

Gorham Times

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Gorham Steps Up for Hurricane Victims

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer



Photo Credit: Joey Daigle
Drivers for the Hurricane Helene relief convoy: Gorham residents Ben Smith, Paul Smith, Colby Smith, Bill Black, Justin Dearborn, and Dennis Nickerson. From Buxton were Bruce Burns, Joe Sandian, and Ben Wallace. From Scarborough were Roger and Nancy Ridley. Rick Meserve came from Hollis and Gerald Marquis came from near Fort Kent.

When Dennis Nickerson woke up on a Saturday morning in late September he saw television pictures of flooding from Hurricane Helene in Asheville, North Carolina. "I need to do something to make a difference," he vowed. Within nine days he had received hundreds of dollars in cash and had amassed more than \$120,000 worth of goods. Scores of Gorham businesses and local residents had answered his call for help. Looking back on that project, Nickerson and his wife Ann spoke of immediately putting a sign for North Carolina relief in front of their Narragansett Street house. "By Sunday morning

my garage was full," he said. He enlisted Joey Daigle, Ann's son, from Dixfield to put out the request for goods on social media. Nickerson did a radio interview with Ray Richardson on WLOB, the conservative news/talk station. This drew a response from all over Maine, but the bulk of the contributions came from Gorham. Among the many local business donators were Dearborn Construction, Gorham Sand and Gravel, Shaw Brothers, Maid for You, Port City Graphics, Moody's, and Great Falls Construction. Plummer's Ace Hardware gave two generators, Gorham Sand and Gravel and Shaw Earthworks gave much-needed chain

saws, and Mr. Bagel provided food. Individual Gorham residents came up with cash and goods. Daigle took some of the donated cash and bought 30 pairs of rubber boots. "A woman who lives in her car gave dozens of blankets," Nickerson said. "Lots of good people worked 12 to 14 hours a day to get the goods organized," Nickerson said. Among the donations were tools, sleeping bags, clothes, diapers, and pet food. On Oct. 17 fifteen volunteers drove seven trucks to North Carolina, missing two days of work. FedEx sent two trucks and Jamison Energy in Standish provided fuel money and cans of gas. When the convoy made an overnight stop in Virginia, they found that John and Cindy Smith, Gorham business owners on vacation, had arranged a steak dinner to be waiting for the drivers. The donated goods were delivered to the Biltmore Church of Christ in Asheville, which had set up a massive reception and distribution center. Nickerson had been in communication with the church to determine the greatest needs. Along with pallets of goods, they gave the church \$12,263 in donated cash and gift cards. Nickerson was appalled by the destruction. "It was ten times worse than what you see on television. It will take years and years to recover." He said, "Imagine the center of Gorham gone in a few hours." Daigle, who was unable to make the trip because he had strained his back, said, "Thanks to everyone who donated, cash, goods, and time."

Scarborough's Turnpike Proposal

Gorham Times Staff

At the Nov. 12 meeting of the Gorham Town Council, Councilor Lou Simms read his report related to the proposed Gorham Connector project. The following is a portion of that report; the complete report can be heard at the Town's website. "Last month, Scarborough's Town Council passed a resolution, by a 6-1 margin, that withdrew their Town's support for the Maine Turnpike Authority's proposed expansion of a 5-mile, 4-lane, elevated toll highway that would carve through both Scarborough and Gorham." "Scarborough's leaders have clearly stated that they do not want this turnpike expansion due to the negative impacts of similar highway expansions, which are well-documented in communities all across our country. Destroying natural ecosystems, damaging public health, and worsened quality of life for local residents, similar highway expansions commonly have a negative impact on the long-term fiscal sustainability of impacted communities because the sprawling expansion does not generate enough property tax revenue to offset the towns' increased costs for servicing that emaciated pattern of development."

Gorham Volleyball Repeat as Class A State Champs

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Rams with a big play get the crowd into it.

