

Gorham Times

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A Free, Not-for-Profit Newspaper Serving Gorham Since 1995

What's on Your Four Ballots?

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer



Photo credit: Kathy Corbett

Gorham residents voting absentee ballots in person at the Municipal Building.

Gorham residents are already casting four ballots for the November 5 election. If they have received an absentee ballot, they may take it to the Municipal Building during regular business hours or put it in the ballot box in front of the building until 8 p.m. on Election Day. Mailed ballots must be at the Clerk's office by Election Day.

Until Oct. 31, residents may register and vote in person at the Municipal Building. Extra hours are on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 8 a.m. to noon, and Wednesday, Oct. 30 from 7 a.m. to

7 p.m. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Nov. 5 for voting and for registering new voters who are at least 18 years old. Voters unsure of their polling place can call the Town Clerk's office for information.

Voters receive four ballots: two local ballots and two state ballots. All registered Gorham voters are choosing two Town Council members and two School Committee members for three-year terms. There are two local

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October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Gorham Times Staff



Photo credit: Roger Marchand

The Gorham post office is decorated in pink for the month of October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Economic Development Strategic Plan Meeting

Kelli Deveau, Staff Writer

As part of the process to create an Economic Development Strategic Plan, Gorham residents were invited to an open house in town council chambers on the evening of Oct. 15 to share their thoughts, ideas, hopes, and concerns about Gorham's economic future.

Over a dozen residents attended, and after signing in and being given sticky notes and colored dot stickers, participants were encouraged to provide their feedback at seven stations around the room, each with prompts or questions. In addition, residents are able to provide additional feedback thru an online survey, <https://sprw.io/stt-E3rWj>. Some prompts included identifying assets and challenges for Gorham, rating five statements about business and culture in town, and choosing design features that would and would not suit the community.

Economic Development Director Kevin Jensen noted the importance of ensuring there is broad community engagement and ownership for the process, and the results, as it will guide Gorham's economic goals and strategy in the future. To that end, the many steps toward an Economic Development Strategic Plan are being overseen by an appointed Steering Committee, composed of members of the planning board, town council, Gorham Economic Development Corporation, Gorham Village Alliance and three residents who are also local business

owners. It was established by the Town Council in March 2023 and, in collaboration with the town's Community Development Department, will present recommendations and a plan for economic growth and management to the Town Council for adoption.

To assist the committee with their task, an analysis and a comprehensive, tailored process was commissioned and approved by the Town Council in March 2024. Camoin Associates was selected to serve as consultants for the process from 7 submissions in response to a request for proposals. Camoin's Senior Vice President Jim Damicis of Scarborough is the lead consultant on the project. Damicis explained that it is a data driven process, and the team includes experts in urban planning, economics, and public administration.

With over 25 years of national experience and multiple staff members located in Southern Maine, Camoin brings a depth of knowledge about Maine specific strengths and challenges, as well as an impressive resume of communities with whom they have worked previously, including Biddeford, North Yarmouth, and Freeport.

In preparing their analyses and subsequent report, the consultants ask questions such as, "What are the external market conditions? What's driving some of the potential growth and potential opportunity? What kinds of sectors are thriving or

missing? What kinds of stores or businesses might be successful?" and use data to find the answers. They also identify possible barriers and suggest options for healthy economic growth in the community. The final product, which will be presented to the Steering Committee, will include a roadmap for economic development that should inform the next five to ten years as well as serve as a key component of a new Comprehensive Plan for Gorham.

According to Damicis, "The economic plan can and will be a blueprint with recommendations based on best practices to meet the goals that have been stated through this process." As part of the process for Gorham, his team has reviewed data, done market analyses, examined workforce

projections, and is currently meeting with small groups from various business sectors to gather further information and perspectives. The Camoin team noted that one of the unplanned outcomes of the small group discussions was that participants made connections with one another and were networking and making plans for collaboration.

The final report will be delivered in the first months of 2025. Gorham residents still have time to join the conversation thru the online survey that can be accessed at <https://sprw.io/stt-E3rWj>.



Economic development strategic planning

Photo Credit: Kelli Deveau

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COMMITTEE PAGE 9**

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**GHS RAMS POSTSEASON
UPDATE PAGE 10**

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.

The Importance of Voting this November

Rep. Mo Terry

As your state representative, I cannot stress enough the significance of participating in our democracy by casting your vote this November. Voting is more than just a right; it empowers us to shape the future of our communities, state and nation. As we approach Election Day on Nov. 5, regardless of party affiliation, it’s important to keep in mind why your vote matters, how to make your voice heard and the impact it can have on our collective wellbeing.

Voting is our opportunity to express our values and priorities. Each election presents us with a chance to choose leaders who align with our vision for the future and to support initiatives that can improve our lives. In Maine, we have seen the power of civic engagement through past legislative successes that reflect the will of the people. Our efforts to expand access to health care, improve education funding and enhance local infrastructure have been driven by the voices of constituents who took the time to vote.

The implications of participating in this process are profound. When you vote, you help determine the direction of policies that affect our everyday lives – from education and health care to public safety and environmental protection. Your vote is your voice, and it ensures that elected officials are held accountable and that they

prioritize the needs of our communities.

In addition to the congressional and presidential elections, which often receive the most attention, you will also be asked to vote on several local positions here in Gorham and a number of referendum questions. The local elected positions you will be voting on this year include two open seats for three-year terms on the Gorham Town Council and two open seats for three-year terms on the School Committee. The five referendum questions that will appear on your ballot include one citizen initiative, three bond issues and a referendum question proposed by the Legislature. To learn more about these questions, check out the Citizen’s Guide to the 2024 Maine Referendum Election prepared by the Secretary of State.

So, if you haven’t done so already, there are a couple of different ways you can cast your ballot this year. To start, I recommend you visit the Maine Secretary of State’s website to find information on your polling place, voting hours and options for absentee voting. Right now, you still have a couple of days until the Oct. 31 deadline to vote early by delivering your absentee ballot in person at the council chambers. Hours of operation for the council are Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. The town will also extend voting hours

on Saturday, Oct. 26, from 8 a.m. to noon and Wednesday, Oct. 30, until 7 p.m. If you miss this deadline or intend to vote in person, you can do so on Nov. 5. In Maine, you can also register to vote in-person on Election Day if you have not yet done so.

Beyond casting your own ballot, you can also do your part by talking to friends and family about the importance of voting. Encouraging others to join you in this civic responsibility amplifies our collective voice and strengthens our democracy. Remember, every vote counts, and history has shown us that a remarkably small number of votes can decide an election.

As we approach this critical election, I urge each and every one of you to prioritize your participation in the democratic process.



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,

As a former lawmaker who spent years working in Augusta, I understand the importance of strong, principled leadership in our state legislature. That’s why I’m endorsing Senator Stacy Brenner for re-election in Senate District 30, representing Scarborough and Gorham.

Having worked closely with Senator Brenner, I’ve seen firsthand her ability to work across the aisle, bringing together diverse perspectives to find common-sense solutions. As Senate co-chair of the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, she leads with fairness and transparency, ensuring that every voice is heard. Her commitment to running balanced, thoughtful committee hearings has earned her respect from both sides of the aisle.

In these divisive times, bipartisanship is more important than ever. Stacy Brenner is the only candidate in this race with a proven track record of collaborating with colleagues from all political backgrounds to advance critical legislation. She doesn’t just talk about working together—she does it, consistently and effectively.

Stacy Brenner has demonstrated that she can deliver results for the people of Maine, regardless of party affiliation. I urge my fellow residents of Scarborough and Gorham to re-elect her to continue the important work she’s doing in the State Senate.

Jim Boyle, House District 109

Dear Editor,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for David Willis in his candidacy for Town Council. As a lifelong resident of Gorham, David has a deep-rooted and broad understanding of our community, its history, and its strengths and weaknesses. I have

worked with David on the Gorham Village Alliance Board of Directors for six years and have seen firsthand his unwavering commitment to the betterment of our Town.

One of the qualities that makes David truly stand out is his ability to listen carefully and communicate effectively. Whether discussing issues with residents, business owners, or fellow community leaders, he consistently takes the time to hear diverse perspectives and approach solutions with reason and fairness.

