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Largest Battery Facility in Maine Planned for Gorham

John Ersek, Staff Writer



Photo credit: John Ersek
Site clearing, grading, and other preparation work is underway at the five acre location where Plus Power LLC plans to build its 175 MW battery facility in the Gorham Industrial Park

In a few months, Houston-based Plus Power LLC, is scheduled to begin construction on one of New England's largest battery storage projects, which will be built on a five acre lot just off Hutcherson Drive in the Gorham Industrial Park. Situated just south of Nappi Distributors' nearby warehouse facility, the project will consist of 156 tractor trailer-like containers spread across the property. It will be known as the Cross Town Energy Storage Facility. Plus Power considers Cross Town's location beneficial in a number of ways, including the fact that it is close to CMP's Mosher's Corner substation. After completion in mid-2025, regional grid operator ISO New England

will be able to instantly send up to 175 megawatts from the Cross Town facility into the grid whenever the electricity is needed. The enormous storage capacity of Cross Town will be enabled by the 156 containers, which will be filled to capacity with lithium phosphate batteries, similar to how the batteries are set up at Plus Power's other facilities. Currently, Plus Power has 60 energy storage projects online or in development across the United States and Canada. The only comparable large battery storage facility in New England is currently planned for Carver, Massachusetts. In Maine the largest battery facilities are currently in Yarmouth (16.7 MW) and Millinocket

(20.9 MW) but these are much smaller than Cross Town's planned 175MW of storage. Large scale battery facilities are considered essential to Maine, as the state seeks to realize its 2030 climate goals. The transition from fossil fuels to renewable power depends heavily on solar and wind power. The increasing use of large-scale batteries is considered an important part of this transition. For instance, there can be severe power surge problems when wind and solar power plants produce more electricity than the grid needs. Meanwhile, more frequent extreme weather events are adding stress to the power grid, and it is believed battery storage plants like Cross Town can help to counteract this. Renewable energy (like all electricity) must either be used or stored as soon as it is produced, due to basic physical properties of electricity that affect the reliability of any large-scale power grid. Since the sun doesn't shine 24 hours a day, and the wind is not always reliable, other sources of electricity are required. Sometimes shortfalls are expected and can be planned for. For instance, the sun sets quite early in late autumn and winter, yet afternoons and early evenings are when people arrive home from work or school and turn on their electric appliances. Currently, natural gas fired power plants are used to provide power at times when renewable sources are

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Town Seeks Volunteers for Boards and Committees

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer

The Town Council is seeking citizen volunteers to serve three-year terms on a number of boards and committees. Although the Town of Gorham employs about 250 people who provide municipal services, the Town Charter assigns many policy and procedural decisions to volunteers who serve their community without pay. They include Town Council members, as well as those Gorham residents who donate their time, interest, and expertise as members of boards and committees. Citizen participation is essential to democratic governance. Currently there are seventeen open positions on ten town boards and committees. Time requirements range from occasional meetings to a commitment to meet twice a month. All meetings are open to the public and involve making decisions or recommendations for action by various municipal departments and the Town Council. Anyone interested in applying to serve on one of the boards or committees should complete and submit an application before Friday, Jan. 26, 2024. Committee Volunteer Applications are available on-line on the Town of Gorham website. You may also contact the Town Clerk's office at (207) 222-1670, or email Town Clerk

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Legislative Leaders Welcome Sen. Daly of Ireland



Photo credit: Eleanor Snyder
Majority Leader Mo Terry, D-Gorham, Assistant Majority Leader Kristen Cloutier, D-Lewiston, and Speaker of the House Rachel Talbot Ross, D-Portland, welcomed Senate Chair Mark Daly of Ireland to the State House on Thursday. Daly presented members of the American Irish State Legislators Caucus with a certificate recognizing the continuing relationship between the United States and Ireland.

Left to right: Rep. Kristen Cloutier, Sen. Mark Daly of Ireland, Rep. Mo Terry and House Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross.

"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" at USM

John Ersek, Staff Writer



Photo credit: Ed Reichert
17 energetic USM musical theatre performers present the traditional "Fall Musical" Jan. 26-28.

The students of the Osher School of Music at the University of Southern Maine will present four performances of the musical comedy "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change" during the last weekend of January. With a large cast of 17 actors, the musical will be presented in a revue format, with the lyrics of the songs themselves containing much of the character development and intertwining plot line information. The play is described as a "crowd-pleasing comedy" that is "witty, hilarious, and heartfelt", which takes on "the truths and myths behind that contemporary conundrum known as 'the relationship' ". Delayed from November by logistical issues, the musical is now ready for

four scheduled performances, which will include evening shows on Friday, Jan. 26 and Saturday, Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m., as well as afternoon performances on Saturday and Sunday (the 27th and 28th) at 2 p.m. This production features staging and musical direction by Ed Reichert, and choreography by Vanessa Beyland. Book and lyrics are by Joe DiPietro, with music by Jimmy Roberts. To buy tickets, go to: <https://usm.maine.edu/music/events>. Anyone with questions about accessibility or other concerns can phone the USM Music Box Office, (207) 780-5555. Attendees are advised that parking at USM is not free, even on evenings and weekends. Parking on USM's Gorham and Portland campuses now requires payment in advance through the HonkMobile app, or through honkmobile.com. Parking violation charges start at \$55. Signs have been posted at all campus parking lots which explain the new parking requirements in more detail, but some policies are changing. For more information about parking at USM, go to: <https://usm.maine.edu/parking-services>.

TOWN COUNCIL RECAP
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RED CLAWS YOUTH
NIGHT PAGE 7

Policy on News from Augusta: The Gorham Times asked our three state legislators from Senate District 30, House District 109 and House District 110 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.

Heading into a New Session

Rep. Jim Boyle

The second regular session of the 131st Legislature reconvened on Jan. 3, and we are already back into the swing of things. We have over 600 bills to consider before we adjourn in mid-April. There is a lot to get done in such a short period of time, and I am excited to get back to work.

Last year, the Legislature made significant strides to address the challenges facing Mainers. Major successes included passing a bill that further protects the right to abortion, allocating funds from the state's budget towards housing initiatives and developing laws that promote clean energy. But while we achieved a great deal, there is still much work to be done.

