

# Gorham Times

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## Contract Zone Approved by Town Council

Lori Arsenault, Managing Editor

After 30 months of intense review, at the Town Council meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 1, the contract zone for a 391-housing unit development to be built by KV Enterprises off Robie Street was approved 4 to 2, with Councilors Wilder Cross and Phillips opposed. Prior to the vote, councilors had the opportunity to ask clarifying questions of Tom Poirier, Gorham's director of community development, KV Enterprise's representative Vincent Maietta, and Sebago Technics' representative for the developer, Owen McCullough.

One of the first questions asked was whether a traffic study had been done. It was explained that while a traffic analysis was done, it is not a traffic study. The traffic study will be done as a part of Planning Board approval even though the Town Council has approved the contract zone.

Another question was asked about access for the public to the land trust parcel. Since that parcel is already public land, that will not change, and the other trails are all public infrastructure

and will also remain so. According to the developers, traffic and pedestrian connections have been considered, along with discussions of public sidewalks and access to local bus stops.

The multi-year contract zone agreement will allow the developer to build 15 single-family homes and 1 multi-unit building per year, for a total of 96 single-family homes, and 295 apartments. Most units are expected to be one- or two-bedroom apartments, with each apartment building containing one or two apartments with three bedrooms. These buildings may also include some commercial spaces on the lower floors.

The agreement also provides for a \$1000 impact fee per unit for each single-family home and \$500 per unit in the multi-unit buildings to be paid to the town to support any increase in school capacity.

The full discussion can be viewed online at <https://play.champds.com/gorhamme/event/72>.

## Gorham's Homecoming

Gorham Times Staff



Photo credit: Officers of the GHS Student Council (Bree, Emily, Ava and Brooke) and Advisor Rachael Grady  
Gorham High School marks homecoming week with a pep rally, spirit week, and a homecoming dance

## What's on your Ballot: Referendum Questions

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer

There are seven referendum questions on the November ballot. Gorham voters will be asked if they want to approve a citizen's initiative request and three state bond requests; whether or not they want to replace the state flag; and if they approve issuing bonds for capital improvements for Gorham schools and for replacing the district's tennis courts.

The Secretary of State reports that no public comments were filed in support of or in opposition to any of the five State Questions.

**State Question 1: Do you want to set a \$5,000 limit for giving to political action committees that spend money independently to support or defeat candidates or office?**

This citizens-initiated bill would prohibit any individual or business from giving more than \$5,000 in a calendar year to a political action committee, commonly known as a PAC. A PAC itself may not contribute more than \$5,000 to a "superPAC." Most groups that receive contributions or make expenditures of more than \$2,500 to influence the election of a candidate are PACs. They act independently of candidates. If passed, the contribution limit would be adjusted for inflation every two years.

**State Question 2: Do you favor a bond issue of \$25,000,000 to provide funds,**

**to be awarded through a competitive process and to leverage matching private and federal funds on at least a one-to-one basis for research and development and commercialization for Maine-based public and private institutions in support of technological innovation in the targeted sectors of life sciences and biomedical technology, environmental and renewable energy technology information technology, advanced technologies for forestry and agriculture, aquaculture and marine technology, composites and advanced materials and precision manufacturing?**

If passed the state would be authorized to issue general obligation bonds not to exceed \$25 million to raise funds to promote technological information in certain sectors of the economy, as listed in the question. It would provide these funds to the Maine Technology Institute to be administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development.

**State Question 3: Do you favor a \$10,000,000 bond issue to restore historical buildings owned by the government and nonprofit organizations, with the funds being issued contingent on a 25% local match requirement from either profit or nonprofit sources?**

The proceeds of the bonds would be expended by the director of the

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Flag photos: Courtesy of the Office of the Secretary of State

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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 on Gorham residents. The Gorham Times reserves the right to edit the submissions and it further reserves the right to reject any submission, at its sole discretion.

# Reform Efforts to Improve Child Welfare

Rep. Jim Boyle

Every child deserves to grow up with safety and security, but unfortunately, the deaths of too many young children here in Maine have revealed a problem that we need to address. As first steps in addressing these deaths, my colleagues and I within the Legislature collaborated with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to investigate structural issues within the Office of Child and Family Service (OCFS) in order to find sustainable long-term solutions. While improvements are ongoing, I want to share some of the steps that have been taken to further support the department’s caseworkers and families within our state system, with the ultimate goal being enhancing the happiness and welfare of all Maine children.

Last November, caseworkers testified before the Legislature’s Government Oversight Committee, highlighting the challenges posed by high caseloads and long working hours. It was reported that these factors were resulting in emotional burnout and, ultimately, a high employee turnover rate. Many caseworkers expressed that the demands of their roles – which often required them to be anything from a crisis intervention specialist to a transporter to a visit supervisor – coupled with low pay, resulted in a significant emotional toll.

To address these concerns and increase employee retention, DHHS recognized that it must better prioritize its employees’

work-life balance, incentivize payments for difficult shifts and, overall, increase wages. As a result of these efforts, vacancies in caseworker roles have decreased from 25% to 10%. Prioritizing work-life balance and improving the pay of OCFS workers is essential for children in the system. When employee satisfaction improves, it enables workers to consistently and effectively show up to support the children under their care.

Not only did DHHS work to provide more support for its employees, but it also recognized that it needed to provide more substantial assistance for foster families, also referred to as resource families, throughout the state. This included further investments in home-based therapeutics and resources such as Treatment Foster Care Oregon training – a framework meant to support children ages 12 to 17 with emotional and behavioral challenges living in a family setting. These trainings will give families the tools to provide appropriate care for children in their charge.

Additionally, the Legislature approved a 5% increase to foster family reimbursements in the state’s biennial budget. Adequate financial support will ensure that resource families are more able to meet the needs of the children in their care.

While improvements have been made, OCFS is committed to continue addressing both short- and long-term challenges. Going forward, the department will facilitate a

review of over 2,000 recommendations from the Government Oversight Committee, the Health and Human Services Committee, various stakeholders and citizen review panels to develop a comprehensive child welfare improvement plan, which we expect will be ready for review by January 2025.

I am encouraged by OCFS’s progress in addressing the concerns raised by so many Mainers regarding our state’s child welfare system. While challenges still exist, the increased support services for frontline caseworkers and additional resources for foster families represent significant steps forward.

Ultimately, our state’s commitment to ongoing evaluations and enhancement of the child welfare system will strengthen our ability to protect and serve vulnerable children. This continual reflection and reassessment are essential for creating environments where all Maine children can grow up safely and truly thrive.



Rep. Jim Boyle, D-Gorham, is serving his second and final term in the Maine House of Representatives after serving two years in the Maine State Senate. He is a member of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee.

## 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.

Dear Editor,

As a resident of Scarborough, I’ve seen firsthand how challenging it has become for families and seniors on fixed incomes to afford housing in our community amid rising costs. That’s why I’m supporting Senator Stacy Brenner for reelection to the Maine Senate this November. Stacy has been a strong advocate for policies that tackle this issue head-on.

Stacy is committed to addressing the affordable housing crisis from multiple angles. She supports policies that will increase the number of housing units available and ultimately bring prices down for everyone, whether they are looking to rent or buy.

One example of her leadership is her support for the Housing First initiative, which provides both housing and essential wrap-around services for our most vulnerable neighbors. This approach ensures that people aren’t just housed but have the resources to thrive.

By advocating for the construction of more affordable housing units, Stacy is helping ensure that residents can afford to live close to their work and schools. She’s also been a strong advocate for first-time homebuyers, working to make home ownership more accessible.

Senator Stacy Brenner understands that housing is key to building strong, resilient communities. Her leadership is exactly what we need to create more affordable housing and make District 30 a place where everyone can thrive. Please join me in voting for her this November.

Dr. Carol M Davis, Scarborough

Letter to the Editor

Ellie Sato is running for State Representative in Gorham’s District 109. Ellie was a strong, determined student of mine and I am excited to cast my vote for her on November 5th.

I first met Ellie Sato at the beginning of her sophomore year of high school, where I was privileged to teach her biology. Ellie showed maturity and was a committed member of her community. She demonstrated a propensity for diligence, responsibility and hard work. These qualities will serve Gorham well if we elect Ellie to represent us at the State House.

In speaking with Ellie recently, I was very pleased to see how focused she is on helping her fellow Gorham citizens. Ellie Sato’s intelligence and varied life experiences make her the best choice for our next State Representative. I encourage you to join me in voting for Ellie on Nov. 5.

Barbara Farrell

Letter to the Editor:

On Nov. 5, please join me in voting for Ellie Sato for State Representative in Gorham. Ellie is smart, hard-working and forward-looking. It’s time for a new generation of leadership and Ellie is just what our community needs.

