

# Gorham Times

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A Free, Not-for-Profit Newspaper Serving Gorham Since 1995 - Celebrating 30 Years

## What's Coming Up On Your June 10 Ballot?

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer

Gorham voters will be asked if they favor the School Budget for the 2025-2026 school year. The \$57,147,052 budget submitted by the School Committee is a 6.5% increase over the current budget. It was approved by the Town Council (6-0) as submitted by the School Committee. If approved by the voters, the annual tax increase on a house valued at \$400,000 is estimated to be \$120.00. The Town Council recommends a "yes" vote.

In a separate question, voters will be asked if they wish to continue the School Budget Validation Referendum process for an additional three years. If not approved, the school budget would be adopted at a meeting of the Town Council and not go to the voters, which is how



the municipal budget is decided now. Voters also will be asked to vote for a School Committee member to serve out

the term of a committee member who previously resigned. The candidate elected will serve until November when the three-

year term expires. Jaci Reynolds, who was appointed to serve on the committee until this election, is running unopposed.

Absentee ballots are available now from the Gorham Town Clerk's office. Voters may request a ballot mailed to them by calling the office, (207) 222-1670. Voters can vote an absentee ballot at the Municipal Center until June 5 during regular business hours. Absentee ballots must be received at the clerk's office by 8 p.m. on Election Day, June 10. There is a secure ballot box in front of the Municipal Center entrance.

On June 10, the polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Voters in Ward 1 will vote at the Gorham Middle School, Ward 1-2 voters at Great Falls Elementary School, and Ward 2 voters at the Municipal Center.

## Robie Park Phase 1 Begins

Gorham Times Staff



Photo Credit: Gorham Parks and Recreation

Phase I of the Robie Park Master Plan has begun. To start, the current playground will be dismantled and removed from the site. A few of the structures from Robie Park are being relocated and reinstalled at Little Falls Recreation Area and Little Falls Activity Center. The current basketball court at Robie Park will also be removed.



Photo Credit: Gorham Parks and Recreation

Phase I work will include new playground equipment, a relocation of the current sidewalk, entrance "nodes" from both entrances at Ball Park Road and Access Road, and a water feature. Gorham Public Works will begin the process with the playground and basketball court removal. Another contractor will do the earth work for the playground and water feature site as well as the sidewalk and nodes installation. The timeframe for construction is that this work will be completed by or near Labor Day weekend. Phase I work is being paid for by Recreation impact fees, Town of Gorham TIF funds and funds from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act 2021).

## Data Shows Roads, Not School-Aged Kids, Drive Up Costs

Kelli Deveau, Staff Writer

In a recent workshop, the Gorham Town Council, in collaboration with the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG), unveiled an innovative fiscal analysis tool that challenges long-held assumptions about development and its impact on community costs.

Designed by GPCOG as an interactive dashboard, the tool aggregates FY25 data, including municipal and school budgets, school enrollment, and recent assessment data, to create a snapshot of Gorham's financial landscape. Among its nine key metrics are property tax burden, school property tax burden, state funding benefit, median owner-occupied home value, median income, affordability index, median age, school-age children per unit, and equalized value per school age.

The dashboard, currently undergoing additional testing with select town officials, is not intended as a definitive arbiter of the best development or housing options, but instead offers a dynamic, data-driven lens to quantify fiscal impacts and inform decisions.

In its initial demonstration of Gorham data, GPCOG noted key takeaways including:

The current education funding formula is advantageous to Gorham, mitigating the burden of growth.

Road miles per 1,000 residents is a strong predictor of the fiscal benefit to Gorham. The more road miles between houses, the less fiscal benefit.

The impact for a new \$450,000 home in Gorham is negligible.

By allowing users to adjust vari-

ables such as home values, numbers of school-aged children, and road miles between residences, the tool reveals that increased development, when accompanied by additional state funding, can ultimately benefit the community. Moreover, findings indicate that infrastructure factors, particularly the extent of road mileage, are more significant cost drivers than an influx of students.

"It is a popular belief that approving more housing developments directly equates to higher local costs for educating our students," remarked Town Councilor Rob Lavoie. "This presentation demonstrated that this belief is simply untrue."

During the workshop GPCOG used the dashboard to answer the question, "Why aren't school kids driving up costs?" Using a four-person family (two school-aged children) moving into a new \$450,000 home as an example, they explained that the way the school funding formula works, the required local contribution rises with additional taxable property value, which equals \$3,100 more in local contribution for a new \$450,000 home. But the state's allocation of education funds also goes up for each additional student. For two new students, the state education allocation increases by \$27,000, leaving a net increase of \$23,900 in funds, which exceeds the average cost for the students in Gorham.

In contrast, commercial-only centers with little-to-no student population might inadvertently increase the required local fiscal contribution with-

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Policy on News from Augusta: The Gorham Times asked our three state legislators from Senate District 30, House District 108 and House District 109 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.

# Turning the Tide on Pollution

Sen. Stacy Brenner

Maine’s natural resources and ecosystems are changing — and not for the better. We need to do something about it. As I’m sure we all know by this point, extreme weather events caused by climate change are not only disruptive and deadly, but also very expensive. Last winter’s storms caused an estimated \$90 million in damage to public infrastructure and untold more to private property. One bill that I’ve introduced this session, LD 1870, seeks to establish a superfund to help pay for some of those climate-caused damages. Stormwater management, mitigation of sea-level rise and the reduction of public-health impacts should not fall solely on the backs of Maine taxpayers. The bill, titled, “An Act to Establish a Climate Superfund Cost Recovery Program to Impose Penalties on Climate Polluters,” is modeled on similar legislation in Vermont and New York. It would require companies that have emitted more than one billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions between 1995 and 2024 to pay a one-time fee for the detrimental impacts caused by such emissions. Large oil and gas companies have known for years the

negative impacts of climate change — it’s time they chip in to fund solutions. Note that LD 1870 doesn’t punish fossil fuel companies, it simply creates a more equitable pathway for Maine to recover a portion of the public costs by directly seeking remediation from the global companies whose pollution over the last 30 years is still doing damage today. Just a few weeks ago, the Legislature passed the climate resilience-focused LD 1 with strong bipartisan support, recognizing the urgent need to invest in storm preparedness, public-health infrastructure and emergency response systems that are already under intense pressure from a changing climate. LD 1870 is a natural extension of that commitment. Like LD 1, this bill has bipartisan support and it ensures that the costs of climate disruption aren’t just shouldered by the Maine taxpayers affected — but by the global fossil fuel companies that helped create this crisis. It’s a fiscally responsible, common-sense approach: keep investing in Maine’s future, but make sure the biggest polluters finally pay their fair share. LD 1870 aligns with the Maine Climate Council’s Climate Action Plan,

which has a strong emphasis on climate resilience. Under LD 1870, 35% of this legislation’s revenues would be used for climate adaptation projects in communities that have the most significant exposure to climate change, including rural, disadvantaged and low-income communities. This legislation ensures that climate resilience investment benefits are equitably distributed across our state. I’m excited to see how LD 1870 progresses, and I hope my colleagues on the Environment and Natural Resources Committee see its promise and its importance.



*As always, I am a resource for you, your family, and our community. If you need assistance 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.*

## 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 (not for publication) 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. Anonymous letters are published at the sole discretion of the Editor.

To the Editor,  
Despite the heavy rain on Saturday May 10, hardy neighbors participated in the Second Annual Robie Park Clean-up! While the rain kept a few folks away, there was a surprisingly good turn out despite the relentless rain. The mission to clean up debris and trash in the park was a success! Equipped with rain coats, rakes and wheelbarrows, piles of sticks and branches were collected and left at the edge of the park to be collected by Public Works. A big thank you to Mike Chabot who planned the event and who has worked closely with the town to ensure the upkeep and future of the park. Thank you,  
Lisa & Jeff Bolduc, Gorham

To the Editor,  
Why would Senator Susan Collins be right to support President Trump in defunding USAID and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting? Mainers value hard work, common sense, and living within our means. That’s why many of us are encouraged by the upcoming rescission package expected from President Trump and supported by leaders in Congress. This proposal would responsibly reduce unnecessary spending, particularly on bloated programs like USAID and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. USAID, created for global aid, spends billions on global abortion programs, diversity, transgender surgeries, and more. Similarly, the Corporation for

Public Broadcasting supports media outlets like NPR and PBS, which serve as liberal platforms funded by taxpayers to support DEI, transgender ideologies, and the Green New Deal agendas. Instead of exporting radical ideologies abroad or funding organizations like NPR and PBS that don’t reflect the views of most Mainers, it’s time to make sure federal dollars are used wisely and reflect the values of the people they serve. I encourage Senator Collins to support these sensible rescissions cuts and work toward a more secure and responsible future for Maine. Marilyn Amoroso, Gorham