Most importantly, David is driven by a genuine love for our town and its residents, with no hidden agendas or personal interests. He cares deeply about the future of our community and will work tirelessly to ensure that Gorham remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family.

I believe that David Willis is exactly who we need on the Town Council—someone who will represent ALL Gorham residents with integrity, dedication, and a clear vision for the future. Electing David will ensure that, even in the face of uncertainty, our community will be guided with steady leadership and a commitment to making thoughtful, responsible decisions that ultimately benefit us all. Please join me in casting a vote for David Willis on November 5.

Kathy Garrard, Gorham

To the Editor,

When deciding who to vote for, the ideal Town Council candidate would be one who will consider the impact of development on both present and future Gorham residents. Currently, the Planning Board and Town Council seem to be in favor of Contract Zones, which mostly benefit developers by allowing them exemptions from certain existing zone ordinances. The current resi-

dents abutting these Contract Zones are secondary to the decision and have to deal with any negative impact.

To that end, David Willis seems to be the best candidate because he grew up and still lives in Gorham. He will bring a fresh view to the table. Janet Kuech is a good candidate because she has worked and lived in Gorham a long time. They seem more likely to take into account the views of those currently paying Gorham taxes.

Ruth Kelly, Gorham

To the Editor,

I am writing to endorse Thad Moody, for the House of Representative for House District 108. Thad has grown up and spent his entire life in Gorham, he served for several years on the Gorham Town Council, as well as being involved in many organizations within the Town.

As a businessman, Thad is well aware of the issues and needs that both the town and the state are facing. That is an individual who is open minded, always willing to listen, considers both sides of an issue, and always does his homework on an issue before making a decision. That is also someone that will look to compromise, to find a solution to a problem. These traits are what we need in Augusta to help solve the issues we face within the state.

I have known Thad for 40 years, and I can think of no one who can represent Gorham better than Thad Moody. I encourage you to support him with your vote on Nov. 5.

Robert Lefebvre, Gorham

To the Editor,

I am proud to endorse Stacy Brenner for her third term in office. I first met her during my time as a restaurant owner while she

Gorham Times

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Upcoming Advertising Deadlines
October 30
November 13
November 27
December 11

was starting her produce farm. As women entrepreneurs Stacy and I have shared many of the same values focused on food sourcing and beyond, with a commitment to the environment and renewable energy.

Owning a business demands constant adjustment and meticulous attention to detail, and Stacy excels in both. Her ability to pivot and embrace new opportunities—especially by listening to her team's insights—demonstrates her remarkable adaptability and collaborative spirit.

One of the most impressive aspects of her leadership is the loyalty she has fostered among her employees and fellow leaders in the state house, a true testament to her exceptional management style. Her early nursing background surely contributes to her empathy in leadership, allowing her to connect with others on a meaningful level.

With her experience as both a small business owner and a state senator, Stacy brings a unique and invaluable perspective to policy-making. It's inspiring to see someone who combines creativity with practical experience. I find that we share many of the same values: a commitment to the environment and a focus on renewable energy.

Stacy is undoubtedly a tremendous asset to our Maine communities, and I wholeheartedly support her vision for the future. Let's continue to champion her leadership and the positive impact she brings!

Cheryl Lewis, Portland

To the Editor,

It's getting to be the holiday time of year, and our 'crew' will be putting on the Free Thanksgiving Dinner we have for this our 15th year. We'd like to take this opportunity to THANK all that have helped in the past, last year we had approximately 80 volunteers. We've put out 130 meals, many of which were delivered. We roasted 152# of turkey; 60# of potatoes, 40# of carrots, 45# squash, 40# sweet potatoes, 19# peas, stuffing, gravy, homemade cranberry sauce, deviled eggs. We've been very fortunate to have generous donations to help with this. We're happy to deliver to the housebound within a 15-mile radius of Gorham center. If you know of anyone alone on Thanksgiving, please give them our phone number.

Thad & Roxanne Moody as well as our many helpers. 207 839 4516

To the Editor

I am writing to endorse Stacy Brenner as state senator. Stacy is a community leader who embodies the values we need in our legislature and will be a great representative for District 30!

Having known Stacy for nearly 15 years, I can attest to her fierce commitment to our local community. Her hard work in fostering relationships and striving for inclusivity has truly made a difference in Maine, and her commitment is a testament to her value as a leader. Stacy works to hear each voice, consider all options, take steps, and make decisions that make us all stronger.

As a small business owner, Stacy understands the challenges of our local small businesses and works to create relationships and change that foster our growth and success. As a former small business owner, Stacy was always willing to lend an ear, offer advice, and help me develop my business. I appreciated it so much, and that kind of collaborative energy is what we need in a state senator.

Stacy is a defender of women's reproductive rights. This has been demonstrated in her work as a nurse-midwife and in her legislative record of consistently seeking to provide reproductive care and access to Mainers.

With her track record, passion for public service, and deep understanding of our local

community, Stacy Brenner is exactly who we need in Augusta.

Audra Sinclair, Scarborough

To the Editor,

As election day gets closer, we find ourselves asking what makes an effective representative. As the Majority Leader in the Maine House, to me, an ideal candidate for state legislature is someone who embodies both a fresh set of eyes on the future and the wisdom of experience. As a young person and as a seasoned Senate aide, Gorham is lucky to have that candidate with Ellie Sato.

A candidate with a long future ahead of her, Ellie brings bright energy and a fresh perspective to tackle issues head-on. She is naturally in touch with emerging trends and new technologies, which are critical for addressing modern problems like climate change, economic shifts, housing and healthcare.

However, energy alone is not enough. Experience matters. Ellie's time in the Senate Majority office as a legislative aide will give her a leg up that few have as a first time legislator. She has the added benefit of having worked with our own Senator so she is already very familiar of what Gorham's needs are at the state level. I have worked with Ellie in policy making and the legislative process and she is a pro. She will be ready to hit the ground running from day one.

By supporting Ellie Sato for HD 109, we can ensure our state benefits from leadership that is both forward-thinking and grounded in practical knowledge. It's a winning combination for a prosperous future, and I urge my fellow voters to keep this in mind as we head to the polls.

Maureen Terry, Gorham

To the Editor,

After watching the video of the Meet the Candidates event at Baxter Library, I urge Gorham residents to join me in voting for Eric Thistle and Nicole Yeo-Fisher to fill the 2 seats for School Committee.

Last year Nicole was elected to finish out a one-year term on the committee, and is now running to continue her service. As a committee member and as a citizen, Nicole has demonstrated her dedication to the youth of Gorham. She is a consistent volunteer with the Backpack Program that provides meals and food for students experiencing food insecurity, and as a mom of two, she can frequently be found coaching or supporting youth sports programs. Her comments during meetings are thoughtful and reflect a genuine interest in ensuring that Gorham schools serve the needs of all students.

Eric is the father of three young children who are in Gorham schools. He currently serves on Gorham's Public Health Board, and has been a public defender in Southern Maine, believing that the legal system should be accessible and equitable for all, and not just for those who can afford it. As the founder of his own law firm, he also understands policies and laws, and what it takes to successfully manage a business.

Both candidates are thoughtful, intelligent, and will seek information to make the best decisions possible. They respect our educators, and are driven by an interest in ensuring that Gorham schools provide a high quality, honest education in schools that are safe and inclusive. Please vote for Eric Thistle and Nicole Yeo-Fisher for School Committee.

Merrilee Warholak, Gorham

To the Editor:

Stacy Brenner is a candidate for a third term as State Senator in SD 30. I support Stacy because I care deeply about two issues that are uppermost for Stacy: protecting the



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environment and protecting a woman's right to make her own choices about her health care. In collaboration with her husband, Stacy has built a successful organic farm business at the same time that she has worked as a labor and delivery nurse. Added to that resume, she now has experience collaborating with fellow legislators to make laws that support Maine citizens in a variety of ways. She has become a respected and knowledgeable legislative leader on issues concerning the environment. We are so fortunate to have someone with Stacy Brenner's work ethic, integrity, and compassion willing to do the hard work of representing us in the Maine Senate. Please join me in voting for Stacy Brenner for State Senate on Tuesday, November 5.