Before running for office, Ellie worked at the State House as a legislative aide for numerous lawmakers, including current Senator Stacy Brenner. Ellie worked on legislation important to our community—ensuring good schools, a clean environment, and supporting our small business—

and interacted closely with Gorham constituents. Ellie understands the issues important to our community and because of her experience, knows how to get things done.

As a former State Representative for Gorham, I know what it takes to get things done in Augusta. I am confident that Ellie Sato will be an excellent representative and advocate for our community, and I hope you’ll join me in voting for her this November.

Andrew McLean, Former Gorham State Representative

To the Editor:

Please Reelect Stacy Brenner to the Maine Senate. Stacy Brenner just completed her first 2-yr term in the Maine Senate representing us. I have been very impressed at how she jumped into the role as a new legislator and accomplished so much! We need to elect her for another term!

She is passionate about making a positive difference for our lives in the state of Maine and in our local communities of Scarborough and Gorham. She has supported efforts and legislation to make our environment safer and more resilient, worked to make health care more affordable, and her efforts have helped to make childcare and public education stronger. The list goes on.

I would especially like to focus on her efforts to educate and legislate on the PFAS crisis in Maine. Through Stacy’s ef-

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## Gorham Times

BRINGING THE NEWS TO ALL OF GORHAM  
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forts, I became aware of the significant widespread problem affecting much of our farmlands, unfortunately for years to come, as well as its health dangers. She has worked tirelessly to stop the continued spread of contaminated sludge and to find some solutions. She has creatively worked on programs, such as putting up solar panels on contaminated land, to help farmers who can no longer grow crops on their property.

Stacy has made herself available to all her constituents from youth to older adults. She wants to know what we are thinking and what issues are important to us. In addition to being open to being contacted, she regularly has held forums to solicit input and invited contact. We need her back in the Senate! Please give her your vote!!

Ruby B Parker, Scarborough

To the Editor:

I unequivocally support Parnell Terry to be the next State Representative for District 108. Having served in this seat for eight years myself, and having spent hours driving Parnell to doors this campaign season, I appreciate that Parnell and I share many of the same values in life.

Parnell is devoted to his family, to Gorham and to the state of Maine. Parnell grew up on a farm in rural Maine and has worked in a number of traditional Maine industries, including as a ground fisherman and lobsterman, in construction (I was surprised at how many Gorham homes he has worked on!), and he continues in his work to keep Gorham schools in good condition. He holds a BA degree from U Maine in Communications and Broadcast Production.

Parnell is unpretentious, humble and caring. He understands the struggles that Gorham families, young and old, face with high costs coming at them from all directions. He has lived that struggle. He desires to make life a bit easier for working Mainers and retirees.

Some of Mr. Terry's top priorities are making sure our older folks can age in their own homes; our environment is protected as we adapt to a changing climate; our schools deliver high quality education with adequate support from the state; and

we grow the economy through a healthy, productive, and well-educated workforce.

Vote Parnell Terry for State House District 108. His work ethic and life experience will serve us all well. Thank you!

Linda Sanborn, Gorham

To the Gorham Times Editor:

I'm writing to urge Gorham residents to elect Jim Hager for one of the two open Town Council seats. Gorham is facing countless important matters related to growth demands requiring an experienced candidate who can immediately get to work, and I believe Jim is that candidate. Here are a few reasons why this is true.

Soon after I joined the Council, I grew to appreciate Jim's wealth of information about how the budget process works. I watched as he scrutinized every line item asking relevant questions about expenditures and revenues, all with the goal of keeping the municipal portion of the mill rate reasonable. He did that during his six years on the Council, and he did that during his twelve years on the School Committee. To keep our taxes in check, we need his conservative voice.

In addition to his extraordinary ability to manage budgets, Jim understands the growth challenges we're facing. His Planning Board experience and experience serving on several Council committees have prepared him to immediately get to work balancing Gorham's housing and commercial growth. With a sensible balance, Gorham will be the best place for your family to live and for your business to flourish.

When Jim says he cares about your family, business, taxes and how managed growth affects those matters...he means it! He does care about you, and he cares about Gorham.

When I first joined the Council I thought I was prepared, but it actually took me months before I knew what I was doing. At this critical time for Gorham's growth, we need a candidate who can immediately get to work. Jim is that candidate!

So, if you care about your family, your business, your taxes and the Town of Gorham's growth, cast your vote for Jim Hager on Nov. 5.

Virginia Wilder Cross, Gorham

# Recognizing October as Energy Awareness Month

Lucia Monaco Holloway

October is National Energy Awareness Month and Oct. 2 was named Energy Efficiency Day. The smallest efforts to work energy efficiency into your life can help to reduce energy usage but also lower your bills and keep homes warm through the winter months. Significant energy is used during winter months to keep homes warm, and by taking some simple steps you can not only keep your home comfortable this winter but also reduce energy usage and lower energy bills.

Checking to make sure windows and doors are sealed this winter to ensure heat is kept inside, sealing any cracks to prevent drafts and making sure your home has proper airflow by keeping furniture away from vents are all easy ways to save energy. Also using natural heat can be beneficial, opening curtains during the day and letting sunlight in

will heat your home for free. Adjusting your water heater by lowering the temperature to 120 Fahrenheit will still give you hot water and assist in reducing energy. Consider adjusting your thermostat to lower temperatures at night or when nobody is home to help cut down on energy usage and monthly bills. Businesses are also encouraged to participate in energy efficiency by using dimmers, motor sensors and turning off lighting when offices are not in use. Converting to office equipment with power management features like printers or fax machines will also reduce energy.

Even though Energy Efficiency Month only happens once a year, everyone is encouraged to practice all year long.

This information was provided by Summit Utilities of Maine, supplier of natural gas.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW

# Martin Garayzabal, GHS Exchange Student/Graduate

JoAnn Leib, Staff Writer



Photo credit: Courtesy of Martin Garayzabal

Garayzabal family seated from right to left, Gregorio, Guadalupe and Francisco, standing in the back, Martin and Vero.

GHS ('95) graduate and exchange student Martin Garayzabal grew up in sunny, big-city Cordoba, Argentina, and traveled to college-town Gorham, Maine with a love of sports, a gregarious personality and as he describes it, only moderate English language skills. He wanted very much to fit in, and so during the 11 transformative months that followed his arrival, Garayzabal adapted to a brand-new social life, pre-Facebook, Instagram and TikTok.

At GHS, Garayzabal jumped in to spark the varsity soccer team in what Coach Gary Speed called, "the team's best season in several years." He joined the volleyball team and played competitive tennis for Coach Derek Pierce, happily assisted the GHS Chorale and quickly polished his spoken English. He learned to cook with his revered exchange mother, Carol Curran, and shoveled snow—an unknown activity in his hometown. He made friends as if he'd grown up in Gorham and was even voted Class Flirt in the GHS yearbook.

He talks about the Burkes, the Begleys, Angelo Sotiropoulos, and, he says, "many others, I don't want to forget them!" then mentions his physics teacher, Bob Crowley, who had yet to become the world-famous survivor of the "Survivor: Gabon" in 2008. He talks about his "bestie" Sarah Ward, whose wedding he attended, and she his.

Garayzabal's voice is humble as he reflects now, almost 30 years later, on the impact of his GHS student experience, when he was first chosen as one of three exchange students to travel to Gorham, the two others coming here from Russia and Egypt.

"I didn't know what to expect, but I learned so much. The GHS teachers, the kids my age, and most of all the Curran family—my 'second family'—it all changed me forever. In that year Maine, College Avenue, the Curran house, became my place too." It is important to note that in that year, 1995, the Gorham population was inching up on 12,000 individuals, while at the same time, the Cordoba, Argentina citizenry numbered 2,750,000, sec-

ond in population to Buenos Aires.

There were other obvious differences. Summer here is winter there. "There is no Whoopie Pie or maple syrup in Cordoba." Politics are different. Styles, and certainly cultures can seem different, at least on the surface. "I work now in the insurance business. Underwriting. I'm always busy. I think Gorham is quieter, in a good way, than big-city Cordoba, says Garayzabal: "People don't rush in Gorham. They care about each other." He is quiet for a moment.

He starts again proudly: "And then there is soccer: "You have the Red Sox and baseball. I have my Cordoba team the Talleres, in the Primera Division." He and his family are huge fans of the team, attending games often and supporting the Talleres with what has become the entire group Garayzabal enthusiasm.

We talk about Garayzabal's family today, three teenagers, two boys and a girl, and his dear wife Veronica. "We want our own kids to know the values of travel and meeting new people and of understanding other ways of life. I wanted them to hear my exchange student stories."

Because he has never wanted to lose contact with his Gorham friends and the Curran family, there have been several visits to see friends in Maine and even a family visit with the Currans at their Florida condo a few years ago. Garayzabal's voice is suddenly somber as he talks about the Florida vacation, and there is another pause.

"I should tell you that Mrs. Curran, Carol, my exchange mother, helped me so much. I miss her." Sadly, he explains that Carol Curran passed away on February 14, 2019. "She knew when I was missing my own family and when I was feeling homesick and she would listen to me, and I would feel better. She was so kind and caring—like my own mother."

