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**Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer**



Town of Gorham Planning Map

Photo credit: Courtesy of the Town of Gorham

At the March 12 meeting, The Town Council unanimously approved the Robie Park Master Plan. Developed over the past 18 months, the concept plan includes features most requested by residents who replied to an on-line survey and who provided feedback at several public meetings.

In addition to retaining most of the existing trees (20), the plan includes

planting new ones (24). There will be gateway entrances with educational signage at both Ball Park Road and Morrill Ave (11). There is a central walkway (26) and a proposed sidewalk connecting the major features (27). Many features will be retained including ball courts (3), open area (22) and the existing ball field with support structures (22,30), restrooms (6).

New features would include a shaded

picnic area (19), new raised garden beds (9), café seating (18) and separate play areas for toddlers (15) and for 5–9-year-olds (17). Other children's play areas (12) include swings (16), and a water feature (14). All would meet ADA guidelines.

After the plan was approved, Town Manager Ephram Paraschak advised everyone to “manage expectations,” since the Master Plan will be phased-in over time. Councilors Virginia Wilder-Cross and Suzanne Phillips suggested that creative funding be considered, such as local businesses donating to specific features or sections.

The next step in the process will be to hire an engineer to create an operational plan. According to Tom Poitier, director of community development, "The engineer costs will be expensed to the funds that the Town Council has already allocated to Robie Park." He is in the process of gathering information for hiring the engineer.

The plan was developed by Acedo Landscape Architecture with direction from the Robie Park Master Plan Steering Committee headed by Councilor Philip Gagnon and including Ron Shepherd, Jacinda Wilson, Stewart McCallister, Katherine Garrard, Laurel Emerson, Rob Delaney, and Michael Chabot.

**Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer**

Primary candidates seeking to represent Gorham in the Maine Senate and House of Representatives have filed with the Secretary of State and will be on the June 11 primary ballots. The only contested race is in District 109 where Eleanor Sato and Seven Siegel are both running to be the Democratic nominee for state representative. The incumbent, Jim Boyle, is not seeking reelection. Anyone seeking to be a write-in candidate must declare by April 2nd for their votes to be counted.

Only unenrolled voters, those not registered in a political party, may choose either Democratic or Republican ballots. Voters enrolled in those parties will receive their party's ballot. No other party is running primary candidates. Voters who wish to change parties or change to unenrolled must do so by May 27. Residents who are not registered to vote may reg-

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**John Ersek, Staff Writer**



Photo credit: John Ersek

*Sadie Donnell of Gorham (with cane) speaks against the Turnpike Connector project just after noon on March 25 at an anti-connector rally held at Smiling Hill Farm. Ms. Donnell emphasized the importance of funding public transit options instead of highway expansion.*

On the evening of Monday, March 25, over 350 people from all over the Portland area gathered at the Shaw Gymnasium in Gorham for an informational meeting on the proposed Gorham Connector roadway, hosted by Maine Turnpike Authority staff and consultants. Before the 6 p.m. beginning of the formal presentations, there was a 90 minute period for informal discussions between members of the public, Turnpike staff, and several Turnpike engineering and environmental consultants. These took place near several large maps which had been placed on both



Photo credit: John Ersek

*Scarborough Town Manager Thomas Hall  
welcomes the public to March 25th informational  
meeting at Shaw Gym, on behalf of Turnpike's local  
government advisory committee*

sides of the room. These maps depicted the proposed route of the roadway in detail; one map showed the area of the controversial crossing of the Smiling Hill Farm area in even greater detail.

During the lengthy period for public comments and questions, it appeared that anti-Connector opinions were prevalent. As an illustration of that, between 6:15 and 7:30 p.m. above twenty people spoke against the project and only two or three spoke in favor of it.

The first to comment was Warren Knight, a member of the family that owns Smiling Hill Farm. He said that the

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**Gorham Times Staff**

The Gorham Schools have rescheduled the April 3 Early Release Day to April 8, 2024, due to the solar eclipse, making April 3 a full day of school and April 8 an Early Release Day.

According to Superintendent Heather Perry, "The reason I am making this shift is due to the upcoming solar eclipse and primarily the issue of safety. Not that eclipses get to choose their timelines, but this one chose the absolute worst possible time to occur for schools. The eclipse is scheduled to occur at 3:28 p.m. on April 8 and will last between 5-6 minutes. If you know our bus schedules - you would know that that is smack dab in the middle of our PK-5 p.m. bus runs home."

She continued, "Although Gorham is not in the direct path to view the 100% eclipse the eclipse view here in Gorham will be between 96-97%. It is most definitely enough to distract other drivers on the road. It is also enough to distract our own bus drivers who already have a very big and difficult job without an eclipse. Finally, it is enough to distract the almost 1000 students we will have on buses during that time with no ability to monitor that they are not looking out the windows into the eclipse out of sheer curiosity."

Schools are hoping to ensure that students are settled and safely in one place for the eclipse and not on the roads during that time.

## Solar Safety from NASA

Looking directly at the sun during a solar eclipse will cause immediate and permanent damage your eyes. DO NOT use cameras, binoculars, or the naked eye.

Make sure to use solar safe glasses that are labeled with language that says they meet the Transmission requirements of ISO 12312-2 Filters for an E15 Direct Observation of the Sun.

You can view the eclipse directly without proper eye protection only when the Moon completely obscures the Sun's bright face – during the brief and spectacular period known as totality. (You'll know it's safe when you can no longer see any part of the Sun through eclipse glasses or a solar viewer.)

As soon as even a little bit of the bright Sun reappears after totality, immediately put your eclipse glasses back on or use a handheld solar viewer to look at the Sun.

If you are watching an entire eclipse, the Sun will still be very bright. You may be in direct sunlight for hours. Remember to wear sunscreen, a hat, and protective clothing to prevent skin damage.

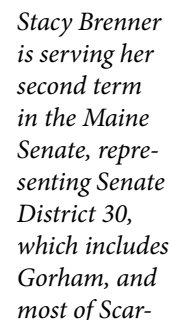


**Sen. Stacy Brenner**

My advocacy for women's reproductive rights doesn't start and end with my time in the Senate Chamber. It's rooted

Maine voters deserve the opportunity to weigh in and affirm that Maine's constitution protects reproductive rights. No matter where a person lives, what they look like, what their background, every person has the right to make their own decisions. This bill is particularly important now, in the wake of the Alabama Supreme Court ruling that's

If you have questions, ideas or comments throughout the legislative session, please feel free to contact me at [Stacy.Brenner@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Stacy.Brenner@legislature.maine.gov) or my legislative office at (207) 287-1515. You can also follow my Facebook page at [Facebook.com/SenatorStacyBrenner](https://www.facebook.com/SenatorStacyBrenner) for more frequent updates.



*borough. She is the co-owner of Broadturn Farm in Scarborough and is also a certified nurse-midwife.*

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.