To the Editor,  
Donald Trump is offering a massive public lands giveaway to the fossil fuel industry. He’s ordered the U.S. to “drill, baby, drill” on public lands, and he’s fast-tracked new oil and gas projects, bypassing environmental and public review. His allies in Congress are even pushing to open Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. If they get their way, the fossil fuel industry will wreck our national landmarks for profit and pump millions more tons of planet-warming pollution into the atmosphere in the process. So if we don’t want to see drilling rigs the next time we head outdoors, we need to send a clear message: Don’t sell off our public lands to Big Oil! Sincerely,  
Melinda Monks, South Portland

## Gorham Times

BRINGING THE NEWS TO ALL OF GORHAM  
PO Box 401  
Gorham, Maine 04038  
Phone and Fax: (207) 839-8390  
gorhamtimes@gmail.com  
www.gorhamtimes.com

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**Editor:** editor@gorhamtimes.com  
**Features:** ckck5@icloud.com  
**Advertising:** gorhamtimes@gmail.com or (207) 839-8390  
**School:** schoolnews.gorhamtimes@gmail.com  
**Sports:** sports@gorhamtimes.com  
**Of Interest/Calendar:** loriaam@gmail.com  
**Other:** gorhamtimes@gmail.com

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**Advertising Coordinator:** Lori Arsenault  
**Design/Production:** Megan Levesque, Molly Lortie  
**Staff Writers:** Jacob Adams, Donna Aikins, Lisa Becker, Kerry Constantino, Kathy Corbett, Kelli Deveaux, John Ersek, JoAnn Leib, Krista Nadeau, Patrick and Cindy O’Shea, Helen Stanbro, John Tiedje  
**GHS Student Interns:** Abby Chamberlin, Lucia Holloway  
**USM Student Intern:** Aly Veilleux  
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The Gorham Times takes all reasonable care to prevent errors and disclaims all legal responsibility for any such errors, omissions, or typographical errors. The Gorham Times will print corrections if notified within 48 hours. We reserve the right to refuse publication of unsolicited materials. All submissions are subject to editing. Opinions expressed in the Gorham Times do not necessarily reflect those of the staff or publishers.

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**Upcoming Advertising Deadlines**  
**May 28**  
**June 11**  
**Summer Break**  
**July 9**



# Dress-a-Girl Sews 161 Dresses

Christine Dyke, Lead Minister, First Parish Church



Photo Credit: Roger Marchand

Gorham collected 161 dresses for girls in Kenya.

First Parish Congregational Church in Gorham collected over 160 dresses for the Dress-a-Girl organization. First Parish Church has been sewing for Dress-a-Girl for 6 years, and this is the first time over 100 dresses have been sewn. “We were fortunate this year to have donated fabric and we created pre-cut kits. People came and picked up the kits and returned the dresses. Many people made more than one dress, and several people made at least 10 dresses!” said Jane Charron, a co-organizer of the project. Each sundress has large pockets and a Dress-a-Girl tag. A sewn doll and pair of underwear are also included in the pockets of each dress. The dresses, for girls aged 1-18 years old, will be sent to Kenya through Dress-a-Girl New England, which has a goal of sending 7,500 dresses this year. “Word went out in late winter to those who have sewn before and members of our congregation,” said

Sue Morrow, the other co-organizer of the project. “It is an easy project, so we encouraged people with even a little sewing experience to try making a dress. Sewers are also a pretty friendly group, so word spread, and sisters, mothers-in-law, friends, and people from other congregations joined in. We even had an immigrant from Angola sew a few dresses! We set the goal of 100 dresses, and I am so pleased we exceeded it!” The completed dresses have been hanging in the hallway to the sanctuary as they have come in, and on Mothers Day, May 11, 2025, there was a “Blessing of the Dresses” during Sunday worship. Then they were packed and sent on their way. First Parish Congregational Church, United Church of Christ (UCC) in Gorham (unceded lands of the Wabanaki peoples) has been worshipping in its current location since 1798. We are engaged in exploring beliefs, acting inclusively, and creating community.

# USM and Martin’s Point Supporting Student Veterans

Gorham Times Staff

USM recently earned a 2025-2026 Military Friendly® School designation at gold-level status. USM has committed to bringing together a wide array of services and resources, including a Military-Affiliated Student Hub (MASH) which is tailored to the needs of a veteran’s academic and social needs. A University spokesperson said, “The University of Southern Maine is deeply committed to supporting the success and well-being of student veterans and military-affiliated students.” He said, “MASH Director Lorrie Spaulding believes these students bring unique experiences, leadership skills, and a strong sense of purpose to USM’s educational community.” USM also works in close collaboration with local businesses to build strong relationships throughout the state. Thanks to a strong partnership with Martin’s Point Health Care, and their generous donation, the USM’s MASH hub will soon have a Sensory Deprivation Room. This space will provide a quiet, tech-

nology-free space for student veterans as they navigate the demands of college life. Veterans helped design the room which will help combat the effects of PTSD, a condition more common among veterans. It is scheduled to open during the 2025-2026 school year. Dr. Paul F. Kasuba, president and CEO of Martin’s Point Health Care, spoke about their deep commitment to the well-being of the military populations they serve through their US Family Health Plan insurance. Martin’s Point, a long-time community partner of USM, was eager and proud to support the sensory deprivation initiative that serves the student-veteran community. Martin’s Point supports USM in a number of other endeavors, including contributions to the University’s Student Emergency Fund, as well as ongoing funding for the USM Campus Food Pantry. They also provide internship and job shadow opportunities for USM students and financial sponsorship of the University’s Career & Employment Hub.

# Art Review of Sarah Coughlin at the Sullivan House Bakery

John Tiedje, Staff Writer



Photo Credit: John Tiedje

Purple Storm. A colorful acrylic painting of sunlight mixing with clouds.



Photo Credit: John Tiedje

Spring Bouquet. A pen-and-ink rendering that captures the delicateness of flowers.

If you’re looking for a neighborhood venue to see local and regional artists, try visiting the Sullivan House bakery where they display work by a new artist each month. They dedicate a wall to display two-dimensional pieces and have shelves to exhibit small three-dimensional work. It’s nice to visit and see what is currently on display, have a drink, feast upon a nice baked good or sandwich. This month’s offering is a Gorham artist: Sarah Coughlin. She is quite an accomplished painter working in oil, acrylic and watercolor. She has a BFA from Plymouth State University in oil painting. She just won the Judges Choice Award from the Waterville Area Art Society. Sarah has had a long relationship with the bakery. She is the creative force behind the large paintings along the shop’s wall of the original Sullivan house in Boston. The large, acrylic

paintings of architectural fronts of the buildings found along the street, starting with the Sullivan House’s Red door, add a nice atmosphere to the shop. Several of her acrylic and watercolor pieces are being displayed this month. In the painting “Purple Clouds,” she has fashioned sunlight and clouds that progress to a colorful semi-abstract appearance. Other pieces include her flower renderings. With watercolor and pen and ink, such as the piece “Spring Bouquet,” the rendering style speaks to the subject matter. The technique captures the delicateness of flowers. Sarah also has some work on display next door to the Sullivan House Bakery in the Hops and Vine. Stop by the bakery and enjoy the work of a great Gorham Artist.

# Letter Carriers’ Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive

Gorham Times Staff



Photo Credit: Rich Obrey

Every year on the second Saturday in May the Gorham Post Office conducts the “Letter Carriers’ Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive,” with our local mail carriers picking up food left at mail boxes in town and delivering to the Gorham Food Pantry. This year the drive collected more than 800 pounds of food that went immediately to pantry shelves for distribution to our neighbors in need. Assisting with the delivery and sorting the food from the Letter Carriers Food Drive are (from left to right) Gorham Food Pantry Inventory Coordinator Kris Clough, Gorham Post Office Supervisor Eric Richardson, Gorham Postmaster Joyce Champagne, and pantry volunteers Kathy Siemon and Amy Keith.



# Living A Champion Life: Health Doesn't Have to Be So Hard

Stacey Coleman, Contributing Writer

If you've lived in Gorham long enough, you know this town shows up. We're a sports town. A "just get it done" kind of town. We cheer from the sidelines, juggle work, kids, school drop-off, snack duty, fundraisers, and still manage to make dinner... most nights.

But after two decades of coaching in fitness, nutrition, and mindset — with athletes, parents, and everyone in-between — I've noticed we do everything for everyone but sometimes, we forget about ourselves.

Let's be very clear. If you're tired, stuck, overwhelmed, or constantly one step behind —you're not failing, you're moving at a pace no human can maintain.

You don't need more motivation or discipline. You need fewer constant daily decisions like what to cook for dinner, how to fit in a work-out, or what to do when you have to be in two different places at the same time.

A simple routine, with a rhythm that fits your real life is needed. One that still works when the dog pukes on the rug, your kids forget their cleats, and you're making a shopping list in the grocery-store parking lot at 5 p.m.

Most of us don't "fall off track." We were never on a track that made sense for our real lives. Having the perfect workout and a personal chef to whip up organic, nutrient-balanced meals sounds amazing. But not realistic for most of us.

Here are some tips to simplify the chaos so that health goals can actually fit into your life and work in the real world:

Move in the margins.

