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Turnpike Authority to Hold Gorham Connector Meeting

John Ersek, Staff Writer



Photo credit: Turnpike Authority

Map provided by Turnpike Authority shows proposed route of four lane Gorham Connector

In early February, the Maine Turnpike Authority announced a specific route for the planned Gorham Connector highway for the first time. The long-discussed Connector project would involve construction of a five-mile-long limited access four lane highway, linking the Maine Mall area of South Portland to Route 114, south of Gorham Village. It will follow a right of way which the Turnpike Authority is still in the process of acquiring.

The MTA states they have acquired approximately 35% of the acreage that is needed to complete the project. The new roadway will begin near the Exit 45 interchange, across from the Target Plaza. After passing Running Hill Road below grade level, the Connector will go through areas of north Scarborough and southeast Gorham that are lightly developed, staying just west of the Scarborough-Westbrook

line and Gorham-Westbrook town lines. The roadway will end at Gorham's South Street rotary, about two miles south of Gorham Village. So far, the MTA has not announced a construction start date.

The Turnpike Authority has also announced that, in the coming months, they will hold a series of public meetings in each of the affected core communities, which will include Scarborough and Westbrook, in addition to Gorham and South Portland. The first meeting will be in Gorham on Monday, March 25, in the Shaw Gym at the Gorham Municipal Complex.

There will be an open house from 4:30 to 6 p.m. with several presentation tables, so that interested residents can speak one-on-one with members of the turnpike authority staff, engineering consultants, and municipal representatives from the neighboring core communities. Beginning at 6 pm, there will be a formal presentation, followed by public comments and questions.

The Gorham Connector project has recently become the subject of a good deal of media coverage, in southern Maine and beyond. Local town administrators and residents have spoken positively about the Connector project, stating that they are happy to see that the road finally seems to be moving toward the construction phase. They cite the 15 to 20 years of lengthy discussions about whether the road is needed, and about what

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GHS To Perform "Radium Girls"

Michael Lortie, School News Editor



Photo credit: Sofia Andrade, Student

Lauren Pierce, Aera Hyson, Amelia Olaru, and Emma Smith rehearse a scene from "Radium Girls."

The Gorham High School Drama Department will be performing "Radium Girls" by DW Gregory on the weekend of March first. This play will be Gorham's entry into the Regional One Act Festival. The one-act is directed by English Teacher, Josie Tierney-Fife, and includes a cast of seventeen actors.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, March first and second and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March third. Admission is five dollars for students, ten dollars for adults.

Tierney-Fife explained her choice of plays in this way: " 'Radium Girls' is an inspiring historical drama about the real life "Radium Girls" -- young women who stood up to their powerful employers and made progress for workers' rights, even while they were dying from radiation exposure on the

job. The play is fast paced, sometimes funny, and rooted in the sound and styles of the 1920's, with lots of challenging parts for GHS Theater's talented actors.

Junior Amelia Olaru described this experience, "As a cast, we work hard to create historically accurate portrayals of our characters to give them the justice they deserve. We immersed ourselves within research surrounding the 'Radium Girls,' Radium Corporations, court trials, and anything we could find to expand our knowledge on the show. We strive to educate our audience on the dangers these young women faced and just how powerful their impact was on American society. "Radium Girls" is a story that is nothing short of inspiring."

Senior Aera Hyson added, " 'Radium Girls' is such a powerful show, one

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What's On Your Ballot? New Rules for March 5 Primary

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer

Gorham voters will go to the polls on March 5 to choose candidates for the 2024 presidential election in November. There are no other candidates or issues on the ballots. However, unlike previous primaries, this year voters with no political affiliation may choose to vote in either the Republican or Democrat primaries. They do not need to be registered voters in either of these two parties.

Known as a semi-open primary, this primary permits unenrolled voters to request a ballot for any party holding a nomination election. This year only Democrats and Republicans will be choosing presidential candidates. Voters enrolled in the Libertarian, No Labels, or Green Independent parties may not vote.

If a voter was enrolled in one party and wanted to vote in another party's election, they would have had to make that switch before the Feb. 19 deadline. Otherwise they may only vote for

candidates in the party for which they remain registered. Unenrolled voters may request either ballot when voting absentee or at the polls on election day. Gorham residents may register to vote at the polls, but may vote only if they choose to be unenrolled or to vote in the primary of the party with which they register.

Just to make things more complicated, this is a ranked-choice election. Voters may make first, second, and third choices for presidential candidates that appear on the ballot. If no candidate on the Maine ballot receives 51% of the vote, the candidate with the fewest votes will be eliminated and their supporter's second choices will receive their votes. In a ranked-choice election, this process continues until a candidate has 51% of the votes.

There are three candidates on the Democrat ballot: Joe Biden, Dean Phillips, and declared write-in candidate Stephen Lyons. Voters may

rank them. Under Maine law, no other write-in candidates will be counted. When any of these three candidates receive 51% of the vote, they will be the winner of the Maine primary.

There are five candidates on the Republican ballot: Ryan Binkley, Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, Vivek Ramaswamy, and Donald Trump. However, only votes for Nikki Haley and Donald Trump will count, because the other candidates have withdrawn. Voters may rank Haley or Trump as their first and second choices. When either get 51% of the votes they will be the winner.

This paragraph applies particularly to voters who changed parties for this election. They must remain in that party for three months before changing back. The three months begins on the day they changed their affiliation. The deadline for changing parties is 15 days before an election. To vote in the June 11 primary election for state

and local candidates, voters must have changed their registration by May 28, 2024. Voters who are unenrolled or new voters may register in a political party up to and on election day and cast ballots in their chosen party's primary.

Indications are that this will be a low turn-out election. According to Laurie Nordfors, Gorham Town Clerk, as of Feb. 14, only ten people had come to the Municipal Building to change parties. "It is surprisingly not busy with absentee ballots," she said. "As of today we have only 260 requests."

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on March 5. Ward 1 voters will vote at Gorham Middle School. Voters in Ward 1-2 will vote at Great Falls Elementary School, and Ward 2 residents vote at Shaw Gym at the Municipal Center. Absentee ballots may be deposited in the box at the Municipal Center up to 8 p.m. on Election Day, or brought to the Clerk's Office during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday.

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CONGRATS GHS GIRLS AND
BOYS BBALL TEAMS

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.

Taking Action to Move Forward After Tragedy

Rep. Jim Boyle, D-Gorham

Last month, Gov. Janet Mills spoke to our state's collective grief in her annual State of the State Address. Mainers have endured a lot over the last few months, including the tragic shooting that occurred in Lewiston on Oct. 25 and extreme weather events that have caused devastating flooding up and down our coasts.

These events have made it clear to me that the Legislature must take proactive steps and do everything we can to improve public safety and strengthen Maine's climate resiliency.

In response to the mass casualty shooting in Lewiston, the governor has introduced legislation that will work to prevent future violence. The bill would require background checks on advertised gun sales, which would ensure that those who are prohibited from owning a gun cannot access them.

Additionally, it would bolster our state's extreme risk protection order law, which would allow for the temporary removal of firearms from those who are a danger to themselves and others. Another component of the governor's bill would establish crisis receiving centers across the state, beginning in Lewiston, so that those in distress can receive the care they need when they need it.

The governor described these measures as "practical" and "common sense," and I appreciate that she con-

sulted both Democrats and Republicans while formulating her proposal. It builds upon previous common-sense measures enacted by the Legislature in recent years, including policies requiring the Maine CDC to annually report on public health data concerning firearm fatalities and injuries and reducing child access to loaded firearms by enforcing the use of safe storage.

