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New Cross Town Trail Extension

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer

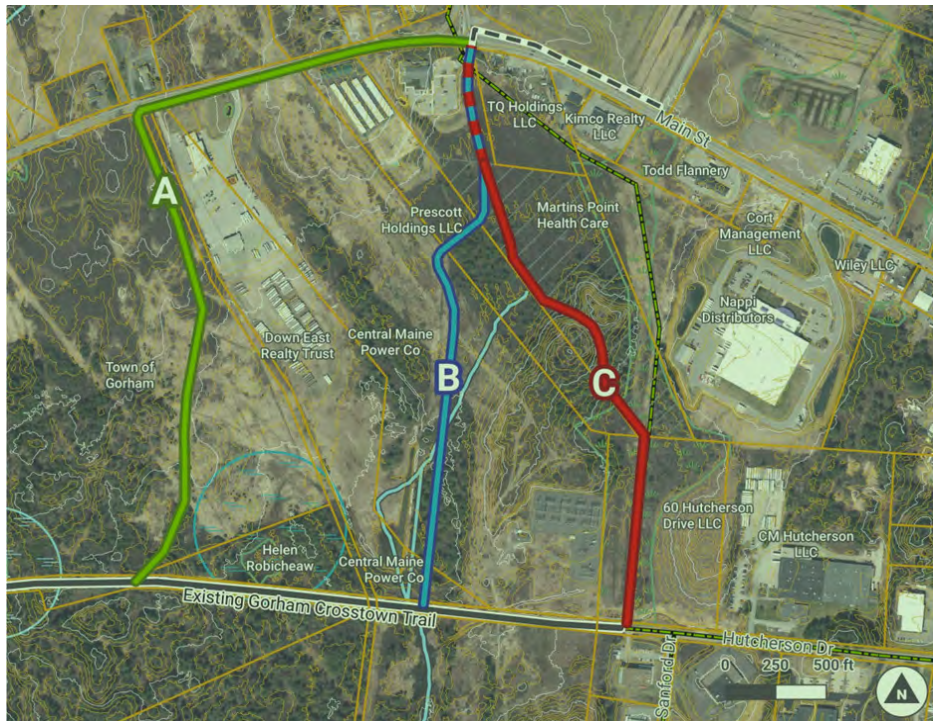


Photo credit: Gorham Conservation Commission

Three options are being considered to extend the Gorham Cross Town Trail from the Village down to Mosher's Corner.

The seven member Gorham Conservation Commission (GCC) recently held a public meeting to gather input from the public regarding three possible options for an expansion of the Cross Town Trail (CTT).

The 1.5 mile CTT currently runs adjacent to New Portland Road, along the bed of the former York and Cumberland Railroad and ends at Hutcherson Drive in the Industrial Park. The track was removed in the mid-20th century. Limited parking is available across the street from Lake Region Oil Company. The CTT can also be accessed by walking through the Meadowland Preserve, at the end of Joseph Drive.

All three of the proposed new options would extend the range of the CTT by providing access from the Village down to Mosher's Corner and the junction Main Street and Rt. 237 near Martin's Point, Beals Ice Cream, and several other commercial businesses.

This expansion would allow the CTT to take advantage of a future project by the State which will construct a pedestrian walkway connecting the Beals Ice Cream side of Rt. 25 to the Cherry Hill side with its system of walking and biking trails.

The planning process included the design of a detailed matrix of qualifying factors with each spur option being given a score in areas such as scenic/natural environment; ownership/ property rights; connection to businesses; elevation change; impact/disruption to wetlands; how direct is the route; and relative cost.

Option A crosses town-owned land from New Portland Road over to Rt. 25. It connects closer to the Village which means that a long portion of the trail would run adjacent to the right-hand side of Main Street, down to the Mosher Road intersection. This is the most expensive and least scenic of the three but has the benefit of using land which the town owns.

Option B and C would connect closer to the end of the current segment near the Industrial Park. Segment B had the highest score on the qualification matrix but will require working with CMP to gain approval to cross their land near a transmission line. Option C crosses 2 private parcels of land, travelling through land owned by Martin's Point on which the town already has an easement. Both parcels B and C are more scenic but they cross a large wetlands (C has more wetlands) which would add to the cost of the project.

Next steps in the planning process include determining if CMP will work with the town on Option B access rights as they have done with other communities in the Greater Portland area.

Funding sources are also being explored including grants and Federal funds, monies from the Greater Portland Council of Governments, and Land for Maine's Future.

After the presentation, a number of community members made comments and asked questions. Everyone spoke favorably in support of the project and expressed excitement about the increased recreational opportunities it will provide community members.

GCC trails are open year round. Their trails include Tannery Brook, Clair Drew and Frasier & Weeks Road. There is no ATV access; Carry In, Carry Out; No Camping.

Maps are available to download to your phone on the GCC FB page. GCC is always in need of volunteers to help keep the trails in good conditions for the community to enjoy.

The GCC's goal is to increase trail connectivity, encourage outdoor activity, reduce polluting emissions, and provide access to the natural environment. Its purpose is to care for and supervise Gorham's public parks. The Commission is chartered by State Law Title 30A and is subject to the approval of the Town Council.

School Committee Passes FY25 Budget

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer

On April 10 the Gorham School Committee voted to approve a \$53,475,801 budget for FY25, which is an increase of \$3,484,906 over the FY24 budget. This 6.97% increase would result in an additional 80 cents on the mil rate. If approved by the Town Council and by voters in June, the increased tax on a house assessed at \$400,000 would be \$318.04.

In February, Superintendent Heather Perry proposed an overall expenditure increase of \$3,811,065, or a 7.62% increase over the FY24 budget. She explained that approximately \$2.1 million of this was due to increases required by contractual salary increases and other expenses related to existing employees and positions. The School Committee, over the course of four budget workshops, reduced the budget to get to the current figure. One help in the reduction process was a health insurance increase of just 3%. The original

budget had anticipated a 10% increase.

New initiatives, or costs added to the FY25 budget, included a new multi-language teacher at Gorham Middle School (GMS) to serve the growing number of enrolled multi-language students, an increase of 78 to 120 over the past three years. A data specialist was added, as well as a Maine Care Billing Specialist which will help create an additional revenue stream. Instead of requesting an additional person for maintaining district's fields at the high school and middle school, the budget includes leasing an athletic line striper which will prove to be less expensive.

An increase in students requiring special education services necessitated an additional resource room teacher at GMS and a half-time K-5 speech therapist. The

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Meet Tessa and her Lucky Fin

Krista Nadeau, Staff Writer



Photo credit: Krista Nadeau

Tessa Farnham encourages others to be proud of who they are.

Tessa Farnham, an 11-year-old Gorham resident loves typical things like theater, drawing, and Harry Potter. But there is something special about Tessa—something less typical. Tessa has a limb difference that only 1 in 32,000 people have called symbrachydactyly, which means she was born with no fingers on one hand, in her case, her left hand. Tessa refers to it as

her lucky fin, pointing out the similarities between her short limb and Nemo's short fin, from the movie Finding Nemo.

After her birth, Tessa's doctor suggested the Helping Hands Foundation as a resource for the Farnham family, which they have been involved with since Tessa was just one. Headquartered in MA, the foundation's purpose is to provide support, information, and resources to families like the Farnham's. Tessa has met people from around the country with limb differences as well as more well-known people, like Tony Memmel. Born with one hand, Memmel, a singer/songwriter, music educator, and motivational speaker tours the country inspiring others. His motto, 'rise to any challenge', is one Tessa follows.

