

Gorham Times

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A Free, Not-for-Profit Newspaper Serving Gorham Since 1995

Beat the Cold - See MAMMA MIA at GHS the Next Two Weekends

Michael Lortie, School News Editor



Photo credit: Joshua Hurd, Director, GHS

Sophia Andrade, Lily Rubin and Ella Senatore perform the music of ABBA in GHS Musical "MAMMA MIA"

Gorham High School will produce "MAMMA MIA" for six shows in the next two weekends. February performances are set with shows on Fridays (Feb. 2 and Feb. 9), and Saturdays (Feb. 3 and Feb. 10) at 7 p.m.

MAMMA MIA at Gorham High School
Feb. 2, 3, 9 & 10 at 7 p.m.
Feb. 4 & 10 at 2 p.m.
Tickets \$14

and Sunday matinees (Feb. 4 and Feb. 11) at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$14 and will be available on the website Eventbrite or at the door the date of the performance. It promises to be a tremendous production.

"MAMMA MIA" is a jukebox musical based on the songs of the Swedish group ABBA and tells the story of a young girl, Sophie, who is preparing for her wedding on a Greek Island. Sophie tries to uncover the mystery of her parentage and invites three men who could be her dad to the wedding much to the surprise of her mother. The resulting complications and confusion provide an opportunity to hear all of ABBA's spirited music.

Director Josh Hurd said, "From the very beginning I wanted to showcase the music in the show. To just enhance the story of Donna and Sophie through these amazing songs. I wanted to pay tribute to ABBA by making our live band a highlight from the very



Photo credit: Joshua Hurd, Director, GHS

Alex Robbins, Nicholas Tinkham and Patrick Delaney wow the crowd in "MAMMA MIA."

beginning. Get excited by the sound and the noise that's going to come from that stage. It's this great music that we all know and love. Who doesn't love singing along to 'Dancing Queen?'"

"MAMMA MIA" is directed by Joshua Hurd, and the musical director is GHS music teacher, Matt Murray. Also on the production team is choreographer, Mariel Roy, producer, Jocelyn Miller lighting designer, Joseph Strout and costume designer Darnell Stuart.

The cast list includes:

Sophie Sheridan- Elle Woodman
Ali- Hailey Racine
Lisa- Gracey Macdonald
Donna Sheridan- Lily Rubin
Tanya- Sophia Andrade
Rosie- Ella Senatore
Sky- Logan Mills
Pepper- Alex Tukey
Eddie- Zach Bourgoin
Harry Bright- Nicholas Tinkham
Bill Austin- Patrick Delaney
Sam Carmichael- Alex Robbins
Ensemble- Lauren Pierce, Lauren Greenier, Amy Morin, Jenna Pequinot, Izzy Smith, Anaiah Brown, Olivia Kennedy, Hannah Martel, Mike Distasio, Elsie Moreno, Noah Williams, Ally Gossen, & Isabelle Phinney
Crew- Kira Keniston, Gillian Lachance, Max Lampron, & Emma Smith

Traffic Concerns Raised at Public Hearing

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer

On Jan. 22, the Planning Board gave the public an opportunity to speak about the proposed Robie Street Subdivision Contract Zone and ten residents made their concerns known. They raised questions about traffic problems, wetlands on the site, potential loss of trees, impact on the schools, and the site plan itself. Following the public hearing, the Board made some changes to the proposed contract, which will require another public hearing tentatively set for Feb. 26. If after that meeting Board approves the contract, it will go to the Town Council. The site plan for the subdivision is on the agenda for the regular Planning Board meeting Feb. 5.

Many of the speakers were residents of streets adjacent to the subdivision, Bramblewood Lane, Ridgeway Lane, Robie Street, and White Birch Lane which will connect to New Portland Road and is the proposed major construction access. Residents said that their residential roads were too narrow and not suitable for the increased traffic which would only add to existing problems on South

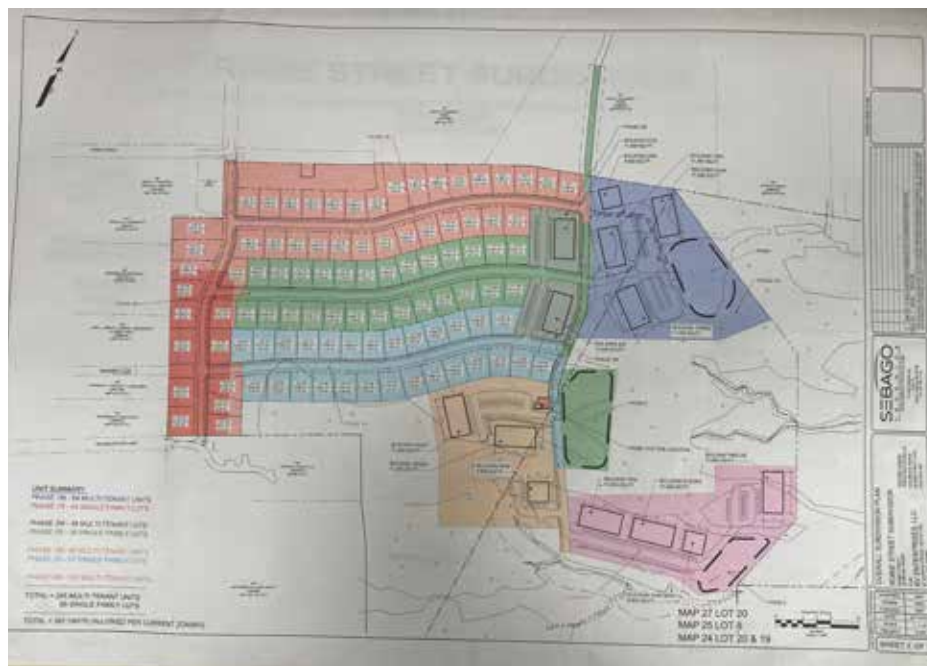


Photo credit: Gorham Times Staff

This is the site plan that can be viewed at the Town Planner's Office.

