

Gorham Times

1995-2025

30th Anniversary

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PAID
GORHAM, ME
PERMIT NO. 10

Volume 31 Number 22 | December 4, 2025

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

How to Celebrate New Year's Eve in Gorham

Virginia Wilder Cross, Contributing Writer / NYG Committee Member



Photo Credit: Credit

22 years ringing in the New Year in Gorham.

The 25-26 New Year Gorham program is filled with new attractions, others returning by popular request, and it features Julia Gagnon's band "Julia Haven." Julia made Mainers proud during the 22nd season of the American Idol show!

"NYG is especially pleased to feature a Teen Dance Party for an age group that had been difficult to attract," explained Andrew Margison, the New Year Gorham coordinator.

In the GHS Gym (5-8 PM) a disc jockey will play popular dance music and offer other surprises, including a 360° video opportunity for everyone to enjoy. The event is designed for teens, but all ages can join the fun.

Some new activities have been added for the families with young children. In the Shaw Gym (3-6 PM) the kids can work their way through an inflated obstacle course, be amazed by a roving

balloon/magic team, make new crafts, or dance in the glow room.

Margison said, "The youngsters can also experience science, have a snack, learn about unusual animals at the Baxter Memorial Library, but I don't want to reveal all the surprises."

The high school Performing Arts Stage (4:30 to 9 p.m.) will be equally busy with returning and new musical performances: Don Roy Trio; The Gorham Community Chorus; the GHS Choral group; barbershop harmony by Constellation Quartet; up-and-coming talented singer, Graci Gillen; and the improv trio Running with Scissors who will deliver plenty to laugh about before the featured performance takes the stage.

The Julia Haven Band is sure to WOW the crowd with its original music and unique style. The program will conclude with a fabulous fireworks display.

Two final reminders... USM will offer free ice skating (2-4) at its Skating Arena. A limited number of free ice skate rentals will begin there at 1:45. In addition, The NYG Robo Café will be open 5 to 8 p.m. where you can get a family-friendly meal at family-friendly prices.

For details about performances and to see the list of generous sponsors, visit the NYG website: <https://newyeargorham.com>. The cost remains at \$7 per person (no charge for children 2 and under), and you can pre-register online or pay at the door.

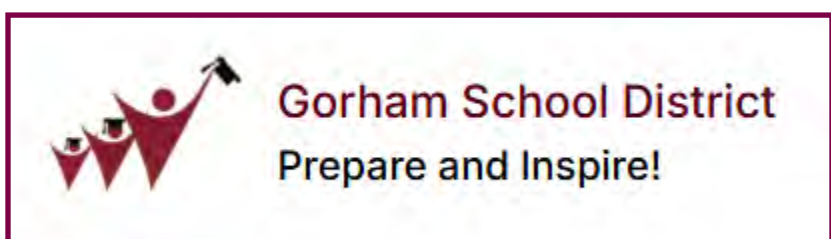
Community Forum: Our Schools, Our Future

Gorham Times Staff

Superintendent of Schools Heather Perry invites the public to an open, informative conversation about the current school budget and what lies ahead for the Gorham Schools. The forum will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 17, from 6 to 7 p.m. at Baxter Memorial Library.

The forum will offer a clear financial overview, highlight future needs and priorities, and provide space for community questions and feedback.

In the spirit of responsibility and collaboration, all families, staff, and community members are invited to participate in this forum.



Gorham's Holiday Spirits Bright Despite the Weather

Sally Fay, Staff Writer



Photo Credit: Roger Marchand

Even with a steady rain a large gathering filled downtown Gorham for the annual light parade and Christmas tree lighting.

A persistent cold drizzle couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of Gorham residents who came out to view the town's Annual Light Parade and Tree Lighting on Sunday, Nov. 30.

Armed with umbrellas, rain boots, and holiday spirit, attendees along the parade route cheered the participating vehicles and floats, which were decked out in festive lights and featured season-appropriate inflatables and costumed passengers. Launching from J.P. Noonan Transportation at 4:30 p.m., the procession advanced down Main Street to South Street, dropping off Santa and Mrs. Claus in front of Baxter Memorial Library before continuing down Morrill Avenue and Ball Park Road to the high school parking lot.

The Clauses were met by the Gorham High School boys ice hockey team, who had the honor of escorting the couple to the evergreen in front of the Gorham Municipal Center entrance. After briefly conveying happy holiday wishes to the town, Santa, accompanied by Mrs. Claus, led the crowd in a countdown to the magical lighting of the tree, which will remain illuminated throughout

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USM Fall Dance Concert

Lori Arsenault, Managing Editor



Photos by Sarah Graff Photography

Photos of a recent rehearsal of original dance works for the USM Fall Dance Concert.