Tessa recalls that she began to realize everyone else had two hands when she was around five years old. She shares that there are times she has felt "cast out," but she focuses on how to use her lucky fin to achieve her goals. "This is going to be a little harder," Tessa replies when asked how she approaches trying new things. "I try to prove people wrong," she adds. She stresses that her creativity in finding new ways to do things has been an asset to her success.

When Tessa was nine, she told her parents, Jerry and Marty Farnham, that she wanted to take archery lessons. "Lakeside Archery in Falmouth was happy to help brainstorm ideas that would allow Tessa to participate

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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.

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A Closer Look at a Thoughtful Supplemental Budget

Rep. Mo Terry

Now that the 131st Legislature has wrapped up most of its work, I'm looking forward to taking a breath and reflecting on the achievements and hard work that have characterized this session. The passage of a supplemental budget was one of the major pieces of work we needed to accomplish, and the meticulously crafted and thoughtful compromise that we reached stands as a testament to the dedication and commitment of my colleagues in the Legislature and Gov. Mills' administration. This budget not only builds upon the historic and fiscally-responsible budgets passed by Democrats last year, but also addresses Maine's most pressing challenges today.

Importantly, this budget continues to fulfill the state's commitment to fully fund 55% of public education costs. Education is the foundation of our society, and by meeting this obligation, we ensure that our children will continue to receive the quality education they deserve while also helping alleviate the burden on municipalities and property taxpayers to fund these expenses. To ensure that we maintain sustainability in education funding, the budget also directs \$15 million to the Education Stabilization Fund. Additionally, it sets a future wage floor for school support staff and educational technicians, recognizing the vital role they play in our education system.

Childcare is also an essential component of a healthy society. It is crucial for the wellbeing of children, for working families, employers and Maine's economy. This

budget continues our work to increase the accessibility of childcare by investing in providers throughout our state. It includes initiatives to fund \$12.9 million in childcare stability grants and \$1.5 million for eligibility changes for childcare subsidies.

We also took seriously the need to make health care more affordable for more Mainers, especially older folks. That's why the budget allocates \$14.1 million to fully fund the income eligibility expansion for the Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program. This will assist lower-income Medicare recipients in affording out-of-pocket expenses, providing them with much-needed support. In recognition of the critical role played by nursing homes in our community, the budget also sets aside \$26 million to support these facilities.

Maine's housing crisis continues to be a pressing issue affecting individuals and families throughout the state. To address this challenge, the budget allocates \$76 million to increase affordable housing options. This includes investments in emergency housing, low-income housing tax credits, and programs such as the state's Affordable Homeownership and Rural Affordable Rental Housing programs. By expanding access to affordable housing, we aim to alleviate the burden faced by many Mainers and help set folks up for success. Furthermore, recognizing the importance of mental and public health, the budget includes transformational funding for behavioral health care.

This includes the establishment of multiple new crisis receiving centers, ensuring that individuals in need of immediate assistance have access to the care they need. Additionally, the budget provides critical support for mass violence survivors and victims of violent crime, acknowledging the long-lasting impact these events can have on individuals and communities.

This budget includes many more initiatives not mentioned here, such as critical storm relief funding, emergency assistance for dairy farmers, support for Maine Veterans' Homes and more. As we close this legislative session, I am confident that the passage of this thoughtful supplemental budget will have a positive and lasting impact. It speaks to our commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our state and ensuring a brighter future for all Mainers.



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

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be fewer than 300 words, signed with a first and last name, typed or e-mailed and include a phone number and hometown. The Gorham Times reserves the right not to publish letters that include personal attacks or inflammatory language. Letters are solely the opinion of the writer and not that of the Gorham Times. They are published at the discretion of the Gorham Times as space allows and are subject to editing.

To the Editor,

We have lived in Gorham for over 47 years, and we are voting Seven Siegel for State Rep on June 11th. When we moved here with a 10-month-old, we found a house we could afford, learned how to be neighbors that folks could count on, participated in community groups, worked as volunteers, coaches, teachers, and mentors, served on boards, and ran for local offices. We know Gorham well and our love for Gorham grows even as the town itself grows and changes. We need to elect thoughtful, informed leaders to help us manage all that's happening. We think Seven Siegel has the skills and qualities we need.

Seven Siegel came to Gorham for the same reasons we did. Seven and their wife, Becky Wartell, were ready to start a family, establish roots, and find their places and roles in Gorham life. As a Town Councilor, Seven has proven their desire to be an advocate for Gorham folks. They come prepared. They really listen to people, gathering points of view and using public input to form an opinion. They are accessible and approachable. Their warmth and humility, along with their sense of humor, make reaching out to them comfortable and easy.

Seven is informed and smart. They know the importance of setting public policies that have positive and fair benefits for the most people. They research the facts behind issues and learn about the regula-

tions and ordinances impacting decisions and actions. They understand that even "best practices" can need practical adaptations to suit a town's character and needs.

Seven Siegel is a realistic idealist. They are ready and willing to help us all have a vision and a voice in shaping our town and Maine for a positive future. Please give them your vote in the Democratic Primary on June 11.

Roger and Peggy Marchand, Gorham

To the Editor,

The Maine Turnpike Authority's proposed highway spur to Gorham is an irreversible mistake. It will ruin our quaint village center and local farms, create sprawl, and will not solve our traffic problem.

The Gorham Town Council should vote to withdraw from the agreement it signed two years ago with the Turnpike Authority. The costs of this project to our community are simply too high, and a study of road improvement alternatives to the turnpike has never been done.

The Maine Turnpike Authority continues to hang their hat on a 2012 study as proof that we need this highway, but the Gorham East-West Corridor Feasibility Study does not recommend the highway over other local and state road improvements. The study examined two roadway improvement scenarios to address congestion. Scenario 1 includes a number of

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Corrections:

In the front-page article "Candidates File for June Primary," in the March 28 issue of the Gorham Times, we spelled Seven Siegel's name wrong. The online copy has been corrected.

In the April 11 issue, we published the wrong ads for POGO Realty and the Town of Gorham Public Works.

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Living a Champion Life - The Colemans

Chris Crawford, Features Editor



Photo credit: Don Toothaker Photo

Jesse and Stacey Coleman enjoy helping others live healthy, active lives.

Gorham native and entrepreneur Stacey (MacDonald) Coleman, (GHS '98 and USM '03) has always been active. Captain of the GHS Girls Soccer team, she went on to play NCAA soccer at USM while earning her degree in Health and Fitness.

Husband Jesse, also a USM grad with a B.S. in Biology, grew up in Bristol, VT. He was a three-time VT State Champion Wrestler at Mount Abraham Union High School and All New England Captain of the USM wrestling team.

The two met in college, married, and chose to live in Gorham. Stacey said, "My family still lives here, so it was the perfect nest for our young family."

In 2007, the couple started Gorham Fitness Studio, building a clientele while earning National Academy of Sports Medicine Personal Trainer and Behavioral Change Specialist Certifications. Later Stacey added Certified Nutrition Coach and Jesse added Certified Corrective Exercise Specialist to their credentials. In 2008, My-FIT-24 at 17 Railroad Avenue was launched. The Colemans and their team provide effective fitness solutions, personal training and group classes at a 24-hour access fitness facility.

In the early days, they expanded their offerings to include kids' classes, so parents could work out while their children participated in their own sessions.

The Colemans felt fortunate to be able to integrate their own family life with their business. "Our gym has truly been a second home for our family," said Stacey.