As discussed in my previous column, I am passionate about working on legislation that promotes affordable housing and protects our state's natural resources and wildlife. The housing shortage in Maine is a statewide crisis that affects both urban and rural areas. It directly impacts not only the health and safety of our fellow neighbors, but also our economy. With stable housing comes a strong workforce. It is important that our housing policies not only promote development, but also take care of our state's natural resources.

Last year, I introduced two bills that have been carried over to this session, both of which intend to alleviate the housing

crisis. The first would streamline project developments by amending the definition of "subdivision" while keeping the review of smaller residential subdivisions at the local level. The second bill would provide more opportunity for housing to be built near public water systems as long as the minimum lot size is 5,000 square feet. If public water is not immediately available, the bill would direct that municipalities allow housing to be built on a minimum lot size of 20,000 square feet to account for the construction of septic tanks and wells. Both measures would support Maine's housing goals by reducing some of the existing barriers to construction.

This session, I also look forward to continuing my work on the Energy, Utilities and Technology (EUT) Committee. As always, any work that we conduct is rooted in the most up-to-date science. Last session, we passed legislation that combats climate change and advances the development of clean energy projects. From developing offshore wind energy to increasing the state's goal for energy storage – which is vital in stabilizing the market and supply of electricity – we will continue to prioritize proactive measures that will help protect the planet.

As we continue to work towards a clean energy future, it is important that we do

so thoughtfully. Last session, I sponsored a bill that is now law that will recognize and plan for the necessary decommissioning of battery storage systems. The measure is an acknowledgment that renewable energy infrastructure requires thoughtful shepherding through its end-of-life when it is no longer a viable energy source. This session, the EUT Committee will continue to work on legislation that encourages the state to transition away from fossil fuels and towards clean energy in a cost-efficient manner.

I am excited to collaborate with colleagues to further develop measures that will benefit the people of Maine. The timeline for this session is ambitious, but I look forward to all that we can accomplish.



Rep. Jim Boyle, D-Gorham, is serving his second term in the Maine House of Representatives and previously served two years in the Maine State Senate. He is a member of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. Contact him at Jim.Boyle@legislature.maine.gov.

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.

Citizens of Gorham,

At the Jan. 8 planning board meeting, concerns of the Gorham citizens were dismissed in favor of industrial expansion. The agenda item: the proposed expansion of the Brickyard Quarry (Shaw Brothers) on Mosher Road. The meeting was the first public planning board meeting on the issue

and only planned public hearing. Abutting property owners were given short notice (mailed December 21st) of the meeting.

Two members of the public spoke. One detailed the effect of quarry dust on his home; family cannot open windows and constantly wash car and home. I live closer to the quarry in the opposite direction and experience disruptive noise, and frequent tremors due to blasting. This is a concern of many local residents.

I questioned the short notice of the meeting and raised the concern that the quarry impact extends far beyond abutters. The noise, dust, and blasting impact a vast area in Gorham, many homes and people. The impacted homeowners should have had ample notice of the meeting to gather, prepare, and have their voices heard. The hired consultant dismissed any impact issues and the meeting moved on, allowing no further discussion.

The planning board will approve the expansion without input from impacted citizens. The quarry is near the town center; Houses continue to sprout up in impacted area. Yet, the town is not enforcing the noise and dust ordinances that should protect the surrounding homeowners. Instead, they support expansion that will negatively impact everyone. Noise and dust can be significant health issues. Why do town officials not care?

My question to the public – Do you care? Are you willing to support an effort to hold the quarry accountable? If so, join our Facebook page discussion (Brickyard Quarry Impact to Gorham Citizens) or contact me directly. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1843660292753400> Charlie Hamblen, chamblenps@gmail.com

Battery Facility

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

inadequate. However, gas powered plants add to the carbon load in the atmosphere.

For these reasons, there is an increasing national trend to build giant battery plants. The plants are sometimes compared to a network of giant electrical storage sponges, which will soak up renewable energy when it's available, and discharge it when and where it is needed. These facilities also allow the grid to absorb excess wind and solar power energy that might otherwise be wasted on days when it is very sunny or windy.

About 44% of developer requests to connect to the ISO-New England high-voltage grid now involve batteries, compared to 10% just three years ago.

Although fairly rare, fires at battery facilities like Cross Town have been an increasing concern across the country, as three fires at facilities in New York State recently prompted New York to initiate safety reviews, although no one was hurt in these fires.

In a recent interview with the mainemonitor.org news site, regarding Gorham's fire safety planning, Gorham Fire Chief Ken Fickett said, "We'll make sure our firefighters know what we're supposed to do, and not supposed to do." In the same interview Fickett added that he didn't think Maine needed the same sort of battery fire safety task force as New York but added that his opinion could change as he learns more about the issue.

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

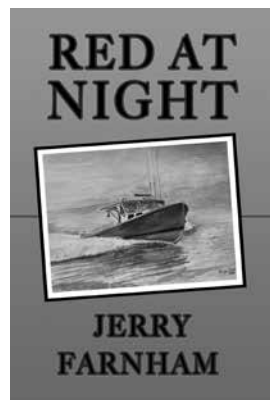
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January 24
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Red At Night — Gorham Author Debuts First Novel

Krista Nadeau



Red At Night book cover

“Coming here to Maine, in this little town, would hopefully help give her some perspective.”

Melissa Andrews, a famous Hollywood celebrity, longed for a respite from fame, for just a little while. Seeking a remote destination where she could escape and regroup, she finds herself in the quaint, coastal town of Boothbay Harbor.

From the comfort of her rental home overlooking Linekin Bay, Melissa’s thoughts are interrupted by the mysterious red boat with the words Red At Night scrolled across the back of it, passing by... again. As she contemplates her day, she considers finding out more about this boat.

“Her fingertips were numb, and it was creeping up into her hands. This is it, she thought to herself.” Little did Melissa know that a terrifying experience on the water would bring her face-to-face with the sternman of that very boat, Jack Finn. What happens next changes their lives forever.

In writing, “Red At Night,” Maine

author, Jerry Farnham draws on experiences and memories from his life in Boothbay Harbor. This story depicts real life experiences of a Maine lobsterman and many of the characters are based on actual residents of Boothbay Harbor.

The son of a lobsterman, Jerry began his life on the water when he was very young- just six years old. As a teenager, Jerry recalls seeing big yachts on the water, wondering about the lives of those on board. Did they love their lavish lifestyle or did they long for a simple life? It was that curiosity that was the catalyst for writing his first novel. Jerry would go to work early and write- some days the words writing themselves, other days, like all writers, he would just stare at an empty page. “I had to overcome my own negative thoughts as well as other naysayers along the way,” says Jerry. “It took years to complete, but I’m proud of myself for finishing this book. I didn’t expect it to be so well received,” adds Jerry.