Linda Webb, Gorham

To the Editor,

One of my first experiences in political spaces was at a school-board meeting where I had the opportunity to meet Senator Brenner.

I was testifying about a transgender-student policy amendment that would more effectively protect students, and when I heard Senator Brenner speak in favor of the amendment with her clear and passionate views guided by her niece I felt extremely heard. She talked to me after the board meeting and thanked me for my voice and for engaging. Most notably though, she asked me to keep in contact with any questions I had and how she could better represent me even though I was just a student. She cared about me beyond a vote.

Senator Brenner is somebody who is committed to her neighbors. She listens and speaks up for what she knows is right, and will continue to do so if re-elected.

Alex Wu,
Scarborough High School Student

To the Editor,

We are physical therapy (PT) practice owners in Gorham and Scarborough supporting Stacy Brenner for re-election to the Maine Legislature. Like us, Senator Brenner is a small business owner who understands our challenges and needs. As a nurse midwife, she is highly respected in the Maine legislature for her knowledge of health care issues – knowledge that is crucial when health care bills are being debated.

Senator Brenner is not afraid to take on big insurance companies who are more interested in corporate profits than providing health care to their insureds. She sponsored the Maine PT Association's bill (LD 1383) to prohibit insurers from requiring unnecessary and burdensome prior authorization before the 12th PT or OT visit. This bill substantially reduced the barriers for patients to access medically necessary physical and occupational therapy services.

She has supported Compact bills for several health care professions, including physical therapists, that make it easier for providers to obtain privileges to practice across state lines and provide telehealth services. She has also been a leader in addressing PFAS issues, resulting in Maine being a model for other states.

What we appreciate most about Senator Brenner is her commitment to serving her

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Correction

On page 7 in the Oct. 7, 2024 print version of the Gorham Times we included a graphic that said that Election Day is Nov. 7. It is not. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5. Please be sure to vote.



Open Letter from Gorham Teachers

I am a Gorham educator. I, along with other Gorham educators, am extremely grateful for the support that we continue to have from our amazing Gorham community of students, families, and friends. We are proud of where we work, and we are dedicated professionals who bring our combined years of training, expertise, and experiences to our classrooms and students. Remember, too, that we are parents, neighbors, congregants, coaches, and friends. We all take pride in our work, in our school, and in our communities. We take seriously our responsibility to provide an outstanding, safe, and equitable education for all students as we prepare them with the skills and knowledge to be successful citizens in a global world. We are passionate about our subjects, our craft, and our commitment to our students. We strive to exemplify and to teach the Gorham Code of Conduct with our students: Respect, Honesty, Courage, Compassion, and Responsibility. These are also the basic values we ask in return.

The continued baseless and politically motivated attacks made by a few individuals against our district, our school, and our colleagues, are not just frustrating, but hurtful and undermine our ability to do our jobs well. We desperately need your help. We need our community to know what is going on and to please talk to us when there are questions, rather than to make assumptions and rely on what appears on social media. Trust that we have our students' best interests at heart, and we value taking care of all children who enter our schools.

For three years we have collectively and individually been misrepresented and harassed by a small group of people who are trying to bring the national agenda of attacking public schools to Gorham. A lesson plan, an email, a book in our library, all of these things have been reframed and manipulated as part of a social media campaign to invoke outrage and hatred. Based on these false or misleading claims and images, we have received threatening emails, hateful phone calls, and disparaging social media posts. Some of us have even received death threats. We have been called demeaning names and have been the subject of baseless and outrageous accusations, based solely on the purposely misleading efforts of a vocal minority to attack our integrity and our profession.

We are grateful for and welcome honest, respectful dialogue and are eager to partner with families and students to ensure the success and safety for **all** students and staff. Now we need even more support to continue to champion public education in our community. We will continue to celebrate education and the vitally important role it plays in a thriving democracy. Please help us ensure that the Gorham school community remains a place where students and staff can feel seen, heard, and, most importantly, safe.

Signed,

Denis Albert
Colleen Tims
Matthew Murray
Sarah Collins
Susan Hodgson
Benjamin Ely
Ashley Woodbury
Lucinda Stein
Rolande Paolino
Melissa Mullin
Ellen Berry
Donna L Pastore
Collin Henry
Heather Whitaker
Abby Griffith
John Caterina
Mary Jo Lyons
Luci Bowers
Rachael Grady
Catherine Paul
Saira Hirji
Brooke Proulx
Jessie Mason
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Financial Focus: Cutting Spending to Boost Retirement Savings

Pete Watt, Contributing Writer

Like most of us, you may someday want to enjoy a comfortable retirement. Your ability to achieve this goal will depend on how much you save — but it also matters how much you spend. And, saving and spending are certainly related: The more you can reduce your spending, the more money you could have available to save for retirement through your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. Over many years, even relatively small amounts diverted from spending to saving and investing could add up substantially.

Here are a few suggestions to help potentially reduce your spending.

Use a budgeting tool. If you're not already doing so, you might want to consider using a free online budgeting tool. Among other capabilities, these apps can place your spending in categories — groceries, travel, entertainment, and so on — which can reveal redundancies that, once eliminated, could save you money. For example, you might find that you're spending a significant amount on streaming services you rarely use. Or you might be surprised at how often you go the grocery store, rather than consolidating your visits and reducing the likelihood of "impulse" purchases.

Take advantage of employee benefits. If you work for a mid-size or large company, you may have an extensive employee benefit plan, which could include discounts on some products and services. If you are enrolled in a high-deductible health plan through your employer, you might have access to a health savings account (HSA) or flexible spending account (FSA), either of which may help lower your out-of-pocket health care costs by using pre-tax dollars to pay for deductibles, copayments, coinsurance and other qualified expenses.

Shop around for insurance. Being a

creature of habit can be good in some circumstances and not so good in others. In the "not so good" category, many people stick with their auto, homeowners and life insurance policies year after year, even though switching to another company might save them money. Even if you stay with your current company, you might find ways to save money by taking steps such as adding a home security system. Check with your insurer to learn more.

Compare credit cards. There's a piece of financial advice that says: "Pay cash for everything" — and this isn't a bad idea. Ideally, you should pay off the bill each month to avoid interest charges. Sometimes, though, you may need to use your card for other purposes, and it may not always be possible to pay your bill in full. That's why you'll want to review credit cards periodically to find a lower interest rate, a favorable balance transfer offer or a better rewards program.

It's not always easy to cut down on your spending, but when you do, it can provide more peace of mind — and an opportunity to boost your savings for what could be a long and active retirement.



Pete Watt has been with Edward Jones since 2015. He loves working closely with clients to help them and their families develop successful

and personalized strategies to achieve their financial goals. This article was provided by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

A Familiar Face at the Border

Chris Crawford, Features Editor

Alex Dahms (GHS '07) always knew he wanted to work in Law Enforcement at the U.S. Federal level. He currently serves as a border guard in Jackman, Maine. His job duties in U.S. Customs and Border Protection are to enforce customs and immigration laws while focusing on border security. This includes passenger and cargo screening and enforcing immigration and customs compliance.

After high school, Dahms spent a year at Bridgton Academy and then earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from St. Joseph's College in 2012. For the next five years, he worked at the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office before moving on to U.S. Customs and Border Protection which is part of the Department of Homeland Security.

Dahms said, "As a customs officer, it's important to build your knowledge base as you interact with travelers from around the U.S. and the world. Through conversation and key questioning, we determine who is and who isn't admissible to the United States and ascertain if they have the necessary documents to enter the country."

Detail-oriented, Dahms also has a good memory for faces. He recognized the author of this article as his old 5th grade library teacher whom he hadn't seen in more than 20 years, when she passed through customs returning from a trip to Quebec this summer.

His job also requires staying on top of current worldwide events. Learning about various customs, religions, ideologies, and different cultures is also important knowledge to have when interacting with travelers.

While currently posted on the U.S. Canadian Border, Dahms has also served on the southern border in Texas at Eagle Pass, and Laredo. There he worked alongside the men and women within Border Patrol, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the National Guard, and with local and State Authorities, and other Federal Agents - tracking and processing illegal aliens trying to enter the United States. Finding contraband such as illegal drugs, weapons, stolen goods, including vehicles, and fake documents is also part of his job. Being on alert for smuggling trends and travelers who pose a risk to the United States is key.