The couple explained that they share operations (group and personal training) at My-FIT-24. Jesse said, "Working together as spouses is rare but not totally unique. Learning how to complement each other's strengths while giving each other space to grow professionally can be a challenge, but it's worth it."

On the business end, Jesse leans into software integration, member services, and logistics while Stacey

concentrates on video production, website design, and content creation for social media and email engagements.

In 2010 the Colemans began a second business, an online wellness course called "Living a Champion Life," based on their wholistic philosophy of building health, wealth, and relationships upon five fundamental life habits. Each habit is important, and each becomes more powerful when practiced in sequence.

Always community minded, in 2011, The Colemans co-founded a non-profit organization for Type 1 Diabetic Children and their families called Maine P-Pods.

In addition to running My-FIT-24 and raising their kids, the Colemans returned to their alma mater in 2017, serving as Strength & Conditioning Coaches for over 500 USM athletes. Stacey writes a health and fitness column for the Gorham Times and also serves on the Advisory board for the USM Exercise Science Department.

The Colemans also host community events and fundraisers, the most recent of which benefitted Tri for A Cure and was held in Portland. They organized and hosted "The MotivateHer Mindset Workshop" with over 200 attendees and a distinguished panel of inspiring women who overcame adversity to achieve remarkable outcomes. Stacey said, "I wanted participants to walk away equipped with valuable tools and the motivation to not only write their own life story but to also step into the role of hero."

The "MotivateHer Mindset Podcast" featuring their trademark Champion Life Coaching and guest speakers can also be found on both Apple Podcasts and Spotify. New episodes air weekly.

Even in their down time, wellness is a big part of the Coleman's lifestyle. They team up for a summer kickball league with friends, Stacey hits the soccer field with the women's league whenever she can, and they enjoy daily hikes with their beloved black Lab on Gorham Trails. They enjoy cooking and experimenting with healthy new recipes.

Their son, Bode (GHS '23), will be a sophomore, pursuing a degree in Computer Science at Southern New Hampshire (SNHU) University. Zoe, a senior at GHS, will soon join her brother at SNHU and will study Media Studies. They both also play D2 lacrosse.

FMI please visit: Living a Champion Life: <https://www.livingachampionlife.com>; MotivateHer Mindset Podcast episodes: <https://www.livingachampionlife.com/podcast>; My-FIT-24: <https://www.my-fit-24.com>

USM's David Shane Lowry

Thomas Grebouski, USM Intern

Meet Dr. David Shane Lowry, the new anthropology professor at the University of Southern Maine, who teaches classes at the Gorham and Portland campuses. Lowry is a member of the Lumbee tribe of North Carolina, and is the first Native (Indigenous) tenure-track professor at USM.

Starting at MIT and finishing his doctorate at UNC Chapel Hill, Lowry went on to be the Distinguished Fellow in Native American Studies at MIT, and Visiting Senior Fellow in the School of Social Policy at Brandeis University, before accepting a tenure-track position at the University of Southern Maine.

During his undergraduate at MIT, he envisioned himself becoming an engineer, be it civil, mechanical, or chemical, but he couldn't shake an idea that he "should begin to tell stories." Like so many students, Lowry took one class that changed everything. In his case it was an anthropology course. He kept up with his science courses as well, studying and eventually working in healthcare before embarking on a doctorate.

Lowry recalls working in pharmacy in North Carolina in 2003 during the Iraq war, and seeing the maimed soldiers returning, "they were living side by side with Lumbee people who were also maimed from other conditions, different types of violence, different types of disease states etcetera."

In the United States, Native American communities tend to be made into industrial dumping grounds and sites of environmental degradation. The effects of this on the health of Lumbee people that Lowry witnessed led to his doctoral research, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, studying health, healing, and dying in the Lumbee community. Lowry completed this doctorate degree in five years - a notable accomplishment by any measure, and indicative of his sense of purpose.

Lowry describes coming to Maine as an

opportunity. Maine has a deep history as well as numerous contemporary issues that it is working through in regards to Native American communities who live here. Lowry is working to build bridges, raise awareness, create discussions, and be the best educator and resource that he can be for his students.

Lowry leads the Indigenous Relationship Lab (IRL) at USM, which focuses on issues of justice and remattering. That second word, 'remattering,' warrants a little explanation. Native people once mattered in this country, in that the United States' founding fathers feared them and saw a need to clear them away so that their land could be taken and put to different uses by non-Native peoples. In the years since, Native American issues have too often fallen by the wayside; this has been so much the case that a 2018 study found that 40% of Americans didn't know that Native people still existed or that they were oppressed. Remattering is in one sense the work of making this topic, and these people, matter again. Today, an estimated 2.5% of Maine's population are Native people whose existence here goes back more than 12,000 - perhaps 125,000 years.

One current issue in Maine focuses on LD 2004, a bill which was vetoed in 2023, but would have restored access to federal protections for the Indigenous tribal nations that make up the Wabanaki Confederacy, and worked to reinstate their sovereignty. Tribes in Maine are currently treated as municipalities under the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980, which makes Maine's relationships with the tribes an outlier in the United States.

Essentially, of the small portions of land the United States government reserved or held in trust for Native Americans, what we call reservations, the Indigenous peoples of Maine, Wabanaki Peoples, have severely limited control over the land that is set aside for their nations.



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Financial Focus: Be Careful When Naming Beneficiaries

Jessica Szafranski, Contributing Writer

You might not have thought much about beneficiary designations — but they can play a big role in your estate planning.

When you purchase insurance policies and open investment accounts, such as your IRA, you'll be asked to name a beneficiary, and, in some cases, more than one. This might seem easy, especially if you have a spouse and children, but if you experience a major life event, such as a divorce or a death in the family, you may need to make some changes — because beneficiary designations carry a lot of weight under the law.

In fact, these designations can supersede the instructions you may have written in your will or living trust, so everyone in your family should know who is expected to get which assets. One significant benefit of having proper beneficiary designations in place is that they may enable beneficiaries to avoid the time-consuming — and possibly expensive — probate process.

The beneficiary issue can become complex because not everyone reacts the same way to events such as divorce — some people want their ex-spouses to still receive assets while others don't. Furthermore, not all the states have the same rules about how beneficiary designations are treated after a divorce. And some financial assets are treated differently than others.

Here's the big picture: If you've named your spouse as a beneficiary of an IRA, bank or brokerage account, insurance policy, will or trust, this beneficiary designation will automatically be revoked upon divorce in about half the states. So, if you still want your ex-spouse to get these assets, you will need to name them as a non-spouse beneficiary after the divorce. But if you've named your spouse as beneficiary for a 401(k) plan or pension, the designation will remain intact until and unless you change it, regardless of where you live.

However, in community property states, couples are generally required to split equally all assets they acquired during their marriage. When couples divorce, the

community property laws require they split their assets 50/50, but only those assets they obtained while they lived in that state. If you were to stay in the same community property state throughout your marriage and divorce, the ownership issue is generally straightforward, but if you were to move to or from one of these states, it might change the joint ownership picture.

Thus far, we've only talked about beneficiary designation issues surrounding divorce. But if an ex-spouse — or any beneficiary — passes away, the assets will generally pass to a contingent beneficiary — which is why it's important that you name one at the same time you designate the primary beneficiary. Also, it may be appropriate to name a special needs trust as beneficiary for a family member who has special needs or becomes disabled. If this individual were to be the direct beneficiary, any assets passing directly into their hands could affect their eligibility for certain programs.

You may need to work with a legal professional to sort out beneficiary designation issues and the rules that apply in your state. But you may also want to do a beneficiary review with your financial advisor whenever you experience a major life event, such as a marriage, divorce or the addition of a new child. Your investments, retirement accounts and life insurance proceeds are valuable assets — and you want them to go where you intended.