I appreciate the article in the March 14 Gorham Times about the proposed Robie St subdivision and how it is going forward despite public objection. However, I want

Ruth Kelly, Gorham

Jeffrey Runyon, Gorham

**Christine Kimball**  
*1935-2024*

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April 3  
April 17  
May 1



# Art of Swedish Death Cleaning

Kelli Deveau, Staff Writer

As the weather warms, why just do spring cleaning, when you can embrace the latest craze called the Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning? This trending approach to decluttering one's life can be seen as a popular series on the Peacock Channel and is inspired by the 2018 book of the same name, written by Scandinavian author Margareta Magnusson.

In her book, Magnusson explains that "death cleaning" is the process of decluttering one's life, so that loved ones are not tasked with the responsibility. In Swedish, the exercise is called 'döstädning' — a combination of the word 'dö' (which means death) and 'städning' (which means cleaning).

Reflecting on her own experiences tending to the belongings of loved ones who had passed, Magnusson urges readers to consider the immense time and energy this requires of survivors, which could be better used to grieve and celebrate the life of their loved one. She says that taking care of our own belongings is the ultimate gift to our loved ones.

According to the author, the process of clearing one's personal items can have potential benefits for both the person cleaning out material objects and surviving family members. Giving or designating items to those who are the intended recipients cuts down on misunderstandings and stress for all parties. Going through personal items with loved ones also gives the opportunity to share stories and celebrate memories.

The slim book is loaded with advice and encouragement to help people part with their clutter, as is local organizing expert Victoria Reynolds, who says, "Clutter is merely unmade or deferred decisions." According

to both Magnusson and Reynolds, 'death cleaning' isn't about being morbid, and it is not just for those who are more advanced in years. Committing to making those decisions is a step anyone can take in their lives, and one that everyone should consider.

Reynolds, a licensed psychologist, noted that clients of her business, Nest Home Help, range in age and need; from a teenager whose parent was tired of the debates about picking up their room, to families who were moving, or a person with three generations of possessions in the family homestead, all needed a little guidance on organizing and weeding out their possessions.

Her clients report that clutter can feel heavy. "They can see the spent dollars that are going to no use, and that can be a source of anxiety and frustration," Reynolds shared. "Everything that comes through your front door, it's all inventory. And you must manage it, store it, clean it, maintain it and make decisions about it." While material objects can feel overwhelming, so can the task of getting rid of them.

Reynolds shared some of her best strategies with the Gorham Times readers.

Start small: sometimes the best approach is to start with "that drawer" we all have in our homes, or a closet. For those closets or rooms, start with what is on the floor, it feels like a quick win.

Sort items: begin with creating piles, based on keep, donate, or gift, and throw away. With those items you choose to keep, use containers you already have to put like items together, and tape and marker can make labels for easy locating. Invite friends or family to identify things from the donate/gift pile they would like to take.

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# Land Trust Volunteers Needed

Chris Crawford, Features Editor

You know Spring has arrived when the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust starts looking for Volunteers to help with many of its important projects. If you're anxious to get outside AND would like to help your community, there are many great ways for people of all ages to become involved in helping our Land Trust thrive.

Visit the PRLT Land Trust website to find more specific information and to sign up for any project below. Or contact Toby Jacobs, Program Manager at toby@prlt.org. Training will be provided for several of the more scientific activities/projects.

## Water Quality Monitors

The Land Trust works in conjunction with the Maine DEP to collect water samples at several locations along the Presumpscot River and its tributaries. This vital information helps track the health of this cherished and well-used watershed. Volunteers collect water samples and data every other Saturday morning typically from 7 a.m. - 9 a.m. from mid-May

through mid-September. You do not need to be available for all 10 volunteer dates.

## Fish Migration Ambassadors

Mill Brook supports a large migration of Alewives. Volunteer Ambassadors are needed on site to help answer questions and to keep the migration safe for the fish and the people. Flexible volunteer shifts are available from Mid-May to Mid-June.

## Fish Count Volunteers

In collaboration with USM and the Marine Resources Council, volunteers are needed for 30-minute shifts to count alewives as they climb the fish ladder from Mill Brook and enter Highland Lake in Westbrook. Mid-May to Mid-June.

## Spring Trail Workdays

There are always projects and clean-ups going on at many Land Trust Preserves. Come by yourself, or with a group. Tools provided. Bring your work gloves and help your favorite Land Trust Preserve get spiffed up for warm weather and lots of company.

# Celebrating Spring in Maine

Thomas Grebouski, USM Student Intern

At long last we have warm days and green scenes just around the corner. In earlier days of more primitive home insulation, spring was a ray of hope having survived another winter. It is no wonder that green is considered the color most associated with hope. To the modern ape, spring means a time to clean the house, to start seeds for our hobby gardens, to dig our shorts out of storage and wear them for the first time before it is actually warm enough to do so. Most people, secular and non-secular alike, celebrate spring in one way or another.

The Wabanaki people, whose land we occupy here in Gorham, are holding their annual Spring Social on April 13 to "celebrate our relations." This event is the largest intertribal gathering in Maine. Indigenous peoples more broadly may celebrate spring with various ceremonies and festivities, taking some time to appreciate the renewal of plant and animal life of which we are a part.

Holi, the Hindu festival of colors, took place in India on March 25, celebrated the coming harvest, love, and the triumph of good over evil.

Judaism holds Passover ceremonies at the end of April, from the 22nd to the 30th. Also known as the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Passover celebrates the liberation of a people from slavery, and commemorates hardships endured.

The Islamic faith is in the midst of Ramadan, a tradition of prayer and fasting that takes place during the month it is believed that the Quran was given to their prophet. Ramadan ends in Eid al-Fitr on

April 9. The combination of community and abstinence in this tradition is meant to strengthen one's relationship to their god. In this way Ramadan is quite similar to the Christian tradition of practicing penitence with Lent, referring to the lengthening of the days. Lent ends with the solemn observance of Holy Week from March 28 to 30, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, commemorating the Passion of Jesus, and the resurrection on Easter Sunday, March 31, with chocolates at the ready! The Easter Season lasts until Pentecost Sunday, May 19 this year, the seventh Sunday of Easter.

Easter is understood to be an adaptation of Pagan traditions, thus easing the conversion of Pagans to Christianity by incorporating their established celebrations. The Pagan celebrations of spring focused around Ishtar, a Mesopotamian goddess of fertility, love, and war. This is typically celebrated by the symbolic planting of seeds and festivities involving eggs. Egg hunt anyone?

Whatever your customary means of rejoicing in spring, it is of course happening at different times in different places. Folks in Florida are already experiencing the return of leaves and lawns with summer-like weather. In the southern hemisphere, people are buckling down for winter. But in Guatemala they may have it best of all: the country is known as the "land of eternal spring" with pleasant and mild weather year-round. As much as winter had some of us thinking about moving south, we tend to forget all that sacrilege when spring rolls around here in Maine.



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# How to Respond to a Hard Insurance Market

Ethan Johnson, Contributing Writer

From an insurance buyer's perspective, it can sometimes feel as if premium prices change on a whim. But the truth is that the insurance market is cyclical in nature, fluctuating between soft and hard markets.

