Pantry.

It's common for families and individuals to donate goods during the holiday season, but much less in the following months. While the holidays are busy and particularly difficult for many people, there are also struggles in the New Year. The need for help and outside support is still great, if not greater as the cold winter approaches.

A similar food drive for the Gorham Food Pantry was held back in November with promising results. Those who either missed that last opportunity or are hoping to contribute again are encouraged to donate food items. Able participants have a couple options

for delivering these items. Norway Savings Bank will be an optional drop-off location; however people can also choose to bring food straight to the food pan-try by St. Anne's Church. This is where the Gorham Food Pantry is based and has worked to help Gorham residents for over 25 years. They aim to serve the needs of hungry folks in the commu-nity with supplemental food, and events like this certainly help with those efforts. This event is being organized and overseen by Norway Savings Bank employee, Katlyn Doughty.

"We are always in need of canned soups, boxed macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, jelly, canned vegetables, and other shelf stable items," shares Jan MacLeod, Gorham Food Pantry team member. Keep the holiday spirit going into the New Year and consider supporting this event through Norway Savings Bank.

Planning Board Workshop on Robie Residential Project

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer

On Dec. 11, The Planning Board met with KV Enterprises, the developers of the proposed Robie Residential Development, to review their contract zone proposal. Only a few people attended the workshop where the Planning Board discussed the document and recommended some changes. A public hearing is tentatively scheduled for Jan. 22, after which the proposal will go to the Town Council. The Council will hold another public meeting before making the final decision. The workshop was recorded and is available by clicking on meeting videos from the Town of Gorham website.

Phase 1 of the larger project would include 38 single family houses and 88 multi-family units in four buildings. Although they are represented on the preliminary subdivision plan, actual details would come before the Planning Board for approval for site plan review and subdivision design review. Phase 1 would be built over a two-year period. The entire project is projected to take between five and seven years to complete.

The Planning Board expressed concern about traffic generated by the subdivision and the number of access streets proposed by the developers. Owen McCullough, representing KV Enterprises, gave assurances that there will be a thorough Department of Transportation traffic study before any site plan is submitted for review. They are planning access to South Street from Robie Street and Bramblewood Lane. An additional access would be available by connecting White Birch Lane to New Portland Road.

The developers indicated that at least one phase would include housing for persons 55 and older. The Planning Board voted to recommend that the contract specify that "one or more phases will be housing for older persons as defined by statutory language."

There was discussion about number of unassigned parking spaces that would be needed for the multi-family buildings since the demographic of the tenants was still unknown. The Town Council had reduced in the original proposal of 2 spaces per unit to 1.5, but Planning Board voted to suggest more flexibility, proposing that there be "1.5 spaces unless the Planning Board believes it should be different, but not to exceed 2 spaces." The Town Council, however, will make the final decision.

Owen McCullough and the developers responded to questions about the effect of the subdivision on existing roads, storm drains, and sewers. 95% of storm water will be processed on site at a wet pond. New infrastructure will include a sanitary pump station that will connect to the existing sewer system. The developer will repair any road damage caused by construction on vehicles.

The proposal calls for 60% of the property to be open space as indicated on the preliminary sub-division plan with pre acres to be placed into a conservation with the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust. The developer will extend the existing trail network with specifics to be included in site plans.

Since most of the open space is away from the residential area, there was discussion of amenities such as pocket parks and smaller green spaces. The developer cited the increased cost of spreading out the residential area and considered the planned recreational space adequate. Recognizing that the proposal calls for sidewalks and a walkway through the center of the residential area and that this site plan is still a draft, the Planning Board made no additional recommendations about the use of open space at this time.

There was some discussion of trees that would be left on the property. The developer said that they did not intend to clear-cut the area. Although it would be necessary to clear land for Phase 2 during construction of Phase 1, they would try to keep some trees, noting that 62% of all trees are on land that will not be developed.

The contract includes an impact fee of \$1,000 per single family dwelling and \$500 for a dwelling unit in a multi-family building. The Town Council previously amended the proposal to have the impact fees go toward school infrastructure instead of Robie Park. These fees are above those already required, and the Planning Board rejected a suggestion that they be indexed or increased over the time the project was under construction.

Following the January public hearing the Planning Board can make additional recommendations to the Town Council. The public will have another opportunity to provide feedback before the Council votes to accept or reject the proposed Contract Zone.

Vigorous Tenderness Winter Solstice Celebration

John Ersek, Staff Writer



Photo credit: John Ersek

A fiddler plays accompaniment to music of a traditional Wabanaki flutist

On the evening of Thursday, Dec. 21, over 300 people took part in the Vigorous Tenderness outdoor winter solstice celebration at the Shaw Cherry Hill Farm on Route 25. Vigorous Tenderness is a local arts organization that hosts four arts and music events each year, coinciding with the solstices in December and June, as well as the spring and fall equinoxes.

This was the first time that one of their events had been held in Gorham. Beginning in the fall of 2020, on the fall equinox, the four annual outdoor events took on more significance, as they became important ways for artists and musicians to connect with audiences during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Those attendees who were willing to follow the lines of luminaria and brave the cold, windy conditions along the pathways through fields and woods could visit one of seven concert locations, which were situated along some of the trails in the Cherry Hill preserve.

Just as in previous years, for this year's event there was a continuing emphasis on experimental music, which includes fusions between classical music and various other genres such as world music and ambient sounds, in a chamber music format. In addition, Vigorous Tenderness continued highlighting lesser-heard voices, including a performance by a traditional Wabanaki flutist and a fiddle player, and performances of pieces by Palestinian composer Muyassar Kurdi. There was also a more traditional performance by a vocal quartet, singing pieces by Italian renaissance composer Arcangelo Corelli.

Find Vigorous Tenderness on Facebook at: <https://www.facebook.com/vigorous.tenderness/>

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Financial Focus

Pete Watt, Financial Advisor

Now that we've reached 2024, you might be thinking about your goals and hopes for the new year. But in addition to whatever personal resolutions you might make — volunteering, going to the gym more, learning a new language and others — here are some financial resolutions to consider.