Jessica Szafranski is a Gorham-based Financial Advisor specializing in retirement planning, investing & saving for education. This

article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

The Language of Flowers

Linda Treworgy Faatz, Contributing Writer

When we plant a flower garden, our plan is to create a visually pleasing mix of colors, forms and bloom times. We look forward to butterflies, bees and insects also enjoying our choices. The trend now is to deliberately plant wild flowers especially to attract pollinators.

So many of us enjoy making flowers a part of our lives. Perhaps deliberately or perhaps randomly, we choose flowers that are considered heirloom plants with a history of use or symbolism. You probably already have blooms of meaning in your garden. You might gain a whole new perspective of what is growing in your landscape by learning the meaning of flowers.

To appreciate the language of flowers we need only to look to Victorian times when a bouquet of specific flowers given to someone sent a special message to the recipient. Perhaps without knowing it, nowadays we are sending a hidden greeting to a friend when we gift them flowers from our garden.

Probably the most familiar of flowers is the rose. When you give roses of a certain color, you are sending a message to the receiver. A red rose would tell a friend you are pure and lovely. The gift of yellow roses suggests to someone that you are jealous and that your feelings of love are decreasing. Ouch! There must be another meaning? A white rose says that you were worthy of that person.

Lily of the valley "grace my garden walk" in May and has sweetly fragrant white blossoms. Each year I share several bouquets with friends. It seems appropriate that the message I

am sending is a return to happiness.

A revival of a hand-held bouquet with meaningful flowers tied with a ribbon, called a Tussie-Mussie, was traditionally given as a kind gesture that friends and lovers exchanged. It can also be arranged in a small vase. They very often included fragrant herbs such as rosemary for remembrance, lavender for devotion, and thyme for courage.

The foliage of scented geranium adds a pungent fragrance. This is a lovely way to cheer a sick friend, welcome guests or thank a hostess. The herbs will dry and their fragrances linger. A quick trip to your garden to snip fresh flowers for sharing can make a difference in someone's day.

What a great time to go thrifting to pick up little vases for the flowers you will share come summer. As you walk through the garden centers and peruse the seed catalogs, I hope you will select a few new flowers to incorporate into your garden just for spreading the gift of joy to someone else.



Linda Treworgy Faatz, a passionate gardener for many years, lives in her family home at Friend's Corner and cares for the extensive Treworgy

gardens. She loves to share her home and gardens through classes and garden events.

Cricket Comforts

Lisa Becker, Staff Writer

Fourteen years ago, after her children graduated from Gorham High School, Heidi Farrin was looking for new opportunities to volunteer and give back to the community. Cricket Comforts, a not-for-profit organization, was born to fill this need.

Heidi knew a child's need for "comfort from home" through her own son's many hospital visits. Through the support of the hospital and nurses Cricket Comforts began creating pillowcases for children admitted to the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital at Maine Medical Center.

Heidi and her amazing group of volunteers deliver 155 pillowcases every month. Because of their large stockpile of pillowcases Cricket Comforts was able to provide pillowcases to BBCH during 3 years of Covid when they were not able to meet as a group. This caused their stockpile to dwindle, espe-

cially boy and gender-neutral cases.

The group decided to make restocking a fun game. During 'March Pillowcase Madness' they challenged themselves to produce 500 with an emphasis on boy and gender neutral cases. Cricket Comforts met twice, as a large group during March, while many other volunteers and local groups sewed throughout the month to add to the final total. An amazing 819 pillowcases were sewn and are now ready to help bring smiles to children at BBCH!!

Heidi says "I thank our many amazing volunteers for their endless gift of time, talents, and materials, without which we wouldn't have reached our goal in March."

Please join Cricket Comforts as they create pillowcases every month. You don't need to be an expert at sewing, because helping with trimming, pinning and ironing fabrics is also a big part of the process.

Upcoming sewing days are May 15 at First Parish Church and May 18 at Old Robie School. For more information please like Cricket Comforts on Facebook, email: CricketComforts@yahoo.com or call Heidi Farrin at 207.632.2542.





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CryptoVerse

by A. Logophile

BZGPECRB, PRAYS, DFEGOHGZAG, IOJ,
 XSHCRX, MSYYRHG, ZAY GZERHG GEE,
 DFEWOHH LEY'H OYRBGH EA LFZBO ZAY HRA.
 HZTH LEY, RA FODCT, "YEA'G WOABO XO RA."
 CLUE: G = T

SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

Grow Smart Maine on the Gorham East/West Spur Project

Sheri Faber, Staff Writer

Grow Smart Maine, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting communities in navigating change, issued a press release on plans for a proposed Gorham East/West Spur project.

They acknowledged that "ongoing traffic issues are causing hardships for residents, businesses, computers and municipalities. Traffic congestion is the result of multiple long-term factors and requires a multi-

pronged solution. The spur road proposal is a long-term investment, not a long-term solution. Maine can do better. Land use planning that directs most new development to walkable districts in targeted growth areas and lays the groundwork for more transit options is the place to start."

Grow Smart Maine plans to "remain engaged in supporting communities as they navigate change."

April School Committee Report

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer

At the April 10 regular meeting, the School Committee (SC) welcomed the youngest Gorham students who joined their teachers in a presentation on the district's Pre-K program. Started this year at Narragansett Elementary School, the program provides 60 Gorham 4 year-olds with a half-day "purposable play curriculum." Several students spoke about their activities and others narrated a colorful slide show. There are already 77 applicants for 64 fall openings.

The Great Falls Civil Rights Team spoke about their program and projects. Seven 5th grade students who represented the team's 18 members told about a winter story walk for younger students and of helping improve quality of life for students with disabilities. The team meets twice a month to discuss current events and plan ways of making all students feel included at Narragansett.

Superintendent Heather Perry made clear that Public Works would have cleared school sidewalks if asked and concern about that had not figured into the decision to close school after the last snowstorm. She reported that some changes coming from Department of Education were still unknown, such as proposed increase in support staff hourly rates and final decisions on the Child Support Services (CDS) decision to transfer responsibility for providing special services for

3 and 4 year olds to school districts.

The Finance Committee reported that they will be working with an architect to prepare an application for state funds for district buildings. The Teaching & Learning Committee is preparing a draft for AI guidelines. The Alternative Education Vision Committee is working on a new vision statement.

The School Committee voted 6-0 (Schools absent) to approve the proposed \$53,475,801 FY 25 School Budget. Prior to the vote, Mia DeSanctis proposed an amendment to retain a Great Falls teaching position that had been removed from the budget. The amendment passed (4-0

McCallister, Perkins) and \$95,000 was added to the budget. The approved budget will go to the Town Council after a joint workshop on April 23. In a separate vote required by the state, the SC voted to request local tax monies to fully fund the budget. The also voted to spend money that would be reimbursed by the state for special education services for 3 and 4 year olds, if the state requires the district take on that responsibility.

The SC voted to revise four district policies and held first readings of eight more. To read all policies passed by the School Committee, go to the Gorham School website; about us; school committee; policy manual.

Tessa's Lucky Finn CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in archery," said her father, Jerry. Tessa was a natural and all she needed was a brace to stabilize the bow. Tessa would later become the Indoor and Outdoor state archery champion in her age group and break the record with the best score in the Indoor Shooter category. Besides archery, Tessa taught herself to crochet and play piano... next up, Gorham Middle School swim team.