A 'soft market,' which is sometimes called a buyer's market, is characterized by stable premiums, broader terms of coverage, increased capacity, higher available limits and competition among insurance carriers for new business.

A 'hard market,' which is sometimes called a seller's market, is characterized by increased premiums, diminished underwriting appetite and capacity, restricted coverage and less competition among insurance carriers for new business.

While many insurance buyers have enjoyed a soft market for years, the market is hardening. As a result, business leaders now face tough choices regarding their insurance, making it all the more important for them to understand what to expect in a hardening market and how to respond effectively.

A number of different factors affect insurance pricing, but the following are common contributors to the hardening market: 1) Catastrophic losses—Floods, hurricanes, wildfires and similar disasters are increasingly common and devastating. Years of costly disasters like these have compounded losses for insurers, driving up the cost of coverage overall; 2) Claims costs—Claims are increasing in both frequency and severity year over year; 3) Underwriting standards—Insurers are struggling to overcome underwriting losses, especially given how low interest rates have remained in recent times. This has made carriers more cautious, and many are restricting the classes of businesses and lines of insurance they are willing to underwrite; and 4) Reinsurance—Reinsurance is coverage for insurance companies. Carriers often buy reinsurance for risks they can't or don't wish to retain fully. However, reinsurance is becoming more expensive to obtain, which is causing carriers to increase their rates.

Even the most prepared organizations

will have to adapt to the hard market, and businesses can expect to face: 1) Higher premiums; 2) Increased scrutiny when it comes to underwriting; 3) Coverage restrictions (e.g., increased retentions) or exclusions; and 4) Conditional or nonrenewal notices.

Put simply, during a hard market, insurance buyers may face difficult decisions regarding their insurance coverage. Thankfully, however, businesses are not without recourse in the face of a hard market. The following are some strategies to consider to help navigate shifts in the market: 1) Review your insurance program. Above all, check that your policies account for your business's greatest exposures. An understanding of your coverage ensures you're not overlooking any exclusions and will help you secure the right policy for your operations; 2) Bolster your risk management efforts where possible. Doing so makes your business more attractive to insurers; 3) Know your loss history. In a hard market, underwriters will be especially critical when reviewing loss trends; and 4) Budget wisely and plan ahead. In some cases, premium increases are unavoidable, and organizations should be prepared.

Businesses should budget accordingly and take insurance costs into account alongside their other normal expenses. Business owners who proactively address risk, control losses and manage exposures will be better prepared for a hardening market than those who do not. Work with your broker now to prepare your business for changes down the road.



Ethan Johnson works at Chalmers Insurance and has over 20 years of experience in the industry. A USM graduate, he is passionate about helping people and giving back to his local community of Gorham, where he lives with his family.



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# CryptoVerse

by A. Logophile

DB LBV FTYFCL IABIJ IX AYPK YR NEXPVBL.

DAIV AIGGBXL VY RYTCL DAY LENGTH JEJX'V?

VABH DIXJBK VAKYPMA TERB IX AYPK SBAEXJ,

PXLAIFFCTBJ SH VAB VENB VAIV SEXJL.

CLUE: A = H

SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

# Solar Eclipse History

Chris Crawford, Features Editor

The upcoming total eclipse is pretty exciting. If the weather cooperates, part of northern Maine will be in the path of totality. Rather than duplicating info about how and when and where to watch, this article delves into some history and odd facts about these unique astronomical events.

"A total eclipse is a dance with three partners: the moon, the sun and Earth. It can only happen when there is an exquisite alignment of the moon and the sun in our sky," according to Richard Vondrak, a scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

To see a total eclipse, you must be on the sunny side of the planet, the moon has to be at its closest distance to Earth and you have to be centered in the path of the moon's shadow in order to fully see the sun's corona. If you are in the path of totality, you've hit the jackpot because the next time a total solar eclipse will occur in that same spot is about 375 years away. During the total eclipse in Northern Maine, the moon's shadow will travel about 148 miles along the centerline at a speed of 2,866 miles per hour.

An annular solar eclipse, according to NASA, occurs when the Moon is at its furthest distance away from the Earth. This means that the Moon's shadow is visually much smaller than the Sun and is thus unable to cover it totally. With a partial eclipse, only a portion of the sun is covered by the moon's shadow, so the sun appears as a crescent shape.

Solar eclipses have been occurring long before humans were around to observe them. The word eclipse comes from *ekleipsis*, the ancient Greek word for being abandoned. Early humans, lacking scientific knowledge, viewed the rare and forbidding darkening of the skies as bad omens associated with death and destruction.

Animals also react to the strangeness of eclipses. In China, solar eclipses were associated with the health and success of the emperor. Failing to predict an eclipse meant putting the ruler in danger. A Chinese legend tells of two astrologers who were executed after failing to predict a solar eclipse on October 22, 2134 BCE (Before the Common Era), making it the oldest solar eclipse ever recorded in human history.

Surviving clay tablets from Babylonian times recorded an eclipse on May 3, 1375 BCE. These ancient people also knew how to predict them. Believing they were especially bad news for rulers and kings, when an eclipse was approaching, a "fake" ruler was put in place to draw the bad omens away from the legitimate ruler. Even today, some cultures associate them with death and destruction.

A Greek historian Herodotus recorded a solar eclipse in 585 BCE which stopped a battle between two warring armies. When the skies darkened, they believed it was a sign to stop fighting and make peace.

In reality, eclipses are harmless. An eclipse that happened over a century ago even helped prove Einstein's theory of relativity, though I cannot even begin to explain the science behind that.

It can be hard not to hyperventilate when contemplating the vastness of astronomical time. Scientists have calculated that the Earth will eventually reach a point in its history, some 500 to 600 million years in the future, when total solar eclipses will cease to exist. The reason? The moon is slowly moving away from Earth by about an inch and a half (4 centimeters) per year and the sun is also slowly expanding. The moon's shadow will eventually be too small to cover the sun and these stunning celestial events will disappear.

# Radium Girls Places First In Regional Drama Festival

Gorham Times Staff



The cast and crew of GHS one act play, Radium Girls which placed first at their regional Drama Festival on March 9. They competed in the state Drama Festival on Saturday, March 23.