Boost your retirement savings. If you can afford it, try to increase your contributions to your IRA and 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. The more you put away in these accounts, the greater your chances of reaching your retirement goals. At a minimum, contribute enough to your 401(k) to earn your employer's match if one is offered. And whenever your salary goes up, consider raising the amount you put in to your 401(k).

Reduce your debts. It's not always easy to reduce your debts — but it's worth the effort. The lower your debt load, the greater your monthly cash flow. So, look for ways to consolidate debts or find other, possibly more productive, ways of using credit. And if you truly can't afford something that's nonessential, don't go into debt for it. "Live within your means" is an old piece of advice, but it's just as valid now as ever.

Build an emergency fund. If you suddenly needed a major home or car repair, or received a large medical bill not fully covered by insurance, would you have the funds available? If not, you might be forced to dip into your retirement accounts or other long-term investments. To avoid this possibility, try to build an emergency fund containing several months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account that's separate from the ones you use to meet your daily expenses. It can take a while to build such a fund, but if you make it a priority and contribute regular amounts each month, you can make good progress.

Avoid emotional decisions. Too many people overreact to events in the

financial markets because they let their emotions get the better of them. If the market is temporarily down, it doesn't mean you need to sell investments to "cut your losses" — especially if these investments still have good fundamentals and are still appropriate for your portfolio. It can be hard to ignore market volatility, but you'll be better off if you focus on the long term and continue following an investment strategy that's designed to meet your needs.

Review your goals because they may have changed over time. For example, while you once might have wanted to retire early, and planned for it, you may now find that you'd like to work a few more years. If that's the case, you may also need to adjust your financial and investment strategies.

Revisit your estate plans. If you've married, divorced, remarried or added children to your family within the past few years, you may need to review the account titling and beneficiary designations on your 401(k) and other retirement assets, along with your estate-planning documents, such as your will or living trust. These documents may need revisions in other ways as well. Of course, you may not be able to tackle all these resolutions at one time, but if you work at them throughout the year, you can potentially brighten your financial outlook in 2024 — and beyond.



Pete Watt has been with Edward Jones since 2015. He loves working closely with clients to help them and their families develop successful and personalized strategies to achieve their

financial goals. This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Climate Action in Gorham

Bruce Webb, Contributing Writer

Historically, First Parish UCC in Gorham has promoted environmental stewardship as a natural link between its values and actions as a faith community. In addition to the focus on social justice common to faith organizations, the church has declared itself to be responsible stewards of the earth and pledged a commitment to addressing the challenges associated with climate change.

In 2010, the church authorized an energy audit to identify opportunities for reducing heat loss, upgrading systems, improving the comfort of the facility, and lowering costs. This proved to be a challenge in a drafty, 225-year-old building that leaked air and relied on aging heating systems. Following the audit, some systems were converted from oil to natural gas, taking advantage of the nearby gas line. This was followed by the establishment of an Environmental Justice Committee that led to upgrading recycling efforts, smart energy practices, and the creation of educational events for the congregation and the community.

When minister Christine Dyke arrived in 2018, she was a robust advocate for environmental projects and supported the initiatives. In 2020, she urged the installation of 4 electric vehicle charging stations on church property with the help of a grant from Efficiency Maine. Although few members had EVs at the time, the installation reflected the values of the church.

Dyke said "As a faith community we are called upon to be responsible stewards of the earth and do what we can to curb our use of fossil fuels."

After the charging stations were operational in the summer of 2021, the congregation turned its attention to other projects. The installation of solar panels to generate electricity seemed like the next natural step to use less fossil fuel and save money on electrical costs. The newer addition to the building, a.k.a. Fellowship Hall had the perfect southern orienta-

tion for the panels while preserving the appearance of the historical building.

A study showed that the payback period would be 14 years but factoring in a government rebate provided by congressional passage of the Inflation Reduction Act and improved efficiency of the panels, the payback period was revised downward to 8 years. The congregation voted overwhelmingly to authorize the project and money was raised to support the effort.

"This was the easiest fundraising effort I have ever experienced" said Dyke, noting the strong commitment by the congregation.

The installation was completed by Revision Energy in July 2023 and became operational in October of 2023 generating an estimated 30,000-kilowatt hours of power annually to the church and the electrical grid. Simultaneously, high efficiency heat pumps were installed in some of the newer sections of the building to provide heating in the winter and cooling in the summer.

The project is now operational and serves as a model for the community, saves money for the church and demonstrates the activism of a community committed to responsible environmental practices. As you pass the church, look up at the solar array on the roof and realize that this system is generating power from the sun to be used by the church and the community.



Bruce Webb has been a Gorham resident for 40 years. He was a home energy auditor and

is involved in environmental activism.

Now What?

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer

The holidays are over. Gifts have been put away or returned for a color/size change or for "What were they thinking!" reasons. Those of us who haven't migrated to warmer climes, like some of our birds or fair-weather Mainers, have a long, cold January or even worse, perhaps a warm wet one, staring us in the face. If you are in desperate need of some amusement, a little creativity might be required.

Here are a few suggestions to help the month of January pass more quickly. Books and lots of them top my list. A visit to the library or local bookstore is a pleasant way to get out of the house AND enjoy hours of cozy reading time, alone or out loud with a family book.

Speaking of getting out of the house, get out of the House. Fresh air every day and a bit of nature is good for the soul and a great mood-enhancer.

Try some new indoor activities, too. Play some new or old family games. Jigsaw puzzles are good for your brain. If you have the space, put one out for the family to work on together. Salvation Army has a nice, inexpensive selection with varying levels of difficulty.

Jan. 6 is Bean Day...Coffee beans, green beans, jellybeans, baked beans, spilling your beans, it's all fair game on this holiday. Try keeping a family bean jar where any family member can reward another member for their thoughtful behavior, thus emphasizing good behavior over ornery bickering. When the mason jar is full, a

pre-agreed upon family reward is earned.

Jan. 10 is Houseplant Appreciation Day. Organize a plant swap among friends or at work to brighten your home or workspace and create a healthier environment, too. If you buy a new plant, be sure to ask if it is safe for households with young children and pets.