Photo credit: Eric Tirrell

The Gorham Girls Volleyball team faced off with (No. 1 seed) Biddeford and defeated the Tigers in three straight sets at the SMCC campus on Saturday, Nov. 2. In doing so the Rams repeated as state champs and brought home the gold ball. A few highlights: Taylor Ernest had a nice save in the back and Laura Edwards set up Ava DeVinney who had a beautiful spike that could not be returned. Aces by Vanessa Walker, Natalie Smith, and Edwards all game long were a momentum shift any-

time Biddeford tried to get close. Lauren Dunbar closed it out for the straight-set win to let the celebrations begin. It was a total team effort. After graduating ten seniors and having a key player out with an injury, the team was not exactly sure what to expect going into the new season. Coach Tirrell shared, "Through hard work and dedication to each other, the girls really figured it out." A turning point in the season was a tough game against Yarmouth, ('23 Class B state champions) and a difficult game

mid-season against Scarborough. Coach added, "We had a long conversation after that game (against Scarborough), on how we wanted to carry ourselves moving forward." Senior captains Natalie Smith and Vanessa Walker took matters into their own hands. Both Walker and Smith pushed the team to have a positive attitude and focus on the team's goals; realizing their goals were attainable with only a few weeks away; one match at a time. With a light at the end of the tunnel, the Rams fought hard towards the end of the season, fighting through illnesses and sticking together no matter the obstacles. Coach Tirrell remarked, "I've always

carried a big roster and this year everyone on the bench was ready to step in if needed. We had a lot of role players to rely on, and I think that made our whole team feel supported. These are strong athletes who truly deserved what they got at the end." The Gorham Volleyball team has made three consecutive appearances in the state championship with back-to-back wins, an amazing accomplishment. Coach concluded, "At the beginning of the season, I think the girls thought this season was going to be an uphill battle, but by our 7th or 8th game, I think they could tell we could win it all. I'm so proud of them."



State Champs: Team Photo

Photo credit: Eric Tirrell

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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.

Post-Election Reflection: Importance of Engaging with Local and State Government

Sen. Stacy Brenner

Earlier this month, hundreds of thousands of Mainers cast their votes and engaged in civic participation. As we move forward from the general election, it's important to reflect on what this means for Maine and our nation. It's essential to remember that democracy does not end at the federal level. The choices made at the state and even local level of government build the foundation for our state's future.

While national politics can be polarized and difficult to influence individually, local and state governments offer a more accessible and engaging environment to get involved. Your voice matters; when you call and email me, I will get back to you and can often connect you with a public hearing or advocacy group who need people to tell stories about how laws impact their lives. Local and state governments play a central role in determining policies that affect property taxes, education, and the environment.

A healthy democracy relies on us all staying informed through local journalism and reputable sources so that we have an informed electorate, and you can hold lawmakers, like me, to account. We are lucky in Gorham to have a great paper, and in Maine to have a thriving and robust press who acts as our watchdog. Writing letters to the editors

and opinion pieces or getting in touch with reporters covering local stories are influential ways to be engaged in decision-making. Attending Gorham school committee meetings, joining a municipal board, or testifying on a bill at the State House in Augusta can influence spending and policy decisions at the state and local level. There are dozens of municipal board seats appointed by Gorham Town Council through the Town Council Appointments Committee. You can participate in issues from planning to historic preservation. Members serve a fixed term, and many will be open in 2025.

At the town website you can fill out an expression of interest and find more information about the work of each board. Contact the Town Clerk for more information or with questions. When those from different backgrounds and experiences get involved, it leads to more effective and equitable policymaking. Already involved – take the next step and consider running for an office.

As your state senator, I am committed to this inclusivity and believe active participation in government ensures that our community gets the best governance.

As we head into the 132nd Maine Legislature, I implore you to stay engaged with your local and state government. There has never been a more crucial time

to protect the interests of our community. Attend that town hall meeting, meet with your elected officials and give your take on certain projects or proposals, advocate for that policy issue that affects you and your community. Your voice matters and we need the input of everyone in our community to help craft policies that reflect the character and needs of Gorham and the state of Maine. Thanks for sending me back to the state senate to continue to carry our concerns forward.

I am committed to hosting town hall meetings with Gorham's new House delegation to hear from folks about the challenges and ideas they have for the upcoming legislative session. Please stay tuned for this by signing up for my weekly updates on <https://www.facebook.com/SenatorStacyBrenner/>. As always, I am a resource for you, your family, and our community.



If you need assistance with some aspect of state government or have questions for me, please reach out at Stacy.Brenner@legislature.maine.gov or my Senate office at (207) 287-1515. I will do my best to help.

legislature.maine.gov or my Senate office at (207) 287-1515. I will do my best to help.

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,

I am a Gorham resident, father of three, and a tennis coach.