Carol Curran must have known the important role an exchange mother plays. Here Garayzabal was sharing his idea of what "Exchange" may really mean: a new place made kinder and more comfortable by people who care about you.

To connect with Martin Garayzabal: martingarayzabal@hotmail.com.



Photo credit: Courtesy of Martin Garayzabal

Curran family from right to left, Albert, Carol, Rachel, Martin, Sally and Mamere.

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



# Risk Management and Insurance: How to Avoid Insurance Gaps

Ethan Johnson, Contributing Writer

Small businesses in all industries face numerous risks that can lead to significant financial losses. To mitigate these exposures, businesses secure insurance. Many considerations go into building an insurance portfolio; business leaders must be mindful of policy specifics, such as limits and exclusions. Failure to adequately address a business's insurance needs can result in costly coverage "gaps," or situations where a business's insurance policies don't cover a specific loss, forcing the organization to pay out-of-pocket.

Insurance gaps can be detrimental to a business and its stakeholders. They can cause financial damage when an organization must pay out-of-pocket expenses after its current policies fail to adequately cover a loss-causing event. In turn, this can also negatively impact a business's reputation, resulting in a decline of trust in its operations and difficulty in obtaining financing. Coverage gaps commonly arise due to several reasons, including: Misunderstanding policy exclusions, not reviewing and updating policies, or relying on personal insurance for business activities.

Business owners and employers should take the following steps to discover and eliminate insurance coverage gaps that may exist in their policies: 1) conduct a comprehensive risk assessment to understand their insurance needs; 2) review and update insurance policies regularly; 3) work with an experienced insurance agent or broker; 4) understand policy exclusions and endorsements; and 5) ensure adequate limits and proper deductibles are in place.

Business owners should keep the following coverage in mind when building their portfolios, as they are often overlooked: 1) Business interruption insurance provides financial assistance to help cover lost income and ongoing expenses if a business is forced to temporarily close due to a covered event; 2) Cyber liability insurance may cover expenses such as notification and recovery costs after a data breach or

cybersecurity incident (e.g., ransomware attack, denial-of-service attack or phishing attack); 3) Errors and omissions insurance provides coverage for service-based businesses if a client claims the service was inadequate or negligent. It is also known as professional liability insurance; 4) Employment practices liability insurance may offer financial protection for claims of wrongful actions (e.g. wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment) taken during the employment process; 5) Commercial umbrella insurance provides an additional layer of coverage if a claim exceeds the liability limits of a business's other policies (e.g., general liability and auto liability insurance).

Business owners can take several actions to make certain they have adequate coverage. They can ask detailed questions and seek clarification from their insurers and brokers about what is covered under specific policies. Additionally, they can consider industry-specific insurance policies that address the unique risks of their business. They can even bundle policies to reduce costs and avoid gaps between separate policies.

Businesses should avoid insurance coverage gaps that can leave them vulnerable to financial and reputational damage. Understanding why coverage gaps form, knowing how to identify and close them, and being aware of the types of coverage that are often overlooked can help them achieve this goal.



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

# Grateful Dad

Bruce Webb, Contributing Writer

The challenges of aging are well known and widely experienced. In a culture that values and celebrates youth, many fear and detest the specter of aging. The stereotypes are widespread and resonate strongly with "people of a certain age". In my 80's I now have a greater appreciation of the wonders of the "early bird special", listen more attentively to the ads from Big Pharma promising to cure a variety of ills, and have a deeper understanding of the bumper sticker "Aging Is Not for Sissies."

Aging is a natural process that impacts everyone and has a fatality rate of 100% as we journey along the same road with the same outcome. So why do we struggle so much with the process and take extraordinary steps to fight aging when the outcome is preordained?

I admit to illusions of eternal youth but a look in the mirror in the morning quickly dissuades me of those fantasies. Rather than waste time worrying about aching joints, hair loss, weight gain, lack of energy and 9 p.m. bedtime, I have decided on a new approach to this age-old (pun intended) dilemma.

Every morning, I wake up with a sense of gratitude - another day filled with uncertainty and trepidation about what will happen between dawn and dusk - but still, I get another ride on the merry go round. This is no small thing for an 81-year-old but it intrigues me with possibilities.

Rather than dread each day, I jump up to make the coffee (I need more caffeine now) and start the day. I luxuriate with my coffee, read the papers, make a to-do list and get on with checking off the items which gives me a sense of accomplishment. Writing these items in a notebook is important because I often forget what's

on my list or where I put the list. Sigh!



Thanks to medical advances, available treatments, health education, constant media and good genes, people are living longer, and the median life span has advanced in the USA. Since my "use by date" (statistically about 76 years old) has long passed, I view this bonus time as a gift: a privilege that others don't experience; I do my best to appreciate what I have and the things I can still do. My wife, two sons, and good friends are a source of enormous support in this journey. I am now more content to "go with the flow" and appreciate the wisdom and grace that my eight decades have bestowed on me.

Since I have somewhat limited control of the outcome, I am content to live out the remainder of my time - not bemoaning my fate but celebrating my privilege by being of service to others, avoiding un-winnable battles, learning more about the world, being kind to others and doing the best with this gift of time.

I accept that I will never run a marathon, climb mount Everest or win a gymnastic event but I can eat a healthy diet, exercise regularly, make friends and take my doctor's advice. It is unlikely that the situation will improve, and the challenge is how best to accept this gift with grace, gratitude and humility.




Bruce Webb has been a Gorham resident for 40 years. He was a home energy auditor and is involved in environmental activism.



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# Turnpike Connector Project: Tell Us What You Think

John Ersek, Staff Writer

Recently (on Oct. 2) the Scarborough Town Council voted to cancel its previous support for the Maine Turnpike Authority's Gorham Connector project. This happened after months of intense discussions, and after years of official support. The vote came after numerous Scarborough residents presented information to the council about what they see as the many negative effects the project would have on the regional environment, including destroying important natural habitats, taking some of Smiling Hill Farm's land out of production, and enhancing suburban sprawl by making longer commutes more feasible.

So far, organized opposition to the project in Gorham has not reached the same level as in Scarborough, and the town council has not gotten involved.

While the Gorham Times is not taking any position on whether the Connector project should be built, we believe that we might have a role to play in encouraging discussion of this important topic. One way we are doing that is by encouraging readers to participate in an anonymous online poll. We are also presenting the questions here in the print edition. We hope to publish some results in November.

### Questions for readers:

1. Do you support the Maine Turnpike Authority's previously announced plans to build a new four lane toll road, known as the Gorham Connector, which would connect the South Gorham roundabout on Route 114 with the Turnpike near Exit 44 in South Portland (near the Target shopping plaza) ?
- Yes.      No.      Not sure.
2. Do you believe that the construction of the new roadway would directly affect you or your immediate neighbors?
- Yes.      No.      Not sure.
3. If you do not support the project as currently proposed, which of the following options, if any, do you support as alternative ways of dealing with the area's traffic problems. (Alternatives B through E have been summarized from comments made by project opponents according to recent news articles.)
- A) Do nothing
- B). Increase bus service from Gorham to downtown Portland, and a new, frequent bus line connecting Gorham to the Maine Mall and Scarborough Gallery shopping areas, then continuing onward, to downtown Portland.
- C) Widening the existing Route 22 and Route 114 corridors, while adding turning lanes, breakdown lanes, and improved traffic signals.
- D) Reducing traffic in the Routes 22/114 overlap area by limiting "suburban sprawl" in towns to the north and west of Gorham, through the use of strict state-mandated zoning restrictions (in outlying towns such as Buxton, Hollis, Standish, Waterboro, and Limington).
- E) Encouraging enhanced use of tele-commuting; shorter work weeks; tele-med appointments; on-line classes; and using other means of reducing the number of people from the western suburbs who drive to Portland, South Portland, and Scarborough on a frequent basis.
- F) Other options - write in your ideas below:

Does the Gorham Times have permission to publish your name?

\_\_\_ Yes, my name is:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ No, do not publish my name.

If you'd prefer to take the poll online, the link is:  
<https://forms.gle/uMi6ssYmkYieHnLg8>

Or clip and mail your answers to:  
Gorham Times

Online Reader's Poll  
P. O. Box 401  
Gorham, ME 04038

# Meet Your Neighbor: Lisa Bird, Super Volunteer and Pageant Queen

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer

Lisa Bird was recently crowned Mrs. Maine's Sweetheart. Competing as Mrs. Southern Maine, Bird won the state title in the Crossroads' Maine Academic Scholarship Pageant. She will compete in a national competition in Florida next summer.

Lisa Bird chuckles as she describes herself as a non-stereotypical pageant winner.