As expected, Jerry and Marty were worried about Tessa being teased but their minds have been eased over the

years when, instead, Tessa easily made friends. Her core group of friends is very protective of her. "My friends tell me I'm one in a million," assured Tessa. Jerry and Marty never let Tessa use her hand as an excuse to not do something. Additionally, Tessa has gained a lot of wisdom from her lucky fin and encourages others to be whoever they are and to try new things. "Never be ashamed of who you are, just be yourself," Tessa concludes. Sage advice from such a young girl.

School Budget CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

number of Gorham students receiving special education services has grown from 286 in 2014-15 to 483 in 2023-24.

Two years ago, the district discontinued the alternative education program at Gorham High School (GHS) because it was not effective in retaining students to graduation. This budget includes two Alt. Ed teachers and one Alt. Ed staff for a new program that would serve approximately 50 students across grades 9-12. These additions are connected to the reduction of 2.75 teachers at GHS for FY25, which includes a Mandarin teacher, an English teacher, and a social studies teacher. Among other reductions made to the proposed budget were textbook costs, reduced technology department staff (2), reduced software licenses, reduced legal lines, and a reduction of a part-time art instruction position, among other items.

Expenses in addition to operating costs budgeted at \$49,824,854 are \$395,000 for Capital Improvements, \$2,891,573 for debt service, and Adult Education costs that are recovered from revenue.

In addition to local tax monies, Gorham Schools receive \$24,071,307 in state subsidies. Other revenue needed to balance the budget accounts for all but \$600,000 which the School Committee voted to appropriate from the district's Fund Balance. These are funds from what is essentially the district's savings account.

The School Committee passed the budget unanimously (6-0, Schools absent). Following the vote several committee members commented on the budget process. Michelle Littlefield found it "wildly interesting going line by line and researching additional data," but believed it underfunded facilities. "It was hard to find reductions without impacting student services," she said. SC chair Sarah Perkins urged the Town Council to accept the budget as passed and not put the community through multiple referendum votes.

The Town Council will vote on the budget May 14. The figure they approve will go to the voters on June 11 for a referendum vote.

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SMAA Citizenship Award Winners from Gorham High School

Gorham Times Staff



Photo credit: Tim Spears, Athletic Director, GHS

The Southwestern Maine Activities Association (SMAA) is composed of seventeen high schools located in Cumberland and York Counties. Current members of the conference are: Biddeford, Bonny Eagle, Cheverus, Deering, Falmouth, Gorham, Kennebunk, Marshwood, Massabesic, Noble, Portland, Sanford, Scarborough, South Portland, Thornton Academy, Westbrook, and Windham. SMAA schools compete in Southern Maine Class A, and conference champions are crowned annually in twenty-eight sports. Each year, the SMAA recognizes two student athletes from each school who embody the traits of citizenship and good sportsmanship. This year's recipients of the SMAA Citizenship Awards are Thomas Curtis and Giselle Doucette.

GMS Library Announces Upcoming Events

Gorham Times Staff

Suzanne Dix, the Gorham Middle School Librarian has announced several upcoming events in early May for the students.

On May 1, Rodman Philbrick, the author of "Freak the Mighty" and several other young adult novels, is visiting and speaking to our entire student body. Rod currently splits his time between the states of Maine and Florida.

On May 8, Lisa Fipps, author of the middle grade book, "Starfish," will visit with our sixth and seventh graders.

In addition, Great Falls fourth and fifth graders have been invited to attend.

Also, May 14 is STEAM night at GMS! This is the second annual event and they are expecting 300 to 400 people to move throughout GMS to discover different ways that the sciences impact our lives. Food trucks, live music and prizes will be available. The theme this year is Superheroes. Parents and families are invited to attend this evening's events.

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Great Falls Civil Rights Team Presents to School Committee

Becky Fortier, GF Principal



Photo credit: Becky Fortier

On Wednesday, April 10, the Great Falls Civil Rights Team took the spotlight at the Gorham School Committee public meeting to present an overview of the program. The student representatives depicted the core values, beliefs, and mission of our civil rights team. They shared touching examples illustrating what inclusion, diversity, equality, and belonging truly mean to them, and how being part of this team has nurtured these essential aspects.

One highlight was hearing about their favorite project of the year, The StoryWalk, as well as other impactful experiences they've had, where both teachers and students have demonstrated remarkable acceptance and awareness. Great Falls School is proud of this team and the work that they have done!



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Gorham Rams Spring Sports Preview 2024

Katie Brown, Sports Editor

It is finally gorgeous weather out there. A few athletes were lucky enough to travel to warmer weather destinations early on to boost their pre-season performance. Here is the GHS 2024 spring sports overview.

SOFTBALL: COACH JASON DUBAIL

The previous '23 season concluded with a successful 11-5 record. The team moved on in the playoffs, losing in the semi-finals to Biddeford. The team had two seniors graduate from the 2023 team: Madi England and Kaci Mollison, who is currently playing softball at St. Michael's College.

This year, the team got a head start in Pigeon Forge Tennessee, playing 7 games during April break; a great opportunity to mix things up, strengthening team togetherness.



Photo credit: Veronica Bretton

Amber Bretton in action.

The 2024 team is returning 14 players with a plethora of varsity experience; 8 of them being seniors: Amber Bretton, Andi Cloutier, Emily Bennett, Gretchen Dixon, Kyleah Mack, Lydia Fluet, Makayla Quintal, and Sophia DiPhilippo. Five of the seniors have over 30 games of varsity experience including: Amber Bretton, P/Utility, 47 G, 82 H, 82 RBI, 14 HR, .526 Ave, 2023 All State, 2021-23 SMAA All Conference, 2- time All Star game selection. Andi Cloutier, SS, 48 G, 55 H, 50 RBI, .374 Ave JR All Star game selection. Kyleah Mack, P/OF, 36 G, 44 H, 41 R, .379 Ave, 2023 SMAA All Conference, JR All Star game Selection. Rounding out the roster with excellent stats are: Makayla Quintal, 2B, 35 G, 31 R, .444 OBP JR All Star game selection, Sophia DiPhilippo, C, 47 G, 52 H, 47 RBI, .347 Ave JR All Star game selection.



Photo credit: Travis Bush

Softball Team photo at Camden Yards, pre-season trip

Other returning starters rounding out the roster are: Lucy Dubail, JR, OF/C, .400 Ave Fr/So All Star game selection, Winnie Dubail, JR, 1B/OF, .500 OBP Fr/So All Star game selection, and Sawyer VonderHaar, SO, 3B, 12 RBI. Rounding out the roster and athletes who will contribute this year are: Lily Tukey, JR; Mad-

isson Willey, JR; and Terra Rioux, SO.

Coach added, "We have 2 players that are starting their varsity careers this year, Abbie Buckelew and Tatum Wing."

Coach concluded, "Southern Maine is loaded with talented players, teams and coaches in 2024. The difference between the top teams and the middle of the pack will be a small handful of plays each game. Our expectations are to be playing high level softball that is necessary to compete in this league and to be playing our best softball at the end of the season."

BASEBALL: COACH ED SMITH



Photo credit: Coaching Staff

Baseball pregame prep

Last season the team concluded with a 10-6 record and earned the #5 seed in the playoffs and lost to TA in the quarterfinals. Coach shared, "We lost five seniors from last year's team and will look to try to fill the holes left by SMAA batting champion, Quinn Dillon as well as everyday players and producers, Brady Win-



Photo credit: Dan Morin

Rams ready; Miles Brenner and Mason Finck.

tle, Cody Sellick and Malachi Scribner."