Last summer I had 16 elementary school students attend my Gorham tennis camp. Apex Racket & Fitness ran two weeks of camps and had another 20 or so elementary-age students participate.

I had 38 middle school students on the GMS team this fall.

Last spring we had 22 boys and 23 girls on the GHS tennis teams. Both varsity squads made it to the semifinals, and both squads returned all but one varsity athlete. We are primed for yet another successful season. In addition, up until this year, both the USM men's and women's teams practiced on the high school tennis courts.

I am trying to imagine what the outcry would be if our football or basketball teams were unable to play any home games because of the condition of the field or court. Now, I am not trying to pit any programs against each other, and I also don't expect everyone to love or appreciate tennis like I do. But I cannot see an argument for letting our courts fall apart when we run such a successful and popular athletic program. Tennis is a sport that serves over a hundred Gorham kids and one of the few programs that doesn't make any cuts.

I get that the proposal for new courts had too high of a price tag and that folks dis-

agreed on the ideal location. But I hope we can find agreement that Gorham kids and Gorham residents deserve playable courts. In my opinion, it is objectively unfair for our middle and high school tennis players to spend another season competing entirely on the road, and to risk injury any time they practice at home. I am asking that the school committee, the town council, and the university put their heads together and develop both a short-term and a long-term solution.

Steve Chabot, Gorham

To the Editor,

To our Town of Gorham residents: I want to congratulate all the election winners!! My thanks go out to all who supported our run for a legislature seat. Though I won't be Gorham's representative, I do plan on being a voice in Augusta for those things that would be in the best interest for the Town of Gorham and the State of Maine. Listening to all of the candidates the single most important message was, "Working Together!" Well, in the first bill that comes to the floor, it will be quite obvious if they will hold true to their word or will we get just more of party agendas getting in the way of what's best for Maine and our Gorham residents.

Sincerely,
M. Thad Moody

Make a Donation of any amount.

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Gorham Times

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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Upcoming Advertising Deadlines

November 27

December 11

Winter Break

January 8

USM Students Vote



Getting to the polls was a group activity. The Office of Student Engagement and Leadership (SEAL) worked with Maine Students Vote to organize a series of walks from USM's Gorham Campus to the neighborhood polling place at the Gorham Municipal Center. University President Jacqueline Edmondson walked with the last group of the day. Although she had already voted in the morning, Edmondson accompanied the students to support them in exercising their right to vote. Edmondson's dog, Elbow, also enjoyed the exercise.

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Author Paul Doiron Returning to Baxter Library

John Ersek, Staff Writer

Award-winning Maine author Paul Doiron will be returning to the Baxter Memorial Library for an author talk on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 6 p.m, when he is expected to read excerpts from his latest wilderness crime novel, Pitch Black. The story takes place in the remote wilderness region north of Moosehead Lake, near the Canadian border, in an area accessible only by bush plane and unimproved forestry roads. "Pitch Black" is the 14th novel in Doiron's Mike Bowditch series of crime thrillers. Beginning with "The Poacher's Son" in 2010, Doiron's novels feature Mike Bowditch, a Maine Game Warden whose

crime-fighting exploits take him well beyond the typical responsibilities of his occupation. The novels have captivated readers around the world and have been translated into over ten languages. The fourteen books' wide appeal is enhanced by their dramatic settings in various areas of Maine's remote North Woods. Doiron is the former editor of Downeast Magazine. He has served on the Maine Arts Commission and is a past chair of the Maine Humanities Council. He is also a registered Maine Guide. Attendees are advised to arrive early in order to ensure obtaining a seat, as this is expected to be a popular event.

Holiday Tradition: White Rock Friendship Club

JoAnn Leib, Staff Writer

Fresh-cut evergreens, twinkling lights, maybe a first sprinkling of snow. Gorhamites look forward to the Friendship Club holiday traditions at this special time of year. The winter season will be even more exciting than in past years if the White Rock Friendship Club lives up to its four-decade-long mission: the annual tree-lighting at 4:30 p.m. on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, Dec. 1, 2024, on Wilson Road. The 16 men and women of The Friendship Club, as they now call themselves, marvel at the 40 winters that have come and gone so quickly. School romances, marriages, babies born, work lives enjoyed, and world events put in perspective—all marked by both the fir tree they planted seasons ago and by its memorable Gorham lights. Frances Perry, 79, a longtime member of the Friendship Club, recalls attending elementary school with 30 other children in the White Rock community, at the Wilson Road school building that is now a senior housing venue. "My mother was a part of the Friendship Club for years too," she says. Some things don't change. "We still have a community bean supper on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, and one every First Saturday from September through May. Lots of folks get together, and every-

