

# Gorham Times

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## New Artwork Installed at Baxter Library

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer



Photo credit: Roger Marchand

Sculptor Lin Lisberg works high atop scaffolding to install her wood sculpture which was donated to Baxter Memorial Library.

Newly mounted on a wall near the circulation desk at Baxter Library is a gorgeous piece of art by local sculptor, Lin Lisberger, called "Chicken Little Was Right!" The piece, made from Maine grown cherry, apple, and other hardwoods, shows arms holding cascading sticks, all of which were collected here in Gorham, where she and her husband lived for 30 years.

Lisberger is a sculptor and storyteller whose use of objects, shape, texture and space convey strong narrative themes. She explained that the sculpture, finished in 2002, was meant to express grief and acknowledgement of those who were lost

on and after 9/11. It also represents an equal measure of hope and faith in the human desire to reach out and hold those in need. She added, "these themes still seem to be frightfully relevant even now, as the "sky" continues to fall, as Chicken Little feared. So many people are still in need and thankfully so many others still try to help catch them."

The sculpture is especially poignant, as Gorham lost a native son, Stephen Ward, who was among the 658 Cantor Fitzgerald employees killed in the World Trade Center. He and other victims of senseless trag-

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## All You Need is Love...

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer

...according to John Lennon. Add two or three early Christian priests and Valentine's Day becomes special. In the 3rd century, several men named Valentine angered a Roman Emperor so much that he executed them.

Their crime? One Valentine was secretly marrying couples, because husbands were immune from being drafted into the Emperor's army. A second Valentine was martyred about a year later for curing the son of a pagan scholar, whose entire household then converted to the Christian faith. The third Valentine lived in North Africa. Little is known about his sainthood except that he must have done something thing really good to be treated so badly.

While there are a variety of theories, historians agree that the origin of Valentine's Day is murky. In ancient times, a multi-day feast called Lupercalia was held between February 13 - 15. The ancient Romans celebrated, as only they could, with the slaughter of a couple of animals and a drunken feast.

Time passed, Christianity spread and three Valentines were eventually Sainted. Finally, a 5th century Pope, aiming to stop the pagan celebrations, sanitized Lupercalia and transformed it into a day to honor St. Valentine, fidelity and love.

For something so ubiquitous, the heart symbol is also shrouded in mystery and theories abound as to how its shape and meaning have evolved through the ages. Early Greek philosophers believed that the heart was the center of the soul, but they thought a human heart was shaped more like a pinecone, than the hearts we know today.

Historians theorize that hearts share the shape of ivy leaves, which signify love and fertility, and were worn in the wedding wreaths of Ancient Greece. Another ancient plant, now extinct, could also have influenced the heart shape. Giant Silphium, a type of fennel, grew in North Africa and was exported (to extinction) throughout the vast Roman Empire. Its leaves and seeds were heart shaped. Its leaves were known to have contraceptive powers and thus were associated with love.

Over many centuries, the heart symbol has become the universal symbol of love and affection. Hearts are one of the suits on playing cards and it is also



Monika from Pixabay

the name of a card game. The Queen of hearts card itself is thought to represent Elizabeth of York, queen consort to Henry VII. She was the only English Queen to have been a wife, daughter, sister, niece and mother to English Kings.

The Queen of Hearts is also a maniacally unbalanced character in "Alice of Wonderland." Hearts are high art a la Robert Indiana's famous work. There are over 40 popular heart emojis, established by the Unicode Consortium, available to choose from, and each supposedly has a unique meaning. In 1977, the noun hearts became a verb, when it was plastered on T-shirts as in "I heart NY" Until about the fourteenth century, the heart was usually depicted upside down. The heart-shape may also be a stylized depiction of human anatomy, mimicking the curved shape of some body parts. Heart shapes as we now know them have been found on tapestries and artwork since the Middle Ages.

Valentine's Day itself gained a big jump in popularity in the seventeenth century, as English people began sending love notes, often adorned with hearts.

Since then, humans have found many ways to celebrate this day of love. We all know the drill: buy a card, maybe some flowers, throw in some hearts, (chocolate or candied) and you're good to go. But what would Valentine's Day, or any day for that matter, be without hearts?

So Happy Valentines Day. In a thoroughly modern nod to diversity, Feb. 15 has become Singles Awareness Day. People wear green or black (not red) and do something nice for themselves and their single friends.

### Love Quotes

"The best thing to hold onto in life is each other." —Audrey Hepburn.

"You're the closest to heaven, that I'll ever be." —Goo Goo Dolls.

"Love is sharing your popcorn." — Charles Schultz

"A loving heart is the truest wisdom." — Charles Dickens

## SBA PPP Direct Forgiveness Portal

Gorham Times Staff

This notice is for those who have not requested forgiveness nor begun repayment of a pandemic Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Forgivable Loan or Economic Injury Disaster Loan (EIDL)

If borrowers have not begun payment or requested forgiveness, the loan balance could be referred to the Treasury for collection. A referral to the Treasury Department will result in a significant fee being added to your loan, as well as garnishment of future wages, Social Security benefits and tax refunds. Defaulting on a government loan could severely impact

credit and is very difficult to remedy.

For more information visit the Small Business Administration's PPP Direct Forgiveness Portal at <https://directforgiveness.sba.gov> or call (877) 522-2692. If you received a PPP loan and think it might have been forgiven (but aren't sure), it's important to check. Something in writing should have been received from your lender. For EIDL loans, contact (833) 853-5638 or [COVIDEIDLservicing@sba.gov](mailto:COVIDEIDLservicing@sba.gov). If you are unable to pay, you NEED to contact the SBA to arrange a Hardship Accommodation Plan.

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

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**UNDERSTANDING PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS PAGE 6**



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.

# Universal Pre-K is the way

Sen. Stacy Brenner

I believe a quality education is the foundation for an individual's success. In particular, access to quality early childhood education has been shown to have a clear impact on a child's future success in life. Last month, the Maine Legislature's Commission to Study Expansion of Public Preschool and Early Care and Education issued its final report. The report highlights the state's need for universal pre-k education that is accessible and equitable for all families. According to the Department of Education, only 52% of four-year-olds in Maine are enrolled in pre-K. Maine can improve this statistic by having equitable and accessible early childhood education. The practicality of universal pre-K will help equalize the playing field for all Maine's children and turn into a real investment in Maine's future.