This year's captains are: Senior, CJ Whitehead C/OF and Juniors, Mason Finck C/3B and Jack Karlonas P/Util. Whitehead hit .362 with 15 RBI and 11 stolen bases last year. M. Finck hit .379 and led the team in RBI with 18. Karlonas hit .350 with 11 RBI and 12 stolen bases along with being one of our starting pitchers. They are all players to watch along with Casey Skolfield (JR) P/OF, Miles Brenner



Photo credit: Dan Morin

CJ Whitehead in action

(SO) P/SS and Hunter Finck (FR)P/IF.

Coach added, "We expect to be among the top teams this year in what will be a

very tough league. I like our pitching depth a lot and we are a very athletic team. Each game will be tough as there are no gimmes on the schedule for us. I expect Falmouth, Kennebunk, TA, Scarborough, Sanford and Marshwood to be very good this year."

Coach concluded, "The baseball program will be very active with our Little League in town this year. In addition, our athletes will be volunteering their time, umpiring youth games this spring on their off nights."

GIRLS LACROSSE: COACH MEGHAN CUSHING

According to Coach Cushing, Gorham Girls Lacrosse ended 9-6 in the regular season and graduated four seniors last year. This was the first winning record in two years. The Rams finished as the 11th



Photo credit: Betsy Nygren

Girls Lacrosse pre-season

seed and headed to Windham (6th seed) for a big first round playoff upset. The Rams ended their season with a loss to Yarmouth in the second round of playoffs.

The Rams have nine seniors this year. The team is led by captains Ellie Gay, Brooke Farquhar, Julia Wareham, and Giselle Doucette.

Coach Cushing included, "Players to watch this season are: Senior Midfielder, Ellie Gay. She was the leading scorer for us last year and had the most draw controls. She is a dominant player on all ends of the field and will play a critical role on all sides of the ball this year. She returns as a captain, making her a two-year captain. Senior Brooke Farquhar, (Defense), is a key returning defender. Brooke is dominant on the defensive end of the field. She led the team in caused turnovers last year. She will be heavily relied on to lead our defense this year. She is a captain for the team this year. Senior Midfielder, Giselle Doucette, is a key returning midfielder. Giselle is a leader all over the field and is a captain this year. She scores goals, hustles all over the midfield, and plays incredible defense. She is easily our most versatile player and willing to do what the team needs."

The Rams look to have another winning season this year and continue on the foundation they set last year. The Rams will face some tough opponents, including Kennebunk, Falmouth, and Windham. The Rams will have an Alzheimer's Awareness game on May 3rd vs. Scarborough. The game will be at 5:30 PM at Gorham High School.

BOYS LACROSSE: COACH ZACH BRYANT

This year's Boys lacrosse Captains are Haden Pelletier Senior, Jesse James Senior, and Max Duplisea Sophomore.

Coach Bryant shared, "We are a young

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



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team this year, only returning 6 seniors. The team is very freshmen and sophomore heavy with some very talented underclassmen backed by great senior leadership.”

Coach included, “Haden Pelletier is a dynamic scorer, with the ability to finish inside and rip shots from deep. He always seems to find the back of the net. Not only is he a great scorer but he’s a great feeder, he finds the open lanes in the defense and loves to get his teammates involved in scoring. Max Duplisea is an athletic defenseman who can play close defense and LSM. He is a tough matchup for any offensive player with his speed, height, and reach. Duplisea is also a threat in tradition with his great stick skills and ability to shoot the ball. Bode Bragdon is a fourth-year goalie with great save ability. Bragdon is a loud voice on the field commanding his defense. He is athletic out of the net and loves to get involved in clearing the ball.”

Coach Bryant added, “With a loaded schedule this year our biggest challenges will be TA, Cape and Falmouth for in-conference games. We also play the 3-time reigning class C champs Waynflete, this should be a great out-of-conference matchup.”

BOYS TENNIS: COACH AARON LANDRY

The Boys tennis team looks forward to a new season, the team lost in the Quarterfinals to TA last year and hope to break that streak this year.

According to Coach Landry the top returning players are Derrick Luo (So) will start the season at #1 singles, Captains Owen Spera (Jr) and Jacob Shvets (Jr) at #1 Doubles and Patrick Downey (Jr)/Logan Wilson (Jr) at #2 Doubles. New to the team this year: TJ Nagel (Jr), Exchange student Oscar Rodriguez (So), and Will Johnson (Jr).

Coach added, “We have strong return-



Photo credit: Adam Parvanta

Patrick Downey mid serve at USM

ing doubles teams and hope to make an impact in the new statewide Doubles Tournament this year. We have a young but fairly experienced team with no seniors so we are on the upswing and will likely match up well against many teams.”

GIRLS TENNIS: COACH NICOLE BERGERON

Last year the tennis team compiled a record of 10 wins including playoffs and 4 losses including playoffs. A solid record for new players in tough positions. Seniors who graduated last year were Sarah Rathbun and Klarha Cajuste, both crucial players.

Coach shared, “This year the seniors are Erica Nygren and Lillian Prather, (JV team), the captains are Julia Reed and Sarah Rosingana.”

Coach added, “The expectations are high, and I see that in the enthusiasm and motivation this team has.” Challenging opponents remain the same and include Thornton Academy, Kennebunk and Scarborough.

BOYS TRACK & FIELD: COACH JASON TANGUAY

Coach Tanguay shared, “Last season, our team finished in 3rd place in the conference championship and 5th place in the state championship. This season, we are looking to find our identity as over half our team are new faces. We do have many outstanding returning athletes who will be called upon to mentor and guide our new competitors so we can be competitive in the league and post season.”

Coach Tanguay recapped, the top

returners include Nathan Bergquist-Guimond, senior, distance; Luke Burns, senior, throws; Nolan Feyler, senior, sprints & hurdles; Griffin Gammon, junior, HJ, LJ & javelin; Kuba Kaczmarek, junior, jumps; Aidan Lee, senior; hurdles & HJ; Nick Munyaneza, junior, jumps; Joshua Wright, senior, hurdles.

GIRLS TRACK & FIELD: COACH JOHN CATERINA AND CHRISTINA STONE

The girls ended the ‘23 season 5th in SMAA and 15th in the Class A State meet Finals.

According to Coach Caterina, The key returners include: Seniors: Lilly Andreasen, javelin; Rita Cummings, distance; Addy Harjula, jumps; Ella Labrie, jumps; Meryk Lewellen, distance, jumps; Juniors: Ashley Connolly,

sprints; Bailey Hatch, jumps; Abby Rogers, sprints; Lindy Moreland, hurdles, jumps and throws. Sophomores: Zoe Dellinger, distance; Laurel Emerson, jumps. Key Newcomers include Juniors: Emily Fadrigon, jumps, sprints, Sophomores: Stella Moores, Gretchen Paul, and Freshmen: Sara Brawn and Noah Vail.

Coach Caterina concluded, “This year’s team has a strong group of juniors and seniors who will be depended upon to lead the team. The goal is to improve at both the conference and state meet level compared to last year while working on continuous improvement and development.”

All the Gorham teams should be in the mix at the end of the season going into the playoffs. Best of luck to all the Rams teams this spring season.

GMS Presents “Xanadu Jr.”

Gorham Times Staff



Photo credit: Quinton Donahue, Principal, Gorham Middle School

During the weekend of April 12 to 14, Gorham Middle School presented the musical, “Xanadu Jr.” to sold out crowds of parents, students and community members. This show was a wonderful example of how dedication can lead to something great coming together in just six short weeks. Congratulations to the cast and crew for delivering an amazing performance! Pictured is the cast taking their final bows.