You don't need to train for a marathon — you need something that fits between ballet drop-off and soccer warm-ups. Walk or jog the field a few times during T-ball practice. Do a couple of squats while matching socks or waiting for the pasta water to boil. Carrying groceries in, one bag at a time, is functional fitness.

Have a dinner plan—even a loose one.

You don't have to batch-cook 12 containers of quinoa on Sunday. A few go-to meals so you're not standing in

the kitchen at 6:30 wondering if adding spinach to boxed mac & cheese counts as a healthy dinner. Planning doesn't mean perfection — it just means you're less likely to panic-order pizza.

Protect your peace — and your eyeballs. Put the phone down. Five quiet minutes beats 25 minutes of doom-scrolling. Deep breaths, a moment of quiet in the car, grocery line or kitchen work wonders.

Pick one anchor habit and build from there. It's about doing a few things well. On repeat. A morning routine. A consistent workout window. A default grocery day. You don't need an overhaul. You just need to stop winging it.

I have lived in Gorham my whole life. My husband and I raised our kids here and we have run our small business here for nearly 20 years. We've coached thousands of people in this community through the kind of real-life change that happens in messy kitchens, car-pool lines, and halftime bleachers.

I know for a fact - Health doesn't have to be complicated. But it does have to be on purpose.

Let's show our kids — and ourselves — that strength does not come from burnout. It comes from having a system that works when your day doesn't. Aim for consistency, not perfection.

Move while they play. Jog the field or stretch on the bleachers. Plan 3 fallback dinners: Rotate them, love them, done.

Take care of yourself now — not later, not when things "slow down" (because LOL - when will that happen?) Gorham is strong. Let's make sure we are too.



Stacey Coleman is a lifelong Gorham resident, co-owner of Living a Champion Life, and co-creator of ChampionRx and Hey Coach. She's a Certified Personal Trainer, Fitness Nutrition Specialist, and Behavioral Change Specialist helping busy people build sustainable health.



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# Financial Focus - How to Respond to Tariffs

Submitted by Jim Flagg, Edward Jones

The Trump Administration has announced tariffs on trade with other countries. Even with a lot of uncertainty as to how these policies will evolve, it's generally agreed that tariffs can be inflationary, and can spark volatility in the financial markets. How should you respond to tariffs — as a consumer and an investor?

As a consumer...review your budget. If you're worried that higher prices will put stress on your cash flow, look for ways to cut costs, perhaps by eating out less often or eliminating streaming services you no longer use. Look for items that could easily be swapped for cheaper alternatives, like generics for brand names. You may be able to get a better deal from your cable or internet providers, just by asking.

Build or replenish your emergency fund containing three to six months' worth of living expenses in a liquid, low-risk account. Usually, you'd want this fund available to meet large, unexpected expenses, such as a medical bill or a new furnace. But with the possibility of tariffs causing inflation in some sectors, you might also want your emergency fund ready to handle price increases in items such as car parts.

Consumers might want to accelerate large purchases susceptible to tariffs. If you're already planning to make a large purchase, and you think the price may be affected by tariffs, you might want to act now, if you can afford to do so. Some items that may be susceptible to tariffs include automobiles, smartphones and computers.

As an investor...diversify. Tariffs may affect some industries, such as automobiles and consumer electronics, more than others, such as healthcare and pharmaceuticals. But rather than making hasty "buy" and "sell" decisions based on tariffs and their possible effects, try to build and maintain a diversified portfolio containing a mix of stocks, bonds and other securities.

Diversification is the best defense against the market volatility caused by tariffs — or by any other factor. While diversification cannot guarantee a profit or protect against a loss, at any given time, some asset classes may be up, or not be hit as hard as others. If your portfolio is heavily invested in an asset going through a downturn, you'll likely take a much bigger hit than if your dollars are spread across the wide array of available investment types.

Keep following a long-term strategy. Tariffs are certainly in the headlines as a potentially disruptive force in the financial markets. There have always been such forces — wars, natural disasters, political turmoil, and so on — that can cause volatility for a while, but the market regains its footing, sooner or later.

The most successful investors are the ones who stay the course throughout disruptive events, rather than jumping out of the market until things cool down. This doesn't mean you should never make changes in response to market conditions — at times, you may need to adjust your portfolio somewhat. But a long-term strategy based on your risk tolerance, time horizon and financial goals, makes you better equipped to cope with market gyrations.

Tariffs can lead to uncertainties in the financial world. Think carefully about how you might respond to bring more clarity to your own situation.



Jim Flagg operates a Gorham branch office of Edward Jones. He is experienced in all aspects of financial planning, retirement income planning, tax-advantaged education savings plans. This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

## CryptoVerse

by A. Logophile

EFD YDRYGD VSGG GSHD RI.

EFD JGLIBDCSIO YDRYGD VSGG GSHD RI.

VD AXI JD ECSANDB, URGB XIB URGB XOXSI

XIB OR JXAN ER EFD ORRB DXCEF ZRC ZRREFRGBU.

CLUE: O = G

SOLUTION ON PAGE 15

The Gorham Times apologizes to CryptoVerse fans and also to its anonymous author for publishing an incorrect solution for the Crypto Verse which appeared in the May 8 edition.

The correct solution for the May 8 CryptoVerse is as follows:

**GORHAM'S COACH SMITH IS PROUD OF HIS ACE  
WHOSE PITCHING KEEPS OPPONENTS OFF BASE.  
WYATT NADEAU HAS SCOUTS WATCHING CLOSELY  
AT PITCHES THAT ARE OVER 90 MPH MOSTLY.**

# Planning Board Transition



Photo Credit: Damon Yakovleff

At the regular meeting on Monday, May 5, the Gorham Planning Board honored David Burrows for his service to the town. David completed his term proudly and has several projects that require his talents. Pictured here is David Burrows receiving a plaque from Planning Board Chair Jim Hager, who said on behalf of the Planning Board, “We are grateful for his time and wish him well.”



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## Data Shows Roads Increase Cost CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

out receiving a corresponding state funding offset. Relatedly, GPCOG staff shared that despite initial fears of an influx of students with the 600 new residences in the Downs development in Scarborough, in reality only 0.10% of residents are school-aged children.

An interactive online version for the public is anticipated by early fall, although GPCOG noted that the dashboard will operate less like an app and more like a spreadsheet. The tool’s flexibility, offering a locked system for public access, and a more robust model for officials and decision-makers, will enable community members, staff, and policymakers alike to simulate different scenarios and directly observe their impact on the municipal mil rate and operating budgets.

Looking ahead, GPCOG plans to expand the model by incorporating data from additional communities and continuously updating its background data. The dashboard could transform how development proposals are evaluated and ensure that Gorham’s growth remains both fiscally sound and community-friendly.

The April 29 workshop, and the demonstration of the dashboard, can be viewed at <https://www.GoCat.org>



## Street Hockey Challenge

Boys and Girls, ages 10-17  
Cornelia Warren SportCourt  
58 Lincoln St., Westbrook  
June 14 (raindate June 21), 12:00  
Free prizes and food following competition  
Pre-registration preferred but not required  
Contact [pconcan1@maine.rr.com](mailto:pconcan1@maine.rr.com)



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# Open Space and Trails Planning Public Event, June 9

Gorham Times Staff

The Town of Gorham is creating an Open Space and Trails Master Plan to help guide and prioritize future opportunities for open-space preservation, protection of critical wildlife habitat and corridors, recreation access to agricultural preservation and trail connections. This plan is being developed in recognition of the Town’s historic past agricultural and natural resource-based economies, anticipated commercial and residential development needs, and the anticipated impacts of a changing climate and natural-resource disturbances.

A survey inviting public input to identify opportunities, connections, and issues collected input from February to May 1. A public open-house event will be held to continue conversations and provide the opportunity for participation in the planning process for the town. The event will be hosted by the Open Space and Trails Master Plan & Steering Committee on Wednesday, June 9, from 6 – 8 p.m. in the Burleigh Loveitt Council Chambers at the Gorham Municipal Center at 75 South Street.

## Arrests, February 2025

Gorham Times Staff

Female, 32, of Windham, was arrested for OUI.  
Female, 33, of Baldwin, was arrested for theft by unauthorized taking  
Male, 51, of Gorham, was arrested for OUI (alcohol), no test, 1 prior, and operating while license suspended-OUI.  
Male, 47, of Casco, was arrested for OUI (drugs or combo).  
Male, 28, of Gray, was arrested for OUI (alcohol).  
Male, 20, was arrested for OUI (alcohol), operating while license was suspended or revoked, and violating condition of release.  
Female, 33, of Windham

was arrested for OUI (alcohol)  
Male, 20, of Gorham, was arrested on one count of assault on an officer, and one count of domestic violence assault.  
Male, 21, of Gorham, was arrested for OUI.  
Male, 43, of Gorham, was arrested for operating after habitual offender revocation (2 prior).  
Female, 32, of Porter, was arrested on two counts of failure to appear, and one count of attaching false plates.  
Male, 25, of South Portland, was arrested for failure to appear, attaching false plates, and placed on Federal hold for USMS, INS, and Customs.