Dahms said, "There are a lot of moving parts but the hard work and dedication of the men and women who secure our nation's borders, on land, air, and sea, including passenger processing and cargo processing, 24-7, is remarkable."

Dahms grew up in Gorham Village, on a dead end street. He fondly recalls playing street hockey, wiffle ball, football and manhunt games with neighborhood

friends. They biked all over town, using the trail systems to get from point to point.

Academically, Dahms said he had to study a little extra to stay on top of his assignments. He remembers Mr. Wilcox and Mr. Tanguay always preached discipline and attention to detail. Ms. Herlihy expected written essays using a strong writer's voice.

Dahms' work schedule is challenging, but in his spare time, he enjoys being outdoors, going hiking, golfing, enjoying a campfire, watching sports, grilling, and traveling near and far. He also keeps up with news from his hometown of Gorham.

Dahms is the son of Kevin and Caroline Dahms who now reside in Bridgton. His older brother, Joseph was a GHS '02 graduate.

Some Foreign Travel Tips

Travel advisories from the U.S. Dept. of State are a vital source of safety and security info, prior to and during travel. <https://travel.state.gov/>

Know the address and contact info of the U.S. Consulate in the country you are visiting. They can provide help with lost documents and help with other problems for U. S. Citizens who are living or traveling abroad.

Enroll in Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) with the U.S. Department of State to receive safety updates and to allow the embassy to contact you in an emergency while abroad.

Global Entry Program is a U.S. Customs and Border Protection program that provides expedited entry for low-risk travelers re-entering selected U.S. Airports.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection has many helpful travel tips including a list of items that are illegal to import.



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by A. Logophile

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SOLUTION ON PAGE 15



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Clerk's Corner

Laurie Nordfors, Gorham Town Clerk

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2024. This is the Gorham Annual Municipal Election to elect two members to the Town Council and two members to the School Committee as well as a local referendum question. This is also the State General Election to elect the next President, United States Senator, Representative to Congress and members of the Maine Legislature, and certain county officers, along with a referendum ballot with People's Veto Referenda, Direct Initiatives of Legislation, Bond issues and other referenda proposed by the Legislature and Constitutional Amendments.

Absentee voting is available in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Center, Monday, Oct. 21 through Thursday, Oct. 24 from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 26 from 8 a.m. - noon,

Monday, Oct. 28 and Tuesday, Oct. 29 from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 30 from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Thursday, Oct. 31, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. You may request an absentee ballot to be sent to you by calling the Town Clerk's office or visiting the State Election website at <https://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/voter-info/absent.html>. The last day to request an absentee ballot or vote absentee in person is Thursday, Oct. 31 at 5 p.m.

Voter registration is conducted at the Town Clerk's Office during regular business hours, Monday–Thursday from 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. Please be sure to have photo identification and proof of your residence address when registering to vote.

Please do not hesitate to call the Town Clerk's Office at (207) 222-1670 with any questions.

September Real Estate Transfers

Gorham Times Staff

ADDRESS	SELLER	BUYER	PRICE
34 Carnation Drive	Cory S Murray	Sarah Msuya	\$ 775,000.00
25 Scroggie Way	Mary S Schultz	Sarah Walsh	\$ 742,000.00
8 Windswept Drive Unit 24	Cottage Advisors ME, LLC	Dimitrios Sarantakis	\$ 674,900.00
32 Towle Road	William W Dougherty	Steven Oliver	\$ 635,000.00
143 Falcon Crest Drive Unit	Cottage Advisors ME, LLC	April McLaughlin-Merry	\$ 630,400.00
122 Falcon Crest Drive	Cottage Advisors ME, LLC	Susan E. Hirsch	\$ 619,765.00
12 Darin Drive	James R Bannister	Kathryn Elise Doyen	\$ 585,000.00
24 Bear Run	Sarah E Sweatt	Adam Weiss	\$ 580,000.00
5 Clearview Drive	Susan L. Dougherty	Asael G Santos	\$ 575,000.00
144 Falcon Crest Drive Unit	Cottage Advisors ME, LLC	Lee H Morten	\$ 549,900.00
45 Samantha Drive #16A	Jan T Allen	Carol Jones	\$ 535,000.00
67 Wescott Road	Mary E Bazemore	Rebecca Triglianios	\$ 500,000.00
114 Finn Parker Road	Fay L. Reynolds	Steven N Baglione	\$ 482,500.00
86 Burnham Road	Michael G Leary	Kendra Bryer	\$ 450,000.00
5 Stephanie Drive	Donna J Powell	Stephen Cobb	\$ 445,000.00
9 Connor Drive, Unit 10	Janice A Santos	Venkata Sriteja Vendra	\$ 440,000.00
13 Christopher Road	Sara-Jade Trottier	Emmanuel Hakizimana	\$ 427,500.00
469 Ossipee Trail E.	Russell W Brackett	Timothy C Hardin	\$ 415,000.00
39 Meadowbrook Dr., #2	Francis Maiorino	Marie-Catherine Anne	\$ 400,000.00
161 Ossipee Trail	Susan Parsons	Shawna Dufresne	\$ 391,000.00
103 Finn Parker Road	Estate of John C. Merriman,	Lauren E Edwards	\$ 387,000.00
352 Sebago Lake Road	Liam P Hackett	Gabrielle Madina Grubb	\$ 375,000.00
11 Tow Path Road	Patricia A Schmidt	Michelle Hasson	\$ 365,000.00
245 Sebago Lake Road	Estate of James O Nugent	Chelsea R Gilgan	\$ 322,663.00
9 White Rock Drive	Stacie A Goodrich	Danielle M Capozza	\$ 268,000.00
722 Gray Road	Elisa Siciliano	Michael Stover	\$ 216,000.00
388 Ossipee Trail	Ross Bellino	JDD Consulting LLC	\$ 210,000.00
11 Bramblewood Lane	Virginia Wilder Cross	Darcy M Lockman	\$ 200,000.00
Brackett Road	Brian W Hebert	LLC	\$ 60,000.00
Great Falls Road	Jessica L Letellier	Chad Thompson	\$ 30,000.00

LETTUCE BE HEALTHY

Chicken Broccoli Black Bean Casserole

- 12 oz pulled chicken, seasoned w/Paradise Powder or Paul Prudhomme's Poultry seasoning
- 1 can black beans
- 1 can mushrooms, stems & pieces, drained
- 2 cans artichoke hearts, quartered and chopped, drained
- Broccoli florets, frozen or cooked al dente, 12-16 oz
- 1 can cream of celery soup
- 1 can cream of broccoli cheese or cheddar cheese soup
- Salt & Pepper to taste
- Kale Shake
- ½ to 1 cup shredded Mexican cheese, depending on your taste

Preheat oven to 400 degrees

Spray square baking pan with non stick spray.

In large bowl, gently mix all ingredients except shredded cheese. Pour into baking dish. Spread shredded cheese evenly over top and bake covered for 25 min. Uncover and cook til top is golden brown. Serve over rice, orzo or pasta, or eat alone with a salad. Enjoy.

Questions about the recipes can be e-mailed to Barbara Schneider at btsme21@gmail.com

2025 Online Dog Licensing Information

Gorham Town Clerk's Office

Please note that the State of Maine will be issuing Dog Tags for online registrations for 2025. Please visit https://www.maine.gov/dacf/ahw/animal_welfare/doglicense/index.shtml for more information including online costs for new licenses or renewals, and/or to register online through the State of Maine's Dog Licensing site. An online license fee of \$1 will be included in online registrations, and an additional shipping/handling fee of \$1.75 will be added to a registrant's total when registering online.

Dog Licensing Information/ FAQs

- All dogs age 6 months and older are required by State Law to be licensed by Dec. 31st of each year. A \$25.00 late fee will be due for any dog licensed after Jan. 31st, per state law.
- A current rabies vaccination certificate and proof of spaying or neutering, if applicable, is required to license a dog.
- Dogs may be licensed at the Town Clerk's office or licenses may be done online as long as they are not late.
- The Animal Control Officer will be notified of all unlicensed dogs and owners could be fined for keeping an unlicensed dog.