To date, “Red At Night” has sold almost one thousand copies. Jerry has been featured on local news outlets and covered by many publications. In addition, Jerry finds it exhilarating to do book signings and author talks.

The first draft of the sequel to “Red At Night” is complete. Jerry is also working on a sci-fi movie. “Red At Night” can be purchased at Sherman Bookstores or online. More information can also be found on his website: jerryfarnham.com.

Jerry resides in Gorham with his wife and children.

News from Presumpscot Regional Land Trust

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer



Photo credit: Brenna Crothers

A trail will be built along the banks of the Presumpscot River in the beautiful 44 acre Rivermeadow Preserve near downtown Westbrook by Fall of 2024.

The Presumpscot Regional Land Trust has announced that the 44-acre parcel, Rivermeadow Preserve, along the banks of the Presumpscot River in downtown Westbrook, has been successfully preserved. The Land Trust is grateful to many local organizations and businesses, as well as nearly 200 individuals and families, who have ensured that this land will remain free and open to the public for generations to enjoy.

Vital forest and wetlands habitat for many species of plants and animals will be protected in this important watershed area. It will also provide beautiful open space, including 3300 feet along the banks of the river, for public use in a highly populated area in Greater Portland. Will Sedlack, executive director of the Land Trust said, “Preserving 44 acres of land near downtown Westbrook is not just about protecting open space; it’s about investing in the well-being of our communi-

ty. The Rivermeadow Preserve provides a sanctuary for both people and nature.”

The Land Trust is excited to begin Phase 2 of the project. “As we embark on the next phase of the project, designing trails for public enjoyment, we’re excited to create pathways that connect our community to natural beauty in their own backyard,” Sedlack said. Members of the public and local organizations will plan the design of trails, with construction hopefully completed by Fall of 2024.

For more information about the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust and the Rivermeadow Nature Preserve, please visit prlt.org.

Winter Hiking, Biking & Snowshoeing

The Land Trust also has a link on it’s website which lists 13 trails in the area which have plowed parking available at the trailhead for winter hikes, bikes, and snowshoes. The trails are ranked from Wide, flat mellow to Moderate to Extreme Challenge. Distances are also given.

For your safety let someone know where and when you will be on the trails. Dress in layers for winter weather. As always, Carry in Carry Out.

If you encounter any downed trees or obstruction or get some great wildlife photos, please share this info with the Land Trust. Go to <https://prlt.org/best-winter-trails> or visit the PRLT website and click on Land, Water & Trails.

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- Transportation will be provided for students enrolled in the program.

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3. ATTEND SCREENING ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH.

Use the link below or scan the barcode to apply. Please call 222-1295 if you need assistance completing the application.

<https://forms.gle/xMXw6axENMyAWxHB7>



PreK Application

New Year, "New You": An Alternative to Diets

Carolyn Milles, Contributing Writer

As the New Year rolls in, it brings familiar phrases and trends, notably around resolutions and new health routines. Maybe we've tried this path before - the path of dieting, the pursuit of thinness, and an urgency for change. Maybe it hasn't "stuck" or worked out like we had hoped. Maybe we will take another try at it and be "better" than we were the first time (or second or third). Despite our best intentions, these efforts often fail to stick.

However, this experience raises a question: What if the traditional dieting methods are the real culprits of our struggles rather than a supposed lack of "willpower" or "self-control?" Could it be that these approaches are misaligned with our body's actual needs? This article will explore tapping into our body's wisdom for a true "New Year, New You" experience.

This New Year, you might try a new philosophy - one that prioritizes flexibility and support over strictness and control. Let's consider the following: How has the long-held diet mentality been serving you? Are you prepared to discover what genuinely feels right for you physically, mentally, and emotionally? Are you hoping to truly find a "New You" in this New Year? If so, read on.

Dieting statistics show that 95% of diets result in weight regain, oftentimes leaving individuals at a higher weight than before. This fact highlights a critical flaw: diets fail way more often than they succeed. Nutrition is very individualized, and a generic approach rarely delivers lasting results. More concerning is the cycle of weight fluctuation associated with dieting, which poses significant health risks. A new approach provides a sustainable path to weight control.

Research supports a non-diet approach, such as Intuitive Eating, greatly benefiting the health and well-being of the individuals who practice it. Intuitive Eating is linked to

improved cholesterol levels, reduced overall stress, improved metabolism, reduced rates of disordered eating, resulting in improved body image and self-esteem, and higher levels of overall contentment, satisfaction, and emotional functioning.

Intuitive Eating encourages us to shed the unhelpful patterns ingrained by diet culture. It guides us to release the "all-or-nothing" perspective and reject the idea that certain foods are "good" and others are "bad." These may be mentalities that we have held for years and years, so the idea of introducing something different may feel scary and overwhelming. But consider this: these were all ideas that were learned. Somewhere along the way, from birth to now, we absorbed these thoughts, ideas, and teachings around food and dieting. For everything we learn, we can surely unlearn.

"Intelligence is what we learn. Wisdom is what we unlearn." J.R. Rim

The process of unlearning paves the way for us to embrace wisdom — the wisdom that comes from the harmony of body and mind working collaboratively. Healing our relationship with food can profoundly impact our well-being, our life experience, and our relationships — with others and with ourselves. Your journey to a life spent living, not restricting, awaits.



Carolyn Milles, RDN, LD, is a third-generation dietitian at CV Wellbeing, a team of Registered Dietitians serving individuals in

their journeys to nourish, move, create balance, and be well.

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SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

Dirty Thoughts

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer

Most people would say that toilet seats, which average about 295 bacteria per square inch, are one of the dirtiest things in their home. Surprisingly, a long list of other items are much dirtier than toilet seats and most of them are found in the kitchen.

While our furry friends love to drink from toilet bowls, the inside rim of our pets' food bowls are way dirtier, averaging about 2,110 bacteria like MRSA, salmonella, and E. coli per square inch. Vets recommend washing a pet's dish every day, just like we do with our own dishes.

The surfaces in the list below, along with plenty of other items you come in contact with daily, also have more germs than the average toilet seat, according to articles published in "Applied and Environmental Microbiology" and "Nature" journals.