Street and New Portland Road. Speaking for the developer, KV Enterprises, Owen McCullough, said that there would be a traffic survey and review before the site

plan comes before the Planning Board. There was agreement that "traffic calming solutions" within the subdivision should be implemented by the developer.

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You're in the Know.

Gorham Times

GORHAM RUNNER GOES TO OLYMPIC TRIALS 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. Mo Terry, D-Gorham

Late last month, on the 51st anniversary of the now-overturned Roe v. Wade decision protecting the right to an abortion in the United States, Mainers filled the halls of the State House to voice their support for a proposed constitutional amendment, LD 780, to explicitly secure reproductive freedom here in Maine. The Legislature's Judiciary Committee heard hours of testimony from people across the state, sharing stories of loss and hope, and a desire for autonomy over their own bodies.

The show of support that day was remarkable, but I couldn't help but feel a deep sadness because of the absence of one particularly powerful voice, that of the honorable Lois Galgay Reckitt.

Lois, who passed away in October of last year, was serving her fourth term in the Maine House representing part of South Portland. She was a relentless advocate for women, a champion for the Equal Rights Amendment - both for the United States Constitution and the Maine Constitution - a national leader in the fight to end violence against women and girls, and a dear friend. In the wake of the Dobbs decision that overturned Roe v. Wade, the right to reproductive autonomy once again hangs in the balance. Even

in her final days, Lois set her sights on explicitly securing this right for Mainers.

For over 50 years, guaranteed access to birth control and to safe and legal abortions allowed women to take greater control over our decisions about the ever-challenging balancing act between work and family, giving us greater opportunity to participate fully in our communities and the economy. Having raised three daughters, I know how vital this protection is to their sense of agency and freedom. Lois understood this, too. But more so, she understood the ramifications of robbing future generations of this protection. I believe most Mainers understand this as well.

Right now, reproductive rights are under attack in Republican-controlled state houses across the country, but these attempts to roll back reproductive rights are out of step with public sentiment. In states where voters are allowed to directly decide, we have seen reproductive autonomy continue to win. Even in states with Republican-controlled legislatures, like Kansas and Ohio, voters have overwhelmingly voted to protect reproductive autonomy. In Maine, the majority of people support access to abortion by wide margins.

Yet getting enough support among law-

makers to send this issue to voters will be a challenge. Unlike most other types of legislation, a constitutional amendment must receive the support of two-thirds of the House and Senate before it can be sent to the people for a vote.

I firmly believe that these types of big questions about autonomy, liberty and our personal values are questions that ought to be answered by the people directly. For my daughters, for future generations and for Lois, Mainers' voices deserve to be heard on this issue. The Legislature should do the right thing and pass this constitutional amendment.



Rep. Maureen "Mo" Terry, D-Gorham, is serving her fourth term in the Maine House of Representatives. She is the House Majority Leader, where she serves as head of the Democratic caucus. Outside of her legislative work, Rep. Terry is a chef and small business owner. Contact her at maureen.terry@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.

To the Editor:

I am writing today to express my strong concern regarding the proposed expansion of operations at the Shaw Brothers quarry located on Mosher Road.

Our family has lived at Mosher's Corner for over 30 years, and in that time have seen a great deal of industrial development in our area. When the quarry operation began, we were concerned that the operation would grow incrementally. It is today much larger than we expected when the project was initially proposed.

The Shaw Brothers development has had an impact on our lives, by increasing truck traffic past our home as well as the regular surprise sounds and vibrations of blasting. Where there once was beautiful wooded property around the former brickyard, it is now clear-cut, and filled with tall piles of sand and gravel. Heavy trucks pass continually in and out of the development, and past our home.

Our primary concern at this time is with the fine, black sooty dust that blows in our direction when the wind is from the north. When we clean it from our window sills and lawn furniture we often wonder how much it is affecting our breathing.

We appreciate all that Shaw Brothers has done for our community. We very much enjoy walking the trails at Cherry Hill, and greeting the livestock there. We recognize the importance of non-residential development in the town of Gorham. But we also urge you to be

very careful and discerning about how development impacts those who reside nearby.

Thank you,
John Rimkunas

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/>

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Correction:
In the Jan. 18 issue of the Gorham Times, Knights of Columbus Free Throw Kids Championship, one child's name was omitted, 10 year old Mason Kinne. He made 15 out of 15 free throws to advance to the state championship in March in Old Town, Maine.

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Business Manager: Donna Soper
Advertising Coordinator: Donna Soper
Design/Production: Megan Levesque, Molly Lortie
Staff Writers: Jacob Adams, Donna Aikins, Kerry Constantino, Kathy Corbett, John Ersek, Sheri Faber, Krista Nadeau, Patrick and Cindy O'Shea,
GHS Student Interns: Cameron Cyr, Lucia Holloway, Aislyn McLean
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Features: Chris Crawford
Photographer: Roger Marchand
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Sports: Katie Brown
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EDITORIAL POLICY

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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UPCOMING ADVERTISING DEADLINES

February 7
February 21
March 6

To the Editor of the Gorham Times:
An important Planning Board Meeting is scheduled for Feb. 5, 2024 at 7 p.m. Item 2 on the agenda is the discussion of the Preliminary Robie Street Subdivision Plan https://www.gorham-me.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4456/f/agendas/02052024_pb_agenda.pdf.