The Department of Theatre at the University of Southern Maine will present the USM Fall Dance Concert, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, Dec. 5 and 6 at 7 p.m., and Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. on the Russell Hall Stage, USM Gorham campus.

USM dance students will debut five original dance works choreographed by Vanessa Beyland, Maria Tzianabos, Natalie Gotter, Holly Taylor, and Imaginary Island's Kristen Stake and Hannah Kumaski, and directed by Jessie Laurita-Spanglet.

The performance will run for approximately 1 hour with no intermission. Tickets are \$18 before fees (\$2-\$4, depending on ticket price), with special pricing available for adult, senior, child and student, and USM faculty and alumni. Pay-What-You-Can Pricing is available for the performance on Friday, Dec. 5.

On-campus parking is pay-by-plate. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://portix.com/whats-on/usm-fall-dance-concert/>.

COUNTING EVERY BITE
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HONOR ROLL
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Health Insurance Costs Keep Rising, And Federal Subsidies Are Still Set To Expire

By Rep. Ellie Sato

I've heard from many Gorham families who are bracing for significant increases in the cost of their health insurance in 2026. They're gravely concerned about the enhanced federal tax credits expiring, which have helped families across Maine access coverage through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace.

As of this writing, Congress has not taken action to extend these credits, which capped premium costs at rates that more families could afford. If the credits are allowed to expire at the end of the year, many Mainers enrolled in ACA plans are likely to see their health insurance costs skyrocket.

Some families could be facing increases of well over 400%. If you are enrolled in a health insurance plan through the ACA marketplace, I encourage you to use the following Kaiser Family Foundation calculator to estimate how your costs could be affected: <https://www.kff.org/interactive/calculator-aca-enhanced-premium-tax-credit/>.

On top of the potential expiration of these credits, Maine's Bureau of Insurance (BOI) has indicated that health insurance rates are already becoming more expensive due to the instability of federal policy and rising medical and prescription drug costs. Specialty medication costs have more than doubled in the last ten years, from \$211 billion to \$487 billion.

One more affordable ACA marketplace option for Mainers in 2026 could be to request a hardship exemption to qualify for

a catastrophic plan. Previously, hardship exemptions were sparingly granted, but the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services released guidance that individuals of any age who are no longer eligible for premium tax credits, including middle-income earners, could qualify. Catastrophic plans offer coverage of essential health benefits but they have high deductibles, sometimes over \$9,000 per person, in addition to a monthly premium. Importantly, BOI also shared that catastrophic plan premiums are expected to rise 10%–15% and in some cases up to 40%, due to medical inflation and a broader risk pool.

Experts are sounding the alarm that our health care system is already going to be under increasingly heavy strain in late 2026 after Congress passed sweeping cuts to Medicaid in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act to pay for tax cuts for the ultra-wealthy this past summer. I am afraid that rising costs and the expiration of the enhanced premium tax credits threaten to further destabilize an already fragile system.

My concern is if people can't afford their health insurance, they will be forced to go uninsured and that will impact all of us. When someone without insurance experiences an emergency that requires medical attention, hospitals are still required by federal law to treat them. More people uninsured means hospitals will be providing more uncompensated care – which we could expect to ultimately drive up costs

for everyone who does have insurance.

In the Legislature, we have made it a priority to expand access to high-quality health insurance that is affordable, but if Congress doesn't extend the enhanced premium tax credits it will threaten this work and increase costs for working families in Gorham.

For Mainers currently enrolled in ACA plans, advocates and state leaders are still urging residents to explore all available options during the open enrollment period, which is happening now through Dec. 15, 2025, for coverage beginning in Jan. 2026. Affordable health insurance isn't a luxury, it saves lives while keeping people out of lifelong debt.

You can contact me by email at Ellie.Sato@legislature.maine.gov or by phone at 207-287-1430 if you need assistance navigating state services. Please don't hesitate to reach out, even just to introduce yourself. I can best represent our community by hearing about the issues you care about.



Rep. Ellie Sato, D-Gorham, is serving her first term in the Maine House of Representatives and is a member of the Legislature's Judiciary Committee.

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be fewer than 300 words, signed with a first and last name, 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,

Is there a reason why intersections give a left turn arrow at the same time as a walk signal? It seems since the walk only comes up when pushed, it would be easy enough to pause all traffic.

There is a light like this in Gorham for people coming from Water Street and pedestrians crossing Main Street. It is really dangerous at night, especially when people wear all dark colors.

I didn't realize but turning out of the Hannaford in Westbrook is also like this. We had a green turn arrow and had to slam on the brakes because people, in dark clothes that were invisible until they were in our headlights, were crossing.

They pointed up at the crossing sign in an annoyed fashion, but the blinking cross lights weren't on. It was fortunate that it was my husband, who is a very careful, conscientious driver. If it had been someone distracted, there could have been a fatality.