# Arrests, Feb. 2024

Sheri Faber, Staff Writer

Male, 31, of Scarborough was arrested for operating after suspension and criminal speed (30+mph). Male, 44, of New Hampshire was arrested for Domestic Violence Assault (priors) and theft by unauthorized taking. Female, 41, of Auburn was arrested for driving to endanger and OUI. Female, 26, of Casco was arrested for OUI and refusing to submit to arrest/detention. Female, 34, of Limington was arrested for violating conditions of release. She was arrested again two hours later and again charged with violating conditions of release. Female, 33, of Portland, was arrested for operating after registration was suspended, OUI (drugs or combo-no test) one prior arrest for violating conditions of release, operating after suspension, and failure to pay a fine. Female, 34, of Maple Ridge Road was arrested for domestic violence assault. Male, 33, of Scarborough was arrested for violating conditions of release. Male, 22, Westbrook was arrested for OUI, failing to give correct name, aggravated forgery and being a habitual motor vehicle offender. Male, 45, of Gray Road was arrested for endangering the welfare of a child. Male, 45, of Gray Road was arrested for violating conditions of release and OUI (drugs or combo). Buxton male, 40, was arrested for OUI (alcohol) no test. Buxton male, 40, was arrested for OUI (alcohol) no test and for obscuring motor vehicle plate numbers. Standish male, 38, was arrested for domestic violence assault. Gorham male, 24, was arrested for violating conditions of release. Gorham male, 24, was arrested for domestic violence assault. Gorham male, 48, was arrested for assault. Topsham male, 24, was arrested for domestic violence assault. Portland female, 35, was arrested for failure to appear, trafficking in prison contraband, failure to to provide her correct name, violating conditions of release (two counts), failure to appear, theft by unauthorized taking and unlawful possession of scheduled drugs. Wood Road male, 24, was arrested for OUI. New Hampshire male, 24, was arrested for OUI. New Hampshire male, 42, was arrested for failure to appear, theft by unauthorized taking and unlawful possession of scheduled drugs. Wood Road male, 24, was arrested for OUI. New Hampshire male, 42, for failure to appear, OUI (no test), and one prior. South Portland male, 22, was arrested for permitting another person to operate with a suspended registration.

# Notes from Public Works

Kelly Meslin, Office Manager, Public Works Department

Please be sure to put tagged trash and recycling curbside by 7 a.m. on your collection day. The entire tag should be visible to Casella. This means the tag should be stuck to the bag or folded in half around the neck of the bag. If the tag is not visible in its entirety, trash will not be collected. Please keep turnarounds free of vehicles and equipment. This hinders Casella getting in and out of roads safely and efficiently. Please be responsible with your trash disposal. The roll off containers aka "silver bullets" located at Public Works are for recyclable materials only! Do not leave bagged trash outside the containers. If you need help with where to dispose of unwanted items or if you have any questions regarding proper recycling or trash tag usage, please call the office (207) 222-4950, email us dpw@gorham.me.us or check out Ecomaine's free recyclopeda. We have begun some light street sweeping. We will post the schedule of routes closer to April 1. Please keep drainage ditches, storm drains/catch basins clear. Do not sweep or blow debris into the street or these areas. This will cause drainage issues.

# Town Council Meeting March 12

Sheri Faber, Staff Writer

Councilor Siegel announced he will be running for the position of State representative for District 109. He congratulated the GHS Theater for their 1st place finish in the regional one act festival for their production of "Radium Girls" and the boys and girls basketball teams for their stellar performances in the State Championship games. Councilor Lavoie also congratulated Gorham High School for those events as well as for their performance at the state Indoor Track Team meet. He announced the fifth annual Gorham Clean Up will be held on April 21 at 8:30 a.m. For more information, contact the Gorham Village Alliance or the Conservation Committee. Councilor Wilder Cross gave accolades to all the talented students who make her so happy to live in Gorham. She recognized kids achieving honors in academics, acting, musicians and vocalists who advanced to state levels. She thanked all those who support kids and pointed out the High School Robotics Team which competed in the Pine Tree FIRST Robotics Competition. She attended the March Metro Region CPCOG meeting which focused on the "Housing First" initiative sponsored by Preble Street and Avesta Housing for chronically homeless people and the lack of affordable housing in the region. General Assistance reform has the goal of municipalities receiving State reimbursement for its general assistance. Councilor Gagnon reported that at the CIPS meeting different master plans for economic development reminded residents to change batteries in their smoke detector when they change their clocks. Chairperson Phillips addressed the passing of Nancy Kent, longtime resident who served on the Baxter Memorial Library Board of Trustees as well as a Town election worker for many years. Town Manager Paraschak reported that the Town budget would be presented to the Town Council on April 13 and the School budget on April 23. A public hearing on both will be held on May 14. The Council will also vote on both on May 14. The school budget will go to voters on June 11. He recognized longtime Town employee, Fire Chief Ken Fickett for his 50 years of employment with the Town. Councilor Siegel moved the Council to adopt a resolution in recognition of the GHS production of "Mamma Mia" expressing his appreciation to Gorham schools art educators and the 25 cast and crew members of "Mamma Mia" for their efforts that promote future excellence and education and bring the community together. The Council approved 7-0, a medical marijuana license renewal for Tanner Brown, Threshold LLC. A public hearing was held on a proposal to amend the Land Use and Development Code to add a new Pedestrian Overlay District and proposed amendments to existing ordinance sections to include pedestrian/sidewalk standards was approved 7-0. Voted 7-0 to adopt a proposed Robie Park Master Plan. Voted 7-0 on appointments


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## SCHOOL

# March School Committee Report

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer

At the March 12 regular meeting, the Gorham School Committee voted to hire Mensure Jushari to be a multi-language teacher at the Gorham Middle School. Durvan Grady, who had been serving as Interim Technology Director, was appointed to the position. Superintendent Heather Perry announced that the district is not supporting Legislature Bill LD974, which establishes base rate for support staff, not because she does not value these essential workers, but that there would be a significant cost burden considering requirements to educate 3-4-year-olds and other vital expenses. She echoed the committee members' congratulations to the girls and boy basketball teams for successful seasons and the students' production of Radium Girls, which they were preparing to compete in the state finals. Eliza Kensigsberg, director of the ASPIRE Gorham program, and Grace Olsen, instructor for Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO), gave updates on the program. ASPIRE provides opportunities for students at all grade levels to connect with professionals for career exposure, exploration, and experience. Currently 67 students are in the ELO program which prepares students for life after high school. Two students, Mason Starkey and Megan Gendron spoke about their experiences. Megan interned with realtor Jen Whitehead at one of the 100 community businesses working with the program. She said she developed leadership skills and learned how to schedule her time. Mason, who works on his own car, wants a career in the trades. ELO gave him confidence to contact Shawn Moody about an opportunity to learn automotive skills. Given the success of the ELO program, ASPIRE hopes to retain Olsen's position after the funding grant expires this year. Michaela Lamarre, an 8th grade Gorham Middle School teacher, received a \$16,000 Teach With Tech grant for Lego Robotic Kits. She described how it has enabled her students to build simple machines, create unique machines, learn circuit construction, and finally create their own robots. Brooke Proulx, social worker for grades 4-8, presented a summary of the results of the 2023 Maine Integrated Youth Health Services (MIYTH) survey. The results indicate "that our GHS and GMA students are engaging in less high-risk behaviors compared to overall Maine state averages and have more protective factors compared to the state average," she said. Gorham was fairly consistent over the past ten years. The exception was 2021 "where mental health, bullying, and overall safety improved, and at-risk behaviors dropped significantly." Her team hypothesis is that this was due to the hybrid learning model, smaller class sizes, outdoor learning, and a focus on social emotional wellbeing in addition to universal alternative teaching methods. Her entire presentation can be viewed on the Gocat recording of the March 11 meeting. In other business, there were reports from Standing and Special Committees. The Anti-Racism and Equity Committee described the successful art-focused event organized by GHS activist. Three policies were updated and a new Educational Philosophy/Mission was approved.