As a complement to Gov. Mills' proposal, the House and Senate are introducing a suite of additional legislation that intends to balance individual rights with the need to protect public safety. The governor's measures are a solid step in the right direction, but I am optimistic that we can achieve even more. I hope we can harness this momentum for positive change and pass more robust gun safety measures this year that will keep our communities safe.

In her speech, the governor also highlighted the critical need to invest in climate resiliency. She announced that she would like to appropriate \$50 million from the state's robust Rainy Day Fund to help towns impacted by the recent severe weather events recover and rebuild stronger for the future. The funding would help communities battle rising sea and river levels and assist with rebuilding roads and bridges to better withstand storm surges, which are expected to increase in frequency and

intensity in the coming years and decades.

As a longtime proponent of climate resilience measures, I was heartened by this proposal. Gorham is not a coastal community, but we are all suffering from the effects of climate change, and any measure that can be enacted to mitigate its impact is crucial.

Only two months remain until the legislative session ends. I know it will take a sustained effort to build upon these proposals and get these measures across the finish line. I am confident that my colleagues and I are up for the task. It takes resilience to continue to move forward in the face of such tragedies, but I know that my colleagues and I are committed to enacting meaningful change. We have the responsibility to do so for all of Maine.



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.

To the Editor,

On Feb. 5, 2024, the Planning Board moved to grant preliminary subdivision approval for the Robie Street subdivision. The proposed site is located on undeveloped forested land with wetlands and aquifers not sufficiently mapped. I have repeatedly heard the argument that if the developer follows current laws and ordinances, he can build whatever he wants on his property. But wetlands and aquifers don't fit neatly inside property lines, and activity on one's property can affect the entire watershed. But let's say the land is not owned by the developer, but by the Town.

On Feb. 5, the Planning Board moved to draft a letter on behalf of the developer to the Town Council requesting a road connection to White Birch Lane on land that the developer does not own. The land is owned by the Town and, therefore, the people of Gorham definitely should have a say in the decision. White Birch Lane has a public ball field (behind Village School) and a parking lot at its dead-end. The ball field is used for Little League games as well as public recreation. Children from Village school and families going to the school playground and fields frequently walk through there.

In addition to the entrance to the

parking lot, the access road to Avesta Housing also connects to the end of White Birch Lane. To build a through road, the developer would have to design the road so it also connects to the end of White Birch Lane. No modifications to White Birch Lane to accommodate this added traffic is planned.

Three entry ways connected to a narrow town lane are unfeasible and unsafe for all involved. Too many concessions are being made for the Robie Street development. The Town Council will meet sometime in March about this road connection. I hope there is a large turnout of people against the latest request by this developer.

Ruth Kelly
Gorham

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More Info on The Rephidim Project

Gorham Times Staff

The Rephidim Project, founded by David Christensen, has been a Gorham based ministry since 2001. The organization achieved official status as a 501 (c)(3) non-profit in 2018. Gorham resident and past GT staff member Shirley Douglas has been working at The Rephidim Project as an Administrative Assistant for over 4 years. She works closely with the leadership team that consists of Chairman of the Board and COO, Mark Halfacre, President and CEO, David Christensen, Director of Ministries, Mark J. Crocco, Director of Pastoral Resources, Russ Cotnoir, Chief Financial Officer, Tim Woodward and Internet Technology Manager, Adrian Wells. Her roles vary from bookkeeping to marketing and include graphic design, managing the website and social media as well as preparing newsletters, editing videos and organizing events. Last year The Rephidim Project staff and board of directors celebrated the ministry's success with an appreciation dinner.

The Gorham Times apologizes for the omission of this information from the Meet your Neighbor article on Shirley Douglas that appeared on February 8th.

BRINGING THE NEWS TO ALL OF
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UPCOMING ADVERTISING DEADLINES

March 6
March 20
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Accessible Higher Education

Thomas Grebouski, USM Intern

According to Chancellor Dannel Malloy of the Maine University System, an estimated 190,000 Mainers have completed some amount of college but hold no degree or credential. The UMaine System has been working to address this by taking an innovative approach to recognizing the needs of people and what may be holding them back from finishing or starting a degree or certificate.

This comes at a time when colleges nationwide are seeing a decline in enrollment and according to a recent Wall Street Journal-NORC poll, more than half of Americans do not believe that college is worthwhile. The Maine System itself has seen a 12.3% drop in enrollment since 2019, according to the Portland Press Herald. But Maine is also innovating in that area - cost and free time are barriers to college being addressed.

Among the programs open to Gorham residents and Mainers broadly is YourPace, offered by the University at Presque Isle (UMPI). This program has helped increase enrollment there by 67% according to Malloy. UMPI is the only university in the UMaine System currently growing in terms of enrollment. The program is entirely online and open even to Mainers at the other end of the state.

Representatives of YourPace explained that this program emphasizes prior experience and helps students get credit for it: if you have experience in a field or topic you may be able to fly through the course,

saving you time and money while getting credentialed. Unlike traditional online college courses, these do not require discussion boards or exams. Instead, the program is built around "check your understanding" milestones leading to a final project. The student will pay a flat fee of \$1500 per 8-week session regardless of how many courses they enroll in.

YourPace offers certificates in human services and mental health rehabilitation, and multiple bachelor's degrees in fields such as accounting, psychology, marketing, criminal justice, and various types of management. They also offer a master's program in organizational leadership at \$2,150 per session. The application deadline for the next session is April 2 and it begins May 6.

Online education now accounts for 37% of credit hours sold by the entire UMaine system. Chancellor Malloy highlighted the University of Maine at Fort Kent's online master's in nursing program. They also offer RN to BSN programs for nurses. Similarly, the University of Southern Maine now offers an online bachelor's in special education. The list goes on.

At a time when college enrollment is declining, Maine is innovating. Higher education is a key component of Maine's 10-year economic plan to continue adapting within our changing times by growing our local talent and helping Mainers realize their full potential. And Gorham is in a great position to take advantage of several good options.

The Gorham Food Pantry: Nourishing the Community Through Growing Challenges

Lucia Monaco Holloway, GHS Intern



Photo credit: Delvina Miremedi-Baldino

Gorham Food Pantry

The Gorham Food Pantry has stood for over 25 years as support for those in need. As 2024 begins, the pantry is noticing an increase in residents in need of assistance as well as rising food prices. The Gorham Food Pantry calls on the Gorham community for support as there has also been a decrease in food donations.

Given these challenges the pantry is experiencing, the food pantry is seeking new board members (applications

close March 14) and volunteers. In a statement from Delvina Miremedi-Baldino, a board member, "Joining our board offers a chance to make strategic decisions that have a real impact, providing guidance and oversight to ensure the pantry continues its vital work. Volunteering opportunities range from organizing food drives to assisting with pick-ups and distribution days."

There is an increase this year in the number of families the Gorham Food Pantry serves which speaks to the growing need in the community. Unfortunately, as the price of food rises the pantry experiences a decline in donations and the ability to stock the shelves becomes harder. The pantry invites Gorham residents to take a stand to make the Gorham community a better place. Whether donating time, food or money you can help ensure that every resident of Gorham has access to food.

For more information on how you can join the effort, please visit <https://sites.google.com/view/gorhamfoodpantry/home> or contact director@gorhamfoodpantry.org. Together, we can ensure that the spirit of giving and caring in Gorham remains strong. Every helping hand makes a difference.