The commission's report outlines strategies to help ensure all Maine children have access to quality early education. Some of the recommendations of the commission include providing incentives and increasing funding for public preschool programs, and encouraging flexibility in early childhood education credentialing. Ultimately, Maine will need to innovate to meet this need.

Currently, childcare, preschool and Head Start programs all have different statutory requirements. The costs to establish a program vary

depending on the type of provider. This patchwork of possible services may make it difficult for parents to navigate the search for early childcare. The commission's recommendation would use grant-based funding to cover initial startup and on-going costs of preschool programs across Maine. This is a necessary step toward universal pre-K.

The commission identified educator credentialing as a barrier to the expansion of public preschool. The commission suggests having a pathway to an alternate certification for early childhood professionals. This would address the issue of hiring and retaining that many early childhood education providers are facing. The commission also suggests allowing more flexibility in certificate endorsements for qualified early childhood education professionals. This will ultimately help more Mainers find a fulfilling career and help preschool programs hire quality candidates – which will also help expand availability.

With so many Mainers starting families and settling down, it is clear that as Maine works to retain its young population and young families, we must support these new families by having a universal preschool system. In the long-term, universal pre-K with quality standards is a win-win. It's a win for Maine's children, who will have a chance to advance

and bridge the achievement gap in education. It is also a win for Maine's working families as they participate in the workforce and have peace of mind with their children in a safe and enriching space. Universal pre-K leads to positive impacts for our communities and our state.

For Maine to reach universal pre-K, we must be willing to bring all stakeholders to the table. Parents, educators, as well as state and municipal leaders need to have equal input in the discussions regarding our state's future. If the state's goal of 100% access to public preschool by 2026 is to be met, we must work together to provide equitable and flexible early childhood education. By investing in our children and families in this way, we're investing in Maine's future prosperity. I will continue to support smart, innovative efforts to help Maine achieve this goal.



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

## 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,

My comments are about building a field of dreams with taxpayer money

Despite the uproar all summer over taxes and spending, on Sept. 5 the Gorham Town Council frivolously allocated over a quarter of a million dollars to pay for lights on a little league baseball diamond at Little Falls. Like the movie, this giant expense comes with the promise that if we build it, they will come.

During discussion, Councilor Gagnon declared adding lights meant the town could then host tournaments, claiming that such an event would generate over \$100,000 from the snack shack. He prematurely has been in talks with surrounding towns about jointly hosting tournaments, copying Waterville, whose tournaments supposedly bring thousands of people to their area. He asserted this as an investment in economic development.

Next, a special meeting of Gorham's Capital Improvement/Economic Development Committee was held on Oct. 10. Councilors Gagnon, Phillips, and Wilder-Cross invited some of Gorham's youth sports programs to share their dreams for the Little Falls and Chick Drive properties. During this discussion, the GYBSA president clarified that lights

are not in fact required to host a tournament, however batting cages are. Because of the wetland and drainage issues at Little Falls, they could not erect a batting cage, but would be willing to pay for one, if only the land were dry.

So at the Jan. 2 Town Council meeting, in addition to the \$265,000 for 4 lights and poles, Public Works was ordered to use their time and resources to address the wet areas of Little Falls. Word is that there are additional costs to getting the power needed for the lights, upgrading the parking and road, and of course the food trucks on Thursdays will need to be moved (Oct. 10 meeting).

This is shortsighted and self-serving, not a field of dreams with a cash cow in it.

Kelli Deveaux, Gorham

To the editor,

I would like to address some concerns from White Birch Lane residents about the Robie residential project.

I was very happy to move to 30 White Birch Lane, a quiet 20 unit complex. There are 8 houses on White Birch lane and 22 apartments in the Avesta complex.

This developer wants to access New Portland Road to be used for construc-

tion of the Robie development (and presumably for traffic once it is built). This is a quiet neighborhood with the ballfield at the end behind Village School. Many people walk the ballfield, and many walk their dogs in our neighborhood. There is a creek that runs under White Birch Lane that adds a nice touch of nature to the neighborhood.

That will not continue if White Birch Lane is accessed for "construction vehicles," which I understand would be dumptrucks from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The development is expected to take years to complete, which has White Birch Lane being one of the most affected neighborhoods.

If the developer is allowed to access New Portland Road by extending White Birch Lane, it will forever impact the residents and not in a good way. I fail to understand why the developer can't access New Portland Road where it would not impact existing neighborhoods.

Brenda Justice, Gorham

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

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## UPCOMING ADVERTISING DEADLINES

March 6  
March 20  
April 3



# The Five Pillars of Sustainable Health

Stacey Coleman, Contributing Writer

Throughout my 26-year professional voyage in the ever-changing realms of fitness, nutrition, and behavioral change science, I've continuously embraced learning and growth. While the science of wellness advances and refines, certain enduring principles have emerged to become pillars of sustained health. Here are five core elements that I have learned from my years dedicated to this ever-evolving industry.

## Holistic Fitness Philosophy

Embracing a holistic approach to fitness is a focus for my practice in the field. It transcends the physical, emphasizing the interconnectedness of mind, body, and spirit. Creating a sustainable and enjoyable fitness routine involves incorporating activities that bring joy and fulfillment. In other words, rather than merely enduring a workout, find a place, a group of people, or a practice that makes you happy. With the broad assortment of available fitness opportunities available in the world today, find one that you truly enjoy.

## Nutrition as Nourishment

Nutrition is about nourishment, not deprivation. Cultivating a positive relationship with food is transformative. Shifting from restrictive diets to balanced, nutrient-rich eating habits is essential. Viewing food as fuel, providing vital nutrients for our bodies to thrive, is key. Like holistic fitness, find joy in healthy foods, recreate beloved treats with a nutritious twist, and allow indulgence in moderation. Healthy choices lead to happiness.

## Personalized Plans for Lasting Results

A one-size-fits-all approach rarely leads to lasting results. Customizing fitness and nutrition plans according to individual needs is crucial. Considering factors such as lifestyle, preferences, and health conditions is paramount. Personalized plans not only yield better outcomes but also empower individuals to make sustainable lifestyle changes. Not sure how to start? Reach out to a professional to guide you on the way.