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# GHS Eat & Learn Advocacy Event

Kelli Deveau, Staff Writer



Photo credit: Jenny Rutherford  
Eat and Learn Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion event at Gorham High School

On Tuesday, March 12, more than 75 Gorham residents arrived at Gorham High School to enjoy dinner and a gallery walk of student artwork, curated around the concept of advocacy. The 2nd annual Eat and Learn event was hosted by Gorham's Anti-Racism Committee, a sub-committee of the Gorham School Committee. The Anti-racism committee was formed in 2021, and members include students, community members, school personnel, and school committee members. The committee works to advise policy, curriculum, professional development, and community education, all related to ensuring that Gorham schools and the community are safe and welcoming places for all. Spearheaded by eight committee members who were tasked with focusing on community education and engagement, this year's Eat and Learn event invited all Gorham students to create and share artwork that demonstrated a time when they were involved with advocacy. Individuals as well as school groups like Civil Rights Teams and Student Councils provided content for the art exhibit, with all schools represented. Along with many amazing drawings, there were t-shirts with images of civil rights leaders, a tree with words of encouragement constructed out of mixed materials, a mural of handprints, and a video book in which students

explained advocacy in their own words. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion consultant Dustin Ward welcomed the community, and invited all in attendance to not only admire the artwork, but to be a participant in creating three collaborative murals, using words, artistic renderings, or collage images to represent advocacy.



Photo credit: Jenny Rutherford

Nicole Yeo-Fisher, School Committee member and one of the evening's planners, provided the audience with a historical perspective of the anti-racism committee's inception and work, and thanked all who participated in the evening. When asked about the event, "I was very proud and blown away by all the student submissions we had that truly spoke to the topic of advocacy," said Yeo-Fisher. "It was very powerful to see the visual art pieces in different mediums. We had a great turnout with a positive energy. I'm grateful to all the parents, teachers and staff that helped to support our students and this event." Gorham Middle School 6th graders and student council members Maddilyn and Brooklyn shared their perspective on the evening, and the art. "It shows people how you can stand up for yourself or others," said Maddilyn. Brooklyn added, "it's really awesome that people can come here and see how kids and adults show advocacy."

# Gorham Times at Great Falls School

Gorham Times Staff



Photo credit: Julie Murray, Secretary, Great Falls School  
Mrs. vanLuling's kindergarten class enjoys checking out the newest edition of the Gorham Times when it is delivered to the school.

# Village Elementary Hosts First-Ever Paint Night Event

Lexie Cadell, Educational Technician, Village School



Photo credit: Lexie Cadell  
Ms. Allie Robinson reads to the parents and students in attendance at Paint Night.

Village Elementary recently hosted its first-ever Paint Night event on Feb. 27. Families and students gathered at the school for an evening of creative expression and celebration. Transforming the cafeteria into a colorful art studio, complete with canvases and an array of paint colors, the event kicked off with a unique touch: pizza box easels generously donated by Amato's in Gorham. Staff members, dressed

as giraffes, added to the festive atmosphere. Guiding participants through the artistic process was special guest 5th-grade teacher, Ms. Robinson. With enthusiasm and expertise, Ms. Robinson led attendees in creating their own masterpieces, ensuring that everyone felt empowered to unleash their creativity. In honor of Read Across America, Ms. Robinson treated guests to a reading of "Giraffes Can't Dance," emphasizing themes of bravery and self-expression. Ms. Robinson captivated the audience with her storytelling. The festivities concluded with freshly baked cookies and hot chocolate provided by the Village kitchen staff, as participants viewed and marveled at the diverse array of masterpieces created, each giraffe painting a unique reflection of its creator's imagination. It was an hour of celebration, weaving together art, literature, and community. A heartfelt thank you to Ally Robinson for her leadership, ensuring that every attendee left feeling like an artist. With anticipation already building, families eagerly await the next Paint Night at Village Elementary School.

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# Henry O'Neill Spirit Award Recipient 2024

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo credit: Coach Gregg Morton  
Izak Young, Senior Athlete, Recipient of this year's Award

The GHS Varsity Basketball Coach, Ryan Deschenes, announced the recipient of this year's Henry O'Neill Spirit Award goes to

Izak Young, a senior player for the GHS Rams. Coach Deschenes explained the history of the award and the significance of "Hank It Up" to his players, which is an expression that symbolizes Henry's passion for his friends, teammates and the game of basketball. Coach reminds his players to enjoy high school sports and to create life-long friendships and memories along the way. According to Coach Deschenes, this year's Spirit Award winner was selected in a vote by all the GHS basketball coaches and team captains. The coaches believe Izak is the perfect recipient who represents the intent of the award very well. Young, described by his coaches, added, "Izak is a wonderful young man, and a supportive teammate who keeps things fun."

The Spirit Award has been presented three times previously, to Bode Meader in 2021, to Dylan Morrell in 2022, and to Quinn Dillon in 2023. A scholarship will be presented to the award recipient at the GHS Academic Awards Night in June. Future donations towards this annual scholarship in Henry O'Neill's memory may be made directly to the Gorham High School Athletics Department. Henry O'Neill, GHS Class of 2019, was tragically killed in a work vehicle accident in 2020.



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| Mad Science .....      | Grades 1-5   |
| Art Lab at USM.....    | Grades 3-12  |
| Horsemanship.....      | Ages 4-13    |
| Junior Golf.....       | Ages 6-12    |
| Apex Tennis.....       | Ages 6-18    |
| MaineIax Lax.....      | Grades 3-8   |
| Challenger Soccer..... | Ages 8-14    |
| Summer Track.....      | Ages 5-14    |

Details coming to our website soon!



# Performing Arts at USM

John Ersek, Staff Writer

The Department of Theatre and Osher School of Music at USM are once again presenting a wide array of performance events this spring. Although the semester is more than halfway complete, most of the semester's events are scheduled to take place from late March through late April.

The next scheduled event in the School of Music's very full concert lineup will occur on Friday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m., featuring faculty members Alexandra Dietrich and Mary Johnston Letellier. They will present "Deep Magic from the Earth and Songs to the Moon," a concert of "songs which search for the supernatural in nature, and within ourselves." The program will "encompass multiple cultures, time periods and genres."

The rescheduled 47th Annual Honors Recital will take place on Saturday, March 30 at 7:30 p.m. in Corthell Concert Hall.

USM alumni of all levels are invited to pack up their instruments and join the Jazz Alumni All-Stars on Thursday, April 4 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. for a performance and jam session on the second floor of the McGoldrick Center on the Portland campus. All instrumentalists and vocalists are welcome. Free.