Jan. 14 is Dress up Your Pet Day. Just like us, it's too cold in January to be running around without warm clothes. Make a bulletin board at work or online and ask staff or family and friends to share a photo.

Martin Luther King, a true American hero, deserves recognition on Jan. 15 for his leadership and bravery in the fight for Equal Rights.

My family members wrote their name on one day of the January calendar. If it snows 3 or more inches on "their" day (measured by the snow on our deck in Gorham) Grammy and Grandpa will provide a pizza party from the winner's favorite pizza joint.

In the meantime, you may want to start saving bubblewrap because January ends with Bubble Wrap Appreciation Day on the 31st. Boy, howdy, now we're talking. That will be some fun...the end of January, I mean.

Hopefully a few of these ideas will keep the January doldrums at bay. I bet your family, co-workers and neighbors can come up with some fun contests or friendly competitions to help the month pass more quickly. If you have any suggestions (clean and legal) please share them with ckck5@icloud.com.

You're in the Know. **Gorham Times**

CryptoVerse by A. Logophile

SOJ MPIOXL MBIVT OPAZJF AP - PQ QVXFLXZJIT

BEAVDCJ IXBCJIT, HVXYJIT, LDTSXEMT XEC VXZJIT.

AXQSXBET AFI, OPLX XEC MIXES VJXC SOJ IXLT,

HDS LBMOS NJ AXVV SOXS XLXVMXL SOJ TQXLT?

CLUE: X = A

SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

Citizen Volunteers Needed for Fiscal Sustainability Committee

John Ersek, Staff Writer

The Gorham Town Council Appointments Committee has announced that it has created a Fiscal Sustainability Committee and is currently seeking citizen volunteers for the new committee.

The Council has stated that the purpose of the committee is to help council members understand the existing financial environment for the Town of Gorham and the Gorham School Department, and to make evaluations and recommendations regarding the town's future financial situation. The committee will also have the task of evaluating how to maintain a sustainable taxation level, as the Gorham community is expected to continue growing over the next five to ten years. The committee members will also be expected to develop a series of recommendations for the Town Council and School Committee on how to reduce costs (or mitigate continued

cost increases) through greater efficiencies.

Anyone interested in applying should contact Town Clerk Laurie Nordfors at the Town Office, as soon as possible. An application form is available on the front page of the town website. Applicants should complete it and send it to Nordfors at lnordfors@gorham.me.us. For assistance with questions, please email or call her at (207) 222-1670.

The Council anticipates that the committee will meet approximately once a month, with each meeting lasting about one and a half hours. An initial meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 2024.

The committee will consist of 18 members and a facilitator. Anyone who is interested can view the committee make-up at <https://www.gorham-me.org/fiscal-sustainability-committee>.

Town Council Report, Dec. 5

Sheri Faber, Staff Writer

Councilor Gagnon reported that the Economic Development/Capital Improvements Committee had met and discussed the Town/Schools Master Plan.

Councilor Wilder Cross attended the Greater Portland Metro Regional Meeting where strategic planning for the next five years was discussed as well as improved communication among members of the coalition.

Councilor Pratt praised the new Miller's Market and urged residents to try it as well as patronizing other local businesses and restaurants and to donate blood.

Councilor Sims thanked the Town staff for the tree lighting and light parade, and Santa for using the newly constructed sidewalk on South Street.

Councilor Lavoie also thanked Town staff and was happy to see the light parade grow annually.

Councilor Siegal also thanked the Recreation Department for the Burn off the Turkey 5K race and reminded seniors of the programs for them at Lakes Region Senior Center.

Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak reminded residents of the winter parking ban from midnight to 6 am on all Gorham roads. Winter sand is available at Public

Works on Huston Road. He thanked local businesses and Public Works for their work on recent construction.

The Council voted on the following items:

Voted 7-0 to renew a liquor license for Orchard Ridge Farm.

Voted 8-1 (Gagnon) for the Town to enter into a commercial property assessed clean energy (C-Pace) participation agreement with Efficiency Maine Trust for the purpose of administering the Town's C-Pace program.

Voted 6-1 (Gagnon) to approve transfer of \$15,292 seized in a criminal case to the Town of Gorham.

Voted 7-0 to appoint Rob Delaney to the Planning Board.

Voted 7-0 to appoint Jim Anderson to the Gorham Economic Development Corporation.

Voted 6-1 (Pratt) to review an ordinance that could ban flavored tobacco or vaping sales in Gorham.

Voted 7-0 to have the Ordinance Committee review and propose recommendations for a Complete Streets Ordinance to promote better transportation systems and safer streets for pedestrians and bicyclists in Gorham.

Voted 7-0 to adopt a resolution in support of the Extended Learning Opportunities Program in the Gorham schools.

Planning Board Results, Dec. 3

Sheri Faber, Staff Writer

A proposed amendment to the Land Use and Development Code to allow for outdoor storage as an accessory use in the Road Side Commercial Zone was discussed and moved to send to the Town Council with a recommendation for adoption of the proposed amendment as revised by the Planning Board was approved 6-0.

Ryan Chicoine's request for approval of a contract zone to allow for recreational, agricultural, educational and social gathering facility at 239 County Road was discussed and sent to the Town Council with a recommendation for adoption, 6-0.

Eric and Renee Begonia's request to construct a 466 foot long private way at 126 Mighy Street was discussed and

moved to grant approval for the private way with conditions of approval as drafted by the Town Planner, was approved 6-0.

A proposed addition to the Land Use and Development Code to adopt an Aquifer Protection Overlay District was discussed and moved to grant approval for the request to construct a 466 private way with conditions of approval as drafted by the Town Planner, 6-0.

KV Enterprises, LLC's request for approval to construct 43 single family residential lots (Robie Street) was discussed and moved to table further review of the Robie Street subdivision request for preliminary approval pending response to remaining issues and finalized revisions to the plan, 5-0. (One member not voting).