Sponges rank number one as the dirtiest kitchen item. With a whopping 45 billion microbes per square centimeter, sponges harbor the largest amount of E. coli and other fecal bacteria, mostly because they are damp and aren't cleaned or replaced often enough. Some sources say to clean a wet sponge in the microwave for two minutes daily and replace them often. Others say forget about cleaning, permanently replace sponges with dishcloths instead as these items (replaced daily) can be sanitized in a washing machine with some bleach.

The average cutting board, particularly wooden ones, have about 200 times more bacteria than a toilet seat.

Kitchen faucet handles and sink can harbor 44 times more bacteria than what is found on your toilet seat (a bathroom faucet handle - 21 times the bacteria). Clean kitchen sinks daily with hot soapy water. If you use a sponge, sanitize it immediately.

Coffee reservoirs rank high on the dirty list (it made the top five) Its dark, damp location, makes it a prime location for bacteria, mold, and mildew. For a better cup of coffee, give the machine a deep clean every month or so.

Refrigerators, particularly the vegetable and meat compartments, have a high level of disease-causing microorganisms.

Even dishwashers should be cleaned about once a month, by running it empty with a little baking soda sprinkled on the bottom or with a cup of vinegar on the top shelf.

Beyond the kitchen, about 200,000 bacteria live in a square inch of carpet (nearly 700 times more than on your toilet seat), including E. coli, staphylococcus, and salmonella.

The average smart phone and other handheld devices like the TV remote, door handles and light switches can be 10 times dirtier than a toilet seat.

Even your washing machine can harbor germs and needs to be cleaned, every couple of months. It's easy to find online directions to clean top or front-loading machines as well as dishwashers and Coffee reservoirs.

It's a dirty world out there. Other culprits include purses, gas pump handles, toothbrush holders, shopping cart handles and elevator buttons. My grandmother used to say, you have to eat a peck of dirt before you die. I always took this to mean that humans are hardy; that a little dirt was good for the body and for the soul.

According to the CDC, your best defense for preventing illness from the common cold to flu and covid is thorough and frequent hand washing. But if you dry your hands with an over-used hand towel, remember they are breeding grounds for germs. Swap it for a clean towel every day and wash the dirty ones with a disinfectant, like bleach.

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Clerk's Corner

Laurie Nordfors, Town Clerk

The holiday season has come and gone and we now look forward to a new year. I would like to thank the numerous businesses and residents in Gorham who helped the less fortunate and adopted a family for Christmas. The outpouring of generosity was overwhelming. This year we helped 7 Gorham families (7 adults and 21 children) have a happy holiday. We also have had a number of generous donations to our Town's Fuel Fund throughout the year. I am so proud to live and work in such an amazing Town.

The Town Council Appointments Committee is currently seeking applications for upcoming vacancies for all town boards and committees. Please visit the town website at www.gorham-me.org and click the button for "Boards & Committees" for information and/or to download an application. Applications are also available at the Town Clerk's office. Interested applicants should submit a completed application, along with a resume if available, to the Town Clerk no later than Jan. 20 in order to be considered for appointment. Please call (207) 222-1670 or visit the Town Clerk's Office if you have any questions or need further information.

Please remember that dog licenses expired on Dec. 31. The Town Clerk's office has received copies of rabies vaccination

certificates for vaccinations given in 2023 from the Department of Animal Welfare for dogs that are kept in Gorham. Some of these dogs have not been licensed.

If a dog owner or keeper does not come in to license the dog, and we receive a copy of the rabies certificate for the dog, the Animal Control Officer will be notified, and the owner or keeper will be subject to being summonsed for keeping an unlicensed dog.

Dog licenses must be paid no later than Jan. 31 to avoid a late fee. The license fee is \$6.00 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$11.00 for dogs that have not been spayed or neutered. A late fee of \$25.00 per dog on top of the registration fee will be charged for all dog licenses paid on and after Feb. 1.

For your convenience, the Town of Gorham participates in online dog licensing until Jan. 31. There is an additional \$1.00 fee to license your dog online. Please visit our website at "<http://www.gorham-me.org>"

The State Presidential Primary will be held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. – 8 a.m. Absentee Ballot applications are now available at the Town Clerk's office, by calling (207) 222-1670 or go to <https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl> and request a ballot online.

Grand Jury Indictments, Dec. 2023

Sheri Faber, Staff Writer

Ryan Brown, 24, of Gorham was indicted for reckless conduct with a dangerous weapon, aggravated criminal mischief, criminal OUI and driving to endanger on charges brought by Maine State Police.

Brandon Charles Hayes, 36, of Gorham was indicted for unlawful possession of scheduled drugs (fentanyl) on charges brought by Gorham PD.

Whitney Meadows, 35, of Gorham was indicted for forgery on

charges brought by Falmouth PD.

Brant Segler, 39, of Buxton was indicted on charges of eluding an officer, operating after suspension, criminal speed and driving to endanger on charges brought by Gorham PD.

Gregory Weidemann, 38, of Gorham, was indicted on charges of gross sexual assault, unlawful sexual assault, unlawful sexual touching assault and unlawful sexual contact on charges brought by Gorham PD.

Planning Board Results Jan. 8

Sheri Faber, Staff Writer

A proposed amendment to the Land Use and Development Code to revise the standards for cuts on arterials and designated collectors, that is consistent with the Town's Comprehensive Plan, was sent to the Town Council with a recommendation for adoption.

A request to construct a cold storage warehouse building consisting of freezer warehouse space, office space, cold docks, battery charging and material handling equipment storage on Main Street was approved with conditions of approval as drafted by the Town Planner and as amended by the Planning Board.

Shaw Brothers Construction, Inc's request to extend the northerly property line buffer into acquired property to excavate ledge within 140 feet where blasting was not previously permitted on Mosher Road was discussed and moved to the Monday, Feb. 5 Planning Board Meeting.

Dyer Road Solar's request for approval to construct a 700 KW community solar array and associated infrastructure on Dyer Road was moved to grant approval with conditions of approval as drafted by the Town Planner.

Jocelia Hartwell's request for a three-lot residential subdivision on Great Falls Road was discussed.

Town Council Results, Jan. 2

Sheri Faber, Staff Writer

Councilor Gagnon reported that the next Economic/Development/ Capital Improvements Committee meeting will be held on Jan. 18. at 11 a.m.