From Friday, April 5 through Sunday April 14, the Department of Theatre and School of Music will jointly present ten performances of "The Prom." This is a contemporary musical comedy, depicting what happens when four eccentric Broadway stars (who desperately want to revitalize their careers) hear about a small-town high school preventing a lesbian student from attending prom with her girlfriend. The four actors decide to bring Broadway to small town America, to put a spotlight on the issue, as well as on themselves. The show is directed by Danny Hutchins, with musical direction by Edward Reichert. When performed on Broadway, "The Prom" won the Drama Desk Award for Best Musical. "The Prom" is a Maine premiere.

Next, the Southern Maine Symphony Orchestra and the Portland Youth Symphony Orchestra (both under the direction of Dr. William Kinne) jointly perform a concert showcasing the winners of the 2024 Concerto Competition, soloists and symphonic classics. This concert will take place in the McCormack Performing Arts Center at Gorham High School on Saturday, April 6 at 2 p.m.

Michael Bostock and Oren Varess will each perform as piano soloists in one movement each of well-known piano concertos by Shostakovich and Beethoven. Tenor Jared Vigue will perform an aria from "The Barber of Seville" by Gioachino Rossini, and Chase Whelan will be the flute soloist for Cécile Chaminade's "Concertino for Flute".

The concert will conclude with symphonic showpieces "Capriccio Italien" by Peter Tchaikovsky, and "An Outdoor Overture" by Aaron Copland.

On Monday, April 8 from 2 to 3:15 p.m., members of the US Army Soldier's

Chorus will visit the Osher School of Music (Room 320, Corthell Hall) to perform and to answer questions about their work. Admission is free.

On Tuesday, April 9 from 2 – 3:15 p.m., a woodwind ensemble and a brass ensemble from the US Army Field Band will visit the Osher Concert Band rehearsal in Room 320 for a performance and master class. Free. Then at 7:30 p.m., voice students of Scott Wheatley and Melinda Haslett of the Osher School of Music will present a varied repertoire of solo and collaborative works, including opera, art song, jazz, musical theater, and other genres in the Concert Hall.

The young musicians of the Portland Youth Ensembles will perform their annual spring concert of orchestral music at Merrill Auditorium in Portland, on Thursday, April 11 at 7 p.m. These ensembles include: the Portland Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Portland Youth Wind Ensemble, which are conducted by Dr. Will Kinne; and the Portland Young People's String Consort and Portland Youth Junior Orchestra, conducted by Hanna Flewelling and Ferdinand Liva. Admission is by a suggested donation of \$10.

The Osher Concert Band will perform a variety of traditional, modern, and popular pieces in their spring concert, on Saturday April 13 at 2 p.m. The concert will take place in the McCormack Performing Arts Center at Gorham High School, under the direction of William Kinne. The concert will feature "Summer Triangle," by Japanese-American composer Yukiko Nishimura, as well as familiar wind band works by Norman Dello Joio, Percy Grainger, and Gustav Holst.

Two School of Music Opera Theatre spring performances will take place on Sunday, April 14 at 5 p.m. and on Tuesday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. They are free and open to the public.

On Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m. the Department of Theatre will present a Spring Dance Concert: Reclaim. "To reclaim - one's space, one's movements, one's environment - is a powerful gesture that requires strength and conviction. To reclaim is also to recover, to reuse, to recycle, or to remake what once was, into something new."

The calendar is also filled with student and studio recitals that are always free and open to the public. Visit <https://usm.maine.edu/osher-school-music/events> to see the complete calendar.

Parking at USM is no longer free for community members. Fines start at \$55 per infraction. It is strongly recommended that anyone planning to attend one of these performances should first obtain a "Gorham Permit" by accessing the USM Parking Services website and clicking on "Gorham Permit" to purchase a monthly pass for \$6.25. (Some parking lots and times excluded.)

Visit <https://usm.maine.edu/parking-services/> learn more and to purchase the pass.

## Candidates File

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ister at the Municipal Building during regular business hours or at the polls on Election Day. Voters may request to be sent absentee ballots.

Candidates for state senate for District 30 are Stacy Brenner, Democrat, and Donald Hamill, Republican. Running for state representative for District 108 are Republican M. Thad

Moody and Democrat Parnell Terry. The District 108 incumbent, Maureen Terry, has termed out and is not running. Republican Alan Livingston is running for District 109 state representative. Democrat candidates running are Eleanor Sate and Seven Siegel. The Gorham Times will publish profiles for each candidate in a May issue.





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**WATERBORO \$369,900** - This sunlit 3-4-bedroom full dormered cape is ready for you to move right in. Updated kitchen with newer appliances open to the living room, first floor bedroom, den/office/bedroom and a full tiled bathroom complete the first floor.



**NEW**

**GORHAM \$169,900** - Turnkey Energy Star compliant Pinegrove features Hawthorne Hearth kitchen package, dining area, spacious living room, wood style G panel doors, newer laminate flooring, master bedroom with bath, enclosed porch & deck.



**UNDER CONTRACT**

**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.



**NEW**

**STANDISH \$159,900** - Impeccably maintained 3 bedroom, 2 bath Skyline manufactured home, located in Pine Tree Estates. This home features a master bedroom with walk through closet & full bath, newer applianced kitchen with skylight, breakfast bar, porch, deck & generator.



**UNDER CONTRACT**

**WINDHAM \$489,900** - Don't wait to get into this newer subdivision, not far from the Gorham line. One level living with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, cathedral ceilings, laminate wood floors, 2-car garage, daylight basement, porch, deck & gazebo. Backyard abuts the common land.



**NEW**

**GORHAM \$134,900** - This Claridge Skyline 3 bedroom, 2 bath home offers 1120sf. Open concept with cathedral ceiling, spacious kitchen with island, track lighting, dining area, living room, spacious master bedroom with bath. Nicely situated in Friendly Village with 10x14 deck.



**SOLD**

**BALDWIN \$95,000** - The Mt Etna Grange Hall awaits a new owner to rehab this building into a residential home. Offers private septic, wood floors & hot water boiler. Being sold in "as-is" condition. Many possibilities.

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OTHER ACADEMIC HONORS

Aidan Enck of Gorham, Maine, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Enck was initiated at The University of Tampa.

OF INTEREST

On Friday, April 5 at 6:30 p.m. the Climate Caretakers of First Parish Gorham will host a presentation by Blake Sanborn, landscape architect, on planning for imminent rising seas including ways to adapt our shorelines, build resiliency, solve for flooding, with attention to historic preservation, upcycling, and equity. Free to the public and all are welcome to join us for a discussion in Fellowship Hall.

The Gorham/Windham/Westbrook TRIAD will be meeting Wednesday, April 10 at 11 a.m. at the Gorham Fire Department. The speakers will be Kaitlyn Morse, the ITN transportation program and Clara McCool, Regional Broadband Coordinator. Open to all.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gorham Memorial Post 10879 will be meeting on Tuesday, April 9 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fire Department Training Room, 270 Main Street. For information contact the post at vfw-post10879@gmail.com.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

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

The 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](http://www.gorhamfoodpantry.org) or message us on Facebook at Gorham Food Pantry Friends.