Please contact the Town Clerk's office at (207) 222-1670 with your name, home address, and e-mail address to be added to an e-mail reminder list.

Safe Elections

Public Service Announcement

False claims of hacked voter information are intended to sow distrust of U.S. elections. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) want the public to be aware of attempts to undermine public confidence in the security of U.S. election infrastructure through the spread of disinformation falsely claiming that cyberattacks have or will compromise U.S. voter registration databases.

Malicious actors, both domestic and foreign, continue to spread false or misleading information in an attempt to manipulate public opinion and undermine confidence in U.S. democratic institutions. One of the most common tactics involves using obtained voter registration information as evidence to support false claims that a cyber operation compromised election infrastructure. The reality is that having access to voter registration data is not by itself an indicator of a voter registration database compromise.

In fact, most U.S. voter information can be purchased or otherwise legitimately acquired through publicly available sources. In recent election cycles, when cyber actors have obtained voter registration information, the acquisition of this data did not impact the voting process or election results.

At this time, the FBI and CISA have no information suggesting that any cyberattack on U.S. election infrastructure has prevented an election from occurring, changed voter registration information,

prevented an eligible voter from casting a ballot, compromised the integrity of any ballots cast, or disrupted the ability to count votes or transmit unofficial election results in a timely manner.

The FBI and CISA urge the American public to critically evaluate claims of “hacked” or “leaked” or “stolen” voter information and to remember that most voter registration information is available to the public.

Public Recommendations:

- Do not accept claims of intrusion at face value and remember that these claims may be meant to influence public opinion and to undermine the American people's confidence in our democratic process.
- Be cautious of social media posts, unsolicited emails from unfamiliar email addresses, or phone calls or text messages from unknown phone numbers that make suspicious claims about the elections process or its security.
- If you have questions about election security and/or administration in your jurisdiction, rely on state and local government election officials as your trusted sources for election information.
- Visit your state and local elections office websites for accurate information about the elections process. Many of these offices' websites use a “.gov” domain, indicating an official government site.

The FBI and CISA coordinate closely with federal, state, local, and territorial election officials to provide services and information to help election officials further secure election processes and maintain the resilience of U.S. elections.



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THE COTTAGES AT
PHEASANT KNOLL

Presumpscot Regional Land Trust News

Chris Crawford, *Features Editor*



Photo credit: Presumpscot Regional Land Trust
Great gear will be available to help show your support
of the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust.

The Presumpscot Regional Land Trust (PRLT) is beginning the process of gathering important input from community members in order to develop a new Five-Year Strategic Plan. Land Trust and also members of the community will be able to offer feedback and ideas to inform future goals of the organization by weighing in here: <https://forms.gle/7RkHU8YJKyw6v4xS7>

Will Sedlack, Director of the Land Trust said, "Our goal with this strategic planning process is to make sure we're focusing on what matters most to the community— including protecting important lands and waterways while also giving people great places to enjoy nature. It's really about finding the right balance between conservation and recreation and making sure we're working smarter by teaming up with other organizations whenever and wherever it makes sense." He added, "We want to strengthen

our partnerships with local municipalities and ensure our work supports the needs of the communities we serve. By working together, we hope to protect more land, create accessible outdoor spaces, and get more people involved in conservation efforts.

The Presumpscot Regional Land Trust is also happy to announce the launch of its new online store featuring merchandise such as a PRLT branded baseball cap, a hunter's orange knit hat sporting the newly designed PRLT logo, stickers and patches are also available. You can now wear some cool gear to show your support for the Land Trust's vital mission to protect and celebrate the Presumpscot River, its land, and its wildlife. The official launch will be in November at www.prlt.org

The Land Trust would also like to thank its many individual volunteers, corporate and community organizations who freely give their time to help take care of trails, count alewives, and monitor the water quality of the many small streams and tributaries of the Presumpscot Watershed. Volunteers also perform many other important tasks large and small that provide and care for the forever wild spaces of the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust in the towns of Gorham, Gray, Sebago, Standish, Westbrook, Windham. If you would like to become a member and/or become a volunteer visit www.prlt.org for more information.

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- And above all, featuring the many good deeds in our town.

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Taste of Nations Sweet Saturday

Lucia Holloway, GHS Student Intern

Gorham High School is hosting a Taste of Nations event on Saturday Nov. 2 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. All are invited to bring a dessert to share with other attendees that represents your culture or tradition. The event offers your tastebuds a taste of all corners of the world and allows all to socialize with community members as we celebrate unique traditions and identities while also bringing the community together.

“I’m looking forward to this opportunity for people from the many diverse cultures we have in our Gorham community to get together, share delicious dessert and a cup of coffee or tea, and get to know one another.” says Heather Alden-Paredes, a co-organizer of the event. The hope is to establish a new town tradition that will become an annual event while also deepening cultural awareness between neighbors.

October School Committee Meeting

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer

At the Oct. 9 meeting of the School Committee, Brian Jandreau, Gorham High School principal, reported that the high school had been awarded continued accreditation by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). He summarized some of the positive findings and growth area needs.

GHS met all the evaluation standards. Evaluators were impressed with the school’s many programs and services, consistent staff collaboration and commitment, robust planning, support for social and emotional needs, and creative use of space. They observed that the curriculum connects with the school’s vision of a graduate. They noted the robust classroom technology with a 1:1 device ratio for teachers and students and a wide variety of available digital platforms. The ASPIRE program that provides students with community-based learning received a positive review.

The NEASC evaluators also noted needed growth areas. At the time of their visit, they saw a need for alternative learning structures. GHS is already addressing this with an alternative education program instituted this school year. Evaluators felt GHS needed to provide more learning opportunities for staff. They recognized the need for a capital improvement plan in cooperation with the community, but were glad to see HVAC improvements at GHS with plans to address issues of aging spaces.

The other presentation to the SC demonstrated the district’s commitment to encouraging the interests of

all students. Lucas Witham, Gorham Middle School teacher, introduced two students who participate in the GMS Outdoor Club’s fishing club. Since the club’s inception the membership has increased 700% with about 40 students meeting every Thursday to fish and learn about the sport. The club provides hands-on learning away from the school campus. Kyle and Liam said that fishing was fun and gave them a sense of accomplishment. Donated fishing poles would be appreciated, Witham said.

There were no public comments. Superintendent Heather Perry announced that 20.7% of school lunch forms were returned, an improvement over last year. This data impacts funding the district receives for the nutrition program. She said the recent Thought Exchange will help focus priorities for the budget process. The need for bus drivers continues: the district is still down one and soon will be down two. There are six vacancies for ed techs.

Chair Sarah Perkins announced the dates for the Book Talk program: Oct.29, Nov.12, and Dec. 2. She apologized for the district holding programs on school or religious holidays and vowed to take this seriously in the future.

Nicole Yeo-Fisher is ending her one-year term on the School Committee. Anne Schools, who served for six years on the SC, is not running for re-election. She served as chair, vice chair, and on most sub-committees. Sarah

CONTINUED TO PAGE 12

Narragansett School Modular Classroom

Gorham Times Staff



Photo credit: Kathy Corbett

Erin Eppler, Narragansett Elementary School principal, gave the School Committee a tour of the modular units on Oct. 2. Unlike temporary portable classrooms of the past, the modulares are similar to the school’s other classrooms. They are linked by hallways to the main building. The School Committee will be holding workshops at other schools in the district and the public is always welcome to attend.



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Gorham Town Council

Postseason Path Could Be Anyone’s Game

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Volleyball players ‘Dig Pink’ night raised over \$1700

Photo credit: Eric Tirrell

The Rams’ field Hockey team, one of the top teams in the region, has had an October to remember. The Rams started the month off with a 3-0 victory over Noble and then lost two-back to-back “too close for comfort” games, one against Cheverus (the reigning Class A state champion), that went into double overtime and the other against a very good Biddeford team; both games had a state championship vibe with all the hype, especially against Cheverus. That match-up pushed athletes on both teams to the limit both physically and mentally.