Radium Girls CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

about hope and perseverance. Despite all of their fatal ailments due to radium poisoning, they continued to fight for the justice they deserved. I'm honored to be able to tell the story of such determined and powerful women." The cast List for "Radium Girls":

Grace Fryer: Emma Smith
 Arthur Roeder: Zackary Waters
 Mrs MacNeil, Mrs Fryer, Elderly Widow (Understudy Harriet): Lauren Pierce
 Kathryn Shaub (Understudy Shopgirl): Aera Hyson
 Irene, Diane Roeder, Crowd (Understudy Sob Sister): Amelia Olaru
 Katherine Wiley (Understudy Clerk, Photographer): Lily Rubin

Flinn, Lee, Crowd, Lovesick Cowboy: Cecelia Delosso
 Tom, Reporter, Knif: Logan Mills
 Dr. Von Sochoky, Markley, Store Owner, Crowd: Corey Lorfano
 Berry, Male Shopper, Photographer (Understudy Lehman & Actor 2): Ally Gossen
 Sob Sister (Understudy Actor 3): Isabelle Smith
 Harriet Roeder, Shop Girl (Understudy Actor 4): Hailey Racine
 Lehman, Crowd, Venecine Salesman (Understudy Berry & Actor 7): Rigel Arlet
 Clerk, Customer (Understudy Actor 6): Isabelle Phinney
 Understudy Actors 1&5: Sofia Andrade
 Understudy Actors 8&9: Seamus Bailey



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Financial Focus: Why See a Financial Advisor

Jim Flagg, Contributing Writer

Investing for your future is important — but it can be challenging to navigate the complexities of the financial markets and make the right decisions for your situation. Fortunately, you don't have to go it alone. A financial advisor can help you in several key areas.

Developing a personal financial strategy is as important as it is complex. Many factors go into creating a long-term financial strategy. What is your risk tolerance? When would you like to retire? What sort of retirement lifestyle have you envisioned? What are your other important goals?

A financial advisor will ask these and other questions in getting to know you, your family situation and your hopes for the future. By taking this type of holistic approach, a financial advisor can help you create financial and investment strategies appropriate for your individual needs.

A financial advisor can help you avoid costly investment mistakes. One such mistake is attempting to “time” the market. Investors pursue market timing when they try to “buy low” and “sell high.” In theory, of course, this is a great idea. If you could consistently buy investments — stocks, in particular — when their price is down and then sell them when the price has risen significantly, you'd always make some tidy profits. The main drawback to this technique, though, is that it's virtually impossible to follow, especially for individual investors. Nobody, not even professional money managers, can really predict with any accuracy when stock prices have reached high or low points.

Consequently, those who try to make these guesses could miss out on opportunities. For example, investors who are determined to buy low might not want to purchase investments when the market is up — but this practice could lead to taking a “time out” from investing just when the market is in the midst of a rally. A financial advisor can steer clients toward a more disciplined approach, such as buying quality investments and holding them for the long term, regard-

less of the ups and downs of the market.

An advisor checks progress toward your goals. If you were to invest without any guidance, you might not be looking at your investments' performance with the proper perspective. For example, some investors simply compare their portfolio returns against a widely used market index, such as the S&P 500. But this comparison may not be that useful.

The S&P 500 only measures the stock prices of the leading publicly traded U.S. companies by market capitalization — but your investment portfolio, if properly diversified, will include investments other than U.S. stocks, such as bonds, government securities, international stocks and more. Consequently, the performance of your portfolio won't track that of the S&P 500 or any other single index, either.

Your financial advisor can help you employ more meaningful benchmarks, such as whether your portfolio's progress is on track toward helping you meet your financial goals. A financial advisor will also review your portfolio and investment strategy regularly to determine what changes, if any, need to be made, either in response to the markets or to events in your life.

Investing for your future can be exciting and rewarding — and you can feel more confident in your decisions when you have someone helping you along the way.



Jim Flagg operates a Gorham branch office of Edward Jones. He is experienced in all aspects of financial planning, retirement income

planning, tax-advantaged education savings plans. This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Happy Leap Year Jokes

Enjoy your extra day

What does a lawyer do on Leap Day?
Jump to conclusions.

What do surgeons perform on Leap Day?
Hop-erations.

How do you know it's almost Leap Day?
When it is only a hop, skip and a jump away.

Where do frogs like to eat on Leap Day?
IHOP

CryptoVerse by A. Logophile

ABAAB ANB BS CIP XBP B AJPND BT XNSI OBEAB,

F'TTF HTBVFL PKHINF BGL TNTV HTBVFL IFE ABAAB.

DKAHBEFL SK SIF AKMNF, PSBEENG C AFEVT PSEFFH,

AKPS WKTOP SINGO SIBS CKEIBA IBL NS RFBS.

CLUE: S = T

SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

Get Your Mind (Mostly) Off Politics

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer

Instead of focusing on Primary events next week, take this Gorham Times True or False quiz. But reader beware, in the digital age, it can be just as difficult to avoid misinformation as it is to avoid politics. The following trivia items were presented as true in an email sent by a friend. Several websites were checked for each item which turned up discrepancies, half-truths and some downright falsehoods.

1) True or False? Donald Duck comics were once banned in Finland because Donald doesn't wear pants. As far-fetched as it may seem, Donald did once figure in a political squabble, but this urban legend is false. In the 1970's, a Finnish politician thought money was being wasted when Donald Duck comic books were purchased for a youth center. At re-election time, his opponent called him, "The man who banned Donald Duck." The anti-duck candidate lost the election, and the media twisted the story into Donald being banned for not wearing pants. The good news is that we are not the only place where political fights occur over Disney characters or where certain news media and/or politicians twist the truth. Hmmm...fact or opinion?

2) True or False? Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during World War II were made of wood. This is partially true. Only one wooden Oscar was given out in 1938 when ventriloquist Edgar Bergen received one for his work with his wooden dummy, Charlie McCarthy. For three years during the war, Oscars were actually made of plaster. Following the war, recipients were invited to trade them in for a 24-karat gold-plated one. True. It's lucky for Hollywood that

we won the war. The last part is opinion.

3) Bats always turn left when exiting a cave. False. One plausible explanation given said that bats exit their caves to their left in the Northern Hemisphere and in the Southern Hemisphere, they exit to the right, due to the Coriolis effect which causes hurricanes and tornadoes to rotate counter-clockwise north of the equator and clockwise south of the equator. While this is true for storms, it is false for bats. Bats have a sonar capacity of about 50 thousand vibrations per second (vps). (Humans can barely detect 20,000 vps). True. A bat listens to echoes from all directions, makes up its own mind, thus avoiding any objects in its path. True. Seems like a good strategy for humans, too. (Opinion, but probably a good idea?)

4) A rat can last longer without water than a camel. This is True, but not for all rats. Your average rat lasts about four days, roof rats can go up to two weeks, but the kangaroo rat, found in western U.S. deserts, is the world champ. It can survive without drinking water, ever, with the help of its highly efficient kidneys and by obtaining moisture from the seeds and other food it eats. Camels can survive about five days without drinking water during 110-degree days. (True)

In our digital age of AI, Deep Fakes and an explosion of Russian and Chinese bots purposefully muddying the waters, it can be almost impossible to avoid misinformation. To understand an issue or to find the truth, consider the source and be skeptical. Relying on only one source of information means you may not get the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. This writer really knows what they're talking about...Opinion.

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

We can all help prevent suicide. The 988 Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones, and best practices for professionals in the United States. Don't hesitate...make that call.

Signs someone needs help include:

- Talking about wanting to die or to kill themselves
- Looking for a way to kill themselves, like searching online or buying a gun
- Talking about feeling hopeless

- or having no reason to live
- Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain
- Talking about being a burden to others
- Increasing the use of alcohol or drugs
- Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly
- Sleeping too little or too much
- Withdrawing or isolating themselves
- Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge
- Extreme mood swings

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The Gorham Economic Development Corporation Explained

Kelli Deveaux, Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, the Town Council hosted the Gorham Economic Development Corporation for a meal and workshop to discuss the goals of the two entities. But what is the Gorham Economic Development Corporation? What are their roles and responsibilities within and on behalf of the Town of Gorham? The answers vary, depending on where one seeks them, but all are in agreement that there is both the desire and need to redefine the work of the GEDC and to better utilize the corporation and their expertise.