Councilor Wilder Cross thanked volunteers for making New Year's Gorham a huge success. She attended the GPCOG Metro Regional where updates on shelters and encampments were presented. A Health and Human Services representative

reported on work to reform the State's General Assistance Program. The proposed bill would help municipalities deal with increasing requests for General Assistance.

Councilor Pratt urged residents to donate blood if possible.

Councilor Sims thanked volunteers and supporters of New Year's Gorham. He noted that the Appointments Committee is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



Gorham Rams Swim YETI RAFFLE



SOS: Support Our Swimmers!

Enter to win a YETI "Roadie" cooler filled with \$25 gift cards for Applebees, Amazon, Home Depot, Old Navy, Under Armour, and Hannaford Supermarkets **AND** a hand built red cedar and PVC cornhole board!

Tickets \$5 each or 5 for \$20

Drawing to be held at the Swim Banquet.

Venmo Gorham Swim Boosters to purchase tickets **TODAY!**

Gorham Swim Boosters
@GorhamSwimTeam



Include your name and phone number in the description so we can contact our WINNER

Adopt a Classroom Returns

Kenneth Tompkins, Communications Coordinator, Aspire Gorham



Photo credit: Kenneth Tompkins, Aspire Gorham
Senior Isak Young works with a group of Narragansett students as part of the Adopt A Classroom partnership.

Adopt a Classroom, which has been in existence since 2017, is a cooperative project between Gorham's three elementary schools and the high school. Through this program GHS students partner with an elementary classroom and visit monthly to have meaningful interactions with the younger students. Both groups benefit from the relationships formed through reading, playing games and spending time together.

"The whole purpose was looking at increasing aspirations for high school students," according to GHS Principal Brian Jandreau. The program has become a tradition looked forward to by all involved.



Photo credit: Kenneth Tompkins, Aspire Gorham
GHS students also visit Great Falls and Village Elementary Schools monthly. Here a GHS student plays a game with some of Mrs. Penley's fifth grade students at Village.

Kindergarten Information Meetings for Parents

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

The parent information meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7 at 5:30 p.m. at your neighborhood school. At this meeting, parents will meet school staff, learn about a day-in-the-life of a Kindergarten student, and receive information about the enrollment process for new kindergarten students next fall.

This meeting is for parents/guardians only. You will pick up enrollment packets, receive information on how to schedule your student for a Kindergarten screening, and learn about a future date to bring your student in to see the school.

Please go to www.gorhamschools.org and click on your neighborhood school below to pre-register using the kindergarten registration link that is listed on the individual school web page. If you are unsure of

your neighborhood school or have any questions, please call any of the elementary schools directly for this information.

<p>Great Falls Elementary School Contact - Julie Murray, julie.murray@gorhamschools.org or (207) 222-1050</p> <p>Narragansett Elementary School Contact - Sarah Palmer, sarah.palmer@gorhamschools.org or (207) 222-1250</p> <p>Village Elementary School School Contact - Andrea Nault, andrea.nault@gorhamschools.org or (207) 222-1300</p>
--

School Committee Meeting, Jan. '24

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

The Gorham School Committee met for their monthly meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 2024.

There were four program reviews presented to the committee; Gorham Middle School Student Council, K-12 Library and Media Programs, the Gifted and Talented Education Program and School Safety.

Donna Pastore, GMS teacher and Student Council Advisor and four students spoke about the benefits of the student council at the middle school. They are a public service club with 41 members who are involved in many wonderful projects including holiday cards for senior citizens, bus driver appreciation activities, reading to students at Village School, scarf and hat collection for the shelter, as well as a school wide talent show and spirit weeks. They are a hard-working group of students who serve as role models and goodwill ambassadors to the school and community.

The School Librarians and Media Specialists reviewed their programs and responsibilities. The overarching goal of the K-12 program is to develop a community of lifelong learners and literate consumers of information. The elementary librarians: Gigi McAllister, Lori Littlefield and Jessie Mason, not only maintain and manage books and materials but teach several classes daily as part of the schools' creative arts rotation. At the upper levels, Suzanne Dix at GMS and Kelly Tibbitts at GHS, also have built inclusive and information rich learning spaces and consult regularly with teachers and students about projects and learning challenges.

Project SAIL, the gifted and talented education program was reviewed by teachers; Danielle Quimby and Rebecca Ambrose and Educational Technician; Kristine Karcanes. Project SAIL, the

Grades 3-12 program has existed in Gorham since the 1991-1992 school year when mandated by the state of Maine. Students are referred to the program by test scores or parent and teacher recommendation. The learning professionals provide a three-tier learning system ranging from consultation and materials support to direct services.

Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Brian Porter, provided an outline of the school safety programs. A more extensive, formal review is conducted yearly by the school committee but this was an overview of the many components and aspects of the school safety protocols and plans including the ALICE framework (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evaluate) procedures for evacuation and lockdown plans, and emergency notification and communication systems.

Superintendent Perry highlighted from her monthly report information about the Pre-K grant opportunity for continued and expanded funding and the allocation of a grant for literacy instruction.

There is a process for systematically reviewing all Gorham School Department policies to make sure that the language is clear and that the policies are in alignment with any changes in state law. They are then presented to the full committee for a first reading and members have an opportunity to review the changes before approval at the second reading at the next monthly meeting. At this meeting, the Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion Policy (JKAA) was presented for a second reading. The Policy Subcommittee had also reviewed twenty policies, five needed some updating and language changes that were presented for a first reading for the committee. In addition, a new policy on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ACAAB) was presented for a first reading.

Town Seeks Volunteers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Laurie Nordfors at lnordfors@gorham.me.us for information. The Appointments Committee will schedule short informal interviews with applicants starting in February and the Town Council will appoint the new board and committee members at their March meeting.

The following information about boards and committees seeking members are summaries of descriptions provided by the Town.

The Planning Board has seven members with two open positions. It meets on the 1st and sometimes 3rd Mondays. They perform duties authorized by the town and state pertaining to zoning, sub-divisions, and land-use. All private ways, sub-divisions, major site plans and special exception applications are reviewed by the Planning Board and followed by public hearing before making recommendations to the Town Council.

The Board of Assessment Review has three members with one open position. It meets when necessary to review, on behalf of the property Assessor, written applications from taxpayers for abatement and makes recommendations to the Assessor. It is also charged with adopting regulations regarding the procedure for assessment review.