The first half of the game went scoreless and then went back and forth, scoreless into the fourth quarter sending the game into “sudden overtime.” The hometown Rams played tough all the way through and stayed with the Stags giving them their toughest game of the season. Junior Joey Pompeo who once played for the Gorham Middle School team, was an integral player on the other side as she was credited for the assist in the Stags double overtime goal. The Rams Madison Tibbals had 11 saves and had phenomenal stops. Coach Becky Manson reiterated, “games like these will, no doubt, prepare us for the post season. It was a good test for us at the right time.” The Rams went on to win 5 straight games;

with Annie Collier, Reece Leclerc, Abby Chamberlain, and Sydney Quimby taking care of the offense.

Other highlights on the field include big wins for both the Girls’ and Boys’ soccer teams.

The Girls’ team, after defeating Cheverus, is back at the top of the Class A heal point standings. To recap; the season began with a 1-1 tie v. Scarborough and then four straight wins. After a wild loss to Windham (4-3), the Rams continued on a five game win streak.

The Cheverus game was a tough match up at the Stags home field on a very brisk, windy day. Ashley Connolly gave the Rams a spark late in the first half with a blast from 30 yards out and then the deciding goal on a corner kick from Logan Doughty to secure the win. This gives Gorham a boost, but not without its challenges. The Rams have lost key players due to injury; their starting goalkeeper Sawyer VonderHaar (who was clutch for the Rams to get to the regional finals last year) and senior captain Sarah Rosingana (during the Cheverus game).

On the boys side; the team had a key victory against Deering and improved to 8-4 on the season. Owen Spera had two goals and Zach Chandler had a goal to take care of the offense, while the Rams defense got the shutout.

The Varsity Girls Volleyball team (Class A state champion titleholder) is currently 9-4 in the regular season and in first with a 7-0 record in the region. The golf team impressed on a tough day of weather to qualify for states the weekend of Oct. 11.

Look out for the Rams in postseason action. It is anyone’s game in a string of tight games, especially when playoffs begin. The Field Hockey and Girls’ Soccer teams respectively have ten seniors apiece who will not go down without a fight.



Field Hockey team Pink Day v. Windham

Photo credit: Becky Manson

The Gorham Times acknowledges the lands and waters of the Dawnland, where we live and do our work, as the unceded homelands of ancestral peoples indigenous to these places. We honor them. We acknowledge the difficult truths of settler colonialism as well as the healing work that remains for us to do.

Photo credit: Roger Marchand



Rams Football team with a victory at Cheverus

Photo credit: Jen Skolfield

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Aspire Gorham Initiative Update

Heather Perry's Superintendent Blog

The Aspire Gorham Initiative began with a planning year in 2018-2019 and then the first implementation year in 2019-2020. This program began as a fully grant-funded program via our partnership with the MELMAC Foundation and Jobs for Maine's Graduates (JMG). Over seven fiscal years our grant partners contributed a combined total of just over \$1.2 million dollars to support this program. Today, because of the demonstrated positive impacts of this program upon our schools, our students and our community, the Aspire Gorham Initiative is fully funded locally.

What is Aspire Gorham?

Aspire Gorham is for everyone. This community-wide initiative encourages students in every grade and Gorham school to consider their futures. Collaborating with businesses and community organizations in and around Gorham, the Aspire Gorham team connects students to professionals for career exposure, exploration, and experience opportunities from kindergarten through 12th grade. At each grade level we have a specific focus as outlined below:

Grades PK - 5 = Exposure: Building future-ready skills and inspiring students. This foundational stage of Aspire Gorham provides introductory career-related opportunities that incorporate dramatic play, experiential learning, time for discussion, parent engagement, and the development of future-ready skills that foster children's aspirational strengths and interests.

Grades 6-9 = Exploration: Supporting students to explore their strengths and interests. Deepening the career exposure that occurs in early childhood

and elementary education, this stage encourages students to actively "try it" and explore many different careers and skills without fear of failure. Students continue to focus on developing future-ready skills through ongoing exposure to and engagement with their community.

Grades 9-12 = Experience: Empowering students to craft their future stories. Building upon the foundations of career exposure and exploration, students partner with teachers and community mentors to pursue authentic career experiences directly tied to future goals and are located in the community. Students also actively engage in career exposure and exploration activities as they refine their skills and take steps toward realizing their aspirations.

Each year data is collected for students trying to measure the impact the program has had over time. You can find a full review of the data collected for the 2023-2024 school year on the Gorham Schools website under Aspire Survey, but these are some of the highlights:

- 93% of students report that their teachers have "high expectations" of them.
- 92% of students report that their counselors and their teachers help prepare them for a successful life after HS graduation.
- 85% of students report that they learn things in school that they believe have a direct connection to their lives after graduation.
- Participation in Internship programs has increased from just 25% of students in 2021 to almost 80% of students participate in internship experiences now.
- The percentage of students participating in either JMG or CTE programs has increased from 27% in 2020 to 38% in the spring of 2024.



Gorham students participating in the Aspire Gorham initiative

Photo credit: Courtesy of Heather Perry's blog

- The number of students participating in Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO's) since 2020 has quadrupled.
 - The number of students participating in early college courses has increased from just 4% in 2020 to 75% in spring 2024.
- The Aspire Program ranges from sponsoring our Littlest Learners program at Baxter Memorial Library for our earliest learners to field experiences and curriculum connections to aspirations in the early grades to events like the Amazing Race, Try It Day, and Junior Achievement programming at the MS level to ELOs, Internships, CTE programming, and curriculum-embedded career

exploration activities at the HS level. The bottom line is that our classroom learning is purposefully connected to meaningful and authentic opportunities for students to explore their aspirations from birth all the way through! It is an incredible program for our students and one that requires many community partners to be successful. If you have an interest in helping out - please reach out to Eliza Kenigsberg, our career aspirations and ELO coordinator to share your interests and learn more about how you can be involved in this program! Her email address is eliza.kenigsberg@gorhamschools.org

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BUXTON \$460,000 –
This brand new 28x40 home features an open floor plan with cathedral ceilings and future room to grow in the daylight basement. Offers 1120sqft of living space all on one floor with the kitchen open to the dining and front living room, 2 bedrooms & full bath with double vanity. Over 500sqft of unfinished daylight basement space.

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.

GORHAM \$315,000 –
You'll love this end unit with an airy open concept nicely upgraded from top to bottom with a 2-car garage and full basement for storage. The spacious kitchen with island and tiled backsplash is open to the dining area and living room with gas fireplace all flooded with natural light. The 1st floor primary bedroom has a walk-in closet & private bath.

GORHAM \$315,000 –
Cute ranch style home with detached 2-car garage nestled on a 1.8-acre country lot. Kitchen opens to the dining room, front living room, sunlit 4 season room with propane parlor stove, 1st floor bedroom and full bathroom complete the first-floor plan. The basement is finished with multiple rooms and a half-bathroom

SCARBOROUGH \$349,900 – Opportunity...
Great Scarborough location...Investors take notice. This Cape style home will need re-hab. Features included kitchen, dining area, living room, bedroom & full bath. Bring your own creative ideas. Being sold AS-IS. Handy to all points in Scarborough. Public water & sewer at the street.

Julie Chandler

Mike Griffin

Peter Mason

referendum questions on the second local ballot, one for bonds to fund capital improvements at Gorham High School and Narragansett Elementary School. The other is a bond request to replace the district's tennis courts.

There are two State of Maine ballots. Registered voters who live in State District 109 will vote for either Ellie Sato or Alan Livingston to represent them in the legislature. Those in District 108 will choose between M. Thad Moody or Parnell Terry. All Gorham voters will select either Stacy Brenner or Donald Hamill to be State Senator from District 30.

Voters will find the contests for president, U.S. Senate, and U.S. Congressperson on the state ballot. All Maine voters will use a ranked-choice voting for these contests because there are more than two candidates running for these offices. Voters can rank candidates first, second, third, etc. If any candidate gets more than 50% of first-place votes for that office, they will be declared the winner.

If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the contest will go into a second round. The candidate with the least number of votes is eliminated. If a voter for the eliminated candidate has made a second choice, their vote will be added to the voter's second-choice totals. This process will repeat until one candidate has a majority. Voters who wish to support only one candidate should not indicate a second-place choice.