Though additional housing options are needed in Gorham, this type of subdivision is not suitable for the proposed location. The high density and added traffic will result in increased traffic and safety concerns for the surrounding residential neighborhoods. The current drafted plan (which can be obtained by request from the Town of Gorham) shows the residential neighborhoods and the three roadways that will be primarily affected: two current dead-end lanes (White Birch Lane and Bramblewood Lane) and Robie Street. The latter two will be connected through the subdivision.

White Birch Lane has a public ball field (behind Village School) at its dead-end. The construction of a proposed road starting from this ballfield's parking lot, through forested, wetland properties to the East corner of the subdivision is planned. The proposed high-density subdivision will have 295 multi-tenant units

and 96 single-family lots built on a wetland area. The three residential roadways cannot handle this increase in traffic, especially where White Birch Lane intersects New Portland Road. This intersection is across the road from the entrance to Gorham House and near the Johnson Road cut-through street. At this intersection, New Portland Road experiences heavy traffic, especially during morning and afternoon commutes which is already a safety concern for residents. (Traffic is at a standstill for around 3 hours during afternoon commutes).

With additional traffic from a high-density subdivision coming and going via White Birch Lane, the current traffic congestion on New Portland Road will become significantly worse. Increased traffic will cause increased safety issues for the commuters as well as the individuals and families with young children who live on New Portland Road and White Birch Lane. This link has more information about the subdivision https://www.gorham-me.org/sites/g/files/vyhlif4456/f/agendas/item_5_-_robie_st_preliminary_sd_0.pdf. Please come to the meeting to express your concerns. Thank you.

Ruth Kelly
Gorham

Gorham Times Welcomes New USM Student Intern

Gorham Times Staff



Photo credit: Thomas Grebouski
Thomas Grebouski, USM intern working with the Gorham Times.

Tom, our newest intern, is an English major at the University of Southern Maine. He grew up in Berwick, Maine and after much traveling is adamant that Maine is the place to be. Tom enjoys his community in Portland, as well as being able to live so near to both mountains and ocean.

Growing up snorkeling with his father has led Tom to meet many of the local seals. He has recently taken up scuba diving in addition

to the other staple hobbies: hiking, surfing, skiing, and reading good books in sunny places.

Among his favorite reads and recommendations are the typical English major affinities for the likes of Michele Foucault and Frederick Nietzsche. But not all reading must be hard work. Tom recommends Margaret Atwood's "Maddadam" series, Jeannette Walls' "The Glass Castle," and Douglas Adams' "Last Chance to See" for some great books to get lost in.

There is an affinity for nonfiction and contemporary relevance in Tom's literary diet, and with that comes a natural appreciation for journalism. Tom has previously worked for The Free Press, where he enjoyed the process of learning, compiling, and finally telling a story.

At the Gorham Times, Tom is hoping to get a closer look behind the curtain of a newspaper. Though he will be off to law school and may not get to work as a journalist, one could always be a contributor. The legal field is a place where ideas take form in a democratic society, so Tom figures that there must be stories to tell and there is always a place for someone who can take a complicated topic and explain it simply. Tom may be with us here at the Gorham Times for only a semester, but we hope to hear from him in the coming years.

Celebrating our GHS Interns:



Aislyn McLean
Lucia Monaco Holloway
Cameron Cyr



THANK YOU



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Peas

Roll

Dessert

Beverage

Fridays from February 16
to March 22

St. Anne's Church, Gorham

5:00-6:30 P.M.

Four New Directors Join the Gorham Times Board

Aaron Chadbourne, President, Gorham Times Board of Directors

The Gorham Times Board of Directors is pleased to welcome 4 new directors to the Board, each with amazing talents, skills and connections to the Gorham community. New directors include: **Michael Lortie**, a longtime contributor and section editor, who is also known for his 35 years serving as a counselor in Gorham Schools; **Delvina Miremadi-Baldino**, a 2001 Gorham High School graduate who founded and is Chief Resilience Officer of Realize Your Resilience in addition to several other professional roles; **Erica Roberts**, a Gorham resident

and finance professional for Capital One Trade Credit. Erica previously worked at WEX and is a University of Southern Maine Graduate; and **Debbie Stirling**, well known from working 20 years at Gorham High School in a job that she loved and retired from 4 years ago. Debbie also sold ads for the Gorham Time for the first 10 years of the paper. The Board also wishes to thank outgoing director **Kathy Corbett** for her many years (including several terms) on the Board and are grateful she will remain an active writer for the Times.

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Wish List

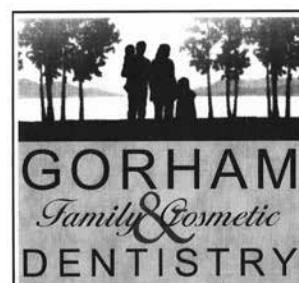
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Hibernation: A Good Alternative to Winter

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer

With February and March staring us down, my thoughts dwell on survival plans for the rest of the long Maine winter. At least we've had some snow so I can stop worrying about my garden freezing.

Animals have three options when it comes to wintertime. They can leave (migrate), sleep the cold months away (hibernate), or they can stay and be active all year long. In my opinion, the most sensible species migrate and avoid winter altogether. But that takes a lot of resources, especially if you weren't born with money or wings.

In my mind, some compelling reasons for humans to hibernate include cutting down on heating costs; keeping off that extra winter weight; no snow shoveling or running out of good shows to watch/stream; avoiding eye strain from too much reading.