The Gorham Conservation Commission has seven members with two open positions. It meets every other month and is responsible for

the care and supervision of public parks, subject to Town Council approval. It directs expenditure of funds appropriated for improvement. In conjunction with the Planning Board, the Commission conducts research into local land areas and seeks to coordinate the activities of organizations with similar purposes. They may advertise, prepare, print, and distribute books, maps, and other media. The Commission keeps an index of all open areas within Gorham.

The Board of Trustees for Baxter Memorial Library has nine members with two open positions. It meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. The Board is responsible for the management of the public library "in every particular."

The Board of Appeals has seven members with one open position. It usually meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Members hear and make decisions on appeals from decisions of the Code Enforcement Officer regarding the Land Use and Development Code. It is, therefore, a semi-judicial board.

The Economic Development Corporation has nine members with three open positions. It meets on the 2nd or 3rd Wednesday of the month. It fosters, encourages, and assists the physical location, settlement, or resettlement of industrial, manufacturing, commercial, fishing, agricultural, recreational, and other business enterprises within Gorham.

It can purchase, lease, or acquire, hold, use, manage, improve, develop and otherwise deal and trade in property of every kind. It can sell or dispose of these properties.

The Historic Preservation Commission has seven members with two open positions. It meets when needed. The Commission reviews applications for historic properties, historic districts, and landmarks. After holding public hearings, it makes recommendations to the Town Council. It issues Historic Preservation Certificates needed before moving or demolishing an historic building. It reviews applications for construction of new residential units in an Historic District. It provides education about historic preservation and maintenance of historic property. It keeps an inventory of property in Historic Districts, landmarks, and historic sites.

The Fair Hearing Board has five members with one open position. It meets when necessary to hear appeals from decisions by the Welfare Director.

The Revolving Loan Fund Committee has seven members with two open positions. It meets when necessary to provide oversight to the commercial loan programs of the town, including the Revolving Loan Fund. It approves or rejects loan applications, makes loan modifications, and oversees loan foreclosure actions.

The Board of Health has three members. One must be a physician and one a woman. One position is open. The Board acts as an advisory body to the local health officer. It makes recommendations on issues such as a proposed state ban on flavored tobacco products, and requests for Federal funds to treat opioid dependency.



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SUPPORT LOCAL TOGETHER

Red Claws Youth Night & A Big Hoop Weekend

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo credit: Julie Kebdani

Gorham kids enjoying some team spirit

On Friday, Jan. 5 many Gorham families enjoyed a fun night out at the Portland Expo, home of the Maine Celtics, the Boston Celtics G league affiliate team, for a night

of basketball and school spirit. Families purchased tickets ahead of time on the school's website. Gorham Youth Night was organized by the three elementary schools; Great Falls, Narragansett, and Village schools respectively. Students who attended were part of the Red Claws team high-five tunnel.

The event also coincided with the Maine Event Basketball weekend; a homecoming of the #1 High School player in the country taking on impressive teams at sold-out games at the Cross Arena on Friday evening and the Expo on the following evening; an exciting opportunity that brought a high level of competition and excitement to Maine. The Gorham Varsity boys and girls teams also played a doubleheader on Saturday, Jan. 6 in front of a packed crowd, with two big wins over Scarborough. It was a hoop weekend like no other.



Photo credit: Tim Spear

Fans enjoying a Rams doubleheader v. Scarborough

Town Council Results

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

still accepting applications for citizen and business volunteers for the new Joint Fiscal Sustainability Committee. Councilor Lavoie thanked Public Works for their hard work after the wind/rain storm.

Councilor Siegal urged citizens and businesses to volunteer for the Joint Fiscal Sustainability Committee.

Chairperson Phillips attended a joint Gorham/Scarborough Economic Development meeting and came away with many good ideas. At the previous month's Town Council workshop, the council had set goals for 2024. Goals are available on the Town Website.

Town Manager Paraschak reminded residents of the winter parking ban in effect from midnight to 6 a.m. on all Gorham roads. Winter sand is available at the new sand shed at Public Works. He thanked Public Works, Gorham Fire Department and Gorham Police Department for their hard work during last month's rain/windstorm. The March Town Council meeting has been moved to March 12 as the presidential primary will be held on March 5.

The Council voted to approve 7-0 an amendment to the Land Use and Development Code, Roadside Commercial to permit outside storage as an accessory use.

Voted 7-0 to issue a new medical marijuana license to Anthony Digilio, DL Farms, 36 Bartlett Road, Unit 2.

A contract zone for property at 239 County Road of approximately 124 acres in the Town's Rural District, was discussed. The Chicoine Family's plans include permitted agricultural uses. They would also like to include recreational uses, not currently permitted in the rural district,

including curling rinks, pickleball courts, disc golf course and a trail system for walking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, as well as a conference center/banquet hall for events such as cornhole tournaments, craft fairs, dances, restaurant, microbrewery/tasting room, performing arts center and campground.

The Planning Board recommended rezoning of the property and the project is consistent with the Town's plan for economic, recreational, and scenic benefits of agricultural use as well as consistent with the goals of Gorham's Comprehensive Plan to protect the state's rural character and to diversify the business base to build a stronger community.

The order was approved 7-0.

The Council Voted 7-0 to instruct the Ordinance Committee to review standards for private leach fields.

Voted 7-0 to appoint the Town Council Chair as the liaison with University of Southern Maine.

Voted 7-0 to authorize \$55,000 to renovate Robie Softball Field with the money coming from the contingency account. The Recreation Department is to work with the School Athletic Department on this project.

Voted 7-0 to authorize the release of \$75,000 in funding for the Gorham School Department for capital projects.

Voted 7-0 to approve allocations to Gorham businesses and farms (Green Growth Lawn Care, Jotul NA, Montalvo Corp., Sebago Brewing Company, Azul Tequila Restaurant, Iaia Brazil, LLC, Orchard Ridge farm and Rustic Holdings LLC) as recommended by the Gorham Economic Development Committee for a total of \$45,000 in funding.

Knights of Columbus District Free Throw Championship

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo credit: Steve Sedgely

On Dec. 30, basketball players ages 9 - 14 participated in the annual free throw championship to qualify and move on to the state championship which will be held in Old Town on Saturday, March 9. The winners and players going to states are the following: Brayeden Dunn (14 yrs.), Jordan Burns, Henry Carey (13 yrs.), Joel Warren (11 yrs.), Aidan Berthiaume, Natlie McCurdy (9 yrs.), Sylvie Ouellet (11 yrs.), Remy Semle and Hazel Carey. Coaches Anthony Alfiero and Jimmy Falk are pictured in the back row.