one loves the home-made pies!" Then there is the winter holiday event on Sunday that includes hand-made crafts, a white elephant sale and delicious refreshments. "A group of musicians gathers, just for the chance to play for an audience," Perry says. "There is singing, and around five o'clock Santa arrives with a Gorham town fire truck for his sleigh." More than once upon a time in fact, the part of St. Nicholas was played by Mrs. Perry's husband Ralph, who has watched the small Friendship Club fir grow to a 16-foot-tall mature tree decorated by many helpers. "We need a ladder." There are practical benefits from all the fun, Mrs. Perry reminds her husband. "We offer a scholarship to a Gorham High School student every year—based on the funds we collect. And over the years we've helped out neighbors with fuel bills and groceries. When we know someone is having medical problems, we find a way to help with that too—that's what it's about," Perry says with genuine feeling. "One more thing. I want to let people know we can always find room for a few more Friends!" If all this community spirit sounds appealing, consider joining on Sunday, Dec. 1 for the tree-lighting at 4:30, or better still, think about joining the White Rock Friendship Club. Perry and her friends would be happy to have you.



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Everyone Can Keep Houseplants Alive

O'Donal's Staff



Photo credit: O'Donal's Staff
Snake plants are virtually indestructible when not over-watered

There is hope if you struggle to keep houseplants alive and consider yourself a proclaimed “brown thumb”. If there is a collection of crispy plants in the back of your garage, you may have just been bringing home the wrong plants. There are three important things to consider when choosing the right plant for your home: light, soil type and water quality. Of these qualities light is the one we have the least control over, so it is

important to know how bright and for how long the area you have chosen has light. Plants that like “bright, direct light” should be put in front of a south or west facing window. Plants that thrive in “bright indirect light” should be put in a bright room but not directly in the window. Plants that require medium or low light will do well in a north or east facing window or other low light areas like a corner or a hallway. Next, be sure to choose the appropriate soil for your type of plant. All-purpose potting soil is generally good for most leafy plants. It holds more water than a coarse and grainier cactus or succulent soil. Orchid medium can be bark-based, sphagnum moss or combinations of the two. Soil designed for bonsai is coarse and well-draining. Lastly it is important to understand your plants’ water requirements. A basic rule is to water only when dry and to water deeply. Watering a plant when the soil is still damp to the touch is one of the main causes of root rot which can be fatal. What is considered “dry” varies by plant type. The type of soil, amount of sun the plant receives, and the time of year also play a role in how quickly a plant will dry out. Summer may require more frequent watering than during the winter. Always check the moisture of the soil either by sticking your finger into

CryptoVerse by A. Logophile

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ITFASTG FI TOGITCA IEG FI HTCA."

FJ DTEGDT BTGT CAFWW WFKFID AEXOL,

XE LEZ ASFIR ST BEZWX OXSTGT AE ASOA ATCA?

CLUE: A = T SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

the soil or by using a moisture meter. The quality of your water also plays an important role in your plants’ health. The best quality of water for all your plants is rainwater or water filtered through a reverse-osmosis system. Municipal water may contain levels of chlorine, fluoride and other minerals and softened water contains salts too harsh for sensitive plants such as spider plants, Dracaenas, peace lily and Calatheas. With the right plant choices, everyone can enjoy a calming and green indoor space. With all this information in mind, here are several standout plants that we recommend as being some of the most resilient, easy to maintain. Snake Plant: Virtually indestructible when not over-watered. They tolerate low light, infrequent watering and are great air purifiers. ZZ Plant: Are incredibly tough, can tolerate low light, need infrequent watering and dry air. Slow growing, they do not require frequent repotting. Pothos: A very versatile, fast-growing vine which can be grown in either water or soil. They tolerate low light, infrequent watering and dry air. Hoyas: Known for their beautiful, waxy leaves and fragrant flowers. They come in bushy or vining varieties and can tolerate low light and infrequent watering. Gasterias: Aloe vera’s tougher cousin is drought-tolerant and can go for long periods without water. Rubber Tree Plant: Known for their large, glossy leaves. They are in the ficus family and are more pest resistant and lower maintenance than other members of the ficus family.