## Behavioral Change as the Key

The core of achieving long-term wellness goals lies in behavioral change science. Understanding the psychology behind habits and implementing strategies for positive behavior change is transformative. It's not just about the actions we take but understanding the underlying motivations. Addressing the root causes of behaviors paves the way for lasting and meaningful change. Begin with one or two healthy habits and begin to stack them as you progress.

## Preventative Measures for Lifelong Health

Prevention forms the foundation of lifelong health. Actively investing in a healthy lifestyle today can mitigate various health issues in the future. This proactive stance encompasses not only physical health but also mental and emotional well-being. By instilling preventive measures, individuals can enjoy a higher quality of life as they age. In simpler terms, investing in healthier habits now can save you time and money down the road enjoying quality time with loved ones and spending less on medical expenses. There is nothing wiser than investing in a healthy lifestyle.

These insights highlight the significance of a holistic, personalized health approach, while emphasizing the lasting benefits of preventive measures, and the transformative influence of positive behavior change. As the science of wellness continues to evolve, these principles provide gentle guidance for those in pursuit of enduring health and vitality.



Stacey Coleman, a certified expert with over 25 years of experience in fitness, nutrition, and mindset habits, is the co-owner of My-FIT-24 and Living a Champion Life.

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

# Rephidim Project

Gorham Times Staff

For over ten years, Shirley Douglas used her talents and creative energy to serve as layout designer for the Gorham Times. Recently, She has embarked on a new enterprise called the Rephidim Project, an independent non-profit ministry with 501(c)(3) status.

The Rephidim Project is a collaborative effort to bring expository preaching resources and training to pastors, church leaders and those who have a call to preach. They lead seminars, workshops and think tanks to train preachers to be more effective expositors of biblical texts. These pastors covenant together to develop and improve their skills in expository preaching through collaborative learning, mutual encouragement, and personal accountability.

Shirley explained, "Our mission is to mobilize, equip, and encourage pastors worldwide with a blueprint for expositional preaching that produces Christ-like believers by the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God."

Pastors and missionaries often become

weary in their work and may feel isolated and discouraged. The Rephidim Project follows advice of the Prophet Isaiah to "encourage the exhausted and strengthen the weak" (Isaiah 35:3) through developing and distributing resources for Bible exposition.

Shirley describes the connection to her previous work in this way, "Some of the past work positions that have prepared me for this new role is owning a graphic design business for 10 years and working as the Design/Production Coordinator at The Gorham Times. Each one enabled me to grow my graphic design skills as well as learn about the importance of good customer service and working as a team. One of the things I miss about working at the Gorham Times is the direct connection to the community in which I live."

In 2018, the Rephidim Project achieved official status as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit from the US Internal Revenue Service and now functions as a fully independent non-profit ministry.

# Nature Story Times at the Land Trust

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer

The Presumpscot Regional Land Trust is beginning a new partnership with the Public Libraries in the towns of Gorham, Gray, Westbrook and Windham. The collaboration links the joy of reading with an appreciation for the beauty and wonder of nature through a new series of StoryTimes which will be held on Land Trust Preserves in each town.

The Nature Story Times are free and will incorporate nature-based themes

about rivers and streams, wildlife and conservation. Each hour-long event, held from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., is geared toward families and children ages 2-5, with siblings welcome. The program will include one or two books read aloud, followed by a nature hike. The dates and locations for these special events will be posted on the Gorham Times Calendar as well as on the PRLT website. Sign-up and registration are required at [www.prlt.org/events](http://www.prlt.org/events)

# February 24 Snow Moon at 7:30 a.m.

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer

Named for the usually abundant snow on the ground, it is also known by some Native Americans as the Hungry Moon because food is scarce at this time of the year, or as the Bear Moon, as this is a time when bears might wake briefly from their winter torpor. If our warm weather and lack of snow cover in southern Maine continue, Snow Moon may become a misnomer. February moons are unique for another reason. According to a website called Time and Date, approximately once every 19 years, February has a Black Moon which occurs when the month has no moon at all. This can only occur in the month of February. The lunar phase cycle is 29.5 days, so if there is

a full Moon at the very end of January, there will be no full Moon recorded that February. Likewise, when February is without full moon, then the preceding January and the following March will have both have two full moons. A Black Moon, which is not an astrological name, will occur only four times in the 21st century: 2018, 2037, 2067, and 2094. Since we're talking about the moon, NASA reports that humans have left about 500,000 pounds of garbage on the moon including: parts of 70 spacecraft; aluminum cans; 2 golf balls with T's; 96 bags of human waste; and a falcon feather used in an experiment. One has to wonder, will there one day be a Garbage Moon?



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**Fridays from February 16  
to March 22**

**St. Anne's Church, Gorham**

**5:00-6:30 P.M.**



# Town Council Report

Sheri Faber, Staff Writer

Chairperson Phillips opened the meeting with 7 council members present, and 10 members of the public. The minutes of the Jan. 2 and Jan. 30 meetings were accepted.

Councilor Gagnon reported that the Robie Park Master Plan Steering Committee will be presenting their results soon.

Councilor Wilder Cross reported on several issues including the February Metro Region GPCOG meeting, Economic Development grant applications, general assistance reform at the legislative level, Gorham Village Alliance, and South Street pedestrian lighting and way-finding signs.

Councilor Pratt reported on the Jetport Noise Committee, and reminded people to give blood.

Councilor Simms encouraged residents to attend sporting events to support the kids.

Councilor Lavoie noted the Finance Committee will meet on Feb. 15 at 5:30 p.m.

Councilor Siegel reported on the Ordinance Committee and economic development, and that the committee will meet on Feb. 27 at 10 a.m. He also reported on the Appointments Committee.

Chairperson Phillips reported on the January GEDC meeting, and an upcoming presentation from METRO about bus service in Gorham.

Town Manager Paraschak reported on progress in the Gorham Industrial West Park, the pedestrian street lighting project and the MTA news of the Gorham Corridor plans and a public input session planned for sometime in March.

Sara Perkins, chair of the School Committee reported on Community Conversations about the School District's Code of Conduct, the Anti-Racism and Equity Committee, an upcoming Remote Learning Day at GMS and Great Falls on March 5, and announced the School Budget timeline.