Sadly, humans are denied this option. We belong to the group of hardy animals such as white-tailed deer and weasels who have to cope with winter in other ways. Luckily, we have LL Bean coats to keep us warm. Other mammals change the color of their coats to blend in with winter colors. Deer also grow a thick undercoat that is five times denser than their summer one. Unlike humans, their food sources are scarce, so they lose weight.

Many different types of animals hibernate in some unusual and dramatic ways. Winter naps can last a varying amount of time and involve quite extreme physiological changes. Some species lower their metabolism by up to 98% and drop their body temperature to near or below freezing. Some even stop breathing altogether.

There are some real surprises in the world of hibernation. The only bird known to hibernate is the Eastern whip-poor-will. When their food sources disappear, rather than migrate, they snuggle into a hollow log in south and central parts of Maine and wait out winter by lowering their metabolic rate and snoozing. Sounds like a good plan to me, except for the hollow log and outdoor part.

While many animals hibernate alone, some like company. Cold-blooded garter snakes gather in large groups to keep warm, as do bats. Bumblebees hibernate in the winter, or at least the Queen does. The workers die off, but she survives to start a new colony in the Spring.

There are also super hibernators like Arctic ground squirrels who can hibernate for 7 to 8 months with the lowest body temperature (below zero) ever recorded for a mammal. By slowing their metabolism, fat consumption

is minimized to sustain such a long period.

When frogs, burrowed into the mud in our pond, begin to freeze, their liver converts its glycerol into pure sugar (glucose). This acts like antifreeze, preventing ice crystals from forming in its organ tissues. Ice does form in other parts of the frog's body cavity. Our box turtles hibernate for three to five months underground. Their heart rate drops to 5-10 beats per minute. They stop breathing completely but continue to take in oxygen through their skin. Yikes, maybe I ought to rethink this plan.

Bears and other animals like groundhogs don't hibernate, but go into torpor, instead. When in torpor, an animal's heart and breathing rate are reduced, and their body temperature drops, but less dramatically than animals in hibernation. In torpor, bear temps drop to about 88 degrees because of their thick coats. They can go for days without waking, eating, drinking or eliminating waste. A female bear can even give birth while in torpor, lucky girl.

Thanks to some wonderful wildlife websites about hibernation, such as One Kind Plant, I've decided I wouldn't mind going into torpor, but in style, like a groundhog. They build elaborate burrows with multiple levels and specialized rooms for eating and sleeping. They even carve out bathrooms. During their 3-month-long winter rest, they can have 10-20 awakenings, one of which is celebrated on Ground Hog Day. Six more weeks of winter anyone?

Hibernation Jokes

What do grizzlies take to their caves during hibernation?

The bear necessities.

I read an article on the hibernation of animals.

It's winter-resting.

What did the French groundhog see when he woke up?

His château.

What did the groundhog's trainer tell him before the Olympics?

Gopher gold.

CryptoVerse by A. Logophile

XHAGMOKMG'T BHP KT CSEM CT, SKIL CS ORG SHIG.

DHKACUG OE HIO IECAB FUKMJ H TAHS KM ORG DHIG.

NHLG UGTGUXHOKEMT, EUBGU DAEZGUT EU IHMBP...

NIBEMHABT HMB TMKILGUT HUG ME NEBCT ESGUHMBK.

CLUE: H = A

SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

Whipped Feta with Spicy Chickpeas

This healthy combo is amazing on toast or crackers as a snack or an appetizer. Serves 4

- 1 can chickpeas, drained and dried
- 2 tbsp olive oil, plus extra for drizzling
- 2 tsp smoked paprika
- 2 tsp garlic powder
- 2 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp chili/red pepper flakes (or to taste)
- 1 cup feta crumbles
- ½ cup yogurt
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- Zest of ½ a lemon
- Salt

Pre-heat the oven to 325. Place chickpeas into bowl, add the olive oil, smoked paprika, garlic powder, dried oregano, chilli flakes and pinch of salt. Mix well and tip into a roasting tray. Roast for 20-25 minutes or until crispy but still soft inside. Meanwhile, mix the feta together with the yogurt, garlic and lemon zest in a food processor until super smooth. Check the seasoning and add salt to taste.

Spread feta mix onto plate and top with the chickpeas. Add the lemon zest, drizzle a little olive oil and serve immediately.

Questions about the recipes can be e-mailed to Barbara Schneider at btsme21@gmail.com

Potato / Zucchini / Carrot / Sausage Bake

- 2 Potatoes shredded
- 1 large zucchini shredded
- 3-4 carrots shredded
- A bunch of scallions, chopped (reserve some greens to sprinkle on top after cooking).
- Let sit for 10 minutes, squeeze dry
- 1 1/2 cup crumbled turkey sausage, browned and drained
- 3 eggs
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- ¾ cup milk
- ½ cup flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp crushed red pepper
- Salt and Pepper to taste

Mix all ingredients and pour into a greased baking pan. Top with shredded cheese of your choice. Bake at 350 degrees for 35-45 minutes; watch for it to get golden.

Can be frozen. Omit meat to make all veggie bake.

Questions about the recipes can be e-mailed to Barbara Schneider at btsme21@gmail.com



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Town Manager's Report

Sheri Faber, Staff Writer

IMPORTANT ENROLLMENT INFO

As of Jan. 1, 2024, Maine transitioned from a closed primary system to semi-open primaries. Unenrolled voters will now be able to participate in primaries including the March 5, 2024 Presidential primary and the June 1 State primary. Unenrolled voters (those not enrolled in any party) may choose to vote in one party's primary. Voters enrolled in a party may only vote in that party's primary. Only the Democrats and the Republicans will be holding primaries on March 5.