The Crossroads competition she won focuses on community involvement and achievement, rather than physical attributes. "The pageant is all about character and giving back," she said. Crossroads is a non-profit organization whose goal is to empower youth to value and participate in their communities as volunteers and leaders who promote social responsibility and acceptance of all regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, mental capacity or sexual orientation.

This message is important to Bird whose family has a very strong ethic of volunteerism. She said, "I grew up in a family of service." Her grandfather, Micky Boutilier started the Special Olympics program here in Maine many years ago. She added that volunteers gain as much, if not more from volunteering as do the recipients.

As a super volunteer, Bird actively supports several organizations like TIP-Trauma Intervention Program, a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring that those who are emotionally traumatized in emergency situations receive the immediate assistance they need. She also supports Honor Flight, The Clothes Closet, and several other non-profits. This month she will be participating in the Walk to End Alzheimer's, in honor of her dad and on New Year's Day she will be jumping into the icy waters of the Atlantic for the Special Olympics Lobster Dip, which she has done several times before.

One of her motivations for entering the pageant is that Bird is also enthusiastic that women of all ages, and particularly those of a somewhat older age, keep striving, contributing, and challenging themselves. She believes that each of us have a special gift and that age, size, shape, etc. do not matter. She wants to change the stereotype of pageant winners. "What truly counts is who you are on the inside, how you use your God-given gifts, and how you give back," she said.

Bird is challenging herself as well. She recently left a 30-year position as the Director of Public Relations for Special



Photo credit: Frank Bird

Lisa Bird is headed to Florida as one of Maine's representatives in the USA Ambassador Pageant in July 2025.

Olympics Maine. Last year, she was recognized for her work when she was selected as one of Coast Radio's 20 Outstanding Women in Maine for her work with a variety of volunteer organizations.

Bird has challenged herself by accepted a ground-breaking new position at Granite Bay Care (GBC), Maine's largest provider of residential services for adults with intellectual disabilities. As the GBC compliance manager and public safety liaison she is developing and nurturing relationships between police, fire and rescue personnel and her clients and also with staff, most of whom are new Mainers. She is working to break down walls between staff and public safety, that have been built by language and cultural barriers and a fear of authorities. She hopes that the model she develops will be replicated in other facilities around the country.

Hockey mom, Bird, lives with her husband Frank of 27 years, three rescue dogs, and a few thousand bees. Their two sons, Noah and Jonah are GHS grads. Noah is coaching hockey at USM and Jonah is playing hockey at Thomas College. They are really proud and excited for their mom.

Lisa Bird can be reached at [Mrs Maine Sweetheart FB Page](#) or [mrs-mainesweetheart@gmail.com](mailto:mrs-mainesweetheart@gmail.com)

# What Meets the Eye

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer

The saying, "There's more to life than meets the eye," seems an apt description of the fact that according to NASA, for the next two months, Earth will have a second moon orbiting.

Asteroid 2024 PT5 began circling Earth on Sept. 29 as a mini-moon. It will return to its asteroid belt before the end of November. This visitor from space is too dim and too small to catch a glimpse of without the aid of a professional telescope.

Asteroid 2024 PT5 usually orbits the sun as part of a small asteroid belt called Arjuna whose orbit averages a distance of about 93 million miles from the sun...

very similar to Earth's orbit. But there is no need to worry about a collision. The asteroid will be about 2.8 million miles away from Earth at its closed point, traveling at a speed of 2,200 miles per hour.

So, this solar non-event begs the question, why should we care? To which I say, if something as unusual as this is going on around us that we can't even see, what else are we missing? What other astounding things are happening that we know nothing about? Maybe a little reminder that life is complex and full of unknown mystery and majesty is a good enough reason.



# Charting Gorham’s Future

Gorham Times Staff

The Town of Gorham Economic Development Department is hosting an event on Tuesday, Oct. 15 from 5:30 – 7:30 where attendees can provide input on the Town’s new Economic Development Strategic Plan. All are welcome to participate in this open house style conversation. Topics will include local business climate, commercial land use, development opportunities, and community assets. This event will be hosted by Camoin Associates, a leading economic development consulting firm hired by the Town of Gorham to create an Economic Development Strategic Plan. In addition to 1-1 interviews and small group forums with local business leaders, Camoin seeks input from citizens to inform and guide their recommendations. The QR code in the page 7 ad links directly to a survey for those interested but unable to join the event in person. Contact Kevin Jensen, Economic Development Director for any questions at [kjensen@gorham.me.us](mailto:kjensen@gorham.me.us) or (207) 222-1628.

## Clerk’s Corner

Laurie Nordfors, Town Clerk

Happy Fall, everyone. I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful fall weather and colors of the season! The Clerks’ Office has been busy fulfilling absentee ballot requests. You may request an absentee ballot by calling the Town Clerk’s office or visiting the State Election website. If you have already requested a ballot, we have begun mailing out ballots and you should receive yours soon. Absentee voting will be held in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Center starting Oct. 21 thru Oct. 31 during regular business hours, Monday – Thursdays, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. We will be offering Saturday, Oct. 26 from 8 a.m. – noon and Wednesday, Oct. 30 from 7 a.m.-7 p.m. as extra voting hours. Voter registration is conducted at the Town Clerk’s Office during regular business hours. Please be sure to have photo identification and proof of your residence address when registering to vote. You can register to vote up to and including election day in person. If you register by mail, your voter registration card must be received in the Town Clerk’s Office by Oct. 15, 2024 to be eligible to vote in the November election. Dog registration for 2025 will begin on Oct. 15, 2024. You may register your dog online or visit the Town Clerk’s office after Oct. 15. Please make sure you bring your dog’s current rabies information. Snowmobile registrations are now available for 2025 as well as hunting licenses. FY25 real estate tax bills went out this month. Look for yours in the mail. The current mil rate is \$14.70. Please do not hesitate to call the Town Clerk’s Office at (207) 222-1670 with any questions.

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# Town Council Report, Oct. 1

Lori Arsenault, Managing Editor

The Tuesday, Oct. 1 meeting was opened with six council members (Gagnon absent) and over 40 members of the public present, along with Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak and Town Clerk Laurie Nordfors. Open public communication included three residents speaking about the health and safety concerns of neighbors of the Shaw Brothers quarry, Queen Street residents Kathy Robbins and Breanna Meister, and Charlie Hamblen of Hamblen Road. Councilor communication included: -Councilor Simms speaking about the work of the Fiscal Sustainability Committee with regards to the Town Council and School Committee. -Councilor Siegel reported on the Ordinance Committee discussing the Wastewater Ordinance, Fire Suppression Ordinance, and items on the agenda for the Nov. 28th meeting. -Councilor Lavoie indicated that the last Finance Committee meeting included items that will be discussed later in the meeting. -Councilor Wilder Cross spoke about Art on South, the Metro Region Coalition of GPCOG, the Department of Economic and Community Development’s Housing Opportunity Program and a new round of grants expected. She also spoke about New Year Gorham, information available through the town website. -Councilor Pratt spoke about illegal tampering with political signs, and the urgent need for blood due to the recent hurricane. Town Manager Paraschak announced Oct. 12 and Oct 26 as brush drop days from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., the availability of winter sand, and contractor work for pedestrian lighting on South Street. He announced a public input and open house session for Gorham’s Economic Development Strategy plan on Oct. 15 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., and that absentee ballots are available at the Town Clerk’s office. School Committee Chair Sara Perkins reported on the Bond Referendum and a newly created “Referendum Information” page at <https://www.gorhamschools.org/>, and that the recent candidates night at Baxter Memorial Library can be viewed at <https://gocat.org/About/>. She also spoke about GHS Homecoming, community events at Narragansett School and Gorham High School, and the 2025/26 Budget. The committee has launched a Thought Exchange Survey to help develop budget priorities with the hope that all community stakeholders will participate. Find the survey at [gorhamschools.org](http://gorhamschools.org). Also announced was the annual Dessert and Discuss meeting on Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. at the GHS library to begin determining budget priorities. Perkins also announced new resources to support mental health and wellness at <https://parentguidance.org/>. Bond Referendum: For anyone looking for information on the upcoming school referendum questions, find a newly created “Referendum Information” page on the [gorhamschools.org](http://gorhamschools.org) website. In addition, Superintendent Perry presented information at the recent candidates’ night at Baxter Memorial Library. Thank you to the library and the GoCat teams for making this event possible. It can be viewed at the GoCat website. Community Events: To increase broader community stakeholder engagement with the schools, they will be hosting several different activities as a district to promote partnerships with all community members. Each school will host at least one event of their planning, two of which are already in the works: -Narragansett Elementary School – will host a “bean suppah” on Saturday Oct. 12 from 4:00 – 6:00 p. m. Students leaders will be helping to serve meals, and we’ll have other student information and presentations planned. -Gorham High – will host a “taste of nations” event on Saturday, Nov. 2 at 11:00 a.m., highlighting our multilingual students and families. This should be a great event showcasing the various cultures represented in Gorham. The following public hearings were held: -To hear comments on a proposal to issue a renewal Liquor License to Orchard Ridge Farm, 236 Sebago Lake Road. (Admin. Spon.), no comments from the public, VOTED 5 yeas. -To hear comments on a proposal to issue a renewal Liquor License to Side Car Pub, 7 Railroad Avenue. (Admin. Spon.), no comments from the public, VOTED 5 yeas. -To hear comments on a proposal to issue a renewal Medical Marijuana License to Austin DiMaria, Kush Hours LLC, 36 Bartlett Road. Property owned by Jack Weir. (Admin. Spon.), no comments from the public. Amendment contingent on repairs, ordered, that the Town Council issue a renewal Medical Marijuana License to Austin DiMaria, Kush Hours LLC, 36 Bartlett Road contingent upon correcting issues identified by the Fire Department. Property owned by Jack Weir. VOTED as amended 5 yeas. -To hear comments on renewal applications for Automobile Graveyards/Junkyard Permits for 2024-2025. (Admin. Spon.), no comments from the public and the Hearing was closed. Proposed Order moved by Councilor Lavoie, seconded by Councilor Wilder Cross and Ordered, that the Town Council issue renewal Automobile Graveyards/Junkyard Permits for 2024-2025 to the following: Steve Luce, LKQ Corp/Gorham Auto, 192 Narragansett Street Jim Stone, Casco Federal Credit Union, 393 Ossipee Trail Gary Nelson, Chet’s Auto Sales, 475 Ossipee Trail, Gordon Reichert, Reichert’s Auto Body, 112 Shaws Mill Road Shawn Moody, Moody’s Coworker Owned, 200 Narragansett Street John Dumbrocyo, Dumbo Enterprises, 86 Longfellow Road, VOTED 5 yeas. -To hear comments on a proposal to amend the Town’s General Assistance Ordinance by updating the maximum levels of assistance as required by the State. (Admin. Spon.), no comments from the public and the Hearing was closed, VOTED 5 yeas. -To hear comments on a contract zone for KV Enterprises for the Robie Street Subdivision (M24/L19,20; M25/L8; M27/L20). (Admin. Spon.) Owen McCulloch, Sebago Technics revealed that they are ready to move forward with the project and would answer any questions the Council had. Dave Walsh, Falcon Crest Drive suggested that the Contract zone would be an excellent tool for positive growth in Gorham and urged the Council to approve it and allow it to move forward. Ruth Kelly voiced her opposition.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7