It seems like such a simple fix to make it safer for pedestrians. Also, if you are walking at night, remember to wear something light or reflective, or carry a flashlight.

Sarah Rimkunas,
Gorham

To the Editor,

Our Thanksgiving Crew would like to take the opportunity to thank many volunteers that help make our free dinner possible, from monetary donations to food prep and donation of time. Cindy Hazelton of the Gorham Recreation Department has been hugely helpful in allowing us to use the kitchen at the facility, giving us plenty of oven & refrigerator space. Others to thank immensely are Roger Beaulieu, Anita & Dana Lampron, Chalmers Insurance, Moody's Co-Worker Owned, Meservey's Farm, Sally Lowe, Beth Rogers, Todd & Renee Walker, Kandy & Bob Lefebure, Amy SMith, Jed &

Julie Taft, Nancy Taylor, K.C. Carpenter, Kathy & Doug Wood, Sue Parsons, Julie Sabasteanski, Mark Liberty, Jon Loveitt, Jen, Chris, & Avery Currie, Hannah Clark, Mike Hoyt, Gorham Fire Dept, Melissa Bourgeois, Heather Moody, Madison Rogers, Gemma Swain, Rita Pinkham, Kitty & Mark Faulkner, Lori & Steve Gaston, Marnie, Jem & Morgan Grumbach, Russ Hall, Todd, Mandy, Declan, Dominic Bacon, Katie Mason, Leary Farm, Sam & Anna Boothby, George Merrill, Richard Campbell, Beth Dalton. With much gratitude in our hearts,

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The Gorham Times is a free volunteer-run community newspaper distributed every other Thursday to more than 100 pick-up sites throughout Gorham.

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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.

Printing services by Maine Trust for Local News, 295 Gannett Drive, South Portland, ME 04106

Upcoming Advertising Deadlines

December 10
Winter Break
January 7
January 21



Photo Credit: Roger Marchand

Children were able to meet with Mr. and Mrs. Claus throughout the afternoon. The Clauses also participated in the light parade and the tree lighting.

the holiday season. Despite the soggy weather, the gracious couple remained by the tree after the lighting for photos with attendees.

According to Community Recreation & Events Manager Zachary Lambert, more than 20 vehicles participated in this year's parade. Gorham's Fire Department, Public Works, and Parks & Rec Department joined in the fun, as well as Westbrook Public Services, O'Donal's Nursery, Dirt Direct, Sampson Lawn Care, Green Growth Lawn Care,

New Year Gorham, Southern Maine Heat Pumps and a number of individual residents that decorated their own personal vehicles.

The tree lighting was the culmination of an afternoon of holiday festivities at the Municipal Center. Though activities had to be moved inside this year due to the poor weather forecast, there was still plenty to enjoy, including reindeer games, a photo booth, hot chocolate, music, and several food trucks in the parking lot. "We really appre-



Photo Credit: Roger Marchand

Before the light parade and tree lighting the Gorham Recreation Department sponsored a full afternoon of activities. Even though rain forced the activities inside, children and all those who still felt like children participated in games and activities including reindeer games, music, food trucks, as well as snowman soup, reindeer food, Dunkin Munchkins, hot chocolate and much more. The light parade began at 4:30 p.m. followed by the tree lighting.

Greater Gorham Winter Market Still Growing

Jade Tibbetts, GHS Intern

This year's Greater Gorham Winter Market is bigger than ever. The market is a vendor sale open on the first and third Saturdays of each month from November through April, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The market takes place in the activity room, the multipurpose room, and the hallway of the Gorham Recreation Department at 75 South Street.

The sale is a part of the Maine Federation of Farmers' Markets, created by the Maine Department of Agriculture in 1991 as a way to spotlight farmers. These markets have now continued for almost 25 years throughout Maine. The one in Gorham started about 10 years ago, and has only grown since.

Many different products are sold at the

market and the main goal is to support local businesses and vendors. The market has anywhere from 20 to 30 different vendors selling a variety of items, including but not limited to vegetables, mushrooms, meats, baked goods, cocktail mixers, coffee, cheese, soap, personal care products, ready-made food products inspired by multiple nationalities, ceramics, fiber arts, jewelry, local authors, and wood craft. All of these products are locally sourced in order to stay sustainable and supportive to local vendors.

The Greater Gorham Winter Market is managed by Lynn (last name) and Caitlin (last name). They can be reached at their email, ggwintermarket@gmail.com, or on their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/greatergorhamwintermarket>.

ciate everyone in the community coming out to support the event and kicking off the holiday season with us," Mr. Lambert said.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Gorham Recreation Department, which organized the day's events, and the assistance of the Gorham Police Department, holiday joy was successfully delivered to Gorham.