There are five referendum questions on the second state ballot. One is a citizens' initiative to limit the amount of contributions to political campaigns, three are requests for bonds to fund

state projects, and the fifth is to vote on replacing the design of the Maine State flag with one resembling the 1909 flag.

See the Sept. 26 on-line edition of the Gorham Times for information about local candidates. For information about the local referendum questions see the Gorham School District and Town of Gorham websites, or the Oct. 10 edition of the Gorham Times. Information about the state referendum questions is available on-line at <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec> or at Baxter Memorial Library and the North Gorham Public Library. The League of Women Voters of Maine has published a Voter Guide. It gives general information about the election process, ranked-choice voting, and has sample ballots. Email info@lwvme.org for more information.

School Committee Meeting

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Perkins thanked them both and presented them with the traditional apple.

Committee chairs reported that most are meeting for the first time this month. Michelle Littlefield reported the Fiscal Sustainability Committee is meeting and working to develop a strategic plan. The committee is eager to communicate with the community. They want to know if the School Committee is supportive of their plans. The SC agreed to put it on the agenda for the Oct. 23 workshop.

Two policies had first readings, one on use of school facilities and grounds. The other deals with competitive food sales and smart snack standards. All policies can be accessed from the district website.

constituents. She is always thoughtful, accessible and responsive. She has represented Scarborough and Gorham well for the last 4 years. We urge everyone to vote for Senator Stacy Brenner again!

Mike Smith, Owner, Village Physical Therapy, Gorham

Ken Simons, Owner, Orthopaedic Physical Therapy Associates (OPTA) - Scarborough

June Tait, Owner, Scarborough Physical Therapy

Karen Bailey, Owner, Optimal Performance Physical Therapy - Scarborough

To the Editor,

In politics, having experience and requisite knowledge to get things done is essential. Ellie Sato is running for State Representative in Gorham's District 109, and she is the only candidate with the experience necessary to represent Gorham in Augusta.

I know this because I too, have been a legislative aide in Augusta. When Ellie asked for my support, we had a conversation about the challenges of working there. She clearly understood the legislative process. But while there, she also came to realize, as did I, that truly effective legislators prioritize constituent services. I have no doubt she'll have the same priorities.

Ellie's a longtime Gorham resident who understands the challenges ahead. Combine that with her experience in Augusta, and Gorham has the opportunity to elect a candidate who has our best interests at heart and knows how to get things done. Vote for Ellie Sato!

Virgil Bozeman III, Gorham

Correction:

The following letter was left out of the print edition in error.

To the Editor,

It is an honor to personally endorse Mr. Thad Moody a candidate for State Representative House District 108. Mr. Moody has been a lifelong resident of Gorham. The Moody name is synonymous with community service and evidence of placing the citizens ahead of individual and or political needs.

Thad's children (Christopher, Tasha, and Heather) are graduates of the Gorham School system. He has championed education and is active in fundraising for scholarships not only for Gorham students but area school systems as well. He respects the need for a strong school system.

Thad has a strong understanding of Gorham and its surrounding communities and the difficulties we face. Whether the issue is Maine Public Utilities, the changing environment, housing, transportation, education, taxes etc...he will make prudent decisions on what is best no matter whose idea / concept is brought forth. He will communicate and keep us informed. Thad has served on Gorham's Town Council and he remains a resource and a respected voice here and in the Greater Portland area. He has a proven successful and inclusive business background. He has a wealth of knowledge and proven "leadership" skills. As our community grows, I am confident that Mr. Thad Moody will represent all the House District 108 constituents at a high level. I am pleased to endorse Mr. Thad Moody and ask you to do the same.

Gerry Durgin, Gorham

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OF INTEREST

Gorham Recreation Department’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.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. The folks at Special Olympics encourages athletes “to be brave, to stand up to bullying, and promote respect for everyone regardless of differences.” Visit <https://specialolympics.org> to learn more.

The Wireless Society of Southern Maine Emergency Communications Team (WSSM-ECT) is a local ham radio group meeting monthly in Windham. The team will be participating in a state-wide emergency communications exercise on Oct. 26 to help our local communities prepare for emergency scenarios. The drill is known as the Simulated Emergency Test, or SET, and is an annual exercise sponsored by the American Radio Relay League. For more information about amateur radio, or WSSM, visit <http://www.mainehamradio.com>.

The Casco Bay Wind Symphony, under the direction of Dr. William Kinne, will perform their fall concert, “Tales from the Crypt” on Sunday, Oct. 27 from 2 – 4 p.m. at McCormack Performing Arts Center. This spine-tingling concert includes a world-premiere by CBWS musician, Heather Hastings, new works from Erika Svanoe and John Mackey, and includes music from the motion pictures “Harry Potter,” “Star Wars,” “Beetlejuice,” “The Nightmare Before Christmas,” “Edward Scissorhands,” and much more. Tickets are \$13 in advance for adults, \$15 at the door. Seniors 65+, pay what you can, students/kids are free. Costumes are welcome. FMI: (207) 274-8185, ellencbcb@gmail.com, or on the web, <https://www.cascobaywindsymphony.org>.

“Around The Hill Hike” with stunning foliage and scenic views of the While Mountains and Little Duck Pond will be held on Sunday, Nov. 3 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Presumpscot Regional Land Trust’ East Windham Conservation Area. This 3-mile, moderately challenging hike has some steep and uneven sections, so be prepared for an invigorating walk. Registration is required at the PRLT website <https://www.prlt.org>. Casey and Natalie Skovran will lead the walk. Casey is a board member and treasurer of the Land Trust as well as an experienced hiker. Natalie is a former hike leader for the Appalachian Mountain Club and is currently an out- ing club advisor at Old Orchard Beach High School.

Climate Caretakers at First Parish Church invites you to a presentation by Blake Sanborn, landscape architect and experienced resiliency planner. Blake will talk about what can be done in the face of high rainstorm flooding and rising sea levels affecting the coast of Maine. All are invited to attend and join the discussion. Fellowship Hall at First Parish Church; Friday, Nov. 8 at 6:30 p.m. FMI: (207) 839-6751.

The Gorham/Windham/Westbrook TRIAD will meet Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 11 a.m. at the Gorham Fire Department Training Room. The speaker will be from Caption Call, which is a program to help the hard of hearing get free caption phones through a special program. All are welcome to attend and learn more.

Find information about hunting season dates and bag limits in Maine at the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting-trapping/hunting/laws-rules/season-dates-bag-limits.html>.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

The Gorham Medical Loan Closet is available to Gorham residents in need of medical equip- ment temporarily. Wheelchairs, walkers, canes and scooters are just some of the items avail- able. The closet is open only Monday thru Thursday, and only by appointment. 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 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 meets for games and cribbage on Mondays from 10 a.m. - noon. Wednesday’s Guest Speaker program, the Originals, begins with coffee at 10 a.m. then speaker/presentation to begin at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome, 3rd floor First Parish Church. FMI: Lisa Becker at leckybrowncenter@gmail.com

PUBLIC SUPPERS

Living Waters Church Haddock Supper Buffet, Saturday, Oct. 26 at 5 p.m., Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Suggested donation: \$10 adults, \$5 child, \$20 family. Take out containers or face masks are optional. Hand sanitizer is available.

For the 15th year, the crew at Mr. Bagel will provide a free community Thanksgiving Day meal on Thursday, Nov. 28. Thad and Roxanne Moody and their crew are grateful for the help of approximately 80 volunteers and generous donations last year as they put out 130 meals, many of which were delivered to those who are homebound. They can deliver to the house- bound within a 15-mile radius of Gorham center. If you know of someone who will be alone on Thanksgiving this year, please give them this phone number, (207) 839-4516.

HALLOWEEN AND HOLIDAY FAIRS

Trunk or Treat Free Family Event will be at Galilee Church at 317 Main Street, Thursday, Oct. 31 from 4:30 – 7 p.m. FMI (207) 839-6985 or email office@galileebc.org.

St. Anne’s Church Fair is Saturday, Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 299 Main Street. Mr. and Mrs. Santa, Gramma’s Attic, children’s room, silent auction, cash raffle, bucket raffles, hand made knits and crafts, jewelry, candy, baked goods, pizzelles, greens table, breakfast and lunch served.