A State Presidential Primary Election will take place on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 in which voters will have an opportunity to vote on who will be placed on the ballot in November for President. You can request an absentee ballot by visiting <https://apps.web.maine.gov/cgibin/online/AbsenteeBallot/index.pl>. Ballots will be mailed once the Town receives them in early February.

Feb. 13 is the last day for the Town Clerk's Office to receive voter registration applications by mail. All voter registration applications must be submitted in person. February 20, 2024 is the last day to change political parties prior to the primary. Feb. 29, 2024 Last day for absentee voting. Election Day is March 5. Polls open from 7 a.m. – 8 p.m. Contact the Town Clerk's Office to register to vote. On Election Day Polls open at 7am and close at 8 p.m.

Visit https://www.gorhamme.org/sites/g/files/vyhlf4456/f/uploads/municipal_street_list_rev_03_30_22.pdf to view a listing of assigned

polling wards based on odd/even residential street addresses in Gorham.

Absentee Voting: The last day to obtain an absentee ballot will be Thursday, Feb. 29 at 5 p.m. To be counted, absentee ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office by 8 p.m. on Election Day - March 5, 2024 by you or an immediate family member. For more general voting information, visit <https://www.gorham-me.org/town-clerk/pages/electionvoting-information>.

If you have further questions about absentee voting, contact the Town Clerk's Office at (207) 222-1670, or visit <https://www.gorham-me.org/town-clerk/pages/absentee-voting> for more information.

Citizen Volunteers Needed for Fiscal Sustainability Committee The Town Council Appointments Committee is seeking citizen volunteers (one community member and one business owner) to make up the new Fiscal Sustainability Committee. The committee's purpose is to understand the existing financial landscape for the Town of Gorham and the Gorham School Department; to evaluate the future financial landscape, and to use this knowledge to make recommendations for how to maintain sustainable taxes while continuing to manage the present and future growth of our community over the next five to 10 years. Those interested in applying can complete the attached application and submit to Town Clerk Laurie Nordfors via email at lnordfors@gorham.me.us or at the Town Clerk's Office during regular office hours.

Connecting Parents and School: Village School's PIE Meetings

Lexie Cadell, Educational Technician

Did you know that Village School hosts a dynamic parent group called PIE, an acronym for Parents In Education? Over the years, this group has blossomed into a welcoming space where parents can gather to deepen their understanding of their children's education, explore ways to actively engage, and pose thoughtful questions.

This academic year kicked off with an enriching PIE meeting that gave an overview into a new initiative at Village School – the BARR program, which stands for "Building Assets, Reducing Risk." Mrs. Mezzonatte, accompanied by Mrs. Baker, the school social worker, discussed how teachers are using this innovative tool to support relationship building between students with a focus on recognizing strengths. The meeting provided an open forum for parents to ask questions, fostering a night of insightful and constructive conversation.

In the most recent PIE meeting, Terri Dawson, the Tech Integrator at the middle school, took the lead. She shared valuable insights into digital

citizenship and the impact of social media on both parents and children. Many parents were surprised to learn the multitude of social media platforms accessible to children. Parents left with copies of informative flyers identifying further resources for them to explore.

If your child struggles to recount their day at school or if you simply have a desire to become more involved in your student's educational journey, attending PIE meetings is an excellent way to forge connections. Future meetings will include the planning of exciting family events for the spring and a crucial conversation about safety and security at Village on March 21, from 6-7 p.m.

Village School extends a warm invitation to all parents to attend our next PIE meeting. Dates and times are listed in the Friday newsletter and the school's website. Whether you can make one meeting or attend them all, it's a fantastic opportunity to actively participate in your child's school community. Your involvement is not just welcomed but cherished.

Public Hearing CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

However, many of the concerns expressed at the hearing would be dealt with during the site plan review, which is separate from the proposed contract zone. These include provisions for storm water, retention of trees, lot sizes, and street lay-outs, according to Carol Eyeran, the town planner. The contract zone, for example, would allow the developer to construct fifteen homes a year instead of the ten now set by town ordinances. However, other existing

ordinances and regulations would still be in effect. Provisions of the Land Use and Development Code would apply to questions such as set-backs and lot sizes.

In response to the speakers' concerns, the Planning Board made several changes to the proposed contract. They agreed that it was important to retain the "character of the neighborhood" as much as possible. They added to the contract that the developers protect the tree canopy whenever practical.

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To find out more information about Petey please visit www.harvesthills.org.

Mention prior to closing & 5% of my real estate commissions generated from this ad will be donated to Harvest Hills Animal Shelter





Aiden Fortier Awarded Scholarship

Michael Lortie, School News Editor (from Press Release Announcement)



Aiden Fortier

Photo credit: Meg Hatch

The Studio for the Living Arts Dance Complex (SFLA) announced that after an extensive application and interview process, "Aiden Fortier has been awarded the Posse Arts Foundation full scholarship to the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. This scholarship

is awarded to high school seniors who demonstrate strong leadership and academic potential as well as exceptional artistic passion and promise."

Aiden is extremely grateful to the Studio for the Living Arts Dance Complex faculty, and SFLA Director, Susan Cloutier, for providing his dance training and ongoing support. He is also thankful for his experience in the dance program at Portland Arts and Technology High School and the positive mentorship of dance teacher, Lisa Hicks. Joining UNCASA's supportive community as a Posse Arts Scholar and receiving mentorship from renowned faculty and professional artists as a UNCASA BFA Dance major is an absolute honor. Aiden is excited to see what his future holds and is proud to announce his commitment to the UNCASA dance program.