O'Donals is a local, independent, employee-owned nursery and gift shop offering a selection of healthy and hardy plants. Their friendly, professional team is always eager to answer your horticultural questions.

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Sunday, December 1st

LIGHT PARADE & TREE LIGHTING

2:30 - 5:30 P.M.

Municipal Center Lawn
Visit Santa & enjoy our food trucks, games, music and holiday treats!
Free Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides!

Light Parade
Main St. to South St. at 4:30 P.M.

WATCH FOR UPDATES ON FACEBOOK OR OUR WEBSITE!

LIGHT PARADE & TREE LIGHTING SCHEDULE

FOOD TRUCKS
2:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
PLUS SNOWMAN SOUP, REINDEER FOOD, HOT CHOCOLATE, DUNKIN MUNCHKINS, & MORE!

VISIT WITH SANTA
2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

REINDEER GAMES
2:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

HORSE-DRAWN WAGON RIDES
2:30 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.

LIGHT PARADE
4:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

TREE LIGHTING
5:00 P.M.
PLUS PHOTOS WITH SANTA BY THE TREE!

Clerks Corner for November

Laurie Nordfors, Gorham Town Clerk

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many election workers, clerk's office staff, Public Works, and Gorham PD for all of your help during the past election. We all worked together to ensure that the election was safe and successful. I would also like to thank GHOP for their generous donation of pizza to all of the election workers. You made their day a little brighter.

As the holidays approach, we start thinking about families that need a little extra help to get through the seasons. The Town of Gorham offers help to families in need during the holidays. You may apply at the Town Clerk's Office or call, and we will mail you an application.

If you are a business or individual who would like to help, you can do so by sponsoring a family for Christmas. This is a great way for a community group, organization or a whole family to get involved. You can call the Town Clerk's Office at (207) 222-1670 before the holidays and ask to sponsor a family. You will be given a "wish list" from a family along with the children's ages and clothing size.

Along with the need for holiday assis-

tance, low-income families and the elderly struggle to heat their homes each winter. The Town of Gorham has responded by creating the "Gorham Heating Assistance Fund". This fund will be supported by donations from Gorham citizens and local businesses and 100% of the funds received will go directly to people we assist with heating fuel. With many households facing increasing financial pressure during the pandemic, we are now assisting more families who never expected to be in a position of needing to ask for help. We ask that you consider contributing to this fund to support our efforts to keep Gorham residents warm and safe this winter. By donating, you are truly making a difference in the life of a family in your community.

On behalf of all of those who will be benefitting from these funds, I thank you greatly for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (207) 222-16710 or lnordfors@gorham.me.us

We all could use a little help now and then and these are ways our Gorham residents can PAY IT FORWARD!

Public Works Reminders

Kelly Meslin, Gorham Public Works

A few items to note as the weather starts to change:

- Winter sand is available to Gorham residents only. Winter weather is inevitable at any point now, two 5-gallon buckets per storm. You will need to bring buckets and a shovel.
- Leaf bin is open-bring leaves anytime and place in the bin next to the silver bullets. Please take your plastics bags with you and paper bags can be disposed of in the silver bullets.
- Leaves should not be swept or blown into your ditches - please keep ditches clear for proper drainage.
- Remember there is no parking on any public road or public easement roadway from Nov. 1 to May 1, midnight

to 6 a.m. or during any parking ban declared by the Public Works Department

- Please make sure that you are not blowing or pushing snow into any public way.
- Winter weather is upon us. Please be sure you are driving for the road conditions, driving slow and careful and giving yourself extra time to get where you're going safely.

The Public Works office and garage will be closed Nov. 28 and 29 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday trash collection this week will be collected on their normal days respectively and Thursday collection will be collected Friday, Nov. 29

You can find Gorham Public Works on Facebook! Give us a follow! Gorham-ME Public Works Department.