# Fall Season Filled with Sports and Activities

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Cheerleaders ready run-through banner for homecoming

Photo credit: Jen Skolfield

Fall weather is here and students within the community of all ages are loving it. In September, the USM Men's Ice Hockey team took full advantage of hosting their annual fundraiser in town at Carters, soaking up the sunshine and

cool breeze. The entire team was energy fueled greeting people and washing cars to fundraise for their hockey program. The team is comprised of Freshman through Grad year players who origi-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

# Grand Jury Indictments, Sept. 2024

Sheri Faber, Staff Writer

Victor Bogart, 62, of Old Orchard Beach was indicted on two counts of negotiating a worthless instrument on charges brought by Gorham PD. Shawn Boivin, 41, of Gorham was indicted on three counts of trafficking in scheduled drugs and three counts of possession of scheduled drugs on charges brought

by Maine Drug Enforcement Agency. David Lichtenstein, 32, of Gorham was indicted for OUI with three prior criminal OUI's on charges brought by Gorham PD. Emery Sawyer, 39, of Gorham was indicted for unlawful sexual contact and assault on charges brought by Cumberland County Sheriff's office.

## Town Council Report

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

tion to the Contract zone stating that there are just too many houses proposed. The public hearing was closed. Moved by Councilor Siegel, seconded by Councilor Wilder Cross and VOTED to amend the order to add a requirement to create another point of access for construction traffic if possible, 0 yeas, 6 nays Motion failed. Moved by Councilor Simms, seconded by Councilor Siegel and VOTED to table the Item to obtain addition information. 2 yeas, 4 nays (Phillips, Pratt, Wilder Cross, Lavoie) Motion Fails. The order was VOTED 4 yeas, 2 nays (Phillips, Wilder Cross). The following actions were taken: -Action to amend the Chicoine Contract Zone for properties Map 15, Lots 25-1 and 24.203. (Councilor Philips Spon.) VOTED 6 yeas. -Action that the Town Council forwards to the Ordinance Committee a concept of amending the contract zone of Carol Wood, Map 6, Lot 14, to allow for multiple single-family residential dwelling units. VOTED 0 yeas, 6 nays (all Councilors) Motion fails -Action that the Town Council instructs the Town Manager to work with the Town's legal counsel to draft a charter amendment that would allow for an automatic recount provision for local elections, referendums and

school budget validation votes; and further ordered, that the Town Manager shall bring the draft language back to the Town Council for further review and consideration. VOTED 6 yeas. -Action to consider adopting new wastewater rates. (Finance Committee Spon.) VOTED 6 yeas. -Action to consider authorizing a special revenue account for Robie Park. (Finance Committee Spon.) VOTED 6 yeas. -Action to consider accepting the Capital Improvements Committee's recommendation to start the process to formally discontinue Bragdon Road and Carll Lane. (Capital Improvements Committee Spon.) It was further ordered, that the Town Council will determine if a public easement is to be retained and define any awarded damages if any after a one year waiting period has expired. VOTED 5 yeas, 1 nay (Pratt). -Action to consider endorsing a regional request between the municipalities of Gorham, Westbrook and Windham for the designation of the Mountain Division right-of-way from a rail & trail right-of-way to a trail until rail system (Admin. Spon.) VOTED 5 yeas, 1 nay (Pratt). For the complete meeting minutes and video record, visit <https://www.gorham-me.org/town-council>.

## What's On Your Ballot

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Maine State Historic Preservation Commission. Up to 1% of the funding could be used to administer the program. **State Question 4: Do you favor a \$30,000,000 bond issue to invest in the design, development and maintenance for nonmotorized, motorized and multi-use trails statewide, to be matched by at least \$3,000,000 in private and public contributions?**

These bonds would provide funds for the Maine Trails Program and spent by the Bureau of Parks and Lands. Only \$7.5 million could be spent in each of four years. Approximately 25% of the funds would go to nonmotorized trails, 25% to motorized, and 50% in support of multi-use trails used for recreation or active transportation. Each project must have at least 10% matching contributions. The funds would be administered by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

**State Question 5: Do you favor making the former state flag, replaced as the official flag of the State in 1909 and commonly known as the Pine Tree Flag, the official flag of the State?**

The design of the Pine Tree flag was approved by the Secretary of State after a contest held last summer. It features a pine tree and north star on a buff background. The current flag is blue with the state seal in the center. If voters approve of the Pine Tree flag, it will be replaced at state agencies only as existing flags become worn.

The information for this summary comes from the Maine Citizen's Guide to the Referendum Election. The guide can be viewed at Baxter Memorial Library and the North Gorham Public Library. It is available online at <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec>.

**Gorham Referendum Question 1: Shall the Town of Gorham authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and/or notes in anticipation of such bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$9,494,575 and to appropriate the proceeds thereof for the purpose of financing the cost of 1.) Gorham High School cafeteria expansion and modular Phase 1 additions (six classrooms, one adult education bathroom, utility rooms and other related expenses). And 2.) HVAC system at Narragansett Elementary School.**

Although the wording of Question 1 was taken from the Town Council minutes, to be clear the project components for the GHS Modular Phase 1 additions are six classrooms, one adult education classroom, bathrooms, utility rooms, and other related expenses. The Town Council recommended a "yes" vote (5 in favor/2 opposed.)

**Gorham Referendum Question 2. Shall the Town of Gorham authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and/or in anticipation of such bonds in a principal amount not to exceed \$2,541,250, and to appropriate the proceeds thereof for the purpose of financing cost of 1.) Rebuilding/relocating tennis courts at the Gorham Middle School site?**

The Town Council recommended a "yes" vote (5 in favor/2 opposed). Detailed information, including illustrations, about the projects that would be funded by these two bond issues can be found by accessing the Gorham School District website and clicking on Referendum Information. The same information is available from the Town of Gorham website. Information about the Town Council discussion about these questions appeared in earlier issues of the Gorham Times, which are available on-line.


# Register To Vote!

**Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5**

**Register to vote or request your absentee ballot today at [www.gorham-me.org](http://www.gorham-me.org)**

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## Back to School Picnics

Gorham Times Staff



Photo credit: Kristal Goff, Administrative Assistant, Great Falls School

The Great Falls Back to School Picnic took place on Tuesday, Oct. 1. Parents, students and school staff enjoyed a fun evening. Several food trucks were present to make refreshments available for families and school staff.



Photo credit: Erin Eppler, Narragansett School Principal

Narragansett families enjoyed a beautiful evening and great company during the Family Picnic, held on Sept. 19. New to Narragansett student Bradley and his mother Sara enjoying a picnic dinner on the lawn of Narragansett.