Economic Development Specialist Lea Duffy Hired

Kevin Jensen, Economic Development Director



Photo credit: Courtesy of the Town of Gorham

Lea Duffy

Lea Duffy has been hired and tasked with supporting business growth in Gorham by working directly with small business owners and entrepreneurs to help them understand and navigate the municipal process for starting and operating a business in Gorham. The Economic Development Specialist acts as a facilitator and liaison between the business community, Town staff, boards, committees, and other entities to streamline the small business development process. Duffy will also assist the Economic Development Director Kevin Jensen with public relations efforts and promoting the Town of Gorham as a place to do business.

Duffy grew up in the Pacific Northwest and attended Washington State University where she achieved her professional degree in architecture. She practiced as an architect primarily in the Seattle area with projects focused on multi-family housing, senior care and healthcare facilities. Beyond traditional design services, she specialized in feasibility studies and master planning.

Following a long-time dream, she and her husband built and developed a boutique inn located in the Willamette Valley in Oregon and left the corporate world for the hospitality/travel industry. After selling the business in 2020, she started a residential design practice with her husband and also obtained her real estate license. Earlier this year, she and her husband relocated to New England to be closer to family, and now call Gorham their hometown.

Duffy's background in real estate, architecture, development, and the hospitality/tourism industry as both an employee and an owner, will no doubt help Gorham find new and improved ways to support the local business community.

Welcome, Lea!

Presumpscot Regional Land Trust New Director



Photo credit: Chris Crawford
Presumpscot Regional Land Trust Reception honored out-going Executive Director, Rachel Curan Apse and welcomed new Executive Director Will Sedlack.

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Rams Winter Sports Preview 23-24 Season

Katie Brown, Sports Editor

Winter Sports season is well underway and off to a great start for the Rams, especially the Ice Hockey teams which began two weeks earlier than all other winter sports.

Girls Ice Hockey: Coach Mary Vaughan

Coach Vaughan shared, “Last season, we had the best run-in program history. We ended with a 13-7 record, hosted our first playoff game (an OT win against Cape), and were the regional runners-up, falling to the eventual state champs.” Coach remarked, “We lost a great group of seniors who had been with the program for four years, including goalie, Ellie Keil, and senior three-year captain, Cadence Howard, both of whom are playing club hockey at UMO with a few other Rams alumni. “This year’s captains are senior Emerson Homa (Gorham), senior Greta Grant (Fryeburg), and junior Katelyn Cyr (Gorham).

Coach added, “Players to watch are



Photo credit: Kelly Allen
Emerson Homa Girls ice hockey tri-captain

Emerson Homa, an all-state selection last year, who is already off to a strong start. Greta Grant, Marissa Payne (sophomore, Lake Region) both all-conference selections last year, and Azalea Grant (freshman, Fryeburg), will be solid on the blue line. Defense will be a strength for us this year, locking down our zone as well as creating offensive opportunities. We lost our starting goalie (Ellie Keil) to graduation and will be looking for juniors Emily Beal and Claire Rancourt to split time and step up big. We’ll be looking to Homa and Cyr as well as Carlin Galligan, Natalie Wilkins, and Isabel Brito for offensive sparks.”

Coach Vaughn concluded, “There have been some co-op shifts that will keep things interesting, but Cheverus will be the team to beat in the south. I’m anticipating tough, competitive games all season. Penobscot, Yarmouth, Brunswick, and the Cape/Portland co-op will be tough games.”

Boys Ice Hockey: Coach Shawn Sullivan

Coach Sullivan shared, “Last season we finished the regular season with an 8-9-1 record. We lost in the 1st round of playoffs to Cheverus/Yarmouth 4-6 as they scored an empty net goal on us at the final buzzer. “This year’s captains are Corliss Ordway, Cole Allen, Dayton Crockett, and Trevor Krouse.



Photo credit: Shawn Sullivan
Boys ice hockey with Mr. and Mrs. Claus at the light parade

Coach added, “Our offense will be led by Corliss Ordway and Cole Allen, along with freshman Landan Anctil. Sophomores Connor Rounds and Levi Wagner look to make a splash this year as well. Our defense will be anchored by juniors Jacob Shvets, Trevor Krouse, and Sophomore Andrew Collins. In goal, senior Dayton Crockett will back stop the Rams.”

The boys have already been out in the community, volunteering with the Gorham Rec for both the Burn Off the Turkey 5k and the Gorham Light Parade.

Coach concluded, “During our game on Dec. 30, we hosted our first “Teddy Bear Toss Night.” During the game, when the rams scored their first goal, fans threw their teddy bears onto the ice. All teddy bears were donated to the Gorham Food Pantry and given out to children in need.”



Photo credit: Adam Parvanta
Girls basketball team photo

Girls Basketball: Coach Laughn Berthiaume

Coach Berthiaume shared, “Last year we finished the regular season with a 9-9 record to finish 3rd in AA South. Our team was able to defeat #6 Bonny Eagle at home, #2 Sanford at the Cross Insurance Arena, and #1 Thornton Academy in the Regional Final. Our girls ended as the AA South Regional Champions before losing to Oxford Hills in the State Championship. The playoff run was definitely the highlight of our season. We had one senior on the team, Elizabeth Willette. We return 10 players from that team and add two new varsity players this year.”

Coach added, “This year we have three seniors who are the captains of the team, Ellie Gay, Summer Gammon, and Kalin



Photo credit: Coach Berthiaume
Girls basketball preseason trip to Fort Kent

Curtis. Ellie Gay is a 4th year varsity player and a captain for the second year. Last year she was an AA South First Team All-Star and was named the MVP of the Southern AA Tournament. She also made the Hoops 8 All-State 3rd team. Summer Gammon was honored as an AA South Tournament All-Star and was named to the AA South All-Defensive Team. Julia Reed was an AA South Honorable Mention All-Star and made the AA South All-Rookie Team. We return Vanessa Walker who was in the midst of an All-Star caliber season when she suffered a season ending injury and Lauren Dunbar who started 16 games last year. Kalin Curtis will be relied upon to give us an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

The winner of the Gorham Tree Festival 2023 is Chalmers Insurance Group! Congratulations!



if you would like to participate in Chalmers Cares campaign and support those impacted in Lewiston's tragedy please do so by scanning here.
<https://maine.gov/governor/mills/lewiston>



- Donna Hill 65 New Portland Road
- Casco Federal Credit Union 375 Main Street
- Chalmers Insurance Group 7 Railroad Ave
- Junction Bowl 7 Railroad Ave
- Atlantic Dance Arts 29 School Street
- Redeemer Lutheran Church 410 Main Street
- Chiropractic Clinic of Gorham 88 State Street
- Great Falls Construction 20 Mechanic Street

All the trees were great!!
We look forward to next years trees!
Happy New Year!!