Photo Credit: Sally Fay



Photo Credit: Sally Fay



Photo Credit: Sally Fay





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MEET GREYSON! Greyson is a one year old male, border collie/heeler mix. Greyson is a shy and gentle boy, but he's coming out of his shell more and more each day. He also enjoys head pets. He is great with other dogs, and he is nervous about cats. We would prefer that Greyson went to a home with another dog that could help show him the ropes. He would do best in a home with no young kids due to his extremely shy nature, we recommend 14+.



To find out more information about Greyson please visit www.harvesthills.org.
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Financial Focus

Jim Flagg, Contributing Writer Since 2024

As the year winds down, it's the perfect time to make some smart moves before the calendar flips to 2026. Think of it as a financial tune-up that could help with saving money and setting you up for success in the months ahead. Here are some things to consider.

Don't forget about required withdrawals. If you're 73 or older, you'll need to take your required minimum distribution from traditional retirement accounts to avoid a 25% penalty on any amount you should have withdrawn but didn't. This rule also applies to some people who inherited retirement accounts, including certain Roth accounts.

Use your flexible spending money. Got money sitting in a flexible spending account at work? Remember, these accounts follow a "use it or lose it" rule. Check with your HR department about your plan's specific deadlines for spending the money and submitting receipts. Whether it's that dental work you've been putting off or new prescription glasses you need, now's the time to use those funds before they disappear.

Boost your retirement savings. Consider ramping up your pretax retirement contributions before year-end. Not only will this help your future self, but it might also reduce your current tax bill. If your workplace plan allows it, you can even set up automatic increases for next year so you won't have to remember to do it later.

Share the wealth through gifting. In 2025, the current tax rules let you give family or friends up to \$19,000 per person without affecting your lifetime gift tax exemption. Married couples can combine their allowances to give up to \$38,000 per person. Plus, you can pay someone's tuition or medical bills directly without these payments counting against your gift limits at all.

Navigate new tax changes. The recently passed One Big Beautiful Bill Act has

made several tax provisions permanent, including lower individual tax rates and higher standard deductions. However, it also introduces new changes that might affect your situation. It's worth sitting down with a financial advisor or tax professional to understand how these updates impact your specific circumstances.

Examine your investments. Take some time to review your investment portfolio. Ask yourself: Did your investments perform as expected this year? Do they still match your goals and comfort level with risk? You might need to rebalance things to get back on track.

Build up your emergency fund. It's ideal to have enough cash saved to cover three to six months of living expenses in an easily accessible account. This safety net can prevent you from having to raid your retirement savings when unexpected expenses pop up.

Review your estate planning documents. This is especially important if you've had major life changes like marriage, divorce or a new baby. Don't forget to check the beneficiary designations on all your bank and brokerage accounts as well as life insurance policies – these often override what's written in your will.

Taking care of these financial housekeeping tasks now can help you start the new year on solid ground.



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 a local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.

MUNICIPAL

November Town Council Meeting Report

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

The Gorham Town Council met for their monthly meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 18. Chairperson Suzanne Phillips called the meeting to order and all seven members were present.

Their first action was to approve the minutes of the Oct. 7 meeting (7-0).

One member of the public, a resident of Lawn Avenue, spoke to question the town's handling of their policy on drainage systems and required inspections. Her property has been affected by this issue and she promised to return to future meetings until action is taken. A second member of the public, Peter Mason, spoke to thank the public for their support of the Reed-Allen fundraising events, which had raised a large amount of money for a worthy cause.

Ephram Paraschak, in his Town Manager's Report, mentioned the Robie

Park construction, which was delayed and will be resumed in the spring. He also reminded the public of the town tree-lighting and the availability of winter sand (2 buckets per storm).

Nicole Yeo-Fisher, the chair of the Gorham School Committee, reported on recent school news. She thanked the Gorham Emergency Services for their recent action responding to a gas leak at Narragansett School, and Gorham Public Works for assistance in advertising for recently filled school maintenance positions. She also announced upcoming events, including the Public Pre-K Partner Fair on Dec. 4. She encouraged all parents of children who will be 4 years old by Oct. 15, 2026 to attend. Councilor Willis asked her to provide, at a future date, atten-

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Guard Your Cards: Tips for Online Shopping

Wendy Bowen, Contributing Writer Since 2025

With the holidays just around the corner, online shopping has never been easier. From fast shipping to unbeatable deals and endless product options, it's tempting to click "buy" at every opportunity. But along with convenience comes risk. The internet isn't always a safe place to share your personal and financial information. Protect yourself this season by following these five tips.

Look for the Lock.

Before making purchases, check that the website has a padlock icon in the address bar or status bar. This small symbol indicates the site uses SSL (Secure Sockets Layer) encryption, which keeps your information safe from hackers. Also, verify that the URL begins with "https://" instead of "http://". That single "s" letter makes a big difference in security. Avoid sites that don't have these protections; your data could be at risk.