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2023 **Best Places to Work in ME**

What I Wish My Teacher Knew

Gorham Times Staff

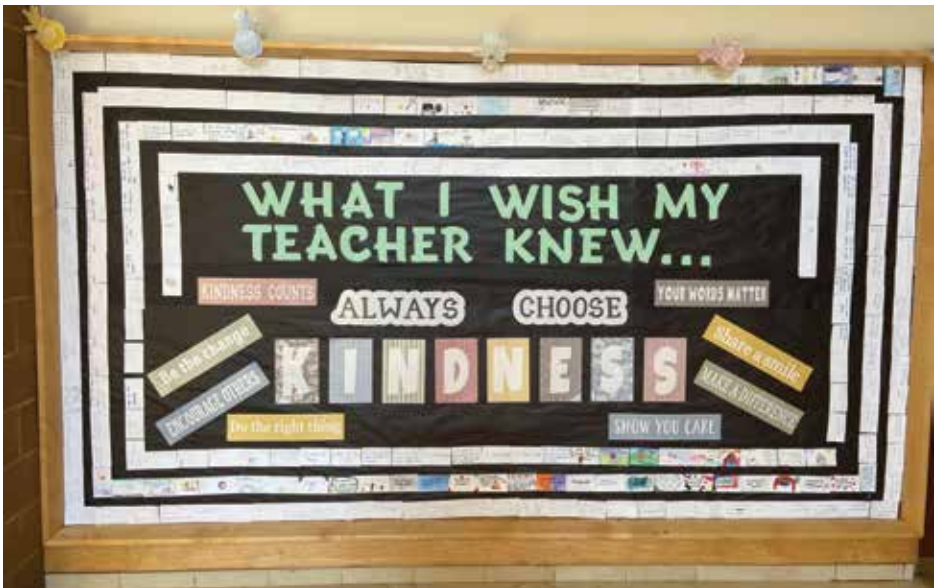


Photo credit: Becky Fortier, Principal, Great Falls

Great Falls students engaged in an activity where they expressed one fact, thought, or idea that they "wish their teacher knew." At Great Falls Elementary School, "Kindness matters, and building relationships is essential to learning."

Fun Run at Village School

Gorham Times Staff



Photo credit: Stacey Sawyer, Village School Counselor

Village Elementary School had a great turnout at its "2nd Annual Family Glow Run." A great crowd enjoyed lighting up the sky and exercising on a beautiful fall night. Student Abigail with moms Sarah and Jessica.

Village School Mock Elections

Gorham Times Staff



Photo credit: Stacey Sawyer, Village School Counselor

Village students learned about elections and participated in a variety of mock votes. Fifth graders were excited to see copies of the real-world candidate and referendum ballots. Fifth grader, Cooper, is seen going to the election booth.



Join us in making this holiday season brighter by participating in this year's Annual Tree Festival!

Here's how...

Pick or set-up a tree outside your business or home to decorate!

Come up with a theme, color scheme, etc. and decorate your tree.

Have your tree decorated prior to Gorham Recreation Department's Light Parade on **Dec. 1, 2024 at 4 p.m.**

Feel free to share your masterpiece to the Gorham 2024 Tree Festival Facebook Group.

Send us an email for the location of your tree if you would like your tree to be judged.

**Winners will be announced on or by New Year's Eve!
Grand winner will be presented with a traveling plaque to hold onto for the year, and a donation made in kind to the winner's choice!**

For more information please reach out to:
gorhamstreefestival@gmail.com

Nov. School Committee Report

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer

The Gorham School Committee (SC) welcomed new member Eric Thistle and re-elected member Nicole Yeo-Fisher to the Wednesday, Nov. 13 regular meeting. The committee reelected Sarah Perkins chair and elected Yeo-Fisher vice-chair. Committee assignments were announced and are listed on the School Committee website.

Superintendent Heather Perry reported that although federal funding the State Department of Education received during the pandemic is running out, the state is committed to its own funding levels. She said that next year the Family Medical Leave Act will require the district to make substantial payments. The district is still down two special ed techs and two bus drivers, although there are drivers in training. She announced the Dessert and Discussion meeting Nov. 14 to kick off the budget process, open to the public.

The School Committee joined with Perry in congratulating the fall athletes, particularly the Girls Volleyball team, state champions, and the GHS students who participated in the production of "The Crucible." SC members thanked voters for passing the capital improvements bond referendum. The committees made reports which included Stewart McCallister reporting the Finance Committee's discussion of village walkability.

The PATH vocational education program has an increase in Gorham students, Jennifer Whitehead reported. Michelle Littlefield said that the Joint Fiscal Sustainability Committee is reviewing performance indicators. The Alternative Education Committee is working on student transitions between schools.