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December School Committee Notes

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

The Gorham School Committee met for their monthly meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023. There were several presentations and many guests in the audience.

The committee began by recognizing their Gorham High School Girls Volleyball Team for winning the state championship this fall. GHS Athletic Director recognized the girls for their hard work and commented on the spirit of the Gorham High School community for dressing in blue at the championship game to honor Lewiston and the tragedy that that community was dealing with. Coach Emma Tirrell recognized the dedication of all her players and the tradition and commitment that has been built the last few years.

Village School principal, Jodi Mezzonotte introduced teachers Brian Penley and Lexie Cadell to present the Place Based Learning Program being initiated at the school. Mr. Penley explained that this approach involves connecting the students to their environment and larger community. This is being done through author visits, fifth grade and kindergarten partnerships, game days, studying ecology and other activities. A highlight was a visit by Meg Edstrom Jones, and the staff of The Ecology School to help students study the leaf life cycle, vermicomposting and birds. Several students spoke about the importance of these lessons and programs on their learning.

The three Multilingual Learning Program teachers; Heather Alden-Paredes, Cecily

Conrad and Erica Woods presented the highlights, successes and challenges of their program. Currently the Multilingual Learning Program has 102 students speaking 25 different languages from all over the world. Two GHS students, as well as one of the school committee student representatives spoke eloquently about the benefits of the program on their lives.

The teachers provide a variety of services including direct instruction, relationship-building and support, registration of new students, coordination, and support with classroom teachers, providing interpreters, providing staff development services, and meeting the hierarchy of needs that their students require before learning can take place. While being committed to helping their students, as three teachers, they are feeling stretched by increasing caseloads and responsibilities in five buildings.

Brian Porter, Assistant Superintendent highlighted several areas of the superintendent's monthly report; the leadership's team efforts to learn about AI and the influences and uses in education, the budget process and timeline and the joint budget planning process with the town.

He also mentioned the K-5 attendance zone shift and the development of plans for community building for students and staff. Finally, he highlighted the great need for substitute nurses particularly at this time of the year.

South Street Parking and Pedestrian Improvements Project

John Ersek, Staff Writer

In October, contractors hired by the Town of Gorham started working on a project to improve pedestrian safety along South Street, especially in the area between Main Street and the Baxter Library. This phase of the project was completed in mid-December. Known as the South Street Parking and Pedestrian Improvements Project, the project has been in the works for some time.

In the area near Main Street, workers re-configured most of the parking spaces to accommodate having both parallel parking

and angled parking, in a safer manner.

Nearby, new pedestrian safety "bump-outs" (sidewalk extensions) were constructed, including one close to Gorham House of Pizza and Amato's, and another one near the Baxter Library.

A little farther south, the contractors installed a new crosswalk close to Running Springs Road. There were also improvements near the intersection of Weeks Road and South Street, where there is now a larger traffic island and turn bay, for vehicles turning left onto Weeks Road.

Winter Jokes

Who were the snowman's parents?
Mom and popsicle!

What did one snowman say to the other?
Do you smell carrot?

What time is it when little white flakes fall outside the classroom window?
Snow and Tell.

What does a gingerbread man put on his bed?
A cookie sheet.

What do you get if you ctross a snowman with a shark?
Frost Bite.



USM Parking CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and allows us to maintain a sustainable parking and transportation operation."

Swift acknowledged that like many new services, USM is generally hearing from those who are unhappy. USM has about 10,000 daily parking transactions, which includes those who come and go from campus several times each day. According to PRRS, there is a 96% compliance rate (no citations). Swift said, "For the 4% who do receive citations, we are looking at the reasons those citations are issued and trying to learn why they were issued." It was long believed by most people and departments that parking in the evening on campus was free, but according to Swift, it was simply not enforced for quite a few years.

A front-page story in the Gorham Times on Sept. 14 about the new parking system was meant to provide information about the new system to the public. However, getting the message out to everyone who will park on campus was bound to be a challenge. Just like any other bill, uncollected fines will go to a collection agency for resolution. Swift encourages people to bring any issues with a fine directly to the parking office to discuss and resolve if it is in error.

Also interviewed for this story was John Conway, a spokesperson for Parking Revenue Recovery Services. PRRS, in business for 22+ years, operating in compliance with Maine's Drivers' Privacy Protection Act. PRRS currently operates 500 installations of this cutting-edge system across the country. Conway confirmed that USM is currently handling about 10,400 parking transactions per day with a 96% compliance rate, which is 10-15% higher than the average for a University. Citations are normally issued within 3-4 days, but with the rollout of the system, he admitted that many were delayed at the start. He said that in response to appeals at USM, many notices have been voided.

Conway was asked about possible errors in the AI-driven system, which he said is at the cutting edge of the industry. He explained that license plates are matched with transactions, assisted by "fuzzy logic" technology. Errors can occur when license plate numbers and other information are entered incorrectly by the user, or

are obstructed for any reason, such as with the recent vandalism at USM that affected the cameras. The process of matching plates with transactions requires PRRS employees and the human eye to validate exceptions in transactions. He said that early in 2024, there will be a team from PRRS on site to evaluate and assist with improvements.

Finally, both John Conway and Justin Swift agreed that it's important to recognize that when something like this rolls out, there will be those who didn't get the messages or see the signs, who will be stuck with a bill, or for some, many bills. USM Parking lots are each marked with signs for both the parking fees and who is allowed to park in each area. But not everyone sees them, or understands them. The 'sticker shock' on those receiving citations should be considered when discussing complaints with friends and neighbors, who will hopefully also hear in most cases that the University is working hard to resolve these complaints.