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 Kristen Dore, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, New Hampshire
 Samantha Files, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, New Hampshire
 Gabrielle Kurchin, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, New Hampshire
 Clarence Wildes, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, New Hampshire

DEANS LIST

Ryan Desanctis, Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island
 Alden Dimick, Plymouth State University, Plymouth, New Hampshire
 Madelin Joseph, Miami University, Oxford, Ohio
 Lucia Pompeo, Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Connecticut

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.

Full Moon Walk, hosted by Presumpscot Regional Land Trust will be held at Randall Orchards in Standish on Saturday, Jan. 20 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. A guided one mile walk or snowshoe will be led by Master Naturalist, Jeanne Christie and will explore some of the 500-acres of conserved orchard and forest in the moonlight. Hot cider from apples grown and pressed on-site at the orchard will be served afterward. This popular event is free, but space is limited. Registration is required at <https://prlt.org/events>.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gorham Memorial Post 10879 will be meeting on Tuesday, February 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fire Department Training Room, 270 Main Street. For information contact the post at vwfpost10879@gmail.com.

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

First Parish Church at 1 Church Street will have a chicken pie dinner on Saturday, Jan. 27. The takeout dinner is from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. \$12.50 for adults, kids' meals available for \$8.

Haddock Supper Buffet at Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road in Buxton on Saturday, Jan. 27 at 5 p.m. Suggested donation: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child, \$20 Family. Takeout containers available, face masks optional, and hand sanitizer available.

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. Find the full schedule in this issue's calendar and learn more at <https://baxterlibrary.org>.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE NOTES

Visit <http://usm.maine.edu/events> for the searchable events calendar for arts and athletic events and more. Remember, parking at USM is not free, and a citation is \$55. Parking rules can be found at <https://usm.maine.edu/parking-services/>. For assistance, contact Parking Services at (207) 780-4718, or usmparkingservices@maine.edu.

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HOLLIS \$125,000 – Wooded 4.7-acre parcel with the potential building envelope nicely set back from the road. Given the acreage there is plenty of space to leave a forested buffer between abutting property owners to maintain a private setting.



GORHAM \$130,000 – This building lot is perfectly located on the Westbrook side of Gorham with quick access to Portland or the ME Turnpike. Survey is available, iron corner pins set, septic design available & the driveway entrance is in place. The building envelope is nicely located back some 350+ feet from the road.



WINDHAM \$134,900 – This building lot is surveyed with building envelope offers HHE 200 septic design for 2BR, public water at the street, power to property & gravel driveway. Access to Mill Pond across the street with 200' of frontage & sandy beach.



GORHAM \$784,000 – Welcome to 9 Martin Drive tucked away at the end of a beautiful dead-end street in Fort Hill Heights where the homes are mindfully spread out. It rests on 2.97 ac & offers over 2700sf of living space. Each element and space encompass subtle details that make it unique.



GORHAM \$589,000 – This gorgeous Somerset Grand II condominium is located in desirable Woods Edge at Pheasant Knoll. This open concept floor plan is nicely upgraded from top to bottom with a 2-car garage and full basement for storage. This lovely end unit is flooded with plenty of natural light.



GORHAM \$825,000 – Gorgeous interior with wood floors, exposed beams, custom granite kitchens, built-ins & period details. The first floor living space offers 2448sf with up to 3-bedrooms perfect for one floor living. The 2nd & 3rd floor living space offers 3159sf with up to 5-bedrooms. 2-unit on Presumpscot River.



GORHAM \$635,000 – Tucked away on a dead-end street where you can enjoy sidewalks to schools, restaurants, shopping, bowling & the Greater Portland Metro Husky bus line. This 3-bedroom/2.5-bathroom cottage style home features a sunlit open first floor plan with 9-foot ceilings.




GORHAM \$159,900 – 2009 mobile home. Spacious kitchen, dining area, large living room with laminate flooring, master bedroom with full bath & laundry area. Newer storage shed with electricity, paved driveway, new deck. Excellent 55+ community with clubhouse. Great location to all points.



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CALENDAR

- Thursday, January 18**
Baxter Memorial Library
Toddler Discovery Time (18mos-3yrs), 10 a.m.
Sewing Club (age7+), 3 - 4 p.m.
- Saturday, January 20**
Full Moon Walk hosted by Presumpscot Regional Land Trust, Randall Orchards, Standish, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, January 22**
Lecky Brown Senior Center at First Parish Church Cribbage & board games, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, January 23**
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 Dept Training Room, 5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 24**
Baxter Memorial Library Baby Discovery Time (birth-18mos), 9:30 a.m.
North Gorham Public Library All Ages Story Time, 10 a.m.
Lecky Brown Senior Center at First Parish, "Originals" guest speaker program, 10 a.m.
- Thursday, January 25**
Baxter Memorial Library
Toddler Discovery Time, (18mos-3yrs)
Sewing Club (7+yrs), 3 - 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, January 26**
"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," Corthell Concert Hall. 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, January 27**
Baxter Memorial Library, RPG Club, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
First Parish Church, Chicken Pie Dinner, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Living Waters Church Haddock Supper Buffet, 5 p.m.
"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," Corthell Concert Hall. 2 and 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, January 28**
"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," Corthell Concert Hall. 2 p.m.
- Monday, January 29**
Lecky Brown Senior Center at First Parish Church Cribbage and board games, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, January 30**
Baxter Memorial Library
Family Discovery Time (2-5yrs), 10 a.m.
Dogs Dig Reading, call (207) 222-1190 to sign up, 4 - 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 31**
Baxter Memorial Library
Baby Discovery Time (birth-18mos), 9:30 a.m.
North Gorham Public Library All Ages Story Time, 10 a.m.
Lecky Brown Senior Center at First Parish, "Originals" guest speaker program, 10 a.m.