Aiden is the son of Michael and Becky Fortier of Gorham.

Great Falls Drops Everything for Kindness Week with DECK Days

Michael Lortie, School News Editor



Photo credit: Becky Fortier, Principal at Great Falls School
Student artwork purchased by parents to fund a donation to the Gorham Food Pantry.

In a wonderful initiative to cultivate compassion and kindness throughout the community, Great Falls School has launched monthly DECK Days (Drop Everything and Cultivate Kindness). This program brings together students, staff, and families in meaningful acts of service and connection.

Each month, a DECK Day focuses on a specific theme, with activities ranging from student-led book walks and community collections to special events. The inaugural DECK Day in December centered on warmth, featuring a story walk based on "Winter, A Solstice Story" and classroom discussions about helping those in need.

January's DECK Day, aptly titled "Kindness in Clay," saw students crafting ceramic pieces and raising funds for both the Gorham Food Pantry and future school kindness projects. Inspired by "The Empty Bowl Project," this initiative highlighted the issue of hunger and encouraged empathy.

"We believe that by providing opportunities for students to come together and do good for others, we can create a more inclusive, positive, and compassionate school

community," shared Becky Fortier, a driving force behind DECK Days.

The positive impact on the school is undeniable. The community's generosity for "Kindness in Clay" was overwhelming, and students gained valuable lessons about giving back.

The next DECK Day is scheduled for Feb. 16, promising another opportunity to spread kindness. "Together, we can create a kinder, more compassionate world," Fortier emphasizes. "DECK Days are a reminder that kindness matters, not just on special days, but every day."

Great Falls School's DECK Days initiative provides a heartwarming model for fostering community spirit and inspiring acts of kindness, both within the school walls and beyond. As the program continues, its impact on cultivating a more compassionate Great Falls is sure to leave a lasting impression.



Photo credit: Becky Fortier, Principal at Great Falls School
Counselor Ellen Berry leads students through one of the stations of the story walk highlighting kindness.

GMS Team To Participate in LEGO® Challenge

Gorham Times Staff

On Saturday, Feb. 3, a team from Gorham Middle School will be one of thirty-one teams competing in the FIRST LEGO League Competition at the Brewer Community School. Students from around the state have been working in the areas of research, design and programming to develop their leadership and technical skills in a playful way, as well as discover their creative passions since last August. The event is free and open to the public.

FIRST LEGO League gives participating students an age-appropriate introduction to the exciting areas of STEAM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics), in which they learn to program LEGO robots and ask themselves questions

about society as a whole. At the same time, their communication skills and teamwork qualities are promoted, because the tasks are solved as a team.

This year's FIRST LEGO League season, themed "MASTERPIECE," challenges teams to find creative ways to inspire others about their hobbies and interests. As they interact with experts in museums, theaters and other creative fields, they learn from people with artistic professions about how to express themselves and engage and entertain diverse audiences.

This event is sponsored by the Robotics Institute of Maine, in partnership with the Brewer School Department and the Brewer High School Robotics Team, Orange Chaos.

Homage to History Clay Tiles

Amy Cousins and Hannah West, GMS Art Teachers



Photo credit: Hannah West

GMS students researched artists from various art movements and cultures and paid homage to a chosen artist by incorporating characteristics of the artwork into their original designs. Then, students used additive and subtractive methods to create low-relief tiles. Using only primary colors, students created a unique color scheme with acrylic paint. These clay tiles will be on display at Baxter Memorial Library until early March.

Join us on Valentine's Day
for the perfect romantic evening!
11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

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Jara Heading to Orlando for the U.S. Olympic Team Trials

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo credit: Lauren Nemeroff

Ryan Jara celebrating with his son Walter

Gorham resident, Ryan Jara, does his training in Gorham, mostly running around town many miles a week in addition to his running club. He has also won a few of the turkey trot races hosted by Gorham Rec. This past October, Jara qualified for the Olympic marathon team trials at McKirdy's Marathon in New York. He ran a crazy fast time. Jara shared, "It was a marathon built for guys like me trying to hit the standard to qualify for the trials which was 2:18. My teammate Matt Rand, the other Mainer to qualify, also ran it that day as well." Both Jara and Rand run for Valor Track Club (the east coast branch), led by Founder and Coach Paige Mills. Mills works with college athletes while also training elite runners with sites set on Olympic trials for marathons. This was Jara's 2nd attempt at the 2:18 mark, with the first being in the Spring of '23 at the Vermont City Marathon where he ran 2:20 in warmer weather. The race in Orlando on Feb. 3 will determine who makes the US Olympic team, to represent team USA in Paris this summer. The runners will compete on a course in downtown, running through several neighborhoods and business districts. Jara added, "though I do not expect to qualify; just qualifying for the trials is a dream come true. I

get to "toe the line" with the best marathoners our country has to offer." A total of 217 men and 173 women have qualified. Jara has competed in 14 marathons since 2011. Jara ran for his alma mater, Hope College; a small Division III school in Michigan. His college coach and about 6 of his college buddies will be there for support cheering him on. Jara has three wonderful boys and his wife, Clair is a huge support system. The two of them both work full time in the medical field while raising three kids. Jara added, "balancing family, work, and my running which is a hobby can be a challenge at times but I feel we have done that well. My training is different from others as I fit my running in whenever I can; sometimes after the kids go to bed around 7:30 and the turnaround time can be as early as 4 a.m. before work and school." The Jara's are a strong family unit, doing many activities together outside of their hectic schedules and of course traveling to cheer on their dad. Jara remarked, "I am quite excited for this opportunity as this is a goal I have had since graduating college." The event will begin at 10 a.m. eastern time and can be viewed live on NBC. Orlando will be abuzz cheering and greeting these elite athletes racing in the sunshine state. Jara has nothing to lose and everything to gain.