Parking fees on campus are not new, only the method for collecting them. Any member of the public who is a frequent visitor for such things as performances, rehearsals, sports events, etc. has the option of purchasing a 365-visit permit for only \$36 per year. The \$1 per hour fee (\$4 on the Portland campus) is meant only for one-time visitors.

Swift quickly acknowledged this 'sticker shock' factor, and restated the creation of the parking committee, encouraging anyone who has received a bill in error, or under unique circumstances that have not been addressed, to please contact USM Parking Services at (207) 780-4718 at usmparkingservices@maine.edu, or Parking Revenue Recovery Services Customer Service Center at (877) 302-7275, or appeals@parkingrevenuerecovery.com.

Lori Arsenault is a USM alumna, '99 BMus, '22 BA Leadership Studies, Gorham Times public service coordinator since 2019 and Gorham Times editor since 2022.

Questions about this article can be sent to editor@gorhamtimes.com.



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inside presence and Zoe Dellinger and Logan Doughty will provide depth off the bench.”

Coach remarked, “Gorham is expected to compete to win our division. Thornton Academy, Scarborough, Sanford, and South Portland are teams that are expected to all be competitive games.”

On a teambuilding note, the team was able to take a preseason trip to Aroostook County. The girls enjoyed traveling to Northern Maine and experiencing life on the border of Canada. The trip covered a total of 800 miles and we were able to play four different teams in 4 different towns over 2 days.

Boys' Basketball: Coach Ryan Deschenes

The Gorham Rams are excited and welcome a new coach to a very good, tight-knit team. Last year the Rams went 13-6 (lost in the Quarterfinals to Scarborough).

The Rams are led by seniors; Ashton Leclerc, Gabriel Michaud, Caden Smith (tri-captains) Izak Young, Taylor Farr, Jesse James, Haden Pelletier.

Coach shared, “Impact players are Ashton Leclerc 6'1 Senior Guard, Gabriel Michaud 6'1 Senior Guard, Caden Smith 6'2 Senior Forward/Guard, Griffin Gammon 6'5 Junior Center, Jack Karlonas 6'1 Junior Forward.

Coach added, “the outlook for the Rams returns four starters from last season's roster. Leclerc averaged 15.5 PPG last season and is one of the better shooters and scorers in the state. Michaud is a strong two-way player, and Smith provides scoring and toughness. The Rams will look for Gammon to provide rim protection and a lob threat in their drive and space offense. AA south is wide open, and every team is strong and capable of making a run. Increase of pace has been a preseason focus and the goal is to be healthy and clicking in February playing our best brand of basketball.”

Swimming: Coach Will York

Coach York shared, “the swim team had an incredible run last season. The boys placed highest ever as a program, placing first at Southwesterns and 6th at Class A states (Best performance in program history). The girls team placed highest ever as a program as well. Gorham girls finished 2nd at Class A States. We had three team records broken. Hanna Logan breaking the girls 200 IM, Maya Moores 100 breast, and Brodie in the 500 Free. We had three seniors graduate and we had five freshmen join us.”

Coach added, “This year's captains are Bennet Walker, Isaac Dobson, Tommy Pritchard, Natalie Haskell, and Julia Wareham. Isaac, Tommy and Natalie are returning captains from last season with Bennet and Julia joining their ranks. Fortunately for us as a program these five seniors captains join six other seniors (11 total) who have been with the program since middle school.”

Coach remarked, “Players to watch this year are Hanna Logan, Stella Moores, Maya Moores, Camryn Caruso, Aspenelle De Los Reyes, Brodie Berlinger, Tommy Pritchard, and Ryan Morrill. All of them placed top 16 at class A states last season. Logan remains very strong. She continues to look at 200 IM, 100 Breast and 100 Back. Maya Moores was a strong finisher in the 100-breast finishing second as well as 4th in the 200 IM. She continues to strengthen her craft with potentially adding the 100 free and or 100 fly. Stella Moores rounds out our depth. Moores has moved her program into distance with the 200 free and 500 free this season. Berlinger has had a great fall with club swimming and is excited to bring his times over to the team. This fall he broke the sub 5-minute barrier. He is hopeful to take the 500 title this February.”

Challenging opponents remain to be Thornton Academy and Yarmouth within the Rams conference. Scarborough Boys and Cony Girls look strong when it comes to Class A States.

Coach concluded, “Gorham swimming

continues to fundraise through our raffle cards as well as the chance to win a Yeti cooler full of awesome prizes. In addition, our high school program will continue to support our middle school program at the conclusion of our high school season.”

Boys Indoor Track & Field: Coach Jason Tanguay

Coach Tanguay shared, “Our team is coming off a successful season last year where we finished with 13 wins and 3 losses, and we graduated two seniors who were strong contributors to the program.”

Athletes to watch are: Nathan Bergquist-Guimond, distance; Nolan Feyler, sprints; Griffin Gammon, jumps; Finn Henderson, middle distance; Kuba Kaczmarek, jumps; Aidan Lee, hurdles and jumps; Nick Munyaneza, middle distance and jumps; Dylan Phillips, middle distance; Joshua Wright, hurdles.

Coach concluded, “For the upcoming season, we have many new athletes who are joining our team, and this is very exciting given how many quality veterans we return. Our team should be a strong competitor in league competition and if the new faces can develop this season we may be a quality team in the postseason as well.”

Girls Indoor Track & Field: Coach John Caterina

Coach Caterina shared, “The Gorham High School Girls Indoor Track & Field team is looking forward to another successful season. The team finished last winter with a 13-4 regular season record, 4th place in the SMAA Conference championship and 9th in the Class A State Championship.”