## Public Works Department News

Kelly Meslin, Public Works Department

From the Public Works Department:  
The office & garage will be closed Monday, May 26 in observance of Memorial Day.  
There will be NO changes to the trash collection schedule the week of Memorial Day.  
\*\*There will be NO DELAYS in trash collection for the 4th of July or Labor Day holidays\*\*  
Town Council voted to discontinue the use of the silver bullets (roll-off containers) located at the Public Works Department effective July 1st 2025.  
As of July 7, 2025, the silver bullets will no longer be onsite at 80 Huston Road. Please utilize curbside collection for your recyclable materials.  
The area is monitored by cameras. Thank you for your understanding & compliance!  
You can also bring unwanted items and recyclable materials to:  
Riverside Recycling  
Address: 910 Riverside Street, Portland  
Phone: (207) 797-6200  
Email: inforrf@cprcgroup.com  
Casella Transfer Station  
Address: 594 County Road, Westbrook  
Phone: 207-805-3511  
Coming spring of 2027 the Town of Gorham will be transitioning to automated curbside collection!  
The Town and Casella have signed a collection agreement that begins July 1, 2025; however, the transition will most likely occur in year 2 of the contract as we wait for new trucks with mechanical arms and carts for each residence. The current contract with



Photo Credit: Public Works  
As of July 7, 2025, the silver bullets will no longer be onsite at 80 Huston Road. Please utilize curbside collection for your recyclable materials.

Casella is a manual collection where the helper on the back of the truck hops off the truck as it drives down the road and manually throws trash and recycling into the hopper. The new contract shifts away from manual collection due to many factors such as labor, safety and efficiency and implements a truck equipped with a mechanical arm that will lift trash and recycling carts. This will require only one driver and



Photo Credit: Public Works  
The Town and Casella have signed a collection agreement that begins July 1, 2025; however, the transition will most likely occur in year 2 of the contract as we wait for new trucks with mechanical arms and carts for each residence.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



Photo Credit: John Ersek  
The Gorham Community Chorus concluded a successful 2024-2025 season with a very well-attended annual spring concert on the evening of Sunday May 18 at Gorham High School. In keeping with the springtime theme, the program was entitled “Love Songs From Broadway and More!,” and opened with a well received medley of songs from “The Music Man.” A highlight of the second half was a performance of “Bridge Over Troubled Water.”



Photo Credit: John Ersek  
Gorham Community Chorus director John Rimkunas and a number of chorus members react to the large frog statue which pianist Eric Peppe had just placed on top of the piano, prior to the performance of “Froggy Went A-Courtin.”

## Tax Increment Financing to Maximize Municipal Revenue

Kelli Deveaux, Staff Writer

TIF, or tax increment financing is a strategy used by municipalities to shelter and earmark assessed property value in order to maximize municipal revenue. TIF is a powerful tool that leverages the future increase in tax revenue due to improvements of the property or area to pay for those improvement or development projects today. During the all day workshop by Gorham Town Council on the municipal budget in April, it was clear that the use of TIFs is embedded in the budget that was adopted May 13. But how and why do TIFs work in Gorham?  
The town manager and staff work with the Town Council to identify certain areas of town that can be designated a TIF district; they have to fall within the categories of Downtown, Arts, Municipal, State, Transit, or Affordable Housing Districts. The process of designating TIF areas includes public hearings and adoption by the Town Council, an assessment of the baseline property tax value for that district, and then the submission of a development plan and 70+ page application for approval of each district to Maine’s Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).  
Then, as investment in the area increases the property value, the additional revenue generated is set aside and can only be used to fund additional improvements within that district, or on projects or resources that proportionally benefit that district. That captured additional value can be used to fund projects such as roads and

utilities, environmental enhancements, or economic developments, to name a few. The additional revenue also can be used to pay or reimburse for the costs of a municipal project, pay debt service on Bonds of the town, or can be given to developers as part of a Credit Enhancement Agreement.  
There are also projects that are prohibited, such as some construction of municipal buildings, or the development of recreation centers or athletic fields. Over the years, prohibited uses established by the Maine legislature have evolved. By law, a TIF district can exist for no more than 30 years.  
The intended benefit to the town is that it will spur additional private investments, increase employment opportunities, improve infrastructure and services, and ultimately increase property values, improving the tax base over time.  
It also aids the town in saving money. Tax revenue increases within designated TIF districts are not included within the formulas that are used to calculate State aid to education, State revenue sharing, and County tax assessments, reducing the expected contribution of the town for costs, thereby sheltering the money.  
Establishing TIF districts is a long-standing practice in Gorham, spanning decades. Currently Gorham has 12 areas that are designated as TIF districts, ranging from an expansive stretch of the Village established in 2019 to smaller

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



# GHS Thespian Society Inducts Eleven New Members

Jocelyn Miller, Producer GHS Musical



Photo Credit: Jocelyn Miller  
Senior Members: Sofia Andrade, Ella Senatore, Anaiah Brown, Amelia Olaru and Cece Delosso

The Gorham High School Thespian Society held its annual Induction Ceremony on Friday, May 9. This year eleven new members were inducted: Zack Bourgoin, Olivia Kennedy, Daniel LaBarge, Max Lampron, Sophia Proulx, Isla Rutherford, Jade Tibbetts, Alex Tukey, Laurali Vail, Dexter Vance and Sadie Woodman.

**2024-2025 officers were:**  
President- Sofia Andrade  
Vice President- Cece Delosso  
Secretary- Ally Gossen  
Treasurer- Amelia Olaru  
Auxiliary Officers- Ella Senatore and Izzy Phinney

**2025-2026 officers are:**  
President- Ally Gossen  
Vice President- Izzy Phinney  
Secretary- Izzy Smith  
Treasurer- Elle Woodman  
Auxiliary Officers- Logan Mills and Alex Tukey



Photo Credit: Jocelyn Miller  
The entire troupe celebrates their very successful drama season and their new members.

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# Flavors of the Community Event at GHS

Sarah Dolley, Teacher, GHS



Photo Credit: Sarah Dolley

On Wednesday, May 7 at 5 p.m., the GHS Intercultural Leadership Committee hosted Taste of Nations: Flavors of our Community. There was a large turn-out with many students, families, friends and neighbors attending. There were a dozen dishes including appetizers, entrees and desserts. We sampled foods from Tanzania, Iraq, Canada, India, France, Vietnam and the Middle East. Guests listened to music compiled by the GHS French Club, children colored pictures and everyone ate lots of delicious foods. The Intercultural Leadership Committee would like to see this event continue to grow over the years, and plans are underway to make this an annual community-wide event.

# Jackson Levertu Wins Gold Medal for Cabinetmaking

Michael Lortie, School News Editor



Photo Credit: Alicia Murry, Jackson's Mom  
Jackson's award-winning cabinet

In March, Jackson Lavertu received a gold medal in the SkillsUSA Maine competition in Cabinetmaking. Jackson is currently a sophomore at Gorham High School and attends Westbrook Regional Vocational Center. In his spare time Jackson has created a business making cutting boards, wooden utensils, charcuterie boards and specialty boards.

Kirk Nygren, the Tech 1 teacher, chose Jackson to participate at the SkillsUSA Maine competition in March. The students competing were given a list of tools that they needed to gather prior to the competition. Once there, they were given the blueprint and 4.5 hours to build the cabinet. In the Cabinetmaking Category there were eleven students, with Jackson being the youngest student to compete. While at the competition, students also needed to complete a written test about their knowledge of cabinetmaking. The scores were combined and medals were awarded to the top three finishers. Jackson's combined scores earned him

the Gold Medal in Cabinetmaking.

Jackson began woodworking during COVID-19, with the instruction and encouragement of his dad. He became excited about the entire process of woodworking and expanded his hobby to create a business selling cutting boards and kitchen tools. "When I make something, I want it to be good enough to have in my own home. I like the idea of creating heritage crafts, objects that will last a lifetime," said Jackson.

All of his creations use Maine materials such as cherry, maple and walnut, and he sells his products at craft fairs, on Instagram and by word of mouth. Jackson's grandfather always told him, "You can do it." He wrote this phrase on the top of the SkillsUSA instruction list and this idea has always encouraged Jackson to believe in himself and to work his hardest.

By receiving a gold medal, Jackson has qualified for the National SkillsUSA Competition to be held in Atlanta, Georgia on June 23 through 27. Attending this conference will provide Jackson an opportunity to demonstrate skills, master new knowledge, and network with industry and will provide the opportunity to connect with over two hundred exhibitors who demonstrate cutting-edge trends across all career clusters.

"I have not travelled much out of the state of Maine, so I am looking forward to the experience. I am looking forward to connecting with people from around the country who have similar interests and skills." Jackson is extremely grateful to the companies and individuals who have donated to help him to attend the National SkillsUSA Conference in June.