Formed in 1991 by the Town of Gorham, the Gorham Economic Development Corporation (GEDC) was originally charged with fostering business growth or development within the Town of Gorham. They were given the power to buy, sell or otherwise acquire property, including land or structures, but were also established as a 501(c)(3). According to town manager Ephrem Paraschak, the creation of a quasi-governmental organization such as GEDC was commonplace at the time of its creation, and was used by municipalities as a means to foster economic development outside the confines of government regulations.

The GEDC is governed by a nine-person volunteer Board of Directors, who are appointed by and serve at the will of the corporation's members, specifically the Gorham Town Council. Currently, Chris Kelley serves as the GEDC board chair, with the town's economic development director, Kevin Jensen, serving as the board president.

Kelley described the work of the GEDC as serving as a conduit for questions and problem solving between prospective or expanding businesses and the current processes and requirements of the town. As ambassadors for business development in the Town of Gorham, board members with varied business backgrounds also focus on outreach and recruitment. An example would be the recruitment of CoreX Partners, a cold storage facility and logistics company that recently announced their plan to locate in the Gorham Industrial Park, with high hopes that they will be a great long-term partner for Gorham.

In addition, the GEDC periodically collects feedback and perspectives from current business owners, aggregating responses and identifying themes. This information, along with identified issues and possible solutions, is then made available to Gorham's Office of Community Development and town council. During the Feb. 13 meeting, GEDC board member Sarah Jackson noted that the corporation has conducted 3 surveys in 6 years.

GEDC board members also serve as advisors on projects and on other committees, including the recently formed Fiscal Sustainability Committee, and the steering committee for a recently proposed Economic Planning Study.

This kind of intersectionality between the mission and responsibilities of multiple public and private committees, as well as members serving on multiple committees or as representatives, all with an interest in supporting economic

and business development in Gorham, is common, but not without confusion as to roles and responsibilities. There is also Gorham's establishment and expansion of the municipal Office of Community Development. The office includes three divisions and ten staff, and has increased the Economic Development division from a part-time position to two full-time positions in 4 years.

When asked why Gorham residents should want new or expanded businesses in Gorham, Town Manager Paraschak noted, "Besides making Gorham a more vibrant place to work and live, businesses help diversify the property tax base and help pay for schools, municipal services and county costs." GEDC Board Chair Kelley agrees, noting that he believes that Gorham doesn't have a spending problem, but a revenue problem. Without growing business contributions to the tax base, the burden will continue to fall on homeowners. He also noted the employment opportunities and availability of goods and services as benefits to the community.

The Feb. 13 discussion between the town council and GEDC members included ideas on how to best and most efficiently solicit the input and support of the corporation, and there was an expressed hope that increasing collaboration between them would ensure success on common goals. Chairperson Phillips noted that she would like to encourage GEDC to share opinions and offer support to specific initiatives based on their economic value and potential for growth, and GEDC board member Jackson urged the town council to strategically identify critical priorities and questions upon which the GEDC could provide recommendations and a position.

Chairperson Kelley believes the workshop was a step in the right direction toward building a more collaborative and effective relationship between the GEDC and town council.

During their monthly meetings, the GEDC board receives updates from, and provides feedback to, the economic development director, as well as the Gorham Village Alliance, the town council, the Revolving Loan Fund Committee, along with any updates from the board members. In the past they have also advised on issues like the expansion of the Industrial Park, the allocation of Revolving Loan funds, and on the bypass.

On Feb 14, the morning after the brainstorming meeting, the GEDC added to their agenda. They reviewed and discussed the latest opportunity for Gorham to partner with the METRO bus system, as well as the plan of Maine Department of Transportation to build their long-planned highway spur into Gorham. GEDC passed two resolutions of support, one for each of the projects. Chairperson Kelley says he believes that by, "continuing to open lines of communication, understanding what all of our respective roles are in the community, and seeing how we can effectively work together," the Town of Gorham will be the affordable, vibrant, and sought after destination that we all envision.

route the road should follow. They describe the frequent traffic backups on Routes 114 and 22, adding that these are continuing to worsen. Some have also commented that they are happy to see that all the Turnpike's preliminary planning and engineering efforts seem to be accomplishing something.

On the other hand, many environmentalists have continued to criticize the project, stating that it will negatively affect global warming because of encouraging suburban sprawl, leading to forest degradation, and to more auto exhaust emissions as increased numbers of commuters drive more miles to reach homes located farther and farther from where they work or go to college. Other opponents have written that the project is not needed and will be a waste of money.

Opponents have continued to state that the estimated cost of more than \$240 million is money that could be better spent on environmentally friendly projects, such as renewable energy production, expanded rail passenger service, and commuter buses. Connector opponents have also expressed concerns about the environmental effects of the road's construction, including extensive land clearing.

There has also been a good deal of local news coverage regarding the Connector's potential effects on Smiling Hill Farm, whose well known ice cream counter, sandwich shop, and petting zoo are popular summertime destinations for locals and tourists alike. Smiling Hill straddles the Westbrook-Scarborough line along Route 22 (County Road) east of the spot where the Connector would cross Route 22. The closest portion of the extensive Smiling Hill property to Gorham

is about a half mile from the Gorham town line.

Once the Connector's planned route was announced, members of the Knight family who own Smiling Hill Farm, began speaking out, saying that the construction of the new road would have a very negative effect on their businesses. The Knight family's opposition appears significant, as the route map indicates that it would be very difficult for the Connector to be built without it crossing some of the Knights' current land holdings.

Countering this, the Turnpike Authority has sought to downplay the roadway's possible effect on Smiling Hill's core businesses. Turnpike officials have pointed out that the Connector's planned route crosses Route 22 over a quarter mile west of Smiling Hill's core area, and that most of the land which the Turnpike Authority hopes to buy from the Knights is wooded.

In a recent email, Turnpike Executive Director Peter Mills stated "There is no proposal to go through Smiling Hill Farm. The Knights own a dairy, a restaurant, a cow barn, and a lumber store. They also own many acres of vacant, undeveloped land and woodlots to the west, south and east of where the farm and lumber store are located. We have spoken to them about buying some of the vacant land on the west side behind the lumber store and a portion of a 57 acre woodlot on the south side of County road that they bought only four years ago. There is no reason to go through the farm itself."

Beginning in late March, the Turnpike Authority's public informational meetings will be an opportunity for the Gorham Connector's opponents and proponents to ask questions, seek answers, and make comments.

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Great Falls Read-a-thon

Jamie Tardif, Great Falls Social Worker

As part of the Read a Thon at Great Falls School, Principal Becky Fortier agreed to put herself in some unusual predicaments to motivate students to meet their lofty reading goals. During the month of February, students read for 135,477 minutes. Here, Mrs. Fortier, agreeing to be duct taped to the cafeteria wall.



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Gorham Rams Proud in Winter Sports

Katie Brown, Sports Editor

Tournaments for all winter sports begin in February and the Rams are well represented across the state landscape. For the Rams the winter sports post season kicked off on Sunday, Feb. 4 with Girls Ice hockey starting their playoff run as basketball's regular season came to a close. Here are a few great moments captured on the court, the ice, the slopes, the pool, and the field house.



Photo credit: Kelly Allen

Girls Ice Hockey athletes Emerson Homma photo & Greta Grant are both semi-finalists for most outstanding hockey player of the year

Girls Ice Hockey:

The team made another brilliant run in the playoffs. The Rams went on to defeat Greely in the quarter finals and late goals in the semi finals against Portland was another exciting win and a repeat trip to the Southern Regional Finals against Cheverus. Although their season ended there, the Rams had another fantastic season with outstanding leadership and much celebrated games throughout the season. Emerson Homa and Greta Grant are selected to represent Gorham in the senior all-star game, and are both semi-finalists for the Becky Schaffer award, equivalent to the Travis Roy award on the boys side for outstanding player of the year.