Six Great Falls Elementary School students demonstrated the Book Buddies program. Fifth grade students are paired with kinder-

garteners to help with reading. The fifth graders mentors said, "It was a chance to be leaders and learn to be patient." The kindergarteners agreed that "it was fun to read together."

Bridget Kahn, the district's new Adult Education Director, reviewed the program, which is one of 78 other programs statewide that serve 13,000 adult Mainers. In Gorham education and career training are ongoing. The HSE program for high school graduation had 5 to 8 students a year but is growing with the addition of remedial classes. Workforce training included training for substitute teachers and healthcare workers, including CNA training. The multilingual program has 22 students enrolled at First Parish Church, home to some immigrant families. Gorham enrichment programs attract many older adults, and 402 have participated in 91 classes this year, generating \$30,000 in income. Kahn's goal for the program is to work with the district to provide a wide range of programs.

Superintendent Perry reviewed the results of the Thought Exchange Survey on views about the budget and the district's need for and use of recourses. There were 640 on-line participants, predominately students, teachers and parents, but also 13% community members with no connection to the schools. Seventy-two percent thought the district was doing a good job; 28% disagreed. Major areas of concern were the budget and student engagement.

Forty-three percent of respondents thought the current budget was okay. Of the rest, 25% thought it was too high; 32% thought it was too low. The five most mentioned priorities were for more mental health resources and

CONTINUED TO PAGE 10

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NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

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 fall and winter 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 at 10:30 a.m. Upcoming topics include Maine rock walls, Presumpscot River/Dundee Pond, the "Murder of Mary Bean," and more. All are welcome, 3rd floor First Parish Church. FMI: Lisa Becker at leckybrowncenter@gmail.com

PUBLIC SUPPERS

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 homebound 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.

HOLIDAY FAIRS AND CONCERTS

White Rock Grange has organized dozens of crafters for your Christmas shopping pleasure. Jewelry, sewn & knitted items, soy candles, home decor and much more! <https://www.facebook.com/events/8520417114746380>

Free Christmas Concert with the Westbrook City Band Family friendly event featuring seasonal favorites and a sing-along. Sunday, Nov. 24 at 2 p.m., North Congregational Church, 22 Church Hill Road in Buxton. FMI: Patsy Leavitt patsyleavitt55@gmail.com

The White Rock Friendship Club is hosting the "40th Annual Tree Lighting" at the White Rock Community Clubhouse on Sunday, Dec 1 at 4:30pm. Listen to the reading of the Christmas story.

Sing Christmas carols while sipping hot cocoa around the Christmas tree. Santa will arrive on a White Rock Fire Station fire truck.

Ring in the holiday season with friends and family at the Casco Bay Wind Symphony's annual "Sounds of the Season" concert. Popular with audiences of all ages, this concert includes traditional holiday favorites, movie soundtrack highlights, a carol sing-a-long, and much more. The Grinch and Santa Claus will perform "The Night Before Christmas" and "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas." Reserve tickets in advance for this popular, family-friendly holiday tradition. Saturday, Dec. 7 at 2 p.m., McCormack Performing Arts Center at GHS, Adults \$13/\$15, Seniors 65+ pay what you can, Students/Kids - Free. <https://cascobaywindsymphony.org>.

LIBRARY NEWS

At the North Gorham Public Library, as of Wednesday, Nov. 6, to coincide with the end of daylight savings time, the library has switched over to winter hours. The Wednesday evening hours are now 3 – 6 p.m. All other hours are the same as before: 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.

Baxter Memorial Library has events for all ages almost every day of the week, including Toddler and Baby Storytimes, Pokémon Club, and even an opportunity to meet some dogs who dig reading. Meetings include the Library Trustees, the Teen Advisory Board, and the Friends of the Baxter Memorial Library. Find all these and more events in the Gorham Times Calendar (on page 10), 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 Arts at USM

The Osher School of Music and the USM Department of Theatre present the opera "Gianni Schicchi" by Giacomo Puccini, directed by Dr. Malinda Haslett, with the Southern Maine Symphony Orchestra conducted by Dr. Robert Lehmann. The opera opens at Russell Hall on Thursday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. with additional performances on Friday, Nov. 22 at 10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 23 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 24 at 2 p.m. The opera is appropriate for ages 13+ with advisement that there will be a depiction of a dead body on stage during a funeral scene.