Announcements also included promotions for the GHS Theatre Production, "Mama Mia!" the Unified Basketball game schedule, and National School Counselor Appreciation Week.

Bill Morano, chair of the Conservation

Commission gave his report. Public hearings were held on the following proposals:

To issue a renewal Adult Use Marijuana License to Harrison Otterbein, Calendar Islands Cannabis Co., 289 New Portland Road. Property owned by 789 Development LLC. (Admin. Spon.) No comments, Voted 7-0.

To issue a renewal Medical Marijuana License to Michael Barris, B's Trees LLC, 7 County Road, Unit A/B. Property owned by 7 County Road LLC. (Admin. Spon.) No comments, Voted 7-0.

To hear comments on a proposal to issue a new Liquor License to Miller's Market, 29 School Street. No comments, Voted 7-0.

To hear comments on a proposal to renew a liquor license to JBNI1, LLC dba Junction Bowl, 7 Railroad Avenue. No comments, Voted 7-0.

To hear comments on a proposal to renew a Special Amusement License to JBNI1, LLC dba Junction Bowl, 7 Railroad Avenue. No comments, Voted 7-0.

To hear comments on a proposal to renew Massage licenses to Elizabeth Berks, Rhonda Lodgek and Natalie Bagley as well as new massage licenses to April Morrell and Luyi Song. No comments, Voted 6-0, (councilor Lavoie abstaining).

To hear comments on amendments to the Land Use and Development Code regarding Access Management. This detailed information is available on the Town Website. Voted 7-0.

The Town Council authorized the Town Clerk to issue the warrant for the March 5, 2024 State Presidential Primary Election; and ordered that the polls be open from 7 a.m. until 8 p.m., the Town Council appointed the following persons for the designated voting districts and if any of the following should fail to serve, the Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to appoint substitutes:

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# February is American Heart Month

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, but there's a lot you can do to prevent it.

Taking time to care for your heart can be challenging as you go about daily life. But it's easier than you think to show your heart the love it deserves each day.

Stay active. Small acts of self-care, like taking walks and other physical movement such as yoga, pilates, or pickleball help your heart health and your emotional health, too.

Getting quality sleep and cooking healthy, low sodium meals help your

heart in significant ways. There are tons of healthy recipes to be found. When you need a snack, choose a healthy one like fresh fruit or vegetables.

You have the power to protect yourself against heart disease. Small heart-healthy actions like adding more movement to your day or choosing healthy foods, can have a big impact on protecting your heart health.

Love your heart daily. Self-care includes being patient with your body. You may not see or feel the results of your efforts right away. But small steps can lead to big progress.

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

## Retirement Planning

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Robert Woodman & Hilary Mansfield, Independent Insurance Consultants Specializing in Medicare Plans

Nicholas Tomso, Estate Attorney

Next Event: Friday, February 23rd at 10am

(Generally the last Friday of the month.)

FMI: Visit the Events page on our website at [www.woodmanmansfieldco.com/Events](http://www.woodmanmansfieldco.com/Events)

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# Planning Board Results

Sheri Faber, Staff Writer

## Jan. 22 Meeting

KV Enterprises, LLC's request for approval of a contract zone (Robie Street Subdivision) to allow for construction of a residential subdivision with single family, multi-family, mixed use and conservation land was discussed and voted 7-0 to table further review until the next available Planning Board meeting on February 26.

GenX Capital Partners, LLC Luxury Motor Toys request for site plan approval for 40 condominiums garage units with associated club house and zoned DC1 was discussed.

## Feb. 5 Meeting

A request to extend the northerly property line buffer into acquired property and to excavate ledge within 150 feet, where blasting was not previously permitted on Mosher Road, was discussed, and moved to grant approval (7-0) with conditions of approval as drafted by the Town Planner.

A proposed amendment to 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 discussed and sent to the Town Council with a recommendation for adoption of the proposed amendment. 6 ayes, 1 abstention (Hager).

KV Enterprises, LLC's Robie Street project, request for approval to construct 43 single family residential lots was discussed and moved to draft a letter to the Town Council requesting a road connection to White Birch Lane was granted preliminary subdivision approval 7-0.

Dakota Cummings' 59 Wood Road request for a private way to serve a single-family house was sent to the next regular Planning Board meeting's Consent Agenda.

A request for approval to add lighting to an existing Little League baseball field was discussed and scheduled for a public hearing at the next Planning Board meeting.

# Notes from Public Works

Kelly Meslin, Public Works

Please continue to put tagged trash/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.

If you have any questions regarding proper recycling or trash tag usage please call the office at (207) 222-4950 or email us at dpw@gorham.me.us.

• Winter sand is available to Gorham residents at the Public

Works Department, located at 80 Huston Road. It is located next to the silver bullets in a new shed the crew built to keep it out of the weather.

• Winter weather is finally here. Please use caution when driving in snow and ice conditions. Take it slow and give yourself plenty of time to get where you need to be safely.

• It's always very helpful to the DPW crew if you have a catch basin near your residence to keep it clear of snow & ice to allow for proper drainage.

• Give the plow drivers room to work, they are out clearing & treating the roads so you can drive safely.

Public Works wishes everyone a Happy Valentine's Day

# Officer Michael Hinkley Promoted to Sergeant

Christopher Sanborn, Chief of Police

Sgt. Hinkley joined the Gorham Police Department in October 2015 and has been assigned to the Patrol Division. He holds an associate degree from Southern Maine Community College and is a drug recognition expert, field training officer and a member of the Cumberland County ESU team. Sgt. Hinkley will be

assigned to the midnight patrol shifts. Sanborn commented "I am looking forward to working with Sgt. Hinkley in his new role and am delighted to support his desire to grow his law enforcement career with the Town of Gorham Police Department. Congratulations on your promotion Sgt. Hinkley."



Photo credit: Gorham Police Department

Officer Hinkley takes the Oath of Office as a Police Officer for the Town of Gorham.

## SCHOOL

# School Committee Report, Feb.

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

The Gorham School Committee met for their regularly scheduled February meeting. There were about twenty parents in the audience for public comment.