# Gorham High School Students Excel in Technology Competition

Gorham Times Staff

On May 5, Maddie Witche, Account Manager of Tyler Technologies, Inc. (NYSE: TYL) announced that GHS students Everett Hurder and Oliver Emerson were among the three winning teams in its annual Tyler Technologies Maine App Challenge. The contest provides Maine high school students with the opportunity to explore the world of software design and development by building a mobile application.

"We are proud to celebrate the outstanding talent of this year's Maine App Challenge winners," said Chris Webster, president of Tyler's ERP & Civic Division. "It's our hope that this recognition inspires them to pursue careers in STEM and make the most of this valuable scholarship. We're honored to continue supporting such bright and innovative students."

This year's winners are:

- First place: Eugene Irving Frost of Mountain Valley High School created Prospect: Re-Appraisal, an accessible, yet challenging game featuring original art and music.
- Second place: Everett Hurder of Gorham High School created StudyBuddy, an app integrated with Google Classroom to allow students to easily track their course progress.
- Third place: Oliver Emerson of Gorham High School created Investment Investigator, a personalized tool that suggests interest-bearing account investments.

The winners received scholarships total-

ing \$10,000 in 529 college savings plans, presented at Tyler's awards ceremony on May 3 at Tyler's Yarmouth, Maine, office. Tyler awarded \$500 to Deering High School in Portland for having the most teams or individuals submitting an eligible entry.

Gorham High School was well represented in the competition. In addition to Everett and Oliver, Owen Eling finished in fourth place, Isaiah Whitehead finished in fifth place, Milo Sucier in eighth place and Harry Baber, Abe Palme and Kevin Munyaneza received honorable mentions.

Tyler collaborated with the Foster Center for Innovation at the University of Maine to host a series of free workshops for students to help with brainstorming, prototyping, and testing their applications. They also partnered with the University of Maine on its Fundamentals of Innovation (INV121) course available online to high school students as an early college course that allows them to earn college credits while designing an app submission for the Maine App Challenge.

The Maine App Challenge introduces students to STEM-related disciplines and supports the notion that these students can excel in this field while remaining in Maine. Since its inception in 2015, the Maine App Challenge has gifted more than \$110,000 in 529 college savings plans to students in Maine.

For more information about the Maine App Challenge, please contact MACT@tylertech.com.

# Academy M Creates Interdisciplinary Unit

Catherine Paul, GHS Teacher

Academy M is a team of 9th-grade teachers at Gorham High School who have organized some fascinating interdisciplinary projects for their students.

This will be the third year that Meghan Cushing (math) and Catherine Paul (English) have worked together in an interdisciplinary way. Their initial collaboration was a project called "Math in Nature." Students created picture books of several math concepts found in nature. These books were shared with third graders at Narragansett. "This was a great way to combine writing skills in my class, with math concepts that Meg was teaching and our students really liked having an authentic audience to share their project work with," said Catherine Paul.

This team has grown now to include Max Ornstein, science teacher, who has for the second year led the team's participation in the WindStorm Challenge through the University of Maine. For one month, Mr. Ornstein turns his classroom into a workshop to build floating wind turbines that meet specific requirements using a variety of materials. Mr. Ornstein said, "Hands-on learning in science is like planting seeds in the soil of curiosity." Then students attend a competition and STEM carnival on the Orono campus.

This contest has become the anchor for a unit the teachers call "WindStorm" and each subject area contributes a different perspective to student learning. Students in Mrs. Paul's English class began a technical-writing unit creating detailed directions for a peer on how to build a small object. Later, students read the nonfiction book "The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind" by William Kamkwamba about a boy who builds a wind turbine with recycled materials, which connects to what the students themselves are doing in science class.

In math, Ms. Cushing has students find the centroid of their wind turbines. The centroid is the center of mass or gravity of

a geometric object. In class, students take their floating wind turbines and set them on a coordinate grid created on the floor of the classroom. Students found the coordinate points of each vertex of their base by measuring the distance with a meter stick and locating the point that represents the center of gravity. This helps in the engineering and design of the wind turbine bases.

This year, history teachers Sarah Hampton and James Welsch have added an energy debate to the curriculum. Students were taught how to evaluate a source and to research and debate the positives and negatives of an assigned energy source. This was valuable for student awareness of a healthy grid and balanced approach to energy solutions.

To add to the authenticity of the work, the team has brought in experts from the community and Aspire Gorham. Lobster-boat captain Dave Laliberte and oyster-farmer Erin Adams discussed the impacts of warming water and climate change on the fishing industry. The group also had a presentation from Chris Veazie, hydrogeologist who could explain his career in Maine with offshore wind and also in the Gulf with petroleum.

The project takes two months. Students rely on project folders and guiding questions to stay focused and organized. All of the work aligns to content standards, but in a more hands-on approach. The teachers have a weekly planning period together where adjustments can be made to the plan or experts can be brainstormed. However many additional hours of planning and material gathering are required to do this type of teaching and learning. Overall, teachers, students and parents feel the rewards are worthwhile. Ninth graders Luella Dolley and Lia Collins both agreed "The project was more fun than regular class. There were connections in all the classes." Eston Vogel added, "I like working on things with my hands. I stay more interested."

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# GMS STEAM Night

Suzanne Dix, GMS Librarian



GMS Principal Lucas Whitham and Scholarship recipient Jayden Olson

Terri Dawson's family is honored with the Legacy Award

Tuesday, May 6 was Gorham Middle School's 3rd Annual STEAM Night. STEAM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics. Students coated automobiles with paint in Moody's VR session, flew drones through an obstacle course, created chairlifts to ride the zipline, played in the Math Arcade, made Finch robots sing and designed their own 3-D printed keychains. These were just a few of the many wonderful sessions that were offered. Ramsey the Ram even made an appearance.

Gorham Middle School's jazz and steel drum bands provided upbeat music, Dottie's ice cream and PB & ME fed the crowds, and students and families worked to collect as many raffle tick-

ets as possible. Prizes included 3-D printers, drones, airpods, LEGO City sets, artist tablets and Rocket books. There were smiles all around.

While this evening was full of all kinds of fun, students and staff also paid tribute to their beloved colleague, Terri Dawson, who was the brainchild of this event two years ago. Ms. Dawson passed away from cancer in October 2024. GMS honored her family with a Legacy Award and a plaque to hang in the hallway. 8th grader Jayden Olson was presented with the first-ever Terri Dawson Scholarship to attend a summer STEM camp.

Plans are already underway for GMS STEAM Night #4.





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## Village Students Learn about the Fennec Fox

Stacy Sawyer, Village School Counselor



Photo Credits: Stacey Sawyer



Village School students have been researching together again. This year's chosen topic has been the fennec fox. In cross-grade level groups, all Village School students have the opportunity to share their projects demonstrating their learning about fennec foxes. Grades K-1 students made nonfiction books. Grades 2-3 students created stop-motion videos. Grades 4-5 students developed a variety of independent self-selected projects. Village School teachers are sure that their students' families are hearing a great deal about fennec foxes from the excited students. Pictured are students from Mrs. West's second grade and Mrs. Sanford's kindergarten classes.

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# Gorham’s Amber Bretton Heading to NCAA Tournament

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo Credit: Veronica Bretton  
Amber Bretton celebrating after the Big East softball championship game

The University of Connecticut Softball team has earned a bid in the NCAA tournament, its first in 23 years. Not only is it a big deal for the UConn softball pro-

gram, it's a big deal around here because our very own Gorham, Maine (GHS '24) stand-out softball shining star, Amber Bretton, is on the team. The #2 Huskies took care of #4 Creighton in five innings in Villanova, PA to be crowned Big East tournament champions on May 10. The UConn offense was the story in this 18 - 4 contest. The Huskies set a Big East record with most runs scored in a championship game. Later that same weekend via the ESPN selection show, the Huskies announced they had been selected into the NCAA tournament, its first time since 2001. The team travels to Baton Rouge for the regionals as the No. 3 seed and will match up with No. 2 Nebraska on Friday May 16. Before UConn, Bretton was a four-year varsity player at Gorham High School, a three-time First Team All-Conference player and All-State selection. Finishing up her freshman year at UConn, Bretton is majoring in exercise science.



Photo Credit: Veronica Bretton  
UConn Huskies are the Big East Champions

# Students Take On Central America

Abigail Chamberlin, Gorham High School Student Intern



Photo Credit: Finn Henderson  
GHS Students in Central America.