Use PayPal for Added Protection.

PayPal takes online security a step further by keeping your card information hidden from merchants. When you pay through PayPal, you log into your account rather than entering your credit card number directly into the website. This adds an extra layer of encryption. Always access PayPal directly through its website instead of clicking links in emails, which could be phishing attempts. Even with PayPal, double-check that the merchant's site is secure. Multiple layers of protection are always better.

Review Your Statements Regularly.

Keeping an eye on your credit card, debit card, and bank statements is essential. Regularly checking your statements allows you to spot fraudulent charges quickly. Some accounts have time limits for reporting unauthorized transactions, so acting fast is important. Credit cards are generally safer than debit cards

because, under the Fair Credit Billing Act, credit card companies must reimburse you for fraudulent charges. If something looks suspicious, report it immediately.

Avoid Public Wi-Fi When Shopping.

Public Wi-Fi networks, like those in coffee shops, airports, or hotels, are often unencrypted and easy targets for hackers. Entering personal information on these networks puts you at risk for identity theft. On your devices, turn off the option to automatically connect to nearby hotspots. Whenever possible, wait until you are on a secure, private network before making purchases. It may be slightly less convenient, but it is far safer.

Don't Overshare Personal Information.

Retailers don't need sensitive information such as your Social Security number or birth date to process a transaction. If a website asks for unnecessary personal details, leave immediately. Hackers can use this information along with your card number to access other accounts and cause significant damage. Only provide what is essential to complete the purchase.

By following these five tips – checking for secure websites, using PayPal, monitoring statements, avoiding public Wi-Fi, and limiting personal information – you can enjoy the convenience of online shopping while keeping your financial information safe. A few smart precautions now can prevent stress and financial headaches later, helping you to keep the holiday season merry and bright.



Wendy Bowen is Marketing Manager at Casco Federal Credit Union.

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SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

dance information for the past 20 years.

The Council discussed and approved the dissolving of 11 contract zones in the South Gorham area of town. There are approximately eight remaining properties with contract zones in this area. This was approved (7-0).

Three speakers from the public spoke about the proposed rent control moratorium on mobile park rentals. This action would financially impact small family-owned mobile parks. They also questioned some of the language in the proposed order. Councilor Siegel explained that this proposal was based on recent events in the state and concerns of some Gorham residents about possible rent hikes. The town manager also spoke about possible pending state action. This proposal was tabled until January (7-0).

There was a proposal to amend the

Land Use Code to restrict the building of large-scale data centers in town. This was referred to the Ordinance Committee for guidance on future action (7-0).

The Council agreed to forward to the Planning Board amendments to allow for additional driveway curb cuts on low-traffic roads for accessory dwelling units (6-1, Seigel).

The Council took no action (7-0) on an amendment of the Streets and Sidewalks Ordinance to allow overnight parking during the winter months in certain districts.

The Council voted (7-0) to take no action, as recommended by the Ordinance Committee, on a proposal to consider possible new school impact fees.

For a complete account of the meeting, a copy of the minutes and a recorded video of the meeting may be found on the Gorham Town Council website.

Advertise your home business or yard sale with a classified ad. Only \$9 per ad!

Upcoming Meetings

Gorham MAINE

12/8 Ordinance Committee Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
 12/16 Conservation Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.

12/17 Community Forum: Our Schools, Our Future, with Heather Perry, Superintendent of Schools, Baxter Memorial Library, 6 to 7 p.m.

Citizen Volunteers Needed

Gorham Times Staff

The Town Council Appointments Committee is seeking citizen volunteers to fill a position on the Gorham Economic Development Corporation. For more information or to apply, visit the Town Clerk's Office, call (207) 222-1670, or email Laurie Nordfors, the town clerk

(lnordfors@gorham.me.us). Applicants will complete and submit a Committee Volunteer Application, available at the Town Hall or online at: http://www.gorhammaine.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf4456/f/uploads/application_10.pdf. Applications will be accepted until Dec. 11, 2025.

Public Works

Kelly Meslin, Gorham Public Works

The Public Works office and garage will be closed Thursday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas Day and Thursday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day.

*Christmas Day - Thursday, Dec. 25 trash collection will be Friday, Dec. 26.
 *New Year's Day - Thursday, Jan. 1 trash collection will be Friday, Jan. 2

With the winter weather COMING SOON, here are a few friendly reminders from the Public Works Department:

Leaves are accepted at the Public Works Department, 80 Huston Road, any time throughout the fall and into the winter season in the designated area on the left-hand side of Public Works Drive. Please do not leave your bags behind.

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.

Winter sand is available to residents at the Public Works Department, 80 Huston Road.