Coach added, “This year's team has a large group of returning veterans led by senior captains Andi Cloutier (shot put), Rita Cummings (distance), Addie Harjula (sprints, jumps), Ella Labrie (sprints, jumps), Meryk Lewellen (distance, jumps) and Aislyn McLean (distance). The junior group includes Abbie Chamberlin (sprints), Sydney Connolly (sprints), Emily Fadrigon (sprints, jumps), Piper Forgues (sprints), Bailey Hatch (sprints), Lindy Moreland (sprints) and Abby Rogers (sprints). The addition of several newcomers and a strong group of freshmen should keep Gorham among the top teams in the SMAA this winter.”

Alpine Ski Team: Coach Sean Munkacsi

Coach Munkacsi shared, “This year's Gorham High School Ski Team looks to be very competitive with many returning racers. Senior captain Abby Fecteau will lead a team that has worked hard the last few years and has high expectations to place in the top 3 in SMAA's. On the girls side, every race will be a battle to make it into the top 4 per team in order to score. Although the competition is fierce, these girls push each other to do their best, and as a result any of them can end up in scoring positions. They include Abby, Ary Flett, Sophie Kaszmarek, Lillian Miner, Natalie Miner and Brooke Stevens. On the boys team, TJ Nagle is currently the best boys GHS racer and has been improving his times, and in every race.”

Coach added, “Once again, we are joined with Scarborough and Bonny Eagle although their scores do not count towards the GHS team score. Scarborough will be led on the girls team by Lilah Ferrie and on the boys side by Jack Murname. The SHS girls team is young but experienced and may surprise many of the traditionally strong teams. Bonny Eagle is led by a very strong and focused Brady Willette.

Coach remarked, “As always, we know that Pleasant Mountain will provide us with the best conditions Mother Nature will allow.”

Good luck the rest of the way Rams, and “bring on winter” for the Alpine Ski team.

GO RAMS

COMMUNITY

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Sarah Baxter, a senior at Endicott College and graduate of Gorham High School received a student visionary award with PAVE Global. Learn more at <https://paveglobal.org>.

DEANS LIST

Nathan Cook, Belmont University, Nashville, Tennessee.

OF INTEREST

Join the Climate Caretakers for a free presentation by Chris Jones, Solar Design Specialist of ReVision Energy, speaking about how solar panels and heat pumps work. Friday, Jan. 19, 6:30 p.m. at First Parish Church, 1 Church Street, Gorham. All are welcome.

2024 Annual USM Skate the Huskies on Monday, Jan. 15 from 8:45 – 9:45 a.m. at the USM Ice Arena with members of the USM Men's and Women's Ice Hockey teams. Free skate rentals provided by the Gorham Recreation Department. Open skate only, no sticks or pucks. Hourly and yearly parking fees apply. Email kmtturner@maine.edu with questions.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gorham Memorial Post 10879 will be meeting on Tuesday, Jan 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fire Department Training Room, 270 Main Street. For information contact the post at vfwpost10879@gmail.com.

The Gorham Lions regather at the Moody's Community Center on Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 6 p.m. FMI. Ken Aldrich 207-929-9182

Gorham/Windham/Westbrook TRIAD will be meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 11 a.m. at the Gorham Police Station. All are welcome. Speakers will be about the ITN and Broadband programs.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

The Gorham Medical Closet located at the Municipal Center, 75 South Street, is free and available to Gorham residents in need of wheelchairs, shower seats, commodes, walkers, canes, crutches and more. Hours are by appointment with a volunteer. Call Gerry Day at (207) 756-2210 or (207) 839-3859 and she will connect you with a volunteer.

The Gorham Food Pantry, located at 299-B Main St. (parking lot of St. Anne's Catholic Church) is open every Thursday morning from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and is free for any Gorham resident in need. FMI, (207) 222-4351, visit www.gorhamfoodpantry.org or message us on Facebook at Gorham Food Pantry Friends.

The Mission of Hope Clothes Closet is open the first and third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Cressey Road Christian Church on Cressey Road to anyone who needs clothing. They have all types and sizes, and many winter coats.

PUBLIC SUPPERS

Public Bean Supper at White Rock Community Clubhouse at 34 Wilson Road, Saturday, Jan. 6 from 4 – 5:30 p.m. Eat in or take out, homemade kidney and navy beans, coleslaw, potato salad, macaroni and cheese, biscuits, hot dogs and dessert. \$10 adults, \$5 under 12. FMI: <https://facebook.com/whiterockcommunityclub>.

SENIOR NOTES

Senior Meal Site takes place weekly on Wednesdays at 12 p.m., St. Anne's Church, 299 Main St. Social time begins at 11:30 a.m. Suggested donation is \$4. Meal site is closed if school is closed or delayed due to such reasons as weather. For updates on the meal and dates open/ closed, visit <https://gorhamrec.com> or call (207) 222-1635.

The Lecky Brown Senior Center at First Parish Church is open. Join the group for Cribbage and board games on Mondays at 10 a.m., all levels welcome. Join the weekly guest speaker program, the Originals, on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. A different speaker each week. Upcoming speakers include Gorham History/Chicken and Egg Production, Historical Maine postcards, Memoir Writing, Portland black history/Prince Project. FMI: contact Lisa Becker at Leckybrowncenter@gmail.com.

LIBRARY NEWS

The North Gorham Public Library has a weekly All Ages Children's Story Time at 10 a.m. every Wednesday. Library hours are Monday 3 to 6 p.m.; Tuesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Wednesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 4 to 7 p.m.; Closed Thursday and Friday; Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; closed Sunday. FMI: (207) 892-2575 or (207) 642-2327.

Baxter Memorial Library continues a full schedule of family events such as Baby Discovery Time, Toddler Discovery Time, Sewing Club, LEGO Clup, Family Discovery Time, Dogs Dig Reading. Discover them all. On Thursday, Jan. 11 at 10:15 a.m. the Book Group Discussion will be on “The Covenant of Water” by Abraham Verghese, and at 5:30 p.m. an Art Hour for Adults. Board Game Saturday will be on Jan. 13 at 10 a.m. The library will be closed on Friday, Jan. 12 for staff development, and Monday, Jan. 15 for Martin Luther King Day. Find the full schedule in this issue's calendar, and learn more at <https://baxterlibrary.org>.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE NOTES

Classes begin again on Tuesday, Jan. 16. Visit the University events page to see what's going on at each campus. <https://usm.maine.edu/calendar-of-events/>



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CALENDAR

Thursday, January 4

Baxter Memorial Library
Toddler Discovery Time (18mos-3yrs), 10 a.m.
Sewing Club (age7+), 3 - 4 p.m.