The Gorham High School Robotics Team, Northern Force First Team 172, made an impressive presentation to the committee. This team is shared with Falmouth High School and is led by Clare and Meredith Greenlaw. Meredith Greenlaw and five students described their process of building a robot to meet an assigned challenge, their building season and the skills involved in the project. The students introduced the audience to Pinky, their robot from last year and some of the skills that the robot could perform. Typically, each student invests 250 to 1000 hours per year.

During the public comment portion of the meeting seven parents and students spoke out about the proposed redistricting of 69 students from Great Falls and Village Schools to Narragansett School. Several of the speakers were very emotional about the subject and spoke passionately about what they worry could be the possible devastating effects of a change in school for students who were enmeshed in their school communities. This vote was scheduled for later in the meeting.

Superintendent Perry reported on several topics that have arisen in the past month. The State of Maine is talking about possibly changing the procedure for three and four year olds who require special services, shifting the responsibility from CDS to the public school system. This change will not need added space but will require added professionals to provide these necessary services.

She also spoke about the Department of Education school building funding process that will be opened later this spring. This process opens every six or seven years and funds only ten projects throughout the state. The Gorham School Department intends to submit applications for two building

projects; an Elementary School that will combine Village and Narragansett Schools and plans for a new or renovated high school. All applications are put through a rigorous review and needs based scoring process, from which a rank order list is created, with only the top 7 to 10 projects receiving state funds.

The school administration is in the process of developing the budget for the 2025 school year. The proposed budget will be released to the public later in February and begin the public school committee review process that will result in town approval in May and a public referendum in June.

In addition, Gorham High school has begun the required process of accreditation and is preparing for their first site visit scheduled in March.

Each school committee member reported on events from the last month including grade level community breakfasts at Narragansett School, "Mamma Mia" at GHS, the elementary choruses singing at a Maine Mariners game, Unified Basketball at GHS, community support for student athlete Ashton LeClerc scoring his one thousandth point in a home basketball game and the celebration of School Counselor Appreciation Week.

Perry presented the process and rationale for shifting the K-5 attendance zones. Many steps have been taken with the goal of efficiently and effectively utilizing school resources and buildings. The shift will lessen the overcrowding at Village and Great Falls and take advantage of newly available space at Narragansett. This change will result in the shift of approximately seventy to one hundred students and five staff members. There will be a thoughtful and purposeful series of activities to support students and families through this change.

The committee deliberated and explained their votes to the public. Several com-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

**TOWN OF GORHAM  
STATE PRIMARY ELECTION**

Pursuant to MRSA, Title 21A, Sec 101, you are hereby notified that the Registrar for the Town of Gorham, Maine will hold the following office hours for the purpose of registering voters and making corrections to the voter list:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday,  
February 27, through February 29,  
7:00am-5:00pm, and Monday, March  
4, 7:00am-5:00pm,

Laurie Nordfors  
Town Clerk



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# GHS Student Competes in Poetry Out Loud Regional Finals

Gorham Times Staff



Photo credit: Steve Chabot, English Teacher Gorham High School

GHS Senior Julia Wareham competed in the Poetry Out Loud Southern Maine Regional Finals on February seventh. Gorham students have many talents. GO RAMS!

# Video Series: Understanding Public Schools with Superintendent Heather Perry

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

Superintendent Heather Perry is creating a four-part podcast series to dig more deeply into what our public schools do, why they do it, and how much it costs to do this important work to benefit our community.

The first installment is titled Public Schools in the Twenty First Century: a discussion with President Jacqueline Edmondson of USM, is currently being broadcast on GoCat and is available at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/yc43v7js>

Each thirty-minute discussion involves a theme and community leader. Future themes will include Public School Governance, Public Schools and Public Funding, and Public Schools in The Future. Future community “champions” offering perspective and insight include local business professionals Kathy Garrard and Shawn Moody.

According to Superintendent Perry,

“Our public schools are at the heart of our community and at the heart of our democratic society. They are a place where every child is seen as having the potential to do anything they set their dreams to. Our schools are the largest investment our community makes in its future. My goal via this video series is to help community members know what their investment provides for our children and for our community while helping folks understand the unique challenges our schools face in making our mission/vision a reality in today’s complex world. I hope members of our community find these videos informative and would welcome additional feedback or questions that may come after watching.”

## Video Series: #1

<http://tinyurl.com/yc43v7js>

**Gorham GOP Connection**

**When:** Last Tuesday of the month  
**Where:** Moody's Collision RT202  
**Why:** To Network & Interact  
**Cost:** FREE  
**Time:** 6:30  
 For more information [gorhamgop@gmail.com](mailto:gorhamgop@gmail.com)

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\*Additional items \$0.35 each

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**SPORTS**

# GHS Senior Ashton LeClerc Reaches 1,000 Career Points

Katie Brown, Sports Editor

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, Senior Ashton LeClerc reached his 1000-point milestone, in front of a completely crowded game v. Bonny Eagle. It was also senior night for the Rams. On the Rams early possession, LeClerc and his teammates moved down the court quickly with what looked like a designed play; LeClerc then hit a 3-pointer from well out of the 3-point range, reaching 1000 points and sparking the crowd and team early on. LeClerc shared, "One thousand points has been a goal of mine for several years. Reaching this milestone was exciting, especially since I was able to do it at home on senior night in front of our home crowd. The youth basketball players have been our team's biggest fans and they were all there to celebrate with us." LeClerc played varsity all four years, and due to another player's unfortunate injury, he moved into the starting lineup halfway through his Freshman year,

which was also the team's limited schedule (COVID season). LeClerc added, "In the off-season I work-out with my trainer, Chris Pribish, at Momentum Performance. I have played basketball my entire life with AAU and Gorham travel. I spent many mornings in the gym shooting before school thanks to Coach Berthiaume." Next up, LeClerc and his teammates have their sights set on making it to the Cross Insurance Arena to win a state title. Feb. 8 marked the last regular season game with a record of 16-2, defeating Scarborough to clinch the #1 seed. This team is fun to watch and they have had incredible success this year, and are in a great position to win a state championship. He credits his coaches and teammates for a lot of his success. LeClerc is committed to playing basketball at Roger Williams University next year and plans to study environmental law.



Ashton LeClerc reached his 1000-point milestone on Jan. 30, 2024.