PUBLIC SUPPERS

Living Waters Church Haddock Supper Buffet, Saturday, March 30 at 5:00 p.m. Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$10 Adult, \$5 Child, \$20 Family. Take out option and hand sanitizer available. Face masks are optional.

White Rock Community Clubhouse Public Bean Supper. 34 Wilson Road. Saturday, April 6. Eat in or take out, no pre-orders. Meal includes baked kidney and pea beans, coleslaw, potato salad, macaroni & cheese, biscuits, hot dogs and dessert. \$10 adults, \$5 under 12 Follow us on Facebook for updates: [facebook.com/whiterockcommunityclub](https://facebook.com/whiterockcommunityclub).

Buxton Center Baptist Church Baked Bean Supper, Saturday, April 13 from 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. Serving red kidney and pea beans, hot dogs, chop suey, coleslaw, rolls and dessert. \$10. 938 Long Plains Road, Buxton, Take out also available. (207) 929-3011.

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 ESL in our school system, repopulation of Wild Turkeys in Maine and MacMillan, Arctic Explorer. FMI: contact Lisa Becker at [Leckybrowncenter@gmail.com](mailto: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. April's display case will have vintage and unusual salt and pepper shaker sets. 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.On Wednesday, April 3 at 6 p.m., Matt Cost will speak about three of his books: two mysteries ("Wolfe Trap" and "Mainely Power") and a biography of Joshua Chamberlain, which is entitled "At Every Hazard." on Wednesday, April 10 at 6 p.m. Jennifer L H Smith will speak from personal experience about the topic of holistic fitness, and about her book, "Warrior Fit." Find the full schedule of library events in this issue's calendar and learn more at <https://baxterlibrary.org>.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE NOTES

USM Event Search: <https://usm.maine.edu/events>

CLOSE TO HOME

Deertrees Theatre announces their 88th Summer Entertainment Season in Harrison, Maine. Serving as Greater Maine's summer entertainment source since 1936, Deertrees' diverse entertainment opportunities offer theatrical productions, comedies, exhibits, family shows, and concerts annually from June through early September, at 156 Deertrees Road, in Harrison. Learn more about the complete season and purchase tickets at [deertrees-theatre.org](http://deertrees-theatre.org).

The Original's present "A Murder is Announced" by Agatha Christie at Saco River Theatre, 29 Salmon Falls Road, Bar Mills, ME, April 19, 20, 25, 26, 27 at 7:30 p.m. and April 21 and 28 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets: \$15 General Admission at [www.sacorivetheatre.org](http://www.sacorivetheatre.org).

Town Council Meeting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

made by the Town Council to various Town Boards and Committees.

Voted 6-1 (Pratt) that the Town Council vote to become a member of the Greater Portland Metro Service and that his order is contingent on Gorham being allocated two seats on the Board.

Vote 7-0 to forward to the Planning Board for review and a public hearing, changing Map 8 Lot 10 from Urban Residential Expansion District to the South Gorham Crossroads District.

Voted 7-0 to authorize the Town Manager to execute an amendment to the purchase and sale agreement with Core X Complete Maine Propco Ltd and clear a portion of Map 30, Lot 1 as designated on their site plan prior to April 14, 2024 to meet conditions of their environmental approvals.

Voted 7-0 on action to consider amending the home occupation standards in the Land Use and Development Code to increase economic development opportunities.

Voted 6-1 (Gagnon) to forward to the Planning Board for a public hearing and recommend amendments to the Land Use and Development Code replacing one lot private way provisions with back lot provisions.

Voted 6-1 (Pratt) to instruct the Public Works Department to repaint two crosswalks on Ballpark Road and Access Road to multi-colored pride sidewalks.

Voted 7-0 to incorporate a percentage

of affordable housing requirements into the Land Use and Development Code.

Action to authorize the Town to restore softball/baseball diamonds at Great Falls Recreation area for community Use proposed by Councilor Gagnon did not get a second and the motion failed.

Voted 7-0 to write off uncollectible bad checks in the amount of \$2457.48 as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Voted 7-0 to accept a quit claim deed to resolve a tax foreclosure for property off Brackett Road with the Town Manager authorized to require payment of legal fees for drafting the deed.

Voted 6-1 (Gagnon) to have a referendum question to authorize ordering and purchase of a new fire engine.

The Council approved seven people and two councilors to an economic Development Strategic Plan Steering Committee. Councilors Gagnon and Sims were appointed to the committee along with seven others: two from the Gorham Economic Development Corporation, 2 Gorham business owners, 1 from the Village Alliance, 1 from the Planning Board and a Gorham resident.

The Council went into executive session to discuss the condition, and acquisition of the use of real or personal property where premature disclosure of the information would prejudice the competitive bargaining position of the body or agency. They voted 7-0.

Connector Meeting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

present version of the proposed route is completely unacceptable to his family.

Some reasons that people gave for opposing the construction were that it would harm wildlife in the area, especially brook trout, and that it would exacerbate suburban sprawl, which is known to have a negative effect on the factors driving climate change.

Other commenters said that the money could be better spent by the state government in coming up with ways to reduce the total number of people traveling through the area each day, rather than simply shifting the traffic from existing roads (like State Routes 114 and 22) to a new road. Some said that even though traffic in the area is admittedly bad, this attempt at a cure for current traffic woes would make things even worse.

The turnpike staff and the engineering consultants kept insisting that the new road would pass no closer than a third of a mile from Smiling Hill's core area (which

includes the cow barn, ice cream shop, and popular Barnyard), and that the proposed taking of 42 acres of woodlands and five acres of fields could well be offset through possible land swaps, or even a tunnel being built under one section of the roadway. They also pointed out that the suggestion to move the road a half mile further west to avoid Smiling Hill would have a very negative effect on many businesses and homes near the intersection of County Road and Beech Ridge Road, and could force them to build the road right through the Wassamki Springs area.

By a large margin, the public commenters overwhelmingly felt that all the proposed mitigation measures would be unacceptable to them as well. A frequent comment was that the experience of visiting Smiling Hill would be adversely affected by the sight of so many cars and trucks going by on a four lane highway with a two level interchange, in addition to the increased air pollution and noise pollution.

Spring Robin  
David Thompson

The grass is greening,  
Goldfinches yellowing.  
A burst of morning sound:  
The bells of Spring.

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Create categories and designated spaces for seasonal items: Once sorted, establish area for like items such as holiday, camping, exercise, sports. Commit to the process: Time is always in short supply. Put realistic blocks of time on your calendar dedicated to decluttering. Set a timer to make yourself accountable to the time commitment. Celebrate your progress: Take a before picture, and an after picture to help. Tell friends and family your goals for decluttering if that will help you be accountable. Find organizations that help others to which you can proudly donate items. Conquer the hardest items last: Defer decisions on sentimental items until you feel prepared. While Magusson urges readers to not get sentimental about objects, Reynolds coaches people to remember that they can extract a memory from an object. "It's not the physical item itself that resonates and gives back all the beautiful memories and all the beautiful exchanges. You can visit those in your mind and in your heart at any time."