Photo credit: Kristal Goff, Administrative Assistant, Great Falls School

Mrs. Fortier celebrates the evening with students.



Photo credit: Erin Eppler, Narragansett School Principal

Student James and friends at Narragansett are loving the new bike bath and bikes on the revitalized playground.

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# OPEN HOUSE

## Charting a Path for Gorham's Future

- Provide your input on the Town's new Economic Development Strategic Plan
- Drop in between 5:30-7:30 to participate in this open-house style conversation
- Be part of the process to shape the future of Gorham
- Topics to include: Local business climate; commercial land use; development opportunities; and community assets



TUESDAY OCT 15 5:30-7:30 PM



**Place:** Burleigh H. Loveitt Council Chambers,  
Municipal Center, 75 South Street

Hosted By:



If you are unable to make the open house, scan the QR code above to share your input



# Gorham School System To Conduct Budget Priority Survey

Gorham Times Staff

Superintendent Heather Perry has announced an opportunity for the public to have a voice in the budget decision-making process. It should take about five minutes and responses are due by Oct. 11. All responses will be summarized and shared back to the public and to the school committee to help develop the FY 2026 school budget priorities. The survey link is attached and may be pasted into your browser. Survey link: <https://tejoin.com/scroll/561521647>

# Gorham Parents To Address Technology Use for Youth

Kelli Deveaux, Staff Writer

A new opportunity to build knowledge, strategies, and a network of support around technology use by youth is now available to the parents of Gorham. Gorham Alliance for Thoughtful Technology was created by two local moms who wanted to be proactive and strategic about introducing technology and smartphones into the lives of their children. As parents, Sarah Drury and Lindsay Hanson wanted to understand technology's impact on youth, and to research best practices as to when and how children access the digital world. They also wanted to increase the community conversations around this important topic, and perhaps delay the use of smartphones for Gorham youth. The two women have recently launched the Gorham Alliance for Thoughtful Technology Facebook group, and with 100 members already, all Gorham parents are encouraged to join. The Facebook group is an organizing platform to bring people together, where they can share information, ask questions, or offer suggestions for what has worked when setting expectations or boundaries around smartphone use and their children. Drury first learned of a similar group in Scarborough, "Wait Until Eighth" a group that encourages parents of the community to work together on delaying smartphone access until high school. She reached out to learn more and was soon connected to groups across Cumberland County that have formed a kind of network to support the work in each community. Drury had previously had conversations with Hanson during which they each shared their experiences trying to navigate the curiosity, conversations, and beliefs of their own children that all their friends have a smartphone and asked her to help be an online administrator for their launch of the group. Also educators, both Drury and Hanson have also seen the impacts of the ubiquitous digital interfacing on their students' mental health, problem solving abilities, and interpersonal skills. Hanson noted, "As parents we have begun looking at phones as a safety device, without a lot of information on how these devices may negatively impact social and neurological development. We have become accustomed to thinking we must protect our children from the dangers of the real world, while underestimating the

dangers that exist in the virtual one." The two are partnering with administrators from Gorham School Department to offer a three-night virtual book discussion, Oct. 29, Nov. 12, and Dec. 2 from 7 – 8 p.m. on "The Anxious Generation," by John Haidt. While parents are encouraged to read the book, it is not necessary in order to participate in the discussion, and all are welcome. "The Anxious Generation" was published in March 2024, and explores the mental health issues facing youth in the U.S., the decline of play, the increase in cellphone access during childhood, and finally, strategies for addressing the issues, with collective action needed. Haidt notes the importance of school, community and peer support for parents as they navigate this parenting challenge. As Drury pointed out, "We can't just solve it one parent at a time, one phone at a time." "This is not about right or wrong, about judgment or being anti cell phone and technology" said Drury, "It is about starting the conversations with one another, and within families to ensure that there is thought given to what options are truly best for our children and circumstances." "Our hope is that the group will provide information that will help parents feel a little more secure in the decision they make for their family," said Hanson. "It's an opportunity to pause and be like, 'all right, let's really think about this and, make some decisions intentionally rather than just because everyone else is doing it.' Having a clear timeline, expectations, and conversations with your children from an early age will save everyone from heartache or conflicts later on." The two noted that it's not an all or nothing approach. There are alternatives to smartphones that might be options for parents who are concerned about their ability to connect to their children. There are also things parents can do even after their child has a smartphone to ensure they are safe, such as learning about the apps and platforms they may be using, and setting healthy boundaries and expectations. Gorham Alliance for Thoughtful Technology plans further outreach and information sharing events, and Gorham parents are urged to join the Facebook group, where they can learn more about the book discussion and future events, or take an active role in the group's efforts.



Gorham Rec. Soccer Grade 2 team handshake

Photo credit: Katie Brown

nate from various U.S. states and Canada. Sophomore (forward) Connor Donovan (a Massachusetts native) with his teammates (Tyler Mitchell, Zach Desmarais, Kyle Penton and Marcus Torgner shared, "we are definitely having fun before the season even gets underway. We have a new head coach, great team chemistry and comraderie on/off the ice." Next season the Huskies will be changing conferences, for now, the team is looking forward to competing and taking it to the next level. Gorham Youth Soccer games take place on Saturdays in the fall at the Little Falls Recreation location; organized by age/grade level with plenty of soccer at all levels. The participation in the Rec program and GYSA is up. "I have seen soccer grow at all levels in Gorham" said Youth Sports manager Travis Grant. "We have six teams in the age range of 9-year-olds and the GYSA program has three teams which is the most teams we have seen. These numbers are telling to the entire soccer community all the way up to the high school level." Grant also coaches the Kiddie Kickers program that plays every Tuesday and Thursday evenings at Robie Field. The program offers three sessions and is thriving.



Photo credit: Jen Skolfield

Homecoming post-win fireworks celebration



Photo credit: Katie Brown

Community coat drive

ing. On a Tuesday practice in October, Coach Travis led the last of the evening's Pre-K team through several fun and interactive games. Grab a soccer ball and go for a pass with your teammate, grab a soccer ball for a dribble through the arches and go for a goal; along with a favorite game of "sea monsters" to conclude the night. From a young age this type of program encourages children to keep showing-up for practices, which boosts a child's self-esteem and sense of accomplishment. And ultimately fuels the soccer community all the way up through. The last weekend in September GHS hosted its annual Homecoming weekend. The Varsity Football team kicked things off on Friday night. The team played their hearts out and came up with a big 41 - 7 win over the Westbrook Blue Blazes. The following evening students gathered at various locations; including Fort Hill to take photographs before the homecoming dance. There were also multiple fundraisers during the weekend and the Field Hockey team held their annual mental health awareness game that week as well. There is still time to donate to the Community Coat Drive, which has a booth set up on Saturdays at the entrance of the soccer fields. Last and certainly not least, the GHS athletic teams are just over the midway point of their regular season. The change of calendar into October brings a new level of excitement with playoff action in the near future; with the ultimate goal being "home field advantage". The athletes will be playing as hard as they can, with their friends, giving their team the best opportunity to win. That is exactly what the youth teams will be cheering on the "Big kids" about.



Photo credit: Katie Brown

Kiddie Kickers



# Gorham Resident Completes Maine Marathon Relay

By Jeff Ballard, Contributing Writer



Photo credit: Courtesy of Jeff Ballard  
Jeff and his service dog, Eddie, who completed their portion of the relay team during the Maine Marathon together this weekend. Pictured left to right: Jennifer Lemay, Jeff Ballard, Eddie, Patty Carter, and Ryan Locke.

Jeff Ballard of Gorham participated in the Maine Marathon on Sunday, Oct. 5, as part of a relay team representing Orange Theory Fitness in South Portland. Jeff was accompanied by his service dog, Eddie, who ran alongside him. Eddie, a highly trained service dog provided by K9s for Warriors in Ponte Vedra, Florida, has been an essential companion to Jeff, who is a retired Army Combat Medic. K9s for Warriors is the nation's largest provider of service dogs, specializing in pairing Veterans with PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injuries, or Military Sexual Trauma with highly skilled canine partners to support their recovery and enhance their quality of life. This year, the Maine Marathon selected "Maine Paws for Veterans" as one of its charity beneficiaries, giving special meaning to Jeff's participation. As a Veteran living with combat-related disabilities, Jeff is acutely aware of the positive impact that service dogs can have on a Veteran's life. The mission of "Maine Paws for Veterans" aligns closely with his personal experiences and the

support he has received from Eddie. "Having Eddie by my side has given me a renewed sense of peace and hope," said Jeff. "I want other Veterans to experience the same sense of freedom and healing that a service dog can bring. Running in this marathon with Eddie felt like the perfect way to raise awareness for an organization that provides these life-changing partnerships."