There is a resident sand shed on the left-hand side of Public Works Drive. You will need to bring your own buckets/shovel and we ask that you only take two 5-gallon buckets per storm.

Public Works will be transitioning to winter hours as of Monday, Dec. 1. The office and garage will be open Monday - Friday 6:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. If you need to contact anyone at Public Works, call the office at (207) 222-4950 or email dpw@gorham.me.us.

Gorham Parks & Recreation
 75 South Street, Gorham, Maine 04038
 Office Hours: M-F 8:30am - 4:00pm

Rejoice: The Lord is at Hand

When was the last time you felt like rejoicing? In society today, we don't always feel like we have a lot to celebrate. Our newsfeeds are constantly filled with stories of wars, disasters, strife in our neighborhoods, illness among our loved ones. Most of us carry this conduit of "bad news" around in our pocket all day every day, and we're quick to look every time our phone dings. We even invented a new word, "doom scroll," to describe how it feels to spend a lot of time scrolling through social media. It's no wonder that rates of anxiety and depression are skyrocketing, especially among young people.

Things were not perfect during the apostle Paul's time, either. In the Book of 2 Corinthians, Paul wrote of "a thorn...given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me" (2 Corinthians 12:7). Later, he would be martyred for the faith in Rome. Even so, he wrote to the Christians in Philippi: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice...The Lord is at hand" (Philippians 4:4-5).

This Advent season, we rejoice because the Lord is at hand - even for us today. Jesus Christ came to earth as a baby born to the Virgin Mary some 2,000 years ago. Even though He was the Son of God, He took on human flesh and blood in order to also take on the sins of every person who would ever be born. By dying on the cross on Good Friday and rising again on Easter Sunday, He conquered sin, death and the devil - for us.

That's something truly worth celebrating! Because Jesus came, we have the assurance that God loves us and keeps us in the palm of His hand, no matter what may come. That's also why we take time during the busy month of December to study God's Word in the Bible. Take a break from doomscrolling and join us in reflecting on the enormity of what it means that God sent His Son to earth - for us. We call the Gospel message of salvation in Jesus Christ the "Good News," but it's really the best news in the world, and it's worth sharing with everyone.

I invite you to find a local congregation of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod this Advent and Christmas. While there, you'll hear the truth about God and His Son, Jesus Christ. You will also learn about why Christians can rejoice, even amid trial and hardship. "The Lord is at hand" for us today, tomorrow and always.

In Christ Jesus,
 Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President
 The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



Redeemer Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
 410 Main Street Gorham ME 04043

Christmas Eve 6:30 pm
Christmas Day 10:15 am

SCHOOL

Counting Every Bite: Village and USM Partner on Food Waste Project

Alicia Sotir, Art Teacher, Village School

Students and staff at Village Elementary recently welcomed a group of University of Southern Maine college students who are working on a food waste project for their environmental studies course.

As part of their research, the USM students conducted a hands-on “trash dig,” sorting through our lunch waste to better understand how much food is being thrown away each day. Their goal was to compare different lunch periods and determine which generated the least amount of waste.

The visit turned into a valuable learning experience for the students as well. By seeing the amount of uneaten food firsthand, students were encouraged to reflect on their choices in the cafeteria and practice taking only what they would eat. Teachers and staff used the opportunity to talk with students about the environmental and social impacts of food waste.

This partnership not only supports the USM students’ research but also promotes

awareness and responsible habits in the Village school community. Village Elementary students left the cafeteria thinking more carefully about food, learning that small choices can make a big difference for the planet.



Photo Credit: Alicia Sotir

Poster shows the results of the study performed at Gorham High School on a typical day. Research makes a difference in how we learn, and gives us ideas about how we can do better.

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2023 **Best Places to Work in ME**

GHS National Honor Society Induction

Gorham Times Staff



Photos supplied by Luci Bowers, GHS NHS Advisor

Newly inducted members of National Honor Society on the stage of the McCormack Performing Arts Center

On Wednesday, Nov. 19, The Gorham High School National Honor Society inducted 41 new members. In addition, GHS teacher James Welsch was inducted as an Honorary Inductee. These students will continue the commitment to the four pillars of NHS with projects and work built around character, scholarship, leadership, and service.