Photo credit: Colleen Heal

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## Gorham Youth Lacrosse Association Registration for Spring 2024 is Open

Season runs from April 22 through the second week in June

### Age groups for Boys and Girls Divisions

#### Grades K-2

- **Cost: \$60 (includes a reversible for practice and play)**
- **One Practice/Skills and Drill Session per week on Saturday Mornings**

#### Grades 3-6

- **Cost: \$200 (includes a free uniform for all new players)**
- **2 practices during the week**
- **Games on Saturdays or Sundays**

#### Register Today at:

<https://go.teamsnap.com/forms/413603>

Registration closes March 1

All players must be members of USA Lacrosse.

USA Lacrosse registration:

<https://www.usalacrosse.com/membership>

Questions/FMI: [gorhamramsouthlacrosse@gmail.com](mailto:gorhamramsouthlacrosse@gmail.com)

## THE COTTAGES AT WINDING RIDGE OPEN HOUSE

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SATURDAY - MARCH 2ND • 11:00 - 1:00

(open houses are weather dependent - please check our social media for updates)

For more information please visit [ScovilleFoleyHomes.com](http://ScovilleFoleyHomes.com) or contact **Carrie Scoville** at (207) 409-9378



info@ScovilleFoleyHomes.com • 207.885.0500  
www.SignatureHomesMaine.com





## School Committee, Feb.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

mittee members spoke emotionally and from the heart about experiencing previous school shifts with their own families. They acknowledged the emotions that the affected audience members were feeling, as well as their commitment to a financially responsible and effective school system. They voted 6-1 (DeSantis) to approve the shift in attendance zones.

Through their process of reviewing and updating their policies and procedures, the school committee unanimously approved a new policy on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (ACAAB). In addition, they approved small changes to update several other policies. They also

did a first reading of the Committee Member Attendance Policy (BBDA).

The school committee approved by a seven to zero vote the creation of a new multi lingual teacher position at the middle school for the remainder of the year. This position is necessitated by the increase in students.

The committee voted 7-0 to approve the 2023-2024 school committee goals.

The school calendar for the 2024-2025 school year was approved. The biggest change in the proposed calendar was a decrease in professional days before the school year for staff from three to two and shift the day to October to allow for specialized staff development.

## Town Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

District 1-1 – Susan Emerson, Warden and Laurel Smith, Ward Clerk

District 1-2 – Katherine Corbett, Warden and Marie Plummer, Ward Clerk

District 2 – Martha Towle, Warden and Carol Wyman, Ward Clerk

Central – Kim Getchell, Warden and Paula Nystrom, Ward Clerk

Be It Further Ordered, that the Registrar of Voters be in session during the hours of 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday, Feb. 26 through Thursday, Feb. 29, and Monday, March 4, and Be it Further Ordered, that the Town Clerk be authorized to process absentee ballots on Tuesday, Feb. 27 through Thursday, Feb. 29 starting at 8 a.m.; and Monday, March 4 and Tuesday March 5 starting at 8 a.m. Voted 7-0.

The Council voted 7-0 to abate the taxes for Map 47, Lot 3, Libby Avenue, in the amount of \$341.72 plus interest for the FY23 taxes as well as abatement of taxes for Map 2, Lot 1 Hemlock Drive in the amount of \$1,384.55 plus interest for the FY21-23 taxes.

Moved by Councilor Siegel, seconded by Councilor Lavoie and ordered, that the Town Council appoint George Fox and Susan Coyne to the Fiscal Sustainability Committee as recommended by the Appointments Committee at their meeting Feb. 1, 2024. Voted 7-0.

A proposed order by Councilor Lavoie to consider adopting a revised emergency operations plan for the Town of Gorham that the Town Council approve required updates to the Town's Emergency Operations Plan as recommended by the Public Safety staff. Voted 7-0.

Councilor Siegel proposed action to consider reviewing ways to preserve the rural character of Gorham. The Town Council instructed staff to bring back several recommendations on modifications to the Land Use and Development Code that would help preserve the rural nature of Gorham for further review and action by the Town Council. Voted 7-0.

A proposed order moved by Councilor Siegel to set March 19 as a workshop to discuss preserving farms in Gorham was voted 7-0.

Item #2024-2-14 Action to consider instructing staff to review the feasibility of selling or leasing property at 668 Gray Road "Old Robie School" for private business development and / or use and staff to report back on a recommended course of action to sell or lease the Old Robie School in Little Falls for private business development and/or use; and Be It Further Ordered, that the Town Council instructs staff to report

on any potential impacts to municipal services and recommendations to mitigate said impacts if the property is sold or leased for private use. The Council voted 6-1 (Lavoie) to send the order to the Finance Committee for discussion and their recommendations.

The Council voted 7-0 to instruct staff and the Planning Board to modify and review for public hearings, required amendments to the Town's Flood Plain Management Ordinance to comply with new federal requirements and return by Order #24-26 Moved by Councilor Lavoie, seconded by Councilor Siegel and Ordered, that the Town Council instructs staff and the Planning Board to modify and review for public hearings, required amendments to the Town's Flood Plain Management Ordinance to comply with new federal requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program and return for final adoption by the Council before the June program deadline. The Council voted 7-0.

The Council voted 7-0 to send to the Planning Board proposed amendments to the Land Use & Development Code to promote effective multi-family development. (Ordinance Committee Spon.) The Council voted 6-1 (Gagnon)

The Council voted 6-1 (Gagnon) to forward to the Planning Board for public hearing and recommendations, amendments to the Town's Land Use & Development Code for affordable housing to comply with LD 2003.

Map changing a section of the Gorham Village from Urban Residential to Office-Residential District was voted 7-0.

Action to consider endorsing a Community Development Block Grant Application for the Town of Gorham Little Falls Sewer Main Extension was approved 6-1 (Gagnon).

Action authorizing the Town Manager to sell to the highest bidder, tax acquired property at 155 Dow Road pending that they clean up the property with 90 days. If not accepted, sell to the second highest bidder that they clean up the property with 90 days. Voted 7-0.

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## Artwork at Baxter Library

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

edy are remembered each September with a 5 K run, honoring first responders and with proceeds supporting The Stephen G. Ward Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The sculpture was generously donated to Baxter Library by its owners and former Gorham residents, Cathy Falwell and Peter Mirkin. Falwell is a well-known children's author/illustrator/artist whose books reside at Baxter as well as two large murals and several small critters she painted for the Children's Room. A large dragon sculpture, named Percy for Percival Baxter was made by their granddaughter, Mae. This popular resident of the library greets visitors to the Children's Room and has two lockers full of clothing for the changing seasons.