Many Gorham students experienced the trip of a lifetime to Central America this spring. From April 19 to April 27, Angela Gospodarek and Nathan Henderson chaperoned a group of roughly 20 Gorham students to Costa Rica and Panama. The trip was sponsored by Education First (EF) Tours, a company that uses schools as a medium to plan their trips and caters to school-aged kids. The students each pay to go on the trip, but if enough of them sign up, the chaperones are able to supervise for free. Students ranging in age from seventh grade to high school seniors embarked on this adventure, including Finn Henderson, the son of Angela and Nathan. "I had so much fun," Finn recalled. "My favorite moment was when we were learning how to surf, and I got up on the third try on this huge wave. I was doing really good. Then I fell off and got destroyed by the wave, but I eventually did it." Surfing on Panama's Pacific Coast was one of the many

activities the students took part in, as well as exploring a volcano and hiking the base of it, visiting a waterfall, kayaking in a volcanic basin, and seeing the Panama Canal. "We tried lots of new food," Finn described, such as fresh pineapple, mahi mahi, and "nasty" raw cocoa beans. "A lot of the foods that they eat are sort of Americanized. Mainly their diets are chicken, rice, and beans, so that's what we had almost every single day." This exposure to new cultures and cuisines was invaluable to the Gorham students on this trip, in addition to the new friendships that were formed. Many of the Gorham students weren't close prior to the tour, but consider each other good friends now. They were also able to meet up with another school, from New York, that was visiting Costa Rica and Panama through EF Tours and made fast friends. Over the course of the trip, the group stayed in four different hotels, three of which were in Costa Rica and one in Panama. "The hotels in Costa Rica were locally owned ones; It's nothing like the ones that you imagine in the United States," said Finn. "Some of the rooms have six beds, some have two, some have one. It was so cool." This exposure to new cultures in a different part of the world was riveting and educational to the group who travelled to Central America. It was a unique and exciting experience, and one that none of these Gorham students will soon forget.

# USM Huskies: Colin McDonald earns LEC Baseball Honor

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo Credit: USM athletics  
Colin McDonald on the pitch for the Huskies

Five players of the University of Southern Maine Baseball team have been named to the 2025 All-Little East Conference (LEC) teams following a strong season. According to the Director of Athletic Communications, Sophomore Colin McDonald (GHS '22) is one of the five. McDonald established himself as the ace of the Huskies' rotation, delivering consistent performances through-

out the season. McDonald logged 62.0 innings across 13 appearances, including 12 starts. He recorded a 4-3 win-loss record, struck out 60 batters, and finished the season with a 4.35 ERA. In the LEC, McDonald ranks third in strikeouts per game—a promising start to his collegiate pitching career. Congratulations to McDonald and his teammates on a great season.

# May School Committee Meeting

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

The monthly School Committee Meeting was convened on May 14. All seven members and both student representatives were in attendance. The minutes of the regular meeting of April 9 and the special meeting of April 30 were unanimously approved. The first of two presentations was teacher Danielle Quimby and the two Odyssey of the Mind teams from Narragansett School, who both finished in second place in the state-wide competition. The fourth grade team presented their performance and the fifth grade team outlined the experience and introduced the school committee to their robot dog. Both groups were enthusiastic and very entertaining. Special Services Director Kathy Hamblen and Assistant Director Nicole Poole presented an overview of special services, including the laws, funding, caseloads, Section 504 and some of the challenges facing the department. These challenges include attracting and maintaining qualified professional staff, space, possible funding changes and rising caseloads. In the superintendent's report, Heather Perry mentioned that the school department was continuing to monitor funding, which has not been affected by any federal changes. In addition, she mentioned the referendum and election on June 10. She warned that there is a citizen's veto referendum being proposed that if approved would freeze the state and local governments until the election in November. Of course, this would have huge implications for the school department and all other state and local government services. Finally, she thanked the town council for their approval of the school budget and encouraged all citizens to exercise their right to vote on June 10. Several of the committee members spoke of their appreciation for the collaboration on budget development and the willingness of all the town leaders and councilors to work with them to benefit both the

students and the taxpayers of Gorham. Chairperson Sarah Perkins thanked student school committee representative Amelia Olaru for her work the past few years. The graduating senior has done an excellent job informing the school committee of the events and happenings at Gorham High School. She was presented with flowers and a card. The committee voted 7-0 to eliminate two teaching positions and to terminate the contracts of two members of the professional staff. Several members expressed that this was the most difficult part of their role on the committee and expressed support for the two teachers being affected by these budget decisions. The committee voted to approve the hiring of four new teachers Casey Maddock, 8th grade science/math, Samantha Person, Great Falls physical education, David Ciampa, Great Falls special ed (RR) and Kimberly Mosca, Village School special ed (FLS). (7-0) They also unanimously approved 24 teachers to advance from Probationary year 1 to year 2, and 21 teachers to move from Probationary year 2 status to continuing contract. The committee voted 7-0 to allow the school department to transfer funds between cost centers at the end of the year, if necessary. This has not been needed the past two years and the administration will inform the school committee if any changes are needed. In their continued review of school department policy, they approved the second reading of the following documents: Canine Patrol/Searches (JIHD) and Individual Education records (IHBA) and a first reading of Child Sexual Abuse Awareness and Response (JLFA) and Grievance of Person With Disabilities. (IHBAL). The committee went into executive session to discuss the negotiated contract with the Gorham Teachers Association and came out of executive session to approve the contract.



# French Senior Class Goes To Portland

Abigail Chamberlin, Gorham High School Student Intern



Photo Credit: Eteri Shvets  
French 4 class visits Portland Museum of Art.

On Friday, May 2, Eteri Shvets took her French 4 class to the Portland Museum of Art in Portland. “This graduating class is very special to me,” said Shvets, who has been teaching these students, a close group of seniors, for the last three years. To celebrate their final unit together, the French Impressionism movement, the teacher and her French students went to the PMA to look at impressionist paintings, and other types of art and enjoying a lunch together at the museum. Shvets has been taking this field trip annually for the past four years with her seniors. “It has become a nice tradition

for my French 4 students and a great way to celebrate the time we’ve spent together learning about French culture,” she said. She enjoys seeing how art and art history are able to inspire her students creatively, and her “absolute favorite thing about this field trip was to see how excited the students were to walk around the galleries.” She noted how a number of her students had never been to an art museum before, and she enjoyed listening to classroom presentations about the field trip in the following classes. The French students enjoy it just as much. They each picked a favorite piece of artwork to study and present to the class, a project that brought the French Impressionism movement to Gorham High School. Many of them contributed to a gift put together for Mrs. Shvets at the end of the year, including hand-written notes, flowers, and a custom cake all enjoyed at a picnic on their last day of school. “I appreciate how positive and energetic these students have been over the years!” said Shvets. “My hope is that I inspired them to continue exploring French-speaking cultures, to travel, and to keep developing their understanding of the world around them.”



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**REALTOR KELLEY’S PUP OF THE MONTH:**

MEET BEV! Bev is an 8 month old lab mix. She’s a sweet, cuddly gal who loves to be pet. And for an 8 month old, she has impeccable leash manners! She appears to do well with cats and we believe she would do well with most dogs. She’s just an all around sweet girl!

To find out more information about Bev please visit [www.harvesthills.org](http://www.harvesthills.org).

 Mention prior to closing & 5% of my real estate commissions generated from this ad will be donated to Harvest Hills Animal Shelter





**Tuesday, May 27, Appointments Committee Meeting, 3:30 p.m.**

**Monday, June 2,**  
Planning Board Full Board Workshop, 6 p.m.  
Planning Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 3, Regular Town Meeting**

**Monday, June 9, Open House Event Hosted by**  
Open Space and Trails Master Plan and Steering Committee, 6 - 8 p.m.

**TWENTY TWENTY-FIVE**

**Gorham**

**Taste Walk**

**SUNDAY JUNE 1ST**

*Maps 11am-2pm*

**\$5 CHILDREN UNDER 5**      **\$10 PRE-ORDER & DAY OF EVENT**

Pick up maps next to Robie Gym  
for more information visit  
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# Gorham School's Proposed FY 26 Budget

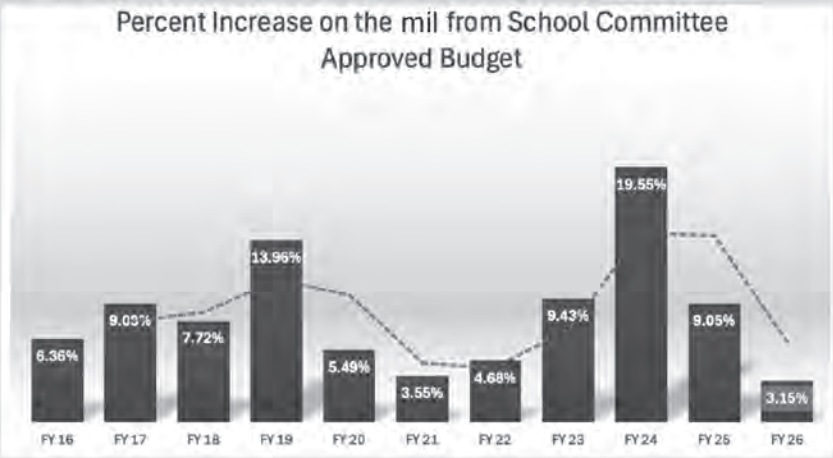
## ANNUAL SCHOOL BUDGET REFERENDUM

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR — DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!