Photo credit: Jeff Ballard  
Jeff's service dog, Eddie, who joined him during the Maine Marathon



Photo credit: Allyn Genest  
Jeff and his service dog, Eddie, who completed their portion of the relay team during the Maine Marathon together last weekend



Photo credit: Jeff Ballard  
Jeff's service dog, Eddie, who joined him during the Maine Marathon

# Great Falls School Relay Team Completes Maine Marathon

Gorham Times Staff



Photo credit: Barbara Quinn-Gagnon  
Another year in the books for the Great Falls School Relay Team! The team ran in memory of Kim Kelly-Brewster's brother. From left to right: Heather Dupuis-second grade teacher, Kim Kelly-Brewster third grade teacher, Todd Gagnon student resource officer, Will York special education.

The 2024 Gorham Savings Bank Maine Marathon drew a large number of runners from 49 U.S. states, along with Canada and China. Of these, 62 runners were from Gorham, including the first place winner, Ryan Jara. This year marks the third year in the books for the Great Falls Maine Marathon Relay Team, a team of teachers from Great Falls School in Gorham. The team of Great falls teachers was put together three years ago by second grade teacher, Heather Dupuis. She said, "We each run one leg of the race that is the total distance of a complete marathon. The last two years we ran in honor of Kim Kelly-Brewster's brother who passed away. Our team name has been "Running for Rick" (her brother's name). A day after the marathon, Dupuis told us, "The excitement, compassion, and camaraderie within our team and all marathon runners is amazing! I look forward to it each year. Kim Kelly-Brewster added, "Our team, "Running for Rick" ran in memory of my brother Rick Jason Dorman yesterday. It was a beautiful day and experience at the Maine Marathon for our family and friends. Thank you team for making this happen. Rick would be so honored to have this support." Todd Gagnon tells it this way, "The marathon itself is a wonderful event. Our team has been involved for several years. Running in the memory of a loved one makes this marathon mean even more to us." Will York, special education teacher at Great Falls added, "I love running with this incredible group of friends and Great Falls educators! Running in Rick's memory is an honor and I am glad to be a part of it with these three amazing people." The Maine Marathon is an annual

event. Next year's date is set for Oct. 5, 2025. The Marathon has raised a total of \$7,000,000 for charity since 1997. The featured beneficiaries for the 2024 race are the Percival P. Baxter Foundation, Maine Paws for Veterans, Maine Senior Games, Riding to the Top: Therapeutic Riding Center, Saltwater Classroom, and Strong Girls United. Founded in 1979, the Gorham Savings Bank Maine Marathon, Half Marathon and Marathon Relay is one of New England's longest running marathon events. Wrapping around Portland's Back Cove neighborhood and up the scenic Maine coast to Yarmouth, this out-and-back course is known for its rolling hills, peak fall foliage and stunning views of Portland and the Atlantic Ocean. The race is comprised of three unique events, all of which start and finish along Baxter Boulevard in Portland's scenic Back Cove. **Marathon** A USATF certified course and Boston Marathon qualifier, the Maine Marathon is a runner-friendly, scenic marathon course that attracts racers of all levels, including elite runners from Maine, across America and around the world. **Half Marathon** USTAF certified, the Maine Half Marathon follows the same course as the marathon for the first 6.5 miles before breaking off and returning back toward Portland. **Marathon Relay** Perfect for groups and charity fundraisers, this event allows teams of up to four people cover separate legs of the course. Relay exchange stations and convenient shuttles make this event a favorite. For more information about the Maine Marathon, or to get involved, visit <https://mainemarathon.com/>



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## USM Hosted their Biggest Homecoming Celebration Yet

Gorham Times Staff

The University of Southern Maine invited a huge community of alumni to return to campus for Homecoming and Family Weekend, three days of Portland and Gorham events, including a variety of athletic events and concerts.

During the weekend, alumni from around the state and beyond return to reconnect with friends, faculty, staff, and meet new students. Of 62,000 alumni, an estimated 70 percent reside in Maine.

Among the most popular events during the weekend is the Olde Fashioned Outdoor Band Concert, visited by many Gorham community members through the years. This year, conducted by William Kinne, the concert band featured 10 alumni musicians among the students. And in keeping with tradition, Dr. Kinne handed the baton to President Jacqueline Edmondson for the performance of one piece of music.



Photo credit: University of Southern Maine Public Affairs

Faculty conductor, Dr. William Kinne, hands the baton to President Edmondson for her annual performance with the Osher School of Music Wind Ensemble.

## Olde Fashioned Outdoor Band Concert

Gorham Times Staff



Photo credit: Roger Marchand

On Oct. 5 the Osher Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Dr. William Kinne, presented a varied program during a traditional 'Olde Fashioned Outdoor Band Concert' on the Corthell Hall steps. A large gathering of community members and students spread out on the lawn in front of Corthell Hall to enjoy the performance of this large and accomplished ensemble.



COMMUNITY

SUMMER PRESIDENT'S LIST

James Chase, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, New Hampshire  
Kristen Dore, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, New Hampshire  
Samantha Files, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, New Hampshire  
Sarah Richardson, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, New Hampshire

SUMMER DEAN'S LIST

Gabrielle Kurchin, Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, New Hampshire

OF INTEREST

In September employees of the Village Mall found a locked bow case with a compound hunting bow inside. If anyone lost this bow or knows the owner, please reach out to Det. Stephen Hinkley by email: [shinkley@gorham.me.us](mailto:shinkley@gorham.me.us) or desk phone (207) 222-1689.

The Gorham Rec. offers a variety of programs year-round for all ages. Flag Football, GYBA Travel Basketball and Youth Fall Soccer all begin in September. Visit <https://www.gorhamrec.com> for all the details, or visit the office at 75 South Street, Monday through Friday, 8:30 – 4 p.m.

The North Gorham Public Library will be hosting a Candidates Forum for the Gorham Town Council and School Committee candidates on Thursday Oct. 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the library.

A Guided Hike/Bike jointly sponsored by Presumpscot Regional Land Trust and Falmouth Land Trust will be held on Saturday, Oct. 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The group will meet at Lowell Preserve in Windham. Participants choose between a 7-mile guided hike to Hadlock Community Forest where a shuttle bus will take hikers back to the start. Bikers can choose a medium paced, no-drop 7–8-mile guided mountain bike ride or a 12-14 mile no-drop guided ride out to Hadlock Community and back. Funds from this event will support stewardship efforts for both Land Trusts. Registration required at [PRLT.org/Events](https://PRLT.org/Events). Additional event information such as parking and what to bring will be shared a few days before the event. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 20.

The group, Women Who Write, meets every two weeks at the library where they workshop their writing with their peers. The group includes Lynne Mentzer, Cheri Wing-Jones and Mary Snell of Gorham; Carolyn Gaul of Windham; and Annie Boissevain of Gray. On Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. they will read stories, poems and other works which they have developed during the two years they have been working together. The public is welcome to attend the free hour-long reading. North Gorham Public Library, 2 Standish Neck Road in Gorham. Refreshments will be served. FMI, contact Mary Snell at [msnell@maine.edu](mailto:msnell@maine.edu).

Gorham Rec's Fall Festival is Saturday, Oct. 26 from 2 – 4 p.m. at the Gazebo next to the library. Food, music, fun, cookie decorating, pumpkin painting, petting zoo, build your own scarecrow.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

The Gorham Medical Loan Closet is available to Gorham residents in need of medical equipment temporarily. Wheelchairs, walkers, canes and scooters are just some of the items available. The close is open only Monday thru Thursday, and only by appoint-

ment. Call Gerry Day at (207) 756-2210 or (207) 839-3859

The Mission of Hope Clothes Closet is open the first and third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon at Cressey Road Christian Church on Cressey Road to anyone who needs clothing. The Closet also takes donations of clean clothing, and now has all types and sizes of spring and summer clothing. Share a cup of coffee with the staff while you browse.

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 noon 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.

SENIOR NEWS

The Senior Meal Site at St. Anne's Church takes place weekly on Wednesdays at noon, 299 Main Street 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 is back with games and cribbage on Mondays from 10 a.m. - noon and the Wednesday Guest Speaker program will be resuming on Oct. 16. Coffee at 10 a.m. with the speaker/presentation to begin at 10:30. All welcome, 3rd floor First Parish Church. FMI: Lisa Becker at [leckybrowncenter@gmail.com](mailto:leckybrowncenter@gmail.com)

PUBLIC SUPPERS

Highland Grange drive-through, roasted turkey dinner will be held on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 4 – 6 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person (bring exact price). No substitutions or pre-orders. The grange is located on the corner of Route 302 and Hardy Road in Westbrook.