After the Falwell/Mirkins moved into a smaller house to be near grandkids in Connecticut, they agreed that the art piece needed to be seen in a public place in Gorham. "We love this piece so much. It is soaring and inspirational and it needed a large space where it can be viewed from different perspectives," said Falwell. She was also quick to note that she and Peter are still Mainers, "We reside at a lakeside property part of the year. Our cars are registered here, and we vote here, too," she added.

Lisberger has a strong connection with libraries as well. She is thrilled that her piece will be a permanent part of Baxter Library, especially since it was made here in her Gorham studio. "The desire to hold and help seems significant to a place where knowledge is stored and shared, so I am very happy

to see it at Baxter Library," she said. Library Director, James Rathbun, said, "The library is very grateful to Lin and to Cathy and Peter for their donation of this lovely piece. We hope its permanent public placement brings enjoyment for generations to come." Its new home, high on a wall beside the circulation desk will remind people as they leave the building, of the kindness and caring so prevalent in the Gorham community.

Lisberger was born in Connecticut and grew up in Ithaca, NY. She earned a BA degree in Literature from the University of California at Santa Cruz in 1973. She moved to Maine in 1976 and worked as a potter before earning her MFA in sculpture in 1980 from the University of Pennsylvania.

Lisberger taught sculpture, drawing and design at USM for 36 years, until her retirement from teaching in 2017.

Her sculptures have been exhibited in Maine as well as around the country in private and corporate collections and museums. Lisberger was a 2000 Fulbright scholar finalist, and a 2020 Joan Mitchell Foundation grant finalist and has done a number of residencies. She has several "percent for art" pieces in the area, the closest are at Saccarappa School in Westbrook.

In the fall of 2025 Lisberger will be exhibiting her newest series of work, called "20 Walks," at the USM art gallery.

Lisberger now lives and works at her studio in Portland.

To learn more, visit [www.linlisberger.com](http://www.linlisberger.com)



Photo credit: Roger Marchand



Photo credit: Chris Crawford

Artist Lin Lisberger installs her sculpture at Baxter Memorial Library. The sculpture was donated by former Gorham residents Cathy Falwell and Peter Mirkin. Looking up at the new sculpture is Percy the dinosaur who was designed, built, and donated by Cathy Falwell's granddaughter Mae. The Frog Pond mural in the Children's Room was painted by Cathy Falwell.



Photo credit: Chris Crawford

**Gateway Commons is looking for proposals for the following:**

- + Lawn care & bush hog services (3 yr contract)
- + Refresh of rock walls at entrance to development

Detailed description of project will be provided for interested companies w/ insurance. Contact: [dcalderbank@gmail.com](mailto:dcalderbank@gmail.com) Deadline 2/23/2024



## COMMUNITY

### DEANS HIGH HONORS

Erin Lawrence, Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut

### DEANS LIST

George Allison, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine  
 Grace Andrews, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine  
 Connor Callahan, Western New England University, Springfield, Massachusetts  
 Connor Donnelly, Emmanuel College, Boston, Massachusetts  
 Aidan Enck, University of Tampa, Tampa, Florida  
 Jillian Feyler, Emmanuel College, Boston, Massachusetts  
 Lauren Fotter, Vermont State University, Randolph Center, Vermont  
 Campbell Fowler, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Boston, Massachusetts  
 Lauren Green, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine  
 Brayden Harjula, University of Tampa, Tampa, Florida  
 Josephine James, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine  
 Isabelle M. Kolb, St. Michael's College, Colchester, Vermont  
 Kaci N. Mollison, St. Michael's College, Colchester, Vermont  
 Emma Owens, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine  
 Deidra Perreault, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine  
 Claudia Peterson, Emmanuel College, Boston, Massachusetts  
 Brady Sawyer, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine  
 Madeleine Scholz-Lague, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine  
 Nica Steiner, St. Michael's College, Colchester, Vermont  
 Colby Tucker, Vermont State University, Randolph Center, Vermont  
 Allison Violette, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine  
 Morgan Walton, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine  
 Cailyn Wheeler, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine  
 Lauran Wilson, University of New England, Biddeford and Portland, Maine

### OF INTEREST

Please join the Climate Caretakers at First Parish Church for a presentation and discussion on the electrical grid - what it is and why it matters. Phil Bartlett, Chair of the Public Utilities Commission, will speak. 1 Church Street, Friday, Feb. 16 at 7 p.m. 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:

### 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.

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

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

### PUBLIC SUPPERS

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

Living Waters Church on Parker Farm Road in Buxton will host a Haddock Supper Buffet on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 5 p.m. Suggested donation is \$10 adult, \$5 child, \$20 family. Take out containers, face masks are optional, and hand sanitizer available.

First Parish Church will have a sit down community chicken pie dinner on March 2 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. \$12.50 adults, \$8 kids meals.

### 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 games on Mondays at 10 a.m., all levels welcome. Please contact the group for dates and times if you are interested in joining the "Pencil Talk" writers group. Join the weekly guest speaker program, "the Originals", on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. A different speaker each week. Upcoming speakers include Historical Maine postcards, Portland black history/Prince Project, Portland Stage experiences, more Maine history, ESL in our school system, and repopulation of Wild Turkeys in Maine. FMI: contact Lisa Becker at [Leckybrowncenter@gmail.com](mailto:Leckybrowncenter@gmail.com).



Julie Chandler



Mike Griffin



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39 Main Street

GORHAM



**GORHAM NEW CONSTRUCTION!**  
 Coming to the market soon... This 1768sqft Colonial with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, 2car garage and rear deck on 1.83 acres. Built by reputable builder with over 20 years of experience.



**WATERBORO \$369,900** - Coming to the market soon... This full dormered cape offering 1450sqft with 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, full dry basement, sun deck, storage shed and paved driveway on a corner lot. Ready for you to move right in.



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



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



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



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



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



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

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**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>.