Check out more detailed FY 26 Budget information by going to:  
[www.gorhamschools.org](http://www.gorhamschools.org)

Dear Gorham Community Members,

I am writing to share important information about the proposed **FY26 Gorham School Department budget**, which totals **\$57,544,067.00**. This proposal reflects the **lowest tax impact requested by a school budget in the past decade**.



For a Gorham home valued at the median of **\$400,000**, this budget would result in a **modest tax increase of approximately \$120.00**. While this year's budget includes a **7.6% increase in overall spending**, that **increase is largely offset by significant growth in state subsidy and other revenue sources**, helping to ease the burden on local taxpayers.

#### Key Cost Drivers:

The increase in this year's budget is primarily attributed to three major factors:

##### 1. Maintaining Existing Programming – \$2.6 million

This "status quo" investment reflects the rising costs of maintaining current staffing levels and programming. It includes standard annual increases in salaries and benefits, as well as new state-mandated expenses such as paid family medical leave. Notably, over 80% of our budget is dedicated to staff, the heart of our educational mission.

##### 2. Debt Service & Capital Improvements – \$430,000

This includes anticipated interest costs related to the voter-approved bond from November 2024 and a \$100,000 increase to address critical capital needs in our aging school facilities.

##### 3. Transportation – \$350,000

Rising costs in transportation are driven by several factors, including the need for routing software, contracted services, and the separation of the Transportation and Facilities Director positions—changes necessary to improve efficiency and staffing in a system vital to daily school operations.

#### Revenue Highlights

We are proud to report an increase of more than \$2 million in state subsidy, due in large part to the efforts of our families who completed Free and Reduced Lunch forms. Additionally, strategic efforts over the past three years to increase revenue—through avenues such as CDS billing, tuition billing, and partnerships with the Greater Sebago Education Alliance—have allowed us to contribute a significant undesignated fund balance to further reduce the tax burden.

#### Commitment to Excellence

This budget reflects our School Committee's belief that these funds are essential to sustain the high-quality educational services our students deserve. It supports the programs, people, and infrastructure that make Gorham schools a place where all children can thrive.

Thank you for your time and commitment to our schools and our community.

Warm regards,  
Heather J. Perry, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

## So What Do We Get for An Investment In Our Public Schools?

- 95% Graduation Rate at GHS, well above the state's average of 87%
- 79% of the class of 2024 went on to college or apprenticeships. 2% entered the military, 6% entered the workforce directly, and 3% chose a gap year. 94% of our graduates graduated with a plan.
- 77 GHS students have participated in credit-bearing Extended Learning Opportunities focused on their career aspirations with 50 community mentors. 219 community members have mentored GHS students on their career aspirations through programs such as job shadowing experiences, Career X events, and more.
- 76 GHS students have participated in CTE programs at either WRVC or PATHS, maxing out our available seats for these programs.
- 159 students earned 1,520 college credits via USM Dual Enrollment or AP courses at GHS, saving families over \$600,000.00 in future tuition costs.
- Just over 60% of GHS students participate in extra-curricular activities with 45+ more clubs and activities - our students are active and engaged!
- Last year's graduating seniors spent over 9,000 hours volunteering in our community! That is an average of approximately 40 hours per student!
- 75% of our students meet or exceed standards in Math, and 77% meet or exceed Reading standards, as measured by NWEA scores.
- 93% of our families feel positive about our PK-12 Schools.



We have excellent, caring students in Gorham who **LIVE** our **Code of Conduct** and understand the importance of **respect, honesty, courage, compassion and responsibility!** That's no accident! That's a successful whole-community endeavor!

Please Vote On June 10th!  
Thank you!





DEAN'S LIST

Nathan Cook, Belmont University, Nashville, TN

OF INTEREST

The 2025 Memorial Day Parade will take place on Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day). The parade begins at 11 a.m. on the corner of Lincoln Street and South Street. It goes down South Street, turns right onto Main Street, then turns right onto Johnson Road. The parade ends at the Eastern Cemetery where it will be followed by a memorial service around noon.

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension will present a 7-part online lunch and learn series intended to help farmers take their soil health to the next level. The sessions will be held from noon - 1 p.m. on Tuesdays, May 27 to July 8. Registration is required to receive the webinar link. Suggested registration fee of \$5 per session or \$25 for all 7 sessions. Fees are non-refundable; this may be considered on a case-by-case basis. For more information and to register visit <https://tinyurl.com/49ta8zt7> or call (207) 781-6099.

Presumpscot Regional Land Trust invites community members to respond to an online survey by May 30. The survey can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/j49pths5>. FMI, contact Will Sedlack, executive director at [will@prlt.org](mailto:will@prlt.org). Presumpscot Regional Land Trust, P.O. Box 33, Gorham, ME 04038.

Seed and Stroll, Sunday June 1, 11 a.m. -1 p.m. Stop by Phinney Park on South Street to pick up a free packet of seeds and walk through the park which has been improved with new Food Forest plants and native plants and shrubs. Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners will be on hand to answer your gardening questions.

Cressey Road Christian Church at 81 Cressey Road will have a Cherished Possessions & Perennials Yard Sale on Saturday, June 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The church also has buckets ready for planting in their Free Community Garden. Reserve a set of buckets or just a few. FMI and application, Lorraine Lindstedt, [lindcabin@gmail.com](mailto:lindcabin@gmail.com), (207) 839-3111.

Shaw Cherry Hill Farm Parkrun/Walk is a free community event where you can walk, run, jog, volunteer or spectate. In conjunction with Gorham Rec, Parkrun is part of an international non-profit. Gorham's event will take place every Saturday morning (seasonal in Maine) followed by coffee at a local small business. Positive and welcoming, every run includes a trail angel, so no one finishes last. With a huge international presence in England and Australia, it is just starting to gain traction in the USA.

True North Vacation Bible Camp will take place June 23-27 from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. at Cressey Road Christian Church. Open to children ages four through finishing fifth grade. Register and FMI: <https://cresseyrdcc.org/> or 839-3111.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

The Gorham Medical Loan Closet is available to Gorham residents in need of medical equipment temporarily. Wheelchairs, walkers, canes and scooters are just some of the

items available. The closet is only open 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](http://www.gorhamfoodpantry.org) or contact us at [director@gorhamfoodpantry.org](mailto:director@gorhamfoodpantry.org)

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. The 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](mailto:leckybrowncenter@gmail.com)

PUBLIC SUPPERS

Living Waters Church on Parker Farm Road in Buxton will hold a Haddock Supper Buffet on Saturday, May 31 at 5 p.m. Suggested donation: \$10 adult, \$5 child, \$20 family.


Summit Community Church at 26 Cressey Road will hold their next Potluck with a Purpose on Friday, May 30 at 6:30 p.m. The potluck will focus on the multi-faceted collaborative international organization called "Our Rescue." Save the date.

LIBRARY NEWS


The North Gorham Public Library is open Monday and Wednesday, 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 will present "Mindfulness Practices for Self-care in a Stressful World" with Heidi Whelan on Wednesday, May 28 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. The Evening Book Club meets Tuesday, May 27 at 6 p.m. and the Morning Book Club meets Thursday, June 9 at 10:15 a.m. Adult Art Night is Thursday, May 29 at 6 p.m. The next Author Event presents Derek Volk, author of "Go for the Third," about the game-changing lessons he learned about running his business while coaching girl's softball. The Library has an extensive listing of events at their website, <https://baxterlibrary.org/>. Library hours are Monday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (207) 222-1190.


(207) 839-3300




pogorealty.com




**GORHAM \$620,000** - This gorgeous condo is located in the desirable Stonefield Condos at Pheasant Knoll. You'll love this end unit with an airy open concept nicely upgraded from top to bottom with a 2-car garage, four-season room and full basement for storage. The spacious kitchen with expanded island is open to the dining area and living room with gas fireplace, all flooded with natural light. The first-floor primary bedroom has a walk-in closet and its own private bath. Miles of nature trails just outside your front door.




**BUXTON \$739,000** - The original owners have taken impeccable care of this property inside & out. A rare find with a total of 3077sf including 1977sf of one level living, plus 1100sf finished on the lower level inclusive of a newly renovated accessory apartment. Heated finished oversized 2-car garage plus a detached heated finished workshop all on a gorgeous 6.15ac lot tucked away in a neighborhood setting. The grounds are gorgeous with a lush lawn, mature landscaping and raised bed vegetable gardens.




**GORHAM \$79,900** - Desirable location in Patio Park, this 1971 Detroit Mobile has new flooring, freshly painted through out, some replacement windows, new hot water tank, new roof and many other updates. This home has a nice open porch with canopy/metal roof and storage shed. The 55+ community is conveniently located close to downtown & walking distance to the bus line. It offers public water/sewer, paved driveway, a community clubhouse & quiet neighborhood.