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COMMUNITY

OF INTEREST

The Casco Bay Wind Symphony performs a "Lord of the Rings" themed performance conducted by Dr. William Kinne. The concert will be on Sunday, April 28 at 2 p.m. at the McCormack Performing Arts Center at Gorham High School. This concert features Johan de Meij's "Symphony No. 1," "The Lord of the Rings," Omar Thomas's "Caribana Afterparty," Joel Puckett's "A Lullaby for John," Shostakovich's "Festive Overture," Percy Grainger's "Molly on the Shore," and Yukiko Nishimura's "Summer Triangle" featuring our own Jason LaWind on alto saxophone. Join the "Lord of the Rings" costume contest - a prize for the best "Lord of the Rings" garb. Adults - \$13 in Advance, \$15 at the door; Seniors (65+) - Pay what you can; Students/Kids-Free. <https://www.cascobaywindsymphony.org>

Presumpscot Regional Land Trust announces that The Grand Opening of the East Windham Conservation Area will be held on Saturday, May 4, 10-noon. There will be three guided trip options: hiking, trail running, and mountain biking, depending upon trail condition. The hike is three miles and hilly to a scenic overlook with views of the White Mountains and additional viewpoints of Little Duck Pond. The event is free, but space is limited, and registration is required at <https://www.prlt.org/events>. This 700-acre Preserve, the largest wildlife habitat, clean water, and recreational trail corridor in Greater Portland, provides a 30-mile trail network connecting Windham's Lowell Preserve, and Falmouth's North Falmouth Community Forest and Blackstrap Hill Preserve.

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gorham Memorial Post 10879 will be meeting on Tuesday, May 7 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fire Department Training Room, 270 Main Street. For information contact the post at vwfpost10879@gmail.com.

Gorham/Windham/Westbrook TRIAD will meet on Wednesday, May 8 at 11 a.m. at the Gorham Fire Det on Main St. The speaker will be Clara McCool, Greater Portland Broadband Director. There will also be a potluck luncheon. Call (207) 229-9050 to coordinate what you plan to bring.

Gorham Lions return to Old Elmwood School for Tuesday evening meetings on May 14 and 28.

The Memorial Day Parade will step off at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 27. Gorham Rec. is currently taking registration for folks looking to participate in the parade, groups such as Gorham churches, community organizations, clubs, neighborhood groups and anyone else who wishes to be part of the parade. Line up begins at 10 a.m. at Village School. Register online at: https://gorhamme.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=14916

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

PUBLIC SUPPERS

White Rock Community Clubhouse at 34 Wilson Road will have a Public Bean Supper on Saturday, May 4 from 4 - 5:30 p.m. Eat in or take out, no pre-orders. Meal includes baked kidney & pea beans, coleslaw, potato salad, macaroni & cheese, biscuits, hot dogs and dessert. \$10 adults, \$5 under 12. FMI visit Facebook for updates: facebook.com/whiterockcommunityclub

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, on the 3rd floor of First Parish Church, is open and

welcomes the public. Join the group on Mondays at 10 a.m. for cribbage/board games. Join the weekly guest speaker program, "the Originals," on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. with a different speaker each week. Upcoming speakers include Wild Maine Turkeys, Gorham's Civil War Monument, Transatlantic Telegraph Cable, Maps & Genealogical research, Maine Women Photographers, S. African Safari, Carol Bailey String Band, etc. FMI: contact Lisa Becker at Leckybrowncenter@gmail.com.

LIBRARY NEWS

The North Gorham Public Library has a weekly All Ages Children's Story Time at 10:30-11:30 a.m. every Wednesday. April's display case has vintage and unusual salt and pepper shaker sets, and will stay up until the beginning of May. The NGPL Trustee Meeting will be on April 25 at 3:30 p.m. Trustees meetings are open to the public. The Plant and Book sale is scheduled for June 1. More info on Facebook. 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 Thursday, April 25 at 6 p.m., former president of the Maine Music Educators Association, Ed Judd, will discuss his book, "A View from the Podium." On Wednesday, May 1 at 6 p.m., Matt Cost, a.k.a. Matthew Langdon Cost, will discuss his histories and mysteries. 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 Art Department's Open Studios is a time to view student art projects completed during the semester, talk with students about their work, and enjoy food, fun, and camaraderie. During Open Studios student artwork on display in all Studio spaces on the Gorham Campus: Robie-Andrews Art, the Print Shop, the Academy Building, & the Drawing Building. Friends, family, neighbors, and prospective students are all welcome. Friday, April 26, 4 - 7 p.m., Free and open to the public

USM Theatre is celebrating the return of the annual dance concert. USM dance faculty and guest artists have created new contemporary dance works performed by our students for the Russell Hall Stage. Thursday and Friday, April 25 and 26 at 7 p.m. Tickets range from \$8 to \$18: <https://usm.maine.edu/department-theatre/>

The Osher School of Music upcoming events are Bella Voce Chorale and Chamber Singers Concert, Wednesday, April 24 and the Vocal Jazz Concert on Thursday, April 25, both at Corthell Concert Hall, 7:30 p.m., \$10/\$5.

Congratulations to the University of Southern Maine Class of 2024. The 144th Commencement takes place on May 4 for more than 1000 graduates. The event, scheduled for 9 a.m. at the Cross Insurance Arena in Portland, will feature remarks by University President Jacqueline Edmondson and addresses from student speaker Hamido Hassan and featured speaker Tom Caron, a well-known sportscaster and a native of Lewiston, Maine. The University will also confer an honorary degree to Lyndel J. "Joe" Wishcamper, who has had a successful career of developing affordable housing across the country. The University of Southern Maine's commencement ceremony is the culminating event on the academic calendar, giving the opportunity for individual recognition to every graduating student who wishes to participate. In all, more than 1,600 students will be eligible to participate.

CLOSE TO HOME

Saco River Theatre will have a CD Release Party for Jennifer Porter's ninth and internationally acclaimed album "Yes I do" on Saturday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Vaudeville at Saco River Theatre takes place the next day on Sunday, May 12 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 adults, \$5 children 5 - 18, and free under 5.

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.

Send short news and information items that would be
Of Interest to the whole Gorham Community to
loriaam@gmail.com

Letters to the Editor

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

intersection improvements for existing roads and other small-scale changes that would improve traffic flow. Scenario 2 includes the new highway spur. This study recommends "that both Scenarios be carried forward for further evaluation under Phase II for detailed evaluation under the NEPA process and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers New England Highway Methodology Process."

So where is the evaluation of Scenario 1? The Gorham Town Council must demand that these alternatives to the turnpike be studied.

Our State Senators and Representatives also need to take action to stop this senseless project. When the legislature authorized this turnpike spur in 2017, it was contingent upon the Turnpike Authority "completing an evaluation of reasonable alternatives, as required by the Sensible Transportation Policy Act." The legislature required that the Turnpike Authority

determine that there is no reasonable alternative to the construction of a connector to meet the identified need.

The MTA has determined no such thing, as no study of alternative roadway improvements has been done.

Abby King, Gorham

To The Editor:

We hope you will join us in voting for Ellie Sato for the State House.

We are very excited to support Ellie Sato in her run for State Representative District 109 for Gorham, Maine. Ellie stopped by our house to introduce herself and we discovered that she holds the same views as we do.

Our conversation turned to the Gorham Food Pantry and Ellie volunteered to help wherever we needed it. Ellie has settled right in helping at the Food Pantry.

Ellie grew up in Gorham, Maine,

and is very interested in providing support for the residents of Gorham.