Saturday, January 6

Baxter Memorial Library, LEGO Club (All ages), 10 - 12 a.m.
White Rock Community Clubhouse Public Bean Supper, 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Monday, January 8

Lecky Brown Senior Center at First Parish Church Cribbage and board games, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, January 9

Baxter Memorial Library
Family Discovery Time (2-5yrs), 10 a.m.
Dogs Dig Reading, 4 - 5 p.m.
VFW Gorham Memorial Post 10879 meeting, Fire Department Training Room, 5:30 p.m.
Gorham Lions Club meeting, Moody's Community Center, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, January 10

Baxter Memorial Library Baby Discovery Time (birth-18mos), 9:30 a.m.
North Gorham Public Library All Ages Story Time, 10 a.m.
Gorham/Windham/Westbrook TRIAD meeting at Gorham Police Station, 11 a.m.
Lecky Brown Senior Center at First Parish Church, "Originals" guest speaker program, 10 a.m.

Thursday, January 11

Baxter Memorial Library
Toddler Discovery Time, (18mos-3yrs)
Book Group Discussion: The Covenant of Water by Abraham Verghese, 10:15 a.m.
Sewing Club (7+yrs), 3 - 4:30 p.m.
Art Hour for Adults (18+yrs), 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 13

Baxter Memorial Library, Board Game Saturday (3-17yrs), 10 - 11 a.m.

Monday, January 15

Annual USM Skate the Huskies, USM Ice Arena, 8:45 - 9:45 a.m. Free skate rentals.
Lecky Brown Senior Center at First Parish Church Cribbage and board games, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, January 16

Baxter Memorial Library
Family Discovery Time (2-5yrs), 10 a.m.
Dogs Dig Reading, call 222-1190 to sign up, 4 - 5 p.m.

Wednesday, January 17

Baxter Memorial Library
Baby Discovery Time (birth-18mos), 9:30 a.m.
Big Blue Blocks for Early Release (12:30 - 2 p.m.)
North Gorham Public Library All Ages Story Time, 10 a.m.
Lecky Brown Senior Center at First Parish Church, "Originals" guest speaker program, 10 a.m.

Friday, January 19

Climate Caretakers presents Chris Jones, Solar Design Specialist at ReVision Energy, 6:30 p.m. at First Parish Church

Send short news and information items that would be Of Interest to the whole Gorham Community to loriaam@gmail.com

CLASSIFIEDS

Two local vacation homes available for winter rental, weekly or weekends for ice fishing/snowmobiling. One on Sebago Lake, west shore between Harmon's Beach and Wards Cove, has an outdoor hot tub. One on Little Sebago Lake in West Gray, with access by Campbell Shore Road, has an indoor sauna. Both are three bedrooms, two baths, fully furnished, with automatic generators for power outages, and include all utilities and plowing, 35-minute drive to Portland, 60 minutes or less to ski slopes. Text (860)-729-1522.

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A man wearing a military outfit and holding a sign was standing on School Street. Officer recognized the man and told the caller that the man had not committed any crime but was acting strangely. He was holding a sign that said "Cornish." He was calm and did not want a ride to the Standish line.

Osborne Road caller reported witnessing ATV's racing up and down the roadway. Officer checked the area and waited 20 minutes but did not see or hear anything. Two neighbors who had been out walking told the officer they had not seen or heard any ATV's in the past 45 minutes.

The traffic lights at Libby and Main as well as at South Street and State Street were blinking as CMP was working on power lines. Public Works restored normal function.

Officer spent 45 minutes on Osborne Road looking for ATV's that had been reported racing up and down the road daily. Officer did not see or hear them.

School Street caller reported someone upstairs was bothering her. Officer spoke to her on the phone for 20 minutes until she was calm. She thanked Officer for talking to her.

Officer located a vehicle driving erratically on Fort Hill Road and Pastore Way. She

had spilled her purse on the floor and was trying to pick up the contents while driving.

Two sheep were running free on Weeks Road and were heading towards traffic. Officer caught them and a man from Gaia Lane helped to keep them safe until the owner was located on Waterhouse Road.


Caller reported a vehicle abandoned on the side of the bypass. Vehicle had not moved in two days. Owner had notified police that he parked there to hunt. Vehicle was not blocking traffic and was not there at night when the officer drove through several times.

Officer warned the operator for driving across the traffic circle on Mosher Road.

White Birch Lane caller reported suspicious persons. Officer located three vehicles in the parking lot off the sports field and they were moved along.

Caller reported either glass or ice in the roadway at the rotary on Gray Road. It was ice that was melting.

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Mary Jane Irene LeCours of Gorham passed away peacefully on Dec. 3, 2023 at Fall Brook Woods in Portland Maine. She was born Aug. 18, 1933, the daughter of Irene (Pitts) Donovan and John Donovan of Portland, Maine. She was the oldest of three children.

Mary Jane was a talented and creative artist, who enjoyed working with oils and pen and ink. She also created beautiful stained glass as well as jewelry. She made fir balsam wreaths every year for Christmas too.

Mary Jane was a hard worker who enjoyed meeting and helping people. She worked for USM in Gorham at the cafeteria, ran the snack bar at Gorham Country Club for many years, and was famous for her muffins and brownies. She also worked for Cook's Hardware Store in Gorham for 17 years and was right at home with all of the tools and hardware! She loved working with her hands and renovated her home in Gorham several times.

She loved animals and was an ardent supporter of the MSSPA, ARLGP, ASPCA and WWF. She is survived by her children, son, David Aikins and wife, Assunta, daughter, Donna Aikins and son, Dale LeCours, sister, Darleen Jensen, 2 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, December 16, 2023 at Living Waters Church, 198 Parker Farm Road, Buxton, ME at 3 p.m. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to MSSPA, ARLGP, ASPCA or WWF in her name.

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