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

**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE NOTES**

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

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

**CLOSE TO HOME**

Spend "A Sunday Afternoon with Bill Nemitz," retired Maine journalist and columnist at the Portland Press Herald and Maine Sunday Telegram. A member of Maine Press Association's Hall of Fame, Bill will share his views on the current state and future of local journalism in Maine, and his thoughts on the 2024 Presidential elections. Q&A follows. Free, nonpartisan event sponsored by Hollis Buxton Democratic Committee. Sunday, Feb. 18 at 1 p.m., Buxton Town Office, 185 Portland Road, Buxton.

"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](http://www.NNOF.org)."

The Cumberland County Retired Teachers Association is awarding two \$2,000 scholarships to any college student attending any college or university in Cumberland County majoring in education. FMI: call Jean Phillips at (207) 329-5652.

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

**CLASSIFIEDS**

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

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**CALENDAR**

**Thursday, February 15**

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

**Friday, February 16**

Baxter Memorial Library, Family Place Play to Learn Workshop, 10 - 11:15 a.m.  
St. Anne's Church Lenten Fish Dinner, 5 - 6:30 p.m.  
Climate Caretakers at First Parish Church, the Electrical Grid, 7 p.m.  
Osher School of Music piano master class with Zlata Chochieva, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

**Saturday, February 17**

USM Athletics home game  
Womens and Mens Basketball vs. Castleton University, 1 and 3 p.m.  
Womens and Mens Track and Field LEC Championship Meet, 11 a.m.

**Monday, February 19**

Gorham Rec. "Kiddie Gym" at Shaw Gym, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Lecky Brown Senior Center at First Parish Church Cribbage and board games, 10 a.m.

**Tuesday, February 20**

Baxter Memorial Library, Children's Author Talk and Craft with author of "A Princess Heart", 10 - 11 a.m.

**Wednesday, February 21**

Gorham Rec. "Kiddie Gym" at Shaw Gym, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Baxter Memorial Library, Trains in the Program Room, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
USM Athletics home game, Men's Lacrosse vs. Anna Maria College, 4 p.m.

**Thursday, February 22**

Baxter Memorial Library, Make a Friendship Bracelet, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Friday, February 23**

St. Anne's Church Lenten Fish Dinner, 5 - 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, February 24**

Baxter Memorial Library, RPG Club, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
USM Athletics home game, Women's Lacrosse vs. Smith College, 1 p.m.  
Living Waters Church Haddock Supper Buffet, Buxton, 5 p.m.

**Monday, February 26**

Gorham Rec. "Kiddie Gym" at Shaw Gym, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Lecky Brown Senior Center at First Parish Church Cribbage and board games, 10 a.m.

**Tuesday, February 27**

Baxter Memorial Library  
Family Discovery Time, 10 a.m.  
Dogs Dig Reading, 4 - 5 p.m.  
USM Athletics home game, Women's Lacrosse vs. University of New England, 4 p.m.

**Wednesday, February 28**

Gorham Rec. "Kiddie Gym" at Shaw Gym, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Baxter Memorial Library, Toddler Discovery Time, 10 a.m.  
USM Athletics home game, Men's vs. University of New England, 4 p.m.

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the Courtesy of the Gorham Police Department  
**blotter**

Officer responded to a report of a suspicious person on Brackett Road and gave him a ride to Westbrook.

Officer checked a house on Boulder Drive for a suspect in a theft in Scarborough. Suspect had sold the house and no longer lived there.

Police received a report of two men sitting in a silver vehicle on Main Street in front of a business. They were not doing anything. One man was described as having a red hoodie. No silver vehicles nor people wearing hoodies were present when the officer arrived a minute later.

Officer spoke with an employee of the business who told the officer the two were regular customers and not of any concern.

Officer observed a truck backing up to the bay door on Sanford Drive. There have been thefts from this location in the past so the officer made contact with the driver as the business had not yet opened. Operator was an employee who was opening up the business.

Suspicious person on Main Street was the manager of the business who gets there early to have a cigarette and wake up before he opens the business.

Mosher Road caller reported a vehicle driving erratically who had almost caused an accident with the caller. Vehicle went into Windham and Windham Police were notified.

Caller reported a suspicious vehicle on Railroad Avenue with an interior light on. Vehicle was secured and contents did not appear to be disturbed.

Caller who had traded a truck for a motorcycle had not yet received the motorcycle. Officer made contact with the caller who said he was all set and they were working it out.

Loose cow was returning to Harding Bridge Road property and the gate was fixed prior to Officer's arrival.

Caller reported traffic was traveling too fast throughout the day in front of the library.

Officer performed a traffic detail for 40 minutes and wrote two traffic citations. Officer planned to perform these details more often in the future.

Barstow Road man received a call from a neighbor that two trucks were on his lawn

working at a pole in the yard. Officer found the residence was secure and no one was there. He spoke to the homeowner on the phone and the man said he would go to the house tomorrow.

Caller reported seeing a horse in the roadway on Mitchell Hill and Nonesuch Roads. Owner had horse back in the fenced area and was attempting to fix the fence.

Caller reported a young female on the side of County Road with her belongings around her. Officer checked the area but did not locate her.

South Street caller reported her roommate had been harassing her ever since she told her she was going to have to leave. She was requesting that an officer be present the following day at 5 pm to keep the peace as she did not feel comfortable around the roommate. She was told to call an hour before the roommate was leaving and request an officer to keep the peace.

Police received a call about a vehicle driving erratically and operating without headlights. Caller lost sight of the vehicle as it turned on to South Street entering the rotary. Officers were not able to locate the vehicle.


Dingley Spring Road caller reported a noise complaint. Officer did not hear any noise when he arrived but made contact with the homeowner and advised him to keep the music low and to be sure vehicles were removed from the side of the road by midnight.

Flaggy Meadow Road caller reported hearing three loud bangs about 15 minutes before calling. Officer did not hear anything nor did he locate any issues.

Woman called from Portland wanting a ride back to the USM campus. She was advised to call Lyft, Uber or Taxi. She asked for a phone number and was given 207-Taxi.


South Street caller reported that someone was harassing her via text and phone calls again. She was told if she truly wanted the person to stop contacting her, she could seek a Protection from Abuse Order. She understood and will call if he shows up.


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Featuring Sales Sunday Feb 18<sup>th</sup> - Saturday Feb 24<sup>th</sup>

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