Sato currently serves as Chair of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Committee of the Maine Democratic Party. She supports policies that will generate high-quality jobs and provide access to trade and post-secondary programs.

Health Care concerns include lowering prescription drug costs and providing care to those who are in need are issues that Ellie supports.

We urge all voters in Gorham to look at Ellie Sato's views on all of the pending topics at District 109 at the State of Representatives.

Bill and Wendy Couch

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The Root Cellar Volunteer Opportunities

Lucia Monaco Holloway, GHS Intern

The Root Cellar, based in Portland and Lewiston, is currently looking for volunteers. The Root Cellar is a non-profit that works with the community to help better the lives of those in need. The organization is planning to offer English Electives this summer, where volunteers can teach and practice their own interests to a group of English students interested in topics such as cooking, electrical work, computer literacy, plumbing, American culture, etc. These classes will meet twice a week, with flexible times this summer,

June 24 through Aug. 15. Currently, The Root Cellar's English program in Portland works with 250 adult immigrants from 10 different countries at 3 English levels and all teachers are volunteers. The Root Cellar is also looking for volunteers interested in after-school care as well as those interested in the English Program whether that be as a teacher, teaching assistant, tutor or to provide childcare. To volunteer please contact myraashley@therootcellar.org, (207) 774-3197 or by website <https://therootcellar.org>.



Photo credit: Courtesy of Root Cellar

Students learning English and other skills in Root Cellar's classroom settings



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CALENDAR

Thursday, April 25

North Gorham Public Library Trustees Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
 Baxter Memorial Library
 Toddler Discovery Time, 10 a.m.
 Sewing club (last before the summer). 3 - 4:30 p.m.
 Art Hour for Adults, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
 Author Event with Ed Judd, "View From the Podium," 6 p.m.
 USM Theatre Dance Concert, Russell Hall, \$8 to \$18, 7 p.m.
 Osher School of Music at USM, Vocal Jazz Concert, Corthell Concert Hall, \$5 - \$10, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 26

USM Art Department Open Studios, Robie Andrews, Academy Building, Drawing Building, Print Shop, 4 - 7 p.m.
 USM Theatre Dance Concert, Russell Hall, \$8 to \$18, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 27

USM Athletics
 Baseball vs. Vermont State University Castleton at 12 and 3 p.m.
 Men's Tennis vs. Rhode Island College at 12 p.m. at the Waynflete Tennis Complex
 Women's Lacrosse vs. Vermont State University Castleton at 12 p.m.
 Baxter Memorial Library, RPG Club, 11 - 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, April 28

Casco Bay Wind Symphony conducted by William Kinne, MPAC at GHS, 2 p.m.
 USM Athletics
 Softball vs. Colby College at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
 Baseball vs. MIT at 1 p.m.

Tuesday, April 30

USM Athletics
 Baseball vs. Husson University at 3:30 p.m.
 Softball vs. Umass Boston at 4 and 6 p.m.
 Baxter Memorial Library
 Family Discovery Time, 10 - 11 a.m.
 Dogs Dig Reading, 4 - 5 p.m.

Wednesday, May 1

Baxter Memorial Library Author Event with Matt Cost, author of "Clay Wolfe/Port Essex" series, 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 2

Baxter Memorial Library Board of Trustees Meeting, 6 - 7 p.m.

Friday, May 3

Baxter Memorial Library Book Sale (and Maine3Railers Train Show), 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 4

Baxter Memorial Library
 Book Sale (and Maine3Railers Train Show), Shaw Gym, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 LEGO Club, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
 Presumpscot Regional Land Trust East Windham Conservation Area Grand Opening, Shaw Gym, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
 White Rock Community Clubhouse Public Bean Supper, 34 Wilson Road, 4 - 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 7

VFW Gorham Memorial Post meeting, Fire Department Training Room, 5:30 p.m.
 Baxter Memorial Library, French Discussion Group, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 8

North Gorham Public Library All Ages Story Time, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

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the Courtesy of the Gorham Police Department
blotter

Buck Street caller was having issues with someone who would not give her the car keys. She wanted a welfare check on someone possibly at the residence. Parties were having a disagreement. Officer went to the house and explained to her she was not able to drive and would be responsible for her actions if she did drive. He gave her the keys to the vehicle.

Annie's Way caller complained that the neighbor's dog does its business on everyone's lawn but his own. Officer contacted the dog owner who said he would keep the dog at bay.

Mosher Road caller reported a vehicle was parked in his driveway overnight. He was told he could get it towed. Officer attempted to make contact with the registered owner but there was no valid phone number.

Caller wanted police to be aware of a male subject who came in and filled his car up and pointed his cell phone at her in an upward motion. She wanted special attention to the area.

Vehicles parked at Shaw Park after hours were moved along.

Gray Road caller reported a suspicious person who had stopped to let a friend use the restroom in a parking lot. They were moved along.

Caller reported a vehicle with Massachusetts plates had cut him off at the intersection of Main and New Portland Road. Caller attempted to pull the other car over, but did not succeed. Officer told him that no one was obligated to stop for him. Vehicle had expired MA plates, Gorham PD had no recorded history with this vehicle or the owner.

Man came by the PD to drop off a purse he found in a snowbank at Cherry Hill Park. Purse was returned to the owner.

Tucker Drive caller reported a jeep parked at the end of the road was playing music very loudly. A Jeep was parked in a guest parking area and four middle-aged people wearing birthday attire were just about to head out to celebrate. They all asked if they were being too loud and the officer confirmed the complaint but noted he did not hear excessive noise. They apologized and said they would keep the music down. Officer noted he did not hear any excessive noise when he arrived.

Two vehicles were parked the wrong way and in the road on Morrill Avenue. Both belonged to students who were called out of class to move their vehicles.

Officer stopped to check on a vehicle on

Sebago Lake Road with its flashers on. Two children were walking in front of the vehicle. Parents said the two brothers had been arguing and being loud so they told them to get out and cool off. They asked Officer to talk to the kids. Kids admitted they were hitting and yelling at each other in the vehicle. The younger one apologized and then they both apologized to their parents and family moved along after thanking the Officer.

Day Road caller reported a tow truck had dropped a vehicle in his driveway. Officer contacted the owner and learned the vehicle was supposed to be dropped off for storage at a different Dow Road address. Officer contacted the vehicle owner who was extremely apologetic and stated she would move the vehicle in the morning.

A suspicious person parked at the back of the school on Weeks Road had parked there to go running. He was moved along.

A Church Street caller reported two men were in the area soliciting for a church. Officer checked the area but did not locate the men.

A vehicle with no plate was driving erratically on Dunlap Road. Information was passed on to Standish.

Narragansett Street caller reported a person dressed in all black was walking around the area. No suspicious person was located.

Caller reported a man acting strangely and walking in and out of the road on Main Street. Officer did not find anyone matching the description given by the caller.

Jenna Drive caller reported a male in the woods who was tall and acting strangely, picking up rocks and throwing them down. Officer parked at the new construction site and could initially hear the sound of rocks hitting each other but the noise soon stopped and he did not locate the male.

Gray Road caller reported a man acting strangely was in the middle of the road, trying to hitchhike. Windham PD found the man on their side of the river. He had been reported as a missing person.

Woman reported children arguing in the car and wanted an officer to talk to them. Officer spoke with the one willing to talk and calmed the situation.

Call was received about a suspicious female walking on Ossipee Trail. Officer had just seen the woman who was trying to flag down a ride. He did not check on her as he did not see anything suspicious in her behavior.

CryptoVerse Solution by A. Logophile

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