LIBRARY NEWS

The North Gorham Public Library hosts an all-ages story hour every Wednesday from 10:30 to 11:30. 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) 415-1315


Baxter Memorial Library's many events are listed in the Gorham Times Calendar, and at the Library website, <https://baxterlibrary.org/>. Library hours are Monday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (207) 222-1190

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE NOTES


The USM Department of Theatre's '24-'25 Season has been announced. Coming up

Send PSAs to Lori Arsenault, public service coordinator: [loriaam@gmail.com](mailto:loriaam@gmail.com)


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**GORHAM \$350,000**  
This 1432sf Bungalow in Little Falls features 3 bedrooms & 1.5 baths. Behind the front door you're sure to love all the character and charm this home offers. The kitchen with pantry closet is open to the dining room which looks through to the living room and onto the sunlit glassed front porch.



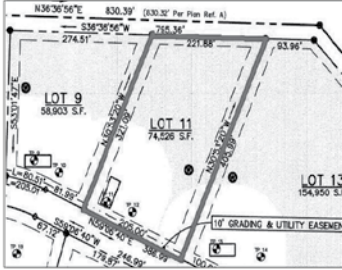
**WINDHAM \$384,000**  
This gorgeous condo is in like new condition! You'll love the granite kitchen with island open to the living room with cathedral ceilings and plenty of natural light. The primary bedroom has its own bathroom with shower plus there is a spacious walk-in closet. Includes A/C, natural gas, public water & daylight basement.




**GORHAM \$699,000**  
This home was completely renovated with a huge expansion in 2004 offering over 2700sqft of living space with 3 bedrooms each with their own private bath, plus a common half bath with first floor laundry. You'll love cooking and entertaining with double ovens and a separate cook top. The kitchen is open to the dining and living rooms.




**STANDISH \$634,900**  
A custom-built ranch on 7-acres with frontage on the Saco River. This open floor plan offers 1976sf of single floor living with oversized 2-car garage & a full basement. The kitchen with natural Birch cabinets is open to the dining & living rooms all with cathedral ceilings & hardwood floors. In the living room you'll enjoy a hearth & cozy propane parlor stove.




**BUXTON \$160,000**  
Welcome to Buxton's Field View Farms! This neighborhood is nestled off desirable Pease Road just 15 minutes to Portland International Jetport, the Maine Turnpike, Pine Point Beach or points south to Saco/Biddeford. This 1.71-acre lot offers 205' feet of road frontage with soils test, survey and underground power.



Julie Chandler



Mike Griffin



Peter Mason



this fall is "The Wizard of Oz" an original radio drama adapted by Linus Speary; "John Proctor is the Villain" by Kimberly Belflower; the opera "Gianni Schicchi" by Giacomo Puccini (a collaboration with the Osher School of Music), and "Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind (30 Plays in 60 Minutes)" by Greg Allen. FMI: [usmtheatreboxoffice@maine.edu](mailto:usmtheatreboxoffice@maine.edu), or call the Box Office at (207) 780-5151.

The Fall Musical in the Osher School of Music is "Songs for a New World." Music and lyrics by Jason Robert Brown, stage and music direction by Ed Reichert, choreography by Vanessa Beyland. "It's about one moment!" "Songs for a New World" is a contemporary song cycle inspired by all who have ever faced the challenges of change – examining life, love and the choices that we make. The show vibrates with a heartbeat of hope that every theater lover—or person with a pulse—sorely needs right now! Four performances from Friday, Nov. 1, to Sunday, Nov. 3.

CLOSE TO HOME

Westbrook City Band plays toe-tapping fun and familiar music for all ages in a free concert on Tuesday, Oct. 15, from 7 – 8 p.m. at the Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge Street in Westbrook.

Schoolhouse Arts Center is presenting "Carrie, the Musical," music by Michael Gore, lyrics by Dean Pitchford, book by Lawrence D. Cohen, based on the novel by Stephen King, direction and choreography by Kristofer Kauff and musical direction by Matt Scala. The show runs from Friday, Oct. 11, to Sunday, Oct. 20. 16 Richville Road, Standish. For more information and tickets, visit [schoolhousearts.org](http://schoolhousearts.org) or call (207) 642-3743.

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CALENDAR

- Thursday, October 10**  
North Gorham Public Library Candidate's Forum, 6:30 p.m.  
Baxter Memorial Library  
Toddler Storytime, 10 a.m.  
Sewing Club (Group 1), 4 - 5:30 p.m.  
Friends of Baxter Library meeting, all are welcome, 6:30 p.m.

**Friday, October 11**  
Schoolhouse Arts Center, "Carrie, the Musical" opening night, 8 performances. (207) 642-3743.

**Saturday, October 12**  
Highland Grange drive-through roasted turkey dinner, 4 - 6 p.m., \$10

**Monday, October 14**  
Indigenous Peoples' Day

**Tuesday, October 15**  
Baxter Memorial Library Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m.  
Westbrook City Band performs at the Westbrook Community Center, 7 - 8 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 16**  
Baxter Memorial Library  
Baby Storytime, 9:30 a.m.  
Author Event, JB Harris, author of "The Immigrant's Wife," 6 p.m.  
Lecky Brown Center "The Originals" guest speaker program, coffee at 10 a.m., speaker presentation begins at 10:30 a.m.

**Thursday, October 17**  
Baxter Memorial Library  
Toddler Storytime, 10 a.m.  
Book Club: "Himself" by Jess Kidd, 10:15 p.m.  
Sewing Club (Group 2), 4 - 5 p.m.

**Friday, October 18**  
Baxter Memorial Library Fall Book Sale and Train Show by the Maine3Railers, Shaw Gym, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Saturday, October 19**  
Baxter Memorial Library  
Fall Book Sale / Train Show, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Pokeman Club, 10 a.m. to noon.  
Guided Hike/Bike at Lowel Preserve in Windham, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., [PRLT.org/Events](http://PRLT.org/Events)

**Tuesday, October 22**  
Baxter Memorial Library  
Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m.  
Author Event, Susan Evans, author of "Mighty Wind, Rushing Waters," 6 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 23**  
Women Who Write meeting, North Gorham Public Library, 7 p.m.  
Baxter Memorial Library  
Baby Storytime, 9:30 a.m.  
Spooky Altered Art for Teens, noon  
Teen Advisory Board Meeting, noon  
Early Release Day Halloween Craft, 1 - 2:30 p.m.

**Saturday, October 26**  
Gorham Rec's Fall Festival, at the Gazebo next to Baxter Memorial Library, 2 - 4 p.m.  
USM Department of Theatre "The Wizard of Oz" Listening Party, Lower Brooks, 7 p.m.

Send calendar items to Lori Arsenault, public service coordinator: [loriaam@gmail.com](mailto:loriaam@gmail.com)

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Times

Around Town

Marsha Weeks Traill, Attorney at Law, will be closing her law office at 31 Main Street effective Oct. 24. She said, "It has been my privilege to work with many of you over the past 43 years." Clients can contact her by calling (207) 839-7771 or via email at [traillmarsha@gmail.com](mailto:traillmarsha@gmail.com)



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Courtesy of the Gorham Police Department

# the blotter

Officer assisted livestock management with getting a calf back into the fenced area.

New Portland Road caller reported getting phone calls from a Massachusetts number. Officer called the number and found there was a language problem. Officer told the man to stop calling the number and he agreed. Man was looking for someone in Saco.

Hamblen Road caller reported that for the second time in two months, it sounded as if someone was trying to enter his home in the middle of the night. Motion lights have been installed. There was no apparent damage to the door.

Caller wanted to know if he had a warrant for missing a court date. He did have a warrant out and was advised to turn himself in.

Suspicious person on Cherry Hill Road was hanging out with a friend. He was moved along.

South Street woman came in to report her purse had been stolen from her car while she was at the Gorham Pride event. She later called to say that she found her purse when she got home.

Tamarack Circle caller reported getting a package of cow dung. Caller was advised to call the Postmaster.

Gray Road caller reported a rooster in his yard. He did not say what he needed. Information was to be logged in.

Gray Road caller reported people were caught on his trail camera trespassing on his property. By the time the officer arrived, the subjects were gone as the caller had told them to leave.

A vehicle parked on Dogwood Lane had been broken into.

New Portland Road caller reported his vehicle had been stolen from the parking lot where he worked. Officer located the vehicle parked by Johnson Road. Caller confirmed he had forgotten that he had parked in a different spot and the truck was not stolen.

Caller reported a suspicious person living in a tent on Longfellow Road again. Officer had checked it out a few days earlier and identified the man staying there and it was all set.

County Road caller reported a neighbor was setting fireworks for days before and after the fourth of July. Neighbor had two fireworks permits for an address on Brookdale Drive and advised the caller, if there were any violations while fireworks were being set off, police could investigate further.

County Road caller was upset that construction was making it difficult for his customers to get in and out of the business and requested someone should direct traffic.

Cotton Drive caller reported an abandoned vehicle. Operator told the officer he was a door-to-door salesman taking a break. He had parked where he thought he would be out of the way. He showed the officer his permit to do door-to-door sales.

Brunswick PD called asking for Gorham PD to help locate someone on White Birch Lane for a theft investigation. Gorham Police did not make contact.



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