GMS Student Council Reps Donation Blankets to the Linus Foundation

Amy Cousins and Hannah West, *GMS Art Teachers*



Photo credit: Donna Pastore

During the week of Jan. 22, the Gorham Middle School Student Council made seven blankets to donate to the Linus Foundation. The students will deliver the blankets to the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital. *GMS students demonstrating kindness and compassion.*

Gorham Times

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We would like to thank and recognize those who have already generously contributed to *Project Warmth* this heating season:

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<i>Gorham Flag Center</i>	<i>Michael and Kelly Smith</i>	<i>Richard & Tina Fitzgerald</i>
<i>Gorham House of Pizza</i>	<i>Moody's Co-Worker Owned</i>	<i>Shaw Brothers Construction</i>
<i>Gorham Sand & Gravel</i>	<i>Nail Xperts</i>	<i>The Bookworm</i>
<i>Great Falls Construction</i>	<i>Nappi Distributors</i>	<i>207 Landscaping/Tree Service</i>
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Thank you for the continued support of other generous givers of Cressey Road Christian Church.

We are continuing to accept donations as Maine winters are long and cold and the need is great. Donate or apply by calling Cressey Road Christian Church at 207-839-3111 or mail your contribution to:
Cressey Road Christian Church, PO Box 607, Gorham, Maine 04038
Checks should be made payable to CRCC with Project Warmth in the memo line

***'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'* ~Matthew 25:40**

Gary Slipp – Coordinator



Joseph Saunders - Pastor

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 Kyle Ouillette, Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts
 Delaney Seed, Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts
 Benjamin Tukey, Keene State College, Keene, New Hampshire

HIGH HONORS

Jack Edwards, 7th Grade, North Yarmouth, Academy Middle School

OF INTEREST

Forest Playgroup: Fairies of Pride Preserve will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 7 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. for parents and their children ages 2 - 5 (siblings welcome). A short one-half mile walk along the brook at Land Trust's Pride Preserve in Westbrook will also include a story about fairies and time for kids to build their own fairy house. Feel free to bring your fairy wand or sparkly wings. Pre-register at <https://www.prlt.org/events>

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

The Gorham Lions next meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. at Moody's Community Room. There will be one meeting per month in February and March. FMI, Ken Aldrich, (207) 929-9182.

Gorham/Windham/Westbrook TRIAD will be meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 11 a.m. in the Gorham Fire Department's Training Room. The speaker will be Becky Thompson from the Silver Sneakers program. All are welcome.

Please join the Climate Caretakers at First Parish Church for a presentation and discussion on the electrical grid - what it is and why it matters. Phil Bartlett, Chair of the Public Utilities Commission, will speak. 1 Church Street, Friday, Feb. 16 at p.m. All are welcome.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

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.

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.

Norway Savings Bank is holding February food drives to assist Gorham and Standish Food Pantries, celebrating Valentine's Day with month-long food drives. To help, participants can drop nonperishable food items off at either branch during business hours. There is a special need for boxed macaroni and cheese, Ramen noodles, peanut butter, baked beans, canned pasta, canned soup, canned vegetables, tuna, chicken, coffee, tea, and cocoa, but all non-perishable food items will be gratefully accepted. For more information or to discover additional ways to assist, call the Gorham Food Pantry at 207-222-4351 and the Standish Food Pantry at 207-358-0359.

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.

PUBLIC SUPPERS

St. Anne's In-Person Fish Dinner: St. Anne's Knights of Columbus will hold its weekly Lenten Fish Dinners on Fridays starting Feb. 16 until March 22, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Anne's Church in Gorham. Dinner includes baked haddock, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, peas, a roll, and dessert for \$14. Kids can enjoy pizza for \$6. Take-out is available, but no drive-through. FMI, visit www.stanthonyparish.org/st-annes.

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/board games on Mondays at 10 a.m., all levels welcome. Please contact the group for dates and times if you are interested in joining the "Pencil Talk" writers group. Join our weekly guest speaker program, "the Originals", on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. A different speaker each week. Upcoming speakers include Historical Maine postcards, Scarborough Historical Society, 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



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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 \$100,000 – Town owned tax foreclose sale! Major clean-up and demo of existing buildings will be needed. Great potential for a building lot located on a paved public road with power onsite and the driveway entrance in place. Structures are not safe.



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.



STANDISH \$665,000 – This 28x36 oversized colonial offers over 2500sqft of living space. Features an open concept sunlit first floor plan with a fully applianced spacious granite kitchen. The second level offers the primary suite over the 24x24 garage.



LIMINGTON \$140,000 – Foreclosure sale... 4 acres of bamboo surround this old farmhouse & barn in need of major repairs. Lucky to have a new owner to put in the love needed to bring this one back to life! You're welcome, neighbors.



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.



WINDHAM \$450,000 – You'll love this convenient location quietly tucked away on the edge of North Windham with deeded access to Collins Pond perfect for kayaking, paddle boarding & skating! Features granite kitchen with gas range & pantry closet, living room with cathedral ceiling & exposed beams.



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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Baxter Memorial Library continues a full schedule of family events such as Baby Discovery Time, Toddler Discovery Time, Sewing Club, LEGO Club, 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>.