Alpine Ski:



Photo credit: MPA Staff

A great day for States at Pleasant Mountain



Boys Ice hockey regular season action

Photo credit: Katie Brown

The ski race athletes took to the slopes all season long with the wildly unpredictable weather forecast. The league championship took place on Friday, Feb. 9 and the state championship took place on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at Pleasant Mountain with sunny but chilly and windy conditions. Gorham's total team effort landed them in 12th place with Brooke Stevens leading the way with a fast run 1, landing her 21st overall out of 19 teams with 89 athletes competing. And teammate, Abby Fecteau (placing 36th overall). The two led the way for the Rams once again this season.

Boys Ice Hockey:

The team finished their regular season with a 6-0 win over Cape Elizabeth. Greely proved to be a tough team to beat this season with the Rams suffering from too many penalties. This should help motivate and propel them for playoff action. The Rams finish the season with a 9-8-1 record and are projected to enter the playoffs as the #5 seed, according to athletic director Tim Spear.

Indoor Track & Field:

The top finishers include Ashley Connolly, Griffin Gammon and Nolan Feyler, they are all SMAA Champions in their respective events. Connolly won both the 55 meter and 200 senior meter events; Gammon won the senior high jump, and Feyler won the senior 400 in record time. The state championship on Monday, Feb. 19 held @USM included big wins for Aidan Lee and Griffin Gammon. Lee won the 55 yard hurdles and Gammon had a big win in the high jump (6'6") while Lee landed in 3rd place with a jump of 6'4". All other results: Ashley Connelly 5th place

in the 200, Nolan Feyler 2nd place in the 400, Andi Cloutier 5th place in the shot put, Griffin Gammon 6th in the long jump, and Josh Wright 5th in the 55 hurdles.

Wrestling (Gorham/Scarborough):

Luke Burns has won the state championship in his weight class for the second consecutive year, while earning his 100th career win. Burns is the 2nd wrestler to win 100 wins as a "100 club member" in program history and first 2-time state champion in program history for wrestling.

Swim (Boys and Girls):

Both teams had another strong season. Coach York shared, "Gorham Swimming had a pretty good run at Southwesterns this year. Boys finished third (TA 2nd place & Yarmouth took 1st place), and the Girls finished second (Yarmouth 3rd & TA 1st)." Coach added, "We set two new school records. Maya Moores in the 100 Breaststroke with a time of 1:09.15 (seeding

her first in class A going into states). Brodie Berlinger set the record in the 500 Free with a time of 5:01.93 (seeding him first going into class A states)." The Rams girls/boys team finished 8th and 9th respectively at the state championship meets at Bowdoin college on Feb 19 and 20; with Brodie Berlinger setting a new school record in the 100 fly and 500 freestyle events.

Basketball (Boys and Girls):

Both programs had remarkable seasons, both going into the playoffs as the #1 seed. The Girls team defeated Noble in a quarterfinal game, and upheld #4 Sanford by a score of 52-34, on Wednesday, Feb. 21 at the Cross Insurance Arena. Zoe Dellinger sparked the Rams with two 3 pointers after hitting a flat spot in the 4th quarter. Logan Doughty had a block, a steal and a nice basket that rallied a momentum change. And senior standout, Ellie Gay was solid on both ends of the court. On the boys side, their last regular season win against Scarborough clinched their #1 seed and a semi-final game against Deering. It took the Rams two quarters to get settled into their game and get the win over Deering by a score of 61-52. Gabe Michaud had a steal and a bucket in the 3rd quarter, which helped get the team going. Caden Smith made his presence felt despite playing with four fouls in the 3rd and 4th quarters. Griffin Gammon was impactful on the boards, while Ashton Leclerc took over in the 4th. The Girls and Boys teams then went on to face both Scarborough teams in a Regional final showdown, both defeating the Red Storm. The Girls will face Cheverus, while the boys will take on Windham for the state crown.

Congratulations to all of the winter sport athletes and coaches. The fans will have at least two more opportunities to support their Rams teams respectively.