Honorary Teacher Inductee--James Welsch

- Zachary Bourgoin
- Miles Brenner
- Preston Brown
- Luna Button
- Kayleigh Carlo
- Sheila Casco
- Grayson Cole
- Andrew Collins
- Chloe Cyr
- Jack Cyr

- Bennett Deveaux
- Ava DeVinney
- Antoine Dube
- Lindsay Farquhar
- Annabelle Gilman
- Bavin Hakizimana
- Everett Hurder
- Anna Johnson
- Lucas Lane
- Kylee Lebrun
- Brandon Levesque
- Audrey Livingston
- Hanna Lloyd
- Hanna Logan
- Derek Luo
- Larissa Moore
- Ishami (Kevin) Munyaneza
- Tyler Olson
- Gretchen Paul
- Kennady Peary
- Molly Peters
- Evelyn Prather
- Terra Rioux
- Adriana Russo
- Madison Sampietro
- Isabelle Smith
- Lola Vance
- Sawyer VonderHaar
- Charlotte Wallace
- Claudette Wesse
- Elle Woodman



Photos supplied by Luci, Bowers, GHS NHS Advisor

All of the NHS members with Advisor Luci Bowers and Honorary teacher Inductee; James Welsch

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Garrett Smith Shines for Saint Michael's College

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo Credit: Jim Lakarzewski

Garrett Smith in action against Saint Anselm

Garrett Smith (GHS '21) had an impressive and highly successful high school career for Gorham, including Defensive Player of the Year for both soccer and basketball. His success helped the Rams team go 34-5-3 during three seasons on varsity playing for Coach Nick Viola, which propelled him to play at the next level.

Smith started his college career at Bryant College, RI, following a post-graduate year at Bridgton Academy, where Smith earned All-American honorable mention for his "captain of defense" goalkeeping skills. When Smith moved on to attend and play at Div I Bryant College his freshman and sophomore seasons he would then

make a great transfer decision, moving to Div II Saint Michael's College (SMC), which would prove to be a perfect match.

In Smith's junior season, he allowed 1 goal or less in 10 games, posting shutouts in 3 of his first 4 games, including a 5-save debut in a 1-0 win vs. Georgian Court. He had a season-high 9 saves (2GA) vs. Southern New Hampshire on Sept. 25 and 8 saves in a 4-1 wub at Assumption on Oct. 19.

Smith credits his past coach Phil Darasz, who coached him for a few years for GYSA, along with Nick Viola and Andy Lefebvre, who helped with his development while playing club soccer, Martyn Keen for training sessions during periods of high school, and Jim Hopkins, who coached him at Bridgton Academy and helped him achieve his goal of reaching Division 1.

Smith, now a senior, recently finished his soccer career for the Purple Knights in Vermont, which concluded on Nov. 10. SMC had a fantastic year and finished their season strong: the team scored 35 goals (second most in SMC history and second most in NE10 this year). The Purple Knights made the playoffs

in consecutive years for the first time since the 2006-2007 season and only the second time ever in the NE10 conference.

Smith shared, "Beating Adelphi University was a first for SMC and the most exciting win in my career at SMC." Smith in only a two-year tenure at SMC finished 5th (in school history) in goals against average, 6th in shutouts and 8th in wins.

According to Saint Michael's website and to add another shining highlight on his career, Smith was named Northeast 10 Conference Goalkeeper of the Week two times. He allowed only one goal that week while turning in a 0.50 goals-against average, .917 save percentage and 5.5 saves per game. He had another six stops in a 2-0 win at regionally-ranked Adelphi University, after finishing top three in the NE10 in GAA, save percentage, saves per game and shutouts last season.

Smith shared that he will graduate in May with a degree in Business Administration. He has one season of eligibility remaining and has entered the transfer portal to continue his soccer career and pursue a postgraduate degree (TBD). He hopes to play for the Hearts of Pine professional soccer team down the road.

Signing Day for Field Hockey Teammates

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo Credit: Tim Spear

Field hockey teammates Annie Collier and Reece Leclerc signed their letters of intent together on Nov. 20. Collier signed her letter of intent to play at Division I Sacred Heart University in Connecticut. Leclerc signed her letter of intent to play at Division II Saint Michael's College in Vermont.

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Gorham Middle School First Quarter Honor Roll

6th Grade High Honors

Eli Baer
Samuel Beaucage
Amelia Cote
Claire Dargie
Hannah Howe
Jack Nickerson
Fletcher Peck
Amelia Pennell
Evelyn Willett

6th Grade Honors

Jackson Albiston
Lucas Alden
Brynn Allen
Emma Allen
Elizabeth Backman
Declan Bacon
Hawksley Barr
Eleanore Beal
Landon Beardsley
Zachary Bennett
Finley Bisson
Christina Bolland
Colton Bragg-Malloy
Reid Brenner
Madison Burluson
Eli Bustard
Camden Butler
Eleanor Cole
Benjamin Conklin
Rowan Connor
Mariella Conway
Hudson Crider
Holly Curran
Attean Dahlin
Fiona Damon
Vera Dhamo
Cordelia Downes
Adelyn Dyer