Keep the most important things, for now: Reynolds suggests that people make memory boxes of mementos such as correspondence, news clippings, even taking and keeping photos of items you give away, if revisiting them will bring you joy. But she also adds that it is important to give loved ones permission to discard the box once you are gone. "It's your memories, not theirs, and being explicit about this in advance simplifies the outcome." Call an expert: Whether you are trying to help a friend or loved one or are just too overwhelmed to take the first step for yourself, there are experts who can help. Reynolds states that her company Nest Home Help, as well as many others, can offer various levels of assistance, from one-time consulting, to guided sessions or accountability plans, or even full clean outs. She also noted that she has assisted clients with monetizing their unwanted items, helping to defer any costs. Technical assistance with this article was provided by Victoria Reynolds of NEST Home Help, Gorham, <https://nesthomehelp.com>.

Around Town

Maine Community Bank in Biddeford has filed an application with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation seeking approval to merge with Gorham Savings Bank in Gorham with Maine Community Bank as the surviving entity. It is contemplated that all offices of the above-named institutions will continue to be operated.

Rick Boyd plans to open Backwoods Burger Shack, a specialty burger eatery at 680 Gray Road in the space formerly occupied by Curbside Comforts.. Boyd sees Backwoods, which will not have inside seating, as a place "where people can pull over to the side of the road and have burgers with the family at picnic tables". Boyd hopes to open by mid-April and will be open Wednesday-Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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CALENDAR

- Thursday, March 28**  
Baxter Memorial Library  
Toddler Discovery Time, 10 a.m.  
Sewing Club, 3 - 4:30 p.m.
- Friday, March 29**  
Osher School of Music FACULTY CONCERT: Deep Magic from the Earth and Songs to the Moon, featuring Alexandra Dietrich and Mary Johnson Letellier.
- Saturday, March 30**  
USM Athletics home games  
Mens Baseball vs. Rhode Island College, 12 and 3 p.m.  
Men's Lacrosse vs. Johnson and Wales University, 1 pm.  
Osher School of Music, 4th Annual Honors Recital, 7:30 p.m., Free, RSVP
- Tuesday, April 2**  
Baxter Memorial Library  
Family Discovery Time, 10 a.m.  
Dogs Dig Reading, 4 - 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 3**  
Baxter Memorial Library  
Baby Discovery Time, 9:30 - 10 a.m.  
Power Protectors 4-H STEM Challenge, 4 - 5 p.m.  
North Gorham Public Library All Ages Children's Story Time, 10 a.m.  
USM Athletics home game  
Women's Softball vs. University of New England, 4 and 6 p.m.  
Women's Lacrosse vs. Colby College, 6 p.m.
- Thursday, April 4**  
Baxter Memorial Library  
No Toddler Discovery Time  
Sewing Club, 3 - 4:30 p.m.  
Board of Trustees Meeting, 6 - 7 p.m.
- Friday, April 5**  
Osher School of Music and USM Theatre, "The Prom" Opening Night, 10 performances  
<https://usm.maine.edu/theatre>
- Saturday, April 6**  
Baxter Memorial Library. LEGO Club, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
USM Athletics home game, Men's Lacrosse vs. Mass Maritime Academy, 1 p.m.  
Osher School of Music - Corthell Concert Hall  
Southern Maine Symphony Orchestra at McCormack Performing Arts Center, 2 p.m.
- Sunday, April 7**  
USM Athletics, Men's Baseball vs. Wheaton College, 1 p.m.
- Monday, April 8**  
Baxter Memorial Library Solar Eclipse, glasses available first come, first serve, 3 - 3:45 p.m.  
USM Athletics, Women's Softball vs. Salem State University, 4 and 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, April 9**  
Baxter Memorial Library  
Family Discovery Time, 10 a.m.  
Dogs Dig Reading, 4 - 5 p.m.  
USM Athletics home game, Mens Baseball vs. Plymouth State, 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 10**  
North Gorham Public Library All Ages Children's Story Time, 10 a.m.  
Baxter Memorial Library  
Baby Discovery Time, 9:30 - 10 a.m.  
Power Protectors 4-H STEM Challenge, 4 - 5 p.m.  
Author Event with Jennifer L. Smith, Are you ready for life's journey, 6 p.m.  
USM Athletics home game, Mens Baseball vs. Colby College, 3:30 p.m.

Send short news and information items that would be Of Interest to the whole Gorham Community to [loriaam@gmail.com](mailto:loriaam@gmail.com)

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# the Courtesy of the Gorham Police Department blotter

Ridgefield Drive caller received a call from someone claiming to be a medical provider. He did not provide any information as he thought it was a scam and hung up.

Fort Hill Road woman had been feeding a peacock on her property for a few months after it appeared out of nowhere. It now seemed to have an injured foot and she wanted it captured. She was advised that police did not have the resources to capture a peacock and she should wait to hear from other resources.

Daisy Lane caller reported receiving multiple calls and texts asking for help. Officer called the phone number and it sounded like a group of kids on the line. They stated they did not need help. Caller was advised this was just a prank.

Officer spoke with a caller on Spiller Road and Ossipee Trail who was upset as he was looking at a scene where he had previously crashed. He was not surprised that someone was concerned about him and had called the police. He elected to walk into town to catch the bus.

Main Street caller wanted to report a person walking up her driveway and looking at a box on her porch. She just wanted to report it in case others had similar issues.

Driver plowing Whoopie Pie Way pulled into what he thought was the driveway and ended up in the ditch. Dumbo's was driving by and stopped to pull him out.

Main Street caller saw a man in a wheelchair out during a snowstorm. Officer checked on the man who resided at Millet Drive. He was fine and told the officer he shouldn't have gone out in the snow and will be smarter next time.

Officer confirmed that Public Works cannot plow out private driveways. He asked

another officer if he would come down with his truck and plow out the driveway so the 85 year old woman could have the furnace guy come to the house. Driveway was cleared and the furnace guy went to the residence.

Vehicle on lawn Avenue was plowed in and the owner did not own a shovel. Officer borrowed a shovel, unburied the car and moved it.

An F-350 had slid off Ossipee Trail at Dingley Springs Road into a snowpack. People stopped and assisted in shoveling and getting the vehicle out.

Two Parker Hill residents were referred to Civil Court over an ongoing issue around a property marker.

Man came into the Police Department to report his brother was missing. They had not spoken in a full year. Officer called Biddeford PD and they confirmed the brother had been in that morning and was not missing and was safe. Man was notified that his brother was alive and well.

Officer located a vehicle from a previous call the previous night. Caller did not know where he had left his truck after it had broken down.

Officer made contact with a woman parked in front of the laundromat on South Street. She was in her car with the door open and music playing. She was taking a break while waiting for her laundry to be done. She initially did not understand that the music was loud but then she turned it down.

A man was warned for dumping his trash in the dumpsters at a Standish residence.

Caller reported a suspicious male in the area of Blueberry Lane. Caller said a man had followed her home and the caller felt uncomfortable getting out of his vehicle. Officer did not locate male. Caller was advised to call back if she saw him again.

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