Gorham Rec. has set up several activity sites including mats for tumbling, as well as balls and other toys for kids five years and under. Find "Kiddie Gym" at Shaw Gym, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays beginning Sept. 11. \$3 per visit or purchase a punch pass for \$30 for 12 visits (2 free punches).

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE NOTES

- Women's Ice Hockey Feb. 2 @ 6 p.m. Vs. Castleton State University
- Wrestling meet Feb. 3 time: TBA
- Men's Ice Hockey Feb. 9 @ 7 p.m. Vs. New England College
- Wrestling meet Feb. 10 @ 1 p.m. Vs. Norwich University
- Men's Ice Hockey Vs. Norwich University @ 4 p.m.
- Women's and Men's Basketball Feb. 14 at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Vs. Plymouth State University

Visit the Southern Maine Huskies sports calendar online for the full schedule of both home and away games. <https://southernmainehuskies.com/calendar>

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.

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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CALENDAR

- Thursday, February 2**
Baxter Memorial Library, Toddler Discovery Time (18mos-3yrs), 10 a.m.
Osher School of Music FACULTY CONCERT: Will Kinne conducts Stravinski "Octet"
USM Women's Ice Hockey, vs. Castleton State University, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, February 3**
LEGO Club (Children 8 and under need supervision), 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Monday, February 5**
Gorham Rec. "Kiddie Gym" at Shaw Gym, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Lecky Brown Senior Center at First Parish Church Cribbage & board games, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, February 6**
Baxter Memorial Library
Family Discovery Time (2-5yrs), 10 a.m.
Dogs Dig Reading, 4 - 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, February 7**
Gorham Rec. "Kiddie Gym" at Shaw Gym, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Forest Playgroup: Fairies of Pride Preserve, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
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, February 8**
Baxter Memorial Library, Toddler Discovery Time, (18mos-3yrs)
- Friday, February 9**
USM Men's Ice Hockey vs. New England College, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, February 10**
USM Wrestling meet vs. Norwich University, 1 p.m.
USM Men's Ice Hockey vs. Norwich University, 4 p.m.
- Monday, February 12**
Gorham Rec. "Kiddie Gym" at Shaw Gym, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Lecky Brown Senior Center at First Parish Church Cribbage and board games, 10 a.m.
- Tuesday, February 13**
VFW Gorham Memorial Post 10879 meeting, Fire Dept Training Room, 5:30 p.m.
Gorham Lions Meeting, Moody's Community Room, 6:30 p.m.
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, February 14**
Baxter Memorial Library
Baby Discovery Time (birth-18mos), 9:30 a.m.
Gorham Rec. "Kiddie Gym" at Shaw Gym, 9:30 - 11:30 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.
USM Women's and Men's Basketball vs. Plymouth State University, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

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usm.maine.edu/osher-school-music/youth
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Officer responded to Oak Circle for a report of a vehicle blasting music for over three hours. Just before the officer arrived, they turned off the music and went into the residence.

Webster Road caller came home and found their door open. Officer and homeowner found the homeowner's dog and cleared the residence. Officer did not find anything suspicious other than the trash the dog had gotten into.

Gray Road caller reported they did not deserve the parking ticket they had gotten the previous night. They had gotten a parking ticket the night before that for the same violations. She was told to come into the Police Department if she wished to contest it.

Valley View Drive caller reported that following a recent split with her partner, she did not know how she would get her things from the apartment as the other half was making it unreasonably difficult to do so. She was advised this was a civil dispute over property and not a police matter and suggested she contact Pine Tree Legal or another firm for advice on how to handle her situation.

School Street resident called because she was reportedly threatened for smoking. Officer offered to meet with the person making the threats while she stepped out to smoke in private. Worries seemed to be alleviated after speaking with the officer and she returned to her room.

Brackett Road caller reported she thought someone fired their gun while hunting too close to the caller's residence. Officer saw a pickup truck approximately 1/4 of a mile north of the caller's residence. Officer saw a hunter with a shotgun exiting the woods. The area is a designated shotgun hunting zone. Officer spoke to the hunter who admitted shooting his shotgun on the Pole Line and said he wasn't near any homes at the time.

Maple Drive caller reported a car with a male driver, whom she did not recognize, was parked in her driveway. While on the phone with the officer, the vehicle left. The only description given was that it was a Pinto car.

Officer responded to a call about a

suspicious person at the Park and Ride. Woman was sleeping with her dog in the car. Officer allowed them to stay there.

Officer contacted a neighbor about a parking problem on Preble Street. Neighbor called the car's owner who said to have it towed away.

Officer spoke with a Sebago Lake Road man who wanted a trespass order served, saying he would continue to ignore the texts and emails. Westbrook Police served the trespass order.

Caller reported someone parked on Fort Hill Road, inside his entrance. Caller was concerned he might not leave before the caller had to leave for the day, when he would lock the gate. After some time, the vehicle owner came out of the woods after hunting. He was told not to return as it was private property and hunting was not allowed there.

Officer responded to Mighty Street to keep the peace while the female moved out.


Officer served a criminal trespass notice from the Durham NH Police Department to a resident on Flaggy Meadow Road.

Officer found a vehicle running while parked with the left wheel to the curb and the driver's side door open. Man came out of a Church Street residence and told the officer he was picking up a friend to get ready to go hunting.

Suspicious person on Murray Drive was a solar company representative going door to door. Same person was also reported on Maple Ridge Drive.


Longfellow Road man kept calling Dispatch yelling about how his family members got paid to put wood in his basement but had not done the job. He was very intoxicated when the officer spoke to him. He yelled at the officer for a few minutes before hanging up.

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