Osher School of Music: <https://usm.maine.edu/music/events>

Department of Theatre: <https://usm.maine.edu/departments-theatre/box-office-tickets/>

USM Art Department: The USM Art Gallery's fall exhibition features Stephanie Garon's "under/ current", focusing on materials to investigate human collisions with the environment. The exhibition opened on Oct. 3 and runs through Saturday, Dec. 7. Gallery hours are Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. <https://usm.maine.edu/gallery/>

USM Sports Home Games - <https://southernmainehuskies.com/>

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

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School Committee

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

councilors, more staffing, more staff and resources for special education, reducing class sizes, and improving facilities. Although 63% of staff members believed there were adequate resources, others felt the need for more and for more support and training, especially support staff for special education.

Perry said that the staff will consult the survey results when they work to build a needs-based budget for FY 26.

Superintendent Perry gave a brief update on how the district's schools are celebrating, demonstrating, and reinforcing the Code of Conduct. The five components of the code are respect, honesty, courage, compassion (for self and others), and responsibility.

In unfinished business, the SC passed the Facilities Use Policy (6-1, Thistle abstained). They had a first reading of four policies, rewritten to comply with Title 9 changes, and a new policy on pregnant students. Policies are accessible from the district website, <https://www.gorhamschools.org/>

Perry announced that the Budget Target Q and A Document will be available from the district website. It is available to the public. Tuesday, Nov. 26 is the date for establishing a budget target.

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CALENDAR

Thursday, November 21

Baxter Memorial Library

Toddler Storytime, 10 - 10:30 a.m.

Book Club: "The House is on Fire" by Rachel Beanland, 10:15 a.m.

Sewing Class (group 3) requires registration, currently full. 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 26

Baxter Memorial Library

Preschool Story Time, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, November 27

Baxter Memorial Library Baby Storytime, 9:30 a.m.

Senior Meal at St. Anne's Church, social 11:30 a.m., meal at noon. \$4

Thursday, November 28

Happy Thanksgiving.

Saturday, November 30

Living Waters Church Haddock Supper Buffet, Parker Farm Road, Buxton, 5 p.m., \$10/\$5/\$20

Sunday, December 1

White Rock Friendship Club "40th Annual Tree Lighting," 34 Wilson Road, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, December 2

Baxter Memorial Library Learn Spanish with Yaya, 10 - 11 a.m.

Tuesday, December 3

Baxter Memorial Library French Language Discussion Group, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 4

Baxter Memorial Library Baby Storytime, 9:30 a.m.

Senior Meal at St. Anne's Church, social 11:30 a.m., meal at noon. \$4

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

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CENTURY 21

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Caller who had just bought a house on Huston Road, near Gray Road wanted to know if there were a lot of police calls in the area.

Caller asked police if they could comb through the security footage at Hannaford to help him find his wallet. He was advised this was not a criminal investigation and police could not do that.

Elm Street caller reported that while away for a few days, an unknown person got into her unlocked vehicle and took change out of her cup holder.

Caller was looking to purchase a bike and wanted to make sure it wasn't stolen. Officer checked the VIN # but did not find anything suspicious.

Files Road caller reported that he had hit a fawn and it was dead.

So. Portland Police received a call about a family fight in a vehicle near the sign that said six miles to Windham. Information was passed on to local agencies.

Whispering Pines Lane caller reported a neighbor's dog had chased their cat up a tree. Cat had extricated itself from the tree before officer arrived.

Files Road caller's daughter did not come home as she had thought she would. Caller had spoken to her on the phone and she had told mother she was home but she wasn't. Officer spoke with the mother and she said daughter had

called back and everything was all set.

Woman called in from JDP Drive, wanting a ride from Gorham to her house in Portland. She said she didn't have any money for an Uber or a taxi. She wasn't having a medical event and there was no criminal activity. She just wanted a ride. She was advised police could not give her a ride out of town and she would need to continue trying to find a ride.

Buck Street caller reported loud music being played at a possible wedding. Homeowners came out and said they had just gotten married. Woman had already told the DJ to shut off the music. Officer warned them about the loud music and left.

Officer asked Public Works to remove some crushed rock on Flaggy Meadow and State Street so that motorcycles wouldn't crash.

Brackett Road caller reported a man was in her driveway acting out of sorts. While the officer was enroute, the caller reported that the man was climbing a ladder to the roof. Man came down and was cooperative. It appeared that the boss was unsure of which address they were supposed to check the roof.

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