LIBRARY NEWS

At the North Gorham Public Library, as of Wednesday, Nov. 6, to coincide with the end of Daylight Savings Time, the library will switch over to winter hours. Instead of being open Wednesday evenings 4 – 7 p.m. the library will be open 3 – 6 p.m. All other hours will remain the same: Monday 3 – 6 p.m, Tuesday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. and 3 – 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday closed, Saturday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., Sunday closed. Story Hour is every Wednesday 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Halloween at Baxter Memorial Library begins at 10 a.m. with a story and a parade through the library and Town Hall. Wear your costume and bring a bag for candy, and don’t forget to vote for your favorite carved pumpkin. Find more events in the Gorham Times Calendar, and at the Library website, [https:// baxterlibrary.org/](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 NEWS

The USM Department of Theatre presents “The Wizard of Oz” an original radio drama adapted by Linus Speary. The event will feature a Wizard of Oz-inspired costume concert, raffles for fun gift baskets, food and non-alcoholic drink, and a cozy listen to the Wizard of Oz radio play. And more! Saturday, Oct. 26 at 7 p.m. in Lower Brooks on the Gorham campus. The event is free, but RSVP to help with the planning, <https://usm.maine.edu/departement-theatre/box-office-tickets/>.


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 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 2 at 2 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 3 at 2 p.m. Get tickets for this and more at <https://usm.maine.edu/music/events>. \$5/\$10/\$15

The Osher Youth Ensembles perform their fall concert at Merrill Auditorium on Monday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. Admission is by donation.

Send PSAs to Lori Arsenault, public service coordinator: loriaam@gmail.com



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Photo credit: Todd Rogers
Todd Rogers of Standish was deployed to the Gorham Middle School (a Red Cross Shelter site) during last year’s SET (Simulated Emergency Test). The image depicts the portable ham radio setup he used during the exercise.

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CALENDAR

- Thursday, October 24**
Baxter Memorial Library:
Toddler Storytime, 10 a.m.
Sewing Club (Group 3), requires registration, group is full, FMI (207) 222-1190
- Friday, October 25**
USM Athletics Home Game: Women's Ice Hockey vs. Suffolk University at 4 p.m.
- Saturday, October 26**
Baxter Memorial Library, RPG Club (role-playing game), 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Gorham Recreation Department "Fall Festival" at the Gazebo. 2 - 4 p.m.
Living Waters Church Haddock Supper Buffet, 5 p.m., Parker Farm Road, Buxton.
USM Athletics Home Games:
Men's Soccer vs. West Conn at noon.
Women's Ice Hockey vs. Keene State at 1 p.m.
Women's Volleyball vs. Keene State at noon, and vs. Maine Maritime Academy at 4 p.m.
Field Hockey vs. Vermont State University Castleton at 3 p.m.
USM Department of Theatre's "Wizard of Oz" Radio Play. Lower Brooks, 7 p.m., Free. RSVP.
- Sunday, October 27**
Casco Bay Wind Symphony "Tales from the Crypt," McCormack Performing Arts Center, 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 29**
Baxter Memorial Library, Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, October 30**
Baxter Memorial Library, Baby Storytime, 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday, October 31**
Baxter Memorial Library
Halloween at Baxter starts at 10 a.m.
Toddler Storytime, 10 a.m.
Sewing Club (Groups 1,2,3) Requires registration, club is full, FMI (207) 222-1190
Trunk or Treat at Galilee Church, 4:30 - 7 p.m., 317 Main Street
Trunk or Treat in Baxter Memorial Library Parking Lot, 6 - 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, November 1**
Osher School of Music Fall Musical, "Songs for a New World," 7:30 p.m.
USM Athletics Home Game: Wrestling vs. Bridgewater State at 6 p.m.
- Saturday, November 2**
Gorham High School "Taste of Nations-Sweet Saturday," GHS Cafeteria, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Osher School of Music Fall Musical, "Songs for a New World," 2 and 7:30 p.m.
USM Athletics Home Games:
Women's Soccer vs. Vermont State University Castleton at 2 p.m.
Women's Ice Hockey vs. Endicott College at 3 p.m.
- Sunday, November 3**
"Around the Hill Hike" with Presumpscott Regional Land Trust, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. www.prlt.org
Osher School of Music Fall Musical, "Songs for a New World," 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 5**
Baxter Memorial Library: Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m.
- Wednesday, November 6**
Baxter Memorial Library, Baby Storytime, 9:30 a.m.

Send calendar items to Lori Arsenault, public service coordinator: loriaam@gmail.com

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Caller was checking to see if his missing wallet had been found. He thought he might have lost it in Portland when he was at church. He was advised to contact the church and the Portland PD.

Tall Pines Bluff Drive caller reported his vehicle had been burgled.

North Gorham Road caller reported two small people riding on the back of a motorcycle that caller said was going too fast. Officer did not locate any motorcycles in the area but later saw three children driving small motorized vehicles, designed for children, maxing out at 15 mph on Barstow Road. Kids were wearing helmets, sticking to the side of the roads, riding on back roads and actively watching for traffic and traveling under 20 mph.

Wood Road caller reported trucks driving way too fast and doing burnouts on Wood and Finn Parker Road. Officer checked the area but did not find any vehicles on the road.

Dundee Road caller reported about ten rounds were fired near the dam. A male was located and told the officer he was shooting at targets and the area was safe.

Caller reported someone was living in a tent on Longfellow Road. Caller wanted to know if the person was trespassing. Officer advised the caller he had already spoken to the person and the person was staying in a tent.

A motorcycle on the side of Sebago Lake Road and Perkins Way was for sale.

A disabled car on Main Street was pushed out of the road.

An officer spoke to a woman on Solomon Drive about her dog barking continuously. She did not concur with the complaint about barking. She was advised of the animal noise ordinance and was not aware that the barking was bothering her neighbors.

Libby Avenue caller was trying to turn around in a driveway when he accidentally drove off the lawn and into the woods. He destroyed a wood shed and drove the truck into a wood pile where it was now stuck. Incident was entirely on private property and non-reportable by Maine Crime Reporting Standards. Phillips Towing was called for a pull out.

Twilight Lane caller wanted to report that a Protection from Harm order was being violated. Incident occurred in the Old Port. She was referred to Portland PD.

Checker at 7-11 asked officer to talk with a truck driver in the parking lot and have him move his truck.

Vehicle parked on Narragansett Street was burglarized.

Officer stopped to see if a car, pulled over on Vista and Mosher with its hazard lights on, needed assistance. Driver was trying to figure out how to get to the AT&T store in Windham and his GPS figured it out for him.

Caller reported five broken headstones at Eastern Cemetery that appeared to have been cut. Officer found broken headstones but breaks did not appear to be recent as there was moss growing on the stones and breaks did not seem to have been caused using tools.

Lost and Found

Detective. Stephen Hinkley, Gorham Police Department

On Sept. 8, 2024 one of our officers found a Ryobi saw on the side of Ossipee Trail. If anyone is missing one, please reach out to me.

On Sept. 12, 2024 a black Apple iWatch was found on the side of County Rd. and turned into the police department. If anyone is the owner, they can reach out to me.

On Sept. 24, 2024 Hannaford turned

over a silver wedding band with diamonds that had been found by a customer in the parking lot. If anyone is missing a ring, and can prove ownership, please reach out to me.

If anyone is missing any of these things, please reach out to Detective Stephen Hinkley at (207) 222-1689 or by email at shinkley@gorham.me.us.

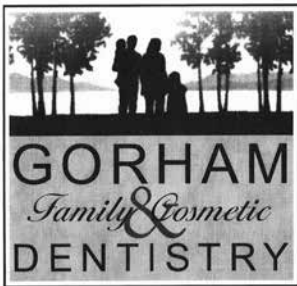
Volunteer Distribution Person

The Gorham Times is seeking a volunteer to take over our compact, walkable in-town distribution route, delivering 300+ papers to 20+ locations (many in the same buildings). Route is roughly a square bounded by Main Street, Mechanic Street, Railroad Avenue, and Elm Street. This is a great opportunity to meet interesting people and learn about community organizations.

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