Photo credit: Adam Parvanta

Varsity Boys Team Photo



Photo credit: Adam Parvanta

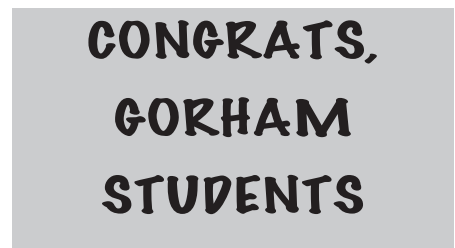
Varsity Girls Team Photo

Gorham Middle School Second Quarter Honor Roll

6th Grade High Honors Michael Brockman Max Castonguay Quinn Cuneo Eleanor Damon Moaeen Elnimier Benjamin Emerson Evan Holland Hannah Kimball Audrey Krebs Hadley Kuntz David Marks Adeline McCrillis Tyler Sampietro Jenna Schlicher Reid Stevens Kayla Wolfe	Matthew DeRice William DeVinney Kelton Doucette Ava Duchaine Lyla Exley Tessa Farnham Mackenna Flagg Minjee Flanders Lila Fortier Sophia Gill William Haase Philip Hanken Chloe Hatch Graham Hebert Fiona Herrick Harper Hofmann Thomas Holland Mason Hopkins Emma Howe John Hutchins Vega Kaldrovich Boden Kennedy Andrew King Annabelle Klipple Cecelia Lewin Charles Littlefield Cirrus Arlet Ethan Barney Cole Bennett Benjamin Bordeau Auroralyn Bragg-Malloy Robert Brockman Ethan Butler Priya Cameron Daphne Capponi Teodor Carpenter Avianna Carr William Carriere Angel Chhoeung Devi Clark Jackson Coffin Iyanna Coggins	Samuel Otis Alanna Pellegrone Avery Peters Riley Peters Kylie Plaud Mason Plowman Maci Pratt Lincoln Prunier Brianna Quang Evelyn Quinn Alden Rofe Jayne Rowles Jillian Roy Caroline Sargent Michelle Shaw Rose Stover William Sundik Ella Todd Miika Towle Willow Verry-Gardella Brooklyn Walker Maddilyn Walker Sawyer Walker Simon Wallace Henry Walsh Caleb West Luke Williams Gracie Woodman Riley Young Benjamin Albrecht	Rebecca Lewis Jessica Loiselle Samuel Martin Naomi Medd Max Moreno Jaydn Murphy Jayden Olson Ava Scott Samuel Springer Emma Tremblay Elijah Waterman Zoe Whitehead Harper Winkley	7th Grade Honors Sarina Alden Joshua Allison Christopher Amadon Aidan Beardsley Keagen Beaulieu Jason Bennett Brauneck Blanchard Caleb Blood Emmi Boissonneault Ashton Brethauer Addison Bunch Logan Burns Benjamin Cahill Julia Capozza Brianna Carlo Taylor Chadburn Alina Clark Liam Cole Lucy Cole Dexter Copeland Quaid Cossitt Chase Cote Jacobcy Cyr Parker Cyr Ella Dodd Quinn Dougherty Briggs Downing	Kaleb Dyer Colby Fernald Aidan Foley Andrew Fortier Emelia Frederick Gabriella Friedlund Shekinnah Gakunzi Kaleigh Garand Anabelle Gasbarrone Bradley Genovese Matthew Golden Evelia Gonzalez Abigail Gow Owen Gray Alia Herrick Ashyr Herrick Timothy Hodgdon Keelyn Hunt Nolan Hurder Jacob Ireland Mia Johnson Jackson Keene Hunter Keniston Natalie Kenny Lillian King Faith Lajoie Breanna Lampen Kaiden Laughlin Jeremy Levesque Willow Lewin Annie Lorfano Brody Marchand Sophia Marquis Cerys McCormack Mason McDonald Harper McManus Madison Milligan Khadeja Mohamed Declan Mulcahy Joseph Nadeau Abdalla Nasr Yoan Kent Ndayishimiye	Braden Nicely Grace O'Hora Samantha Page Jacob Palmer Devon Paradis Ezekiel Provencal Mia Rand Gavin Reed Mya Rego Carmella Richards Lucien Roy Charles Sands Declan Scaplen Chloe Schuehle Ethan Shaffer Caroline Shaw Emma Spiller Carter Sprague Hannah Symanski Charlotte Taylor Hailey Tracy Viannah Vercoe Emily Watson Tristan Wells Amelia Winkler Kate Woods Caleb Yaeger Ruthie Zaninelli	Connor McHenry Sophia Proulx Cooper Warner Sawyer Wheaton Tessa White	Natalie Lyford Mackenzie Maheux Adelina Martin LJ Mason Drew McManus Allison Meroow Jennifer Miner Lillias Mooers Yanis Munyaneza Loreli Murray Landon Nicely Julianna Normand Amanda Olaru Kian O'Sullivan Abe Palme Kasey Plaud Nolan Plummer Jackson Prunier Ashlyn Pyle Katelyn Pyle Nathan Reckert Alisa Rickett Isla Rutherford Lucas Santiago Abram Sargent Nora Schucker Alina Senasy Finnegan Senatore Chloe Smith Lydia Spear James Swan Parker Thibault Mackenzie Thompson Jade Tibbetts Laurali Vail Dexter Vance Whitney Varney Wyatt Walker Peightyn Waterman Jeremy West Trent Whitaker
6th Grade Honors Nola Albert Avery Allen Grace Allen Jacob Allen Zaynalabidin Almuhtar Ethan Arlet Cole Bennett Benjamin Bordeau Auroralyn Bragg-Malloy Robert Brockman Ethan Butler Priya Cameron Daphne Capponi Teodor Carpenter Avianna Carr William Carriere Angel Chhoeung Devi Clark Jackson Coffin Iyanna Coggins	7th grade High Honors Eva Alden Matilda Arturo Carter Bourgoin Carson Brown Lauren Chadburn Lauren Drenski Josephina Faria Logan Hall William Hjort	8th Grade High Honors Bryn Cunningham Charlotte Deveaux Owen Eling Grant Emerson Oliver Emerson Anna Faatz Neve Hanley Nara Holland Anneka Kuntz Sophie MacIsaac Abigail McCrillis Carter McGonagle	8th Grade Honors Ahmed Abdulzahra Clover Bayly-Schram Aspen Blair Lexi Broad Myka Bush Zackary Carlson Ty Caron Haley Chandler Bayla Clark Stephen Connolly Lylyanna Cook Evelyn Cooley Camden Curtis Tucker Curtis Aidan Darling Oliver Dennis Beckham Dezdel Velina Doucette Jack Feldhaus Miracle Fernandes Alexander Fernandez Abrie French Julia Giguere Bailey Grimard Nicholas Harrington Ben Herrick Wyland Herrick Sydnie Ireland Toren Johnson Caroline Jones Samuel Joy Nathan Kelly-Schadow Alyssa Lampen Fiona Lane Madelyn Leeper					

Gorham High School Second Quarter Honor Roll

Grade 9 High Honors Rigel Arlet Zachary Bourgoin Luna Button Sheila Casco Maia Downing Antoine Dube Jack Foisy Jordyn Fotter Lily Keene Claire Kennedy Sean Kenny Gillian Lachance Lucas Lane Brandon Levesque Elliana Miers Larissa Moore Ishami Munyaneza Haylie Nicely Molly Peters Jasmine Radjabova Lauren Roy Milo Saucier Isabelle Smith Annabelle Vail Lola Vance Charlotte Wallace	Jackson Durgin Liana Edwards Lindsay Farquhar Baxter Flagg Annabelle Gilman Bavin Hakizimana Evan Hall Everett Hurder Anna Johnson Rehoboth Kina Tyler Krouse Daniel LaBarge Sofia Lembarra Maxwell Lodgek Hannah Martel Kylie Martorano Emily McLean Jack Mesires Drew Milligan Logan Mills Tyler Morey Jamie Morse Anna Nichols Samuel Ottoson Gretchen Paul Kennady Peary Kyle Petrin Keaton Pollard Sydney Quimby Rowen Reed Logan Rench Stephen Richards Madison Rogers Adriana Russo Nicholas Sallinen Madison Sampietro Jack Sellick Max Shvets Cecelia Sloat Nevaeh Spiller Lucas Stover Acadia Sylvia Carter Taiani Owen Todd Elise Touch Alexander Tukey Aylla Vaughn Kaitlyn Wallack Cooper Whitehead Henri Wichmann Londyn Wright	Honors Ali Abdulzahra Kaleigh Bauer Bria Bush Lena Cooley Ava DeVinney Mia Dodd Aaron Dumais Tabitha Lavigne Derek Luo Lorisse Matta Stella Moores Tyler Olson Jacqueline Parenteau Kassidy Quimby Gracen Roberts-Locke Tobias Wane Natalie Wilkins	Grade 10 Honors Colby Allie Jay Banks Hope Barney Lily Beardsley Benjamin Brown Mikayla Buzzell Aiden Cahill Addison Campbell Eli Castles Cole Chasse Jocelyn Clark Annabelle Collier Andrew Collins Aubriana Cossitt Delaney Coyne Grace Cunningham Zoe Dellinger Bryce Dipietrantonio Logan Doughty Aidan Dudley Lauren Dunbar Max Duplisea Isaiah Eling Laurel Emerson River Engelter Taylor Ernest Mackenzie Foley Abigail Fortier Sophie Gaudreau Alexandria Gossen Elle Hanley	James Hatch Madison Hatch Keilla Inteyiteka Esther Jaume Ferrer Colton Jenkins Benjamin Keil Reece Leclerc Tamia Lema-Santellan Matthew Leo Hanna Logan Camden Martell Riley McCallister Rylyn McInnis Maya Moores Eleanor Morgan Rebecca Neumann Liam O'Hora Madison Phean Isabel Phinney Terra Rioux Shawn Rumery Addyson Simcock Carson Southyvangnorath Elizabeth Springer Rebekah St John Graham Staples Joshua Strout Sonnitra Sun Taylor Tenuta Taylor Vaz Haley Vickery Sawyer VonderHaar Shane Webber Claudette Wesse Adia Wezowicz Elle Woodman Lucas Yaeger Preston Zwart	Grade 11 Honors Sofia Andrade Harrison Baber Whitney Ball Emily Beal Brianna Beaulieu David Bechtel Laura Burt Leigha Buteau Benjamin Champagne Katelyn Cyr Aspenelle De Los Reyes Cecelia Dellosso Finnian Dermody Riley Dever Anastasia Dolley Patrick Downey Gavin Edwards Gabrielle Evans Joshua Faatz Brent Files Piper Forgues Hadley Foster Lauren Fredette Haley Frie Griffin Gammon Meghan Gendron Ava Googins Bailey Hatch Finn Henderson Lucia Holloway Sophia Hutton Violet James Kuba Kaczmarek Sophie Kaczmarek Jack Karlons Brooke Kazimer Alivia Keniston Adam Lembarra	William Johnson Kathryn LaPierre Chafek Matta Amanda Morin Timothy Nagle Julia Reed Abigail Rogers Sarah Rosingana Celia Roy Denali Tetrault Madison Tibbals	Landon Levan Aidan Madore Grace Mahaney Kayla McLean Samuel Meroow Lindy Moreland Elizabeth Morey Ryan Morrill Amelia Olaru Brooke Piawlock Payson Plummer Claire Rancourt Sarah Sanborn Victoria Sands Rhys Saunders Mina Sayed Ella Senatore Jacob Shvets Casey Skolfield Alison Smith Natalie Smith Owen Spera Brooke Stevens Julie Stevens Alicia Terry Payton Thibodeau Lily Tukey Vanessa Walker Sarah Wilcox Madisson Willey Logan Wilson	Lillian Miner Amy Morin Maria Nardini Kaitlyn Nichols Riley Ottoson Makayla Quintal Caden Smith Emma Smith Jonathan Stein Julia Wareham Makenna Wheeler Joshua Wright Anna Yahwak	Grade 12 Honors Lillian Andreasen Brady Arsenault Gabriel Badeau Kaylynn Ballard Emily Bennett Nathan Bergquist-Guimond Moortada Beshir Hannah Bickford Jean-David Bisimwa Claire Boudreau Elsie Bradshaw Jackson Brassard Macey Brenner Amber Bretton Addison Canty Zoe Coleman Dayton Crockett Rita Cummings Kalin Curtis Jack Decrow Grace Desmond Isaac Dobson Ella Downing Cole Drinkwine Anna Dumais Dylan Edwards Mohamed Elshafie	Brooke Farquhar Taylor Farr Abigail Fecteau Summer Gammon Emerson Homa Brinn Irish Jesse James Ashton Leclerc Leighanna LeMay Meryk Lewellen Kyleah Mack Libbie Merrill Kayleigh Mitchell Jacob Mora Caroline Morrell Arianna Morse Lillianna Noel Erica Nygren Collin Page Samuel Parenteau Haden Pelletier Jenna Pequinet Paige Perreault Dylan Phillips Alicia Poschke Abraham Rabbani Zoie Rand Christian Randall Brayson Reed Kaleb Reed Lily Rubin Logan Sargent Hadley Scaplen Tristan Smith Kyleigh Staples Dylan Taiani Nicholas Tinkham Landon Turgeon Bennett Walker Isabelle Wheaton-Connors Cameron Whittemore
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COMMUNITY