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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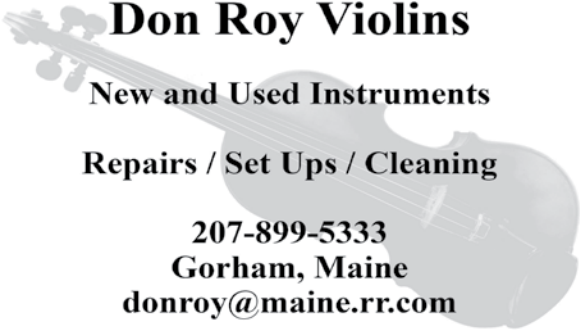
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blotter

Caller who wanted to remain anonymous reported a tan vehicle parked in a handicapped spot on Main Street. When the officer arrived, there was no vehicle in the handicapped spot nor in the parking lot.

Main Street caller reported a fire. When the officer arrived, she said the refrigerator had made a loud pop and her apartment filled with the smell of ammonia. Gorham Fire Department arrived and took command of the scene.

School Street resident reported a vehicle blocking his driveway and said he needed to leave soon. Officer responded and found the nose of the vehicle was encroaching lightly into the complainant's driveway but was not blocking the driveway. Officer talked to the registered owner and asked him to reposition his vehicle.

School Street caller reported a homeless male by a dumpster and felt uncomfortable as kids were going to and from dance practice. Officer arrived but did not see anyone.

Narragansett Street caller was tracking her headphones. She located them in Portland and said a guy she knew had taken them. Since the incident happened in Portland, she was told to contact the Portland Police Department.

Caller wanted information about a crash in front of the Police Department and wanted to know what time the police responded to it.

She was not involved and the officer advised they would not give out private information.

Two people sitting in a vehicle in a church parking lot on Cressey Road were moved along and told not to return. They both said they understood.

Buxton PD requested Gorham PD attempt to locate a vehicle that was all over the road. Information was passed on to Scarborough as they had gone there.

School Street caller reported she had "a bit of a funny feeling about someone and thought he was harassing her".

Longfellow Road caller told dispatch he had people coming over and he didn't know if "things were going to get ugly". Someone else came to the phone and said everything was okay. Two officers responded to the residence and the caller started yelling as he seemed upset that police came to the residence. He continued to yell and it became apparent he called for no reason and did not require assistance.

Freedom Drive caller reported a woman was missing. She had gone to Scarborough to pick up food and had been gone for hours and her phone didn't ring when he called it. Woman arrived while the officer was at the residence and she told the officer she was fine.

Officer went to a Main Street residence for a welfare check. Subject was taking a nap.

CryptoVerse Solution by A. Logophile

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(t)here but not: USM 2024 Art Department Show

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer

The University of Southern Maine Art Department invites the public to attend its 2024 Exhibition beginning Thursday, Jan. 25, featuring the creative talents of 20 professionals at the University. The artwork represents varied styles, subjects, and media. Check the USM Art Department

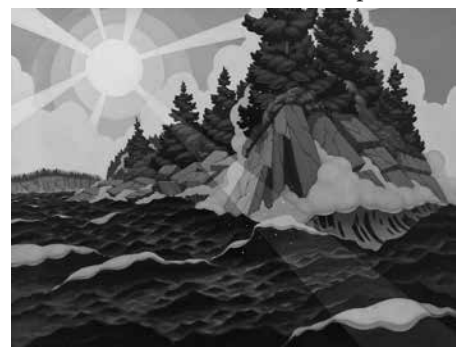


Photo credit: Nathaniel Meyer
 Nathaniel Meyer, "Hierophany," 2023. Oil on canvas, 48 x 36 in.



Photo credit: Courtesy of Christopher Cooper
 Christopher Cooper, "Nature vs. Nurture," 2023. Wood fired stoneware, left: 4 1/4 in. wide x 8 in. high x 4 1/4 in. deep; center: 4 1/4 in. wide x 9 in. high x 4 1/4 in. deep; right: 4 1/4 in. wide x 8 in. high x 4 1/4 in. deep.

for more information about hours.

The show will include work of: Janna Ahrndt; Sara Armas; Tabitha Barnard; Hannah Barnes; Kimberly Bentley; Patricia Brace; Matthew Burke; Christopher Cooper; Amy Hagberg; Kaitlyn Hunter; Sam Jones; Annie Lee-Zimerle; Nathaniel Meyer; Damir Porobic; Michael Shaughnessy; Helen Stringfellow; Jude Valentine; Stephen P. Walsh; Sarah Warshaw; Brian Zimerle.



Photo credit: Amy Hagberg
 Amy Hagberg, "Sparkling Waterfall," 2023. Vellum Composite from two Pinhole Camera Images, 16 in. wide x 20 in. high

Congratulations, Artists!

Martin Luther King Jr., A True American Hero

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer

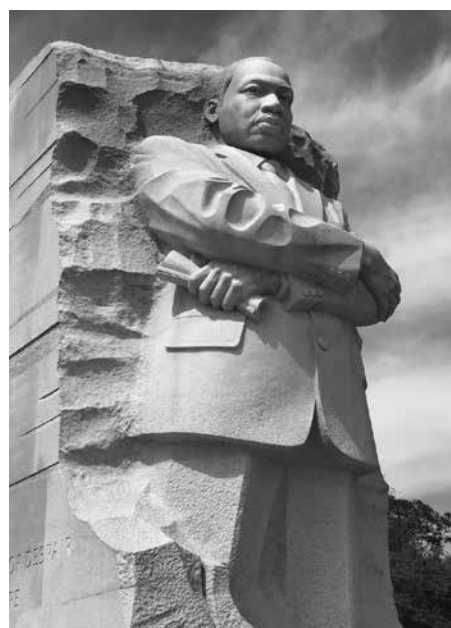


Photo credit: Chris Crawford
 Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Washington D.C.

Martin Luther King Jr. was born

on Jan. 15, 1929, in Atlanta, Georgia. Like his father, King served as a pastor at the Ebenezer Baptist Church until his assassination on April 4, 1968.

A true American hero, King gave his life for his strong beliefs that ALL people were created equal and deserved equal rights and protections under the law. His actions as part of the Civil Rights Movement helped move forward legislation that became the backbone of civil rights equality in this country as well as around the world.

King led the movement to end segregation and counter prejudice through the means of peaceful protest and his abiding love of all people.

Guided by in his faith in God, King always led with his heart. His impact here as well as around the world was immense. A gifted public speaker, Kings words, some of which are found below, are so simple, so eloquent, and still so relevant in today's world.

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Featuring Sales Sunday Jan 21st - Saturday Jan 27th

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