**GORHAM \$160,000** - This new North Gorham subdivision offers 5-lots to choose from ranging in size from 1.47-acres to 3.20-acres. The lots are all surveyed with soils tests available. Relatively flat and level building envelopes. The 200+ feet of street frontage on each parcel is along paved public roads. You'll love NO HOA fees, restrictions or bylaws to live by. Convenient North Gorham location just minutes to North Windham and Sebago Lake Station boat ramp.




**BUXTON \$319,500** - Affordable antique Buxton Cape located in the heart of West Buxton Village. It was just upgraded with new siding, windows, new interior paint and a brand-new bathroom. It's ready for you to move right in! You'll love the character and charm this home offers inside and out. The kitchen is open to a sunlit dining area overlooking the private brick patio. Front living room with built-ins, wood floors and a parlor stove. Offers views of the Saco River located just across the street.



Julie Chandler



Mike Griffin




Peter Mason



CLOSE TO HOME ARTS ORGANIZATIONS


Casco Bay Wind Symphony, <https://www.cascobaywindsymphony.org/>  
Good Theater, Portland, <https://www.goodtheater.com/>, (207) 835-0895  
Gorham Arts Alliance, Gorham, <https://www.gorhamarts.org/>, (207) 839-6887  
Maine State Music Theater, <https://msmt.org/>, (207) 725-8769  
Meetinghouse Arts, Freeport, <https://meetinghousearts.org/>, (207) 865-0044  
Ogunquit Playhouse, <https://ogunquitplayhouse.org/>, (207) 646-5511  
Performing Arts Companies Close to Home  
Penobscot Theatre Company, <http://www.penobscottheatre.org/>, (207) 942-3333  
Portland Symphony, Portland, <https://portlandsymphony.org/>, (207) 773-6128  
Portland Ovations, Portland, <https://portlandovations.org/>, (207) 773-3150  
Portland Stage, Portland, <https://www.portlandstage.org/>, (207) 774-0465  
Public Theater, Lewiston, <https://thepublictheatre.org/>, (207) 782-3200  
Schoolhouse Arts Center, Standish, <https://www.schoolhousearts.org/>, (207) 642-3743  
State Theatre, Portland, Portland, <http://www.statetheatreportland.com/>, (207) 956-6000  
Stone Mountain, Brownfield, <https://stonemountainartscenter.com/>, (207) 935-7292  
University of Southern Maine, <https://usm.maine.edu/events>




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CLASSIFIEDS

The Gorham Food Pantry is seeking volunteer delivery-van drivers to assist with food pick up and deliveries on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Drivers rotate from week to week. Must have a clean driving record and be able to lift up to 50 pounds. An on-line application is available. Please email the Pantry Director at [director@gorhamfoodpantry.org](mailto:director@gorhamfoodpantry.org).

HELP WANTED: On Point Self Storage on Main Street in Gorham has a part-time position with flexible hours. To apply, contact Elizabeth Atkinson, (207) 600-7190, [liz@onpointselfstorage.com](mailto:liz@onpointselfstorage.com).

Pampered care for petite paws for small dogs in our home. Just like your home you can travel rest assured that your pup will have lots of love, socialization and be safe. At our cozy haven your pup becomes a cherished member of our pack without the use of gates or crates. With a spacious fenced in backyard and dog proof interior we ensure a safe and comfortable environment. 19 years and insured. Dog walks weather permitting and if pup enjoys. We also offer day care on Tuesday and Wednesday. Many dogs need socialization time - call or text Lorie (207) 838-0132. <http://www.smalldogscare.com/>

Painting Special - Get your home ready for Spring by using our "Fall Painting Special". We will paint any 3 rooms for you (up to 12'X15'), walls and ceilings included. Price includes minor prep work on walls prior to painting. Labor and materials are included for only \$995.00. All you do is pick your colors. We have endless references and are a fully insured Family-Owned Business since 1970. Webber Painting, Standish (207) 671-3556.

CALENDAR

**Wednesday, May 21, 2025**  
Baxter Memorial Library Author event: Matt Cost, 6 p.m.

**Friday, May 23, 2025**  
Baxter Memorial Library, Play to Learn Workshop, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

**Saturday, May 24, 2025**  
Baxter Memorial Library, **RPG Club, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**Monday, May 26, 2025 - Memorial Day**  
Baxter Memorial Library and Town Offices will be closed  
Memorial Day Parade begins at 11 a.m.

**Tuesday, May 27, 2025**  
Baxter Memorial Library Evening Book Club, "The Lost Wife" by Susanna Moore, 6 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 28, 2025**  
Baxter Memorial Library, "Mindfulness Practices..." with Heidi Whelan, 10 - 11:30 a.m.

**Friday, May 30, 2025**  
Summit Community Church "Potluck with a Purpose," 26 Cressey Road, 6:30 p.m.

**Saturday, May 31, 2025**  
Living Waters Church Haddock Supper Buffet, 5 p.m.

**Sunday, June 1, 2025**  
Seed and Stroll at Phinney Park on South Street, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 3, 2025**  
Baxter Memorial Library, French Language Discussion Group, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, June 5, 2025  
Baxter Memorial Library Book Club, "The Lost Bookshop" by Evie Woods, 10:15 a.m.

**Saturday, June 7, 2025**  
Cressey Road Christian Church Yard Sale, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

Public Works CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

eliminates the need for an additional helper.

Each eligible residence will receive 2 64-gallon carts, one for trash and one for recycling. The P-A-Y-T (Pay As You Throw) tag program will be eliminated. Single-sort recycling will remain the same (all recyclable

**Phillip L. Smith (1955 - 2025)**  
After battling cancer for just under two years, Phillip L. Smith passed away on Feb. 9, 2025. His family will be hosting a celebration of life service on **Saturday, May 31, 2025 at 3 p.m.**  
If you're an old friend, colleague, or even if you just knew how important he was to his daughters, Emma and Isabelle, and his wife, Sue-Ann, please join them at their home, 10 Alexander Drive, Gorham, ME, to share stories and memories.  
Let us all gather in remembrance of this dedicated social worker, loving husband, and compassionate father. In lieu of flowers, contributions to his daughters' college funds can be made.

materials will be combined in one cart to be sorted at Ecomaine) and trash will be bagged in a trash bag of your choosing, tied and placed in your trash cart. You will still be required to have trash and recycling curbside by 7 a.m. on your day of collection.

The Casella App will be coming next. The app will allow you to see your scheduled collection day and important information regarding collection to include holiday or weather delays. You can receive reminders about your collection day, learn how to dispose of items not accepted at the curb, report missed collection and any other issues you may encounter.

As more information becomes available, we will post it on the Gorham Public Works Facebook page, Town website, and articles in the Gorham Times.

Please reach out to the Public Works office with any questions you may have, we are happy to answer them!

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By email: [dpw@gorham.me.us](mailto:dpw@gorham.me.us)

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Courtesy of the Gorham Police Department

# the blotter

Animal complaint. Officer went to the house and had no contact with the chickens. Officer contacted the caller and passed it on.

Officer performed a welfare check on County Road. Officer was met by the individual. He was in good condition and happy his neighbors cared.

Report that an individual on Main Street appeared to be intoxicated. Upon arrival there was only one person in the store. Officer spoke with him, and he did not appear to be intoxicated.

Officer was told that there was an individual in a red car that appeared to be intoxicated and had driven down by the Burger King parking lot. Another officer located the vehicle, and both officers made contact with the operator who was coming out of the woods and said that he was sifting for gold in the stream. Upon further investigation he did not seem to be impaired. Nothing suspicious to report.

## Tax Increment Financing

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

parcels with only one or two properties within it, such as Harvey Performance or the "Battery Storage District" which in November of 2023, was the last to be established and approved in Gorham.

Gorham Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak highlighted each item in the detailed budget that was being funded in part or in whole through TIF funds during the budget workshop, noting that there is an asterisk used in the published budget, denoting this in the budget, available on the town's website. This includes paving of Morrill Avenue, paving and tree replacement on School Street, as well as the hiring of additional first responders, based on the call volume of the Village area.

Other examples of recent use include other road and utility improvements, trail improvements, and the new streetlights in the Village area, of which 50% was paid with a Department of Transportation grant and 50% from TIF funds.

Paraschak also noted the need to revisit the captured value frequently to ensure there is balance in the funding



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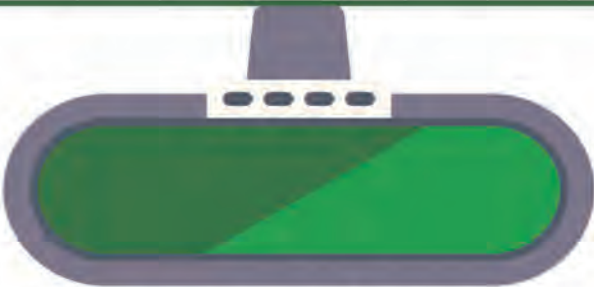
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<sup>1</sup> Annual Percentage Rate as of 10/21/2024. Rates subject to change without notice. Not all applicants will qualify for the lowest rate or be approved. Advertised rate is based on risk based & relationship pricing discounts. For more information, visit egcu.org/auto.



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