DEANS LIST

Matthew Bellantoni, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York
Kaylin Brown, Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts
Ainsley Christianson, Bryant University, Smithfield, Rhode Island
Andrew Duncan, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York
Sydney Fox, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York
Ella Grady, Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts
Alexander Lemieux, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York
Garrett Smith, Bryant University, Smithfield, Rhode Island
Wyatt Thomas, Bryant University, Smithfield, Rhode Island
Bodhi Wilkins, Rochester Institute of Technology, Rochester, New York

OF INTEREST

On the evening of Monday Feb. 19, Katharine Goodwill-Brown and her two school-age sons experienced the almost complete loss of their home on Mosher Road, as well as their vehicle and most of their possessions. This devastating occurrence was the result of a house fire, which was apparently caused by a malfunctioning gas grill. Since then, Ms. Goodwill-Brown and the two boys have begun the difficult task of putting their lives back together, while still dealing with many logistical challenges. To support their efforts, many local residents have been contributing to a GoFundMe account which was started by some of their friends. A gofundme.com page has been set up to raise community support for a Gorham family who lost all their belongings in a devastating fire. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/6fwc9v-please-help-family-displaced-by-fire>

Join the **Presumpscot Regional Land Trust** for a walk at Black Brook Preserve in Windham on Wednesday, March 6, from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Black Brook Preserve trail network has rolling hills, mature trees, and brooks along with a variety of wildlife and plant life. Learn about local flora and fauna along the way, and explore this trail system and the network of vernal pools that can be found throughout. Wednesday Walks, held monthly, last about 1.5 hours and include about two miles of walking. This program is free and designed for adults, but space is limited, and registration is required at www.prlt.org/Events.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gorham Memorial Post 10879 will be meeting on Tuesday, March 12 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fire Department Training Room, 270 Main Street. For information contact the post at vwfpost10879@gmail.com.

Gorham / Windham / Westbrook TRIAD will be meeting Wednesday, March 13 at 11 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Fire Department Training Room on Main Street. The guest speaker will be Chris Wolff from the Elder Abuse Institute. All are welcome!

The Northeast Dairy Business Innovation Center offers funding to strengthen and support the growth of the Northeast goat and sheep dairy sector. Applications are open until March 28 for projects that address one of the following, 1) business viability, 2) market development, or 3) innovative approaches to production. FMI:

The Narragansett Number One Foundation, a private charitable foundation located in Buxton, is now accepting applications from 501(c)(3) organizations or from government entities until April 1. The purpose of the Foundation is to provide assistance to schools, fire departments, police departments, parks, recreational facilities, religious organizations, libraries, organizations supporting homeless and abused persons, food pantries, and shelters for animals. FMI: www.NNOF.org.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

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 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 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

First Parish Church is having a chicken pie dinner on Saturday, March 2. The dinner is from 4:30 - 6 p.m. Dinners are \$12.50 for adults, kids meals available for \$8.00. 1 Church Street in Gorham. Orders can be purchased at www.firstparishgorham.org, click "shop"

White Rock Community Clubhouse will hold a Public Bean Supper on Saturday, March 2 from 4 - 5:30 p.m. 34 Wilson Road in Gorham. Eat in or take out, no pre-orders. Meal includes baked kidney & pea beans, coleslaw, potato salad, macaroni & cheese, biscuits, hot dogs and dessert. \$10 adults, \$5 under 12.

St. Anne's Knights of Columbus will continue hosting its weekly Lenten Fish Dinners on Fridays 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.

Scarborough Free Baptist Church at 55 Mussey Road will have a Bean Supper on Saturday, March 9, 4 - 6 p.m. with two kinds of beans, hotdogs, chop suey, mac and cheese, coleslaw, homemade biscuits and brown bread. Homemade pies for dessert. Adults \$10, under 12, \$5.

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 and welcomes the public. Join the group for Cribbage/board. Join the weekly guest speaker program, "the Originals", on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. A different speaker each week. Upcoming speakers include Portland Stage experiences, more Maine history, ESL in our school system, repopulation of Wild Turkeys in Maine and MacMillan, Arctic Explorer. 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 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>.

Donald Sibley (1930-2023)



Donald Sibley, 93, passed away peacefully on December 22, 2023, with his loving family surrounding him. Don was a kind and compassionate man, a lifelong learner and teacher. He was curious, loved connecting with people and strove to make the world a better place. Don advocated for human rights, social justice, for those less fortunate and the environment. Don was born on January 22, 1930.

Don spent his childhood in the Bronx, graduated from Amherst College, obtained a Master's from Cornell and a Ph.D from Iowa State University; he served in the Marine Corps during the Korean War. Don married Anna Grant with whom they celebrated 70 years of marriage together.

Don and Anna served in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala from 1959-1983 where he helped develop a network of innovative programs to support agricultural-based communities; he worked with the National Presbyterian Church and the National Council of Churches. From 1983-1987 Don worked with Church World Service, directing resources to refugees throughout Latin America and the Caribbean during a peak refugee crisis.

In 1989, Don and Anna moved to North Gorham, Maine. Don volunteered for over a decade with the North Gorham Fire Department. Don and Anna continued leading groups to Central America.

In 2011, Don and Anna moved into Loomis Village in South Hadley, MA. Don embraced the Loomis Community making many close friendships and actively working to welcome new members and improve the community experience. Don was a member of the First Congregation Church in South Hadley and worked on social justice issues. He often attended his grandchildren's sporting events and was a dedicated care partner to Anna.

Don is survived by his wife, Anna Grant Sibley, sister, Betsey - Lebanon, NH, his two daughters - Rachel (spouse James - St. Paul, MN) - and Alina (spouse Heidi - South Hadley, MA). His son Grant Sibley preceded Don in death (spouse Laura - Salt Lake City - Utah. Don has six grandchildren (Gabe, Anna, Ian, Eric, Stihela, Liam), three great-grandchildren and extended family.

A celebration of Life Service will be held at Loomis Village on March 30, 2024, at 1:00 pm EST; a Zoom link will be available a day before the celebration for those who want to appear remotely. Email: donsibleymemories@gmail.com to RSVP for the Zoom link, or state if you will appear in person.

In his honor, gifts can be made to: Agricultural Missions (475 Riverside Dr., New York, NY), Alzheimer's Association, Girl's Inc. of Holyoke.



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BUSINESS UPDATES

Casco Federal Credit Union Promotes Two Employees

Casco FCU, located in Gorham, ME, is happy to share the latest promotion of Alex Botayev to Vice President of Finance and the additional role of Card Services Manager for Carrie Wallace.

Alex started as an Accounting Manager with Casco FCU in 2021. He has been the lead on all critical accounting tasks and support for many new products and services rolled out. He graduated from Thomas College in Waterville, ME with a Bachelor of Science in Managerial Accounting and then went on to earn his MBA in Accounting.

His previous experience includes working at Baker Newman Noyes in Portland. He first started in tax, with a specialization in high-net worth individuals, gift returns, fiduciary returns, estate returns, multi-state returns, and foreign taxes. He then worked in audit and had exposure to different industries such as retail, banking, and insurance. Outside of work, he also learned programming/coding by taking classes online.

Alex says the team at Casco is his favorite thing about working there. He likes how understanding people can be and how they



all help each other out, in and out of work.

Carrie Wallace started with Casco FCU in 2020 as a Loan Officer. A few months later, she was promoted to Branch Manager and then to Service Center Manager in 2023. Her new title is Service Center and Card Services Manager. She has been working tirelessly to ensure the entire service center team is trained in both credit and debit cards.

She has experience in varying customer service roles for over 20 years. She worked for an asset management company as their VP of Closing and Title Operations for 13 years, selling foreclosed properties throughout the United States for a national bank. After that, she worked for Mortgage Network (Mortgage lender) as a Loan Closer.

Carrie's favorite things about working at Casco FCU are helping our members and our team. She says Casco is an extended family for both members and staff.

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CALENDAR

Thursday, February 29

Baxter Memorial Library Toddler Discovery Time, 10 a.m.

Friday, March 1

St. Anne's Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Dinner, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 2

Baxter Memorial Library, LEGO Club, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

First Parish Church Chicken Pie Supper, 4:30 – 6 p.m.

White Rock Community Clubhouse Public Bean Supper, 4 – 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 3

Osher School of Music AND THE WINNER IS! ... a Salute to Your Favorite Oscar Winning Songs! Corthell Concert Hall, 2 p.m.

Monday, March 4

Gorham Rec. "Kiddie Gym" at Shaw Gym, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m

Wednesday, March 6

Gorham Rec. "Kiddie Gym" at Shaw Gym, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m

Lecky Brown Senior Center, The Originals, First Parish Church, 10 a.m.

Presumpscot Regional Land Trust walk at Black Brook Preserve, Windham.

Friday, March 8

St. Anne's Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Dinner, 5 – 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 9

Scarborough Free Baptist Church, Bean Supper, 55 Mussey Road, 4 – 6 p.m.

Monday, March 11

Gorham Rec. "Kiddie Gym" at Shaw Gym, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m

Tuesday, March 12

VFW Gorham Memorial Post 10879 meeting, Fire Dept Training Room, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 13

Gorham Rec. "Kiddie Gym" at Shaw Gym, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m

Gorham/Windham/Westbrook TRIAD meeting, Fire Dept.

Lecky Brown Senior Center, The Originals, First Parish Church, 10 a.m.

Baxter Memorial Library Author Event with Robert W. Spencer, 6 p.m.

CLASSIFIEDS

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Cedar Circle caller asked to have a trespass order lifted. The order was removed from the system.

Caller wanted a welfare check on Harding Road as she had not heard from them in a week and a half. Officer called and made contact. All was okay.

South Street caller asked for an officer to meet her. Officer went to her address but was not able to make contact. She had stressed it was not an emergency, that she just wanted to speak to an officer.

Officer responded to Hutcherson Drive for a report of a crash. Two cars were parked and one had opened the door and damaged the other. Both parties thought the other party was over-reacting. Officer told them both their respective insurances would be in the report and they were sent on their way.

Officer responded to Libby Ave. for a report of a dog that had been barking since 5 a.m. Officer saw a vehicle in the driveway but no one answered the door. He did not hear dogs barking initially but then one of them started barking.

Hillview Road caller reported a suspicious person. He was from Sun Solar and was directed to get a permit from the Town Office.

Multiple callers reported rapid fire gunshots in the area of Dingley Springs Road. Buxton Police had responded and said gunfire had stopped. Officers remained in the area for about 20 minutes but did not hear any more gunfire.

Officer checked on a Brackett Street residence after a hangup call. Officer did not make contact with anyone and there was no apparent emergency.

Officer was informed a lawyer had called to speak with the officer about his client. Officer called back but never heard back from the lawyer.

Presumpscot Ridge Drive caller reported a delivery truck in her driveway had run out of fuel but she did not feel comfortable leaving her house to get the man diesel fuel. Officer told her she had the discretion to get the truck towed away. She was open to giving them time to figure out a plan to get the fuel.

Huston Road caller reported hearing gunshots on a regular basis. He was advised the Gorham Police Department used a firing range near Public Works. He

seemed relieved and thanked the officer.

Officer spoke with three duck hunters on the shore line near Partridge Lane. They told the officer they had not been shooting near the trails. Caller had met one of them walking on the trail with two dogs and carrying a shotgun. Officer checked the Town map and determined the field areas of Shaw Park were the exclusion zone, not the trail around the park.

Officer observed a man walking down the pole line off South Street wearing orange and carrying a gun. He was advised he was going into a game preserve and it was a no hunting area. He was unaware and apologized and willingly moved along.

A woman had set up a time to get her belongings from her apartment on South Street but the current renter refused to let her in. She will return tomorrow with another 24 hour notice to enter.

Caller reported that an employee had found her wallet and turned it over to the Gorham Police Department. The Sergeant looked in the property log for the last two weeks and did not see anything logged as an employee's property and could not find it after a search of the police records. Woman was advised they would ask the night shift if they had received the wallet.

A vehicle parked at Cherry Hill Road was broken into.

Caller reported a vehicle had been left in a parking lot on Main Street for more than two weeks. This was the second call about this vehicle. Officer determined that the registered owner did not live at that address any longer. Business was advised they could have the vehicle removed.

Caller wanted Police to go to her residence and bring her kids to her in South Portland. She was advised the police do not do that.

Gray Road caller reported an unfamiliar vehicle in the parking lot. It was the clerk cleaning up after the store was closed for the night.

Settler's Way caller reported a man with a clipboard was going through people's yards and jumping fences. Officer did not locate the man nor had any of the people walking around the neighborhood, seen a man with a clipboard.



The Gorham School Department plans to destroy special education records of former students who were born between January 1, 1997 and December 31, 1997.

Parents, guardians and/or former students may obtain their records on or before June 3, 2024. Proper identification will be required in order to obtain records.

For more information, please feel free to contact the Gorham Special Services office at 222-1002.

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