Abigail Espejo
Shaye Exley
Emory Farnham
Scarlett Farrin
Gracie Finoia
Brynnleigh Friedlund
Neve Gammon
Gwen Garland-Morris
Milena Gartner
Parker Gill
John Gilman
Quinn Goff
Piper Harriman
Walter Herlihy
Jace Higgins
Avery Hollen
William Hughes
Eleanor Jones
Finnegan Kenny
Jack Kenny
Jacob Kindler
Ezra King
Cameron Klipple
Oskar Krebs
Silas Lane
Liam Lassiter
Travis Levesque
Lucas Loveless
Violet Ludemann
Jackson Maloney
Vivian Mango
Eli Marquis
Cullen Mayo
Michael McCarthy
Mason McClay
Natalie McCurdy
Deacon McDevitt
Naomi McGee
Keegan McGonagle
Tyler McPherson
Elise Merritt

Mila Milijas
Sofia Millett Ojeda
John Mulkern
Madeline Musser
Danika Neptune
Sophia Nguyen
Charles Orcutt
James Panarese
Xavier Perrigo
Brady Peters
Isaac Poulin
Evelyn Rodstrom
Owen Rosario
Keira Roy
Gabriella Saldivar
Emma Scarborough
Levi Shaw
Evelyn Smith
Taliyah Souvannasing
Cora Sparks
Kieran Standefer
Polly Stevens
Abbott Strange
Sloane Taaffe
Clara Tanguay
Trey Tanguay
Keegan Tate
Maeve Whitaker
Riley Whitehead
Quigley Wolterbeek

7th Grade High Honors

Sophie Allen
Elliot Arturo
Aidan Berthiaume
Edgar Bills-Crockett
Samuel Blake
Landon Brunell
Tamsen Burton
Greta Caiola
Brady Carlson
Lucas Carlson
Lillian Cary
Paige Charland
Renee Cherry
Madelyn Cohen
Kellan Cote
Aubrey Cotta
Mia Crockett
Alexander Croteau
Natalia Cuesta
Jack Cuneo
Savannah Curran
Yanamarie DiVico
Flynn Doyle
Lillian Eastman
Laura Eaton
Mia Fisher

7th Grade Honors

Abel Chase
Addison Davis
Kylie Delaney
Jack Cuneo
Nora Emlet
Am'ellie Esmiller
Elizabeth Golden
Scout Gulliver
Benjamin Ho
Emily Karlonas

Caroline King
Ella Knight
Chloe Matta
Harper Nash
William Norton
Corlyn Ogden
Sylvia Ouellet
Amelia Palme
Reid Peck
Orion Provencal
Taylor Schools
Julia Shaffer
Jack P Sprague
Delaney Stacy

7th Grade Honors

Sophie Allen
Elliot Arturo
Aidan Berthiaume
Edgar Bills-Crockett
Samuel Blake
Landon Brunell
Tamsen Burton
Greta Caiola
Brady Carlson
Lucas Carlson
Lillian Cary
Paige Charland
Renee Cherry
Madelyn Cohen
Kellan Cote
Aubrey Cotta
Mia Crockett
Alexander Croteau
Natalia Cuesta
Jack Cuneo
Savannah Curran
Yanamarie DiVico
Flynn Doyle
Lillian Eastman
Laura Eaton
Mia Fisher

Baylee Gesner
Ava Gushee
Hadley Harriman
Noah Haskell
Connor Hatch
Amelia Holston
Abigail Hooper
Olivia Hunter
Samuel Jones
Nzola Joseph
Benjamin Knight
Jasmine Koo-Kepka
Myles Lachance
Lula Lacroix
Mason LaPlaca
Allison Lovejoy
Christopher Mackenzie
Evan Marsh
Zoe Marsh
Simon McCray
Evelyn McDonough
Grace McHenry
Naia Mesires
Lowell Messer
Makaria Miller
Aryana Mills
Tadhg Moriarty
Graycen Morin
Evelyn Morris
Maria Muanza
Venna Nelson
Avery Passmore
Jacob Philbrick
Evelyn Plowman
Isaac Proulx
Harper Prunier
Charlotte Rochette
Sophia Santiago
Hailey Shadow
Evelyn Scherb
Nolan Schmoyer

Grace Schucker
Troy Schuehle
Alexia Scott
Christopher Shaw
Emily Spagnoli
Ella Stuart
Elise Varney
Lucinda Vo
Peyton Warner
Wesley Waters
Sophie Watson
Austin Webb
Everett Wells
Molly Westwig
Ada White
Jacques Wichmann
Emily Woods
Luke Woods
Jackson Zinchuk

8th Grade High Honors

Jacob Allen
Lawren Burton
Ethan Butler
Devi Clark
Quinn Cuneo
Eleanor Damon
Benjamin Emerson
Lyla Exley
Mackenna Flagg
Lila Fortier
Sophia Gill
Evan Holland
Audrey Krebs
Hadley Kuntz
Cecelia Lewin
Palmer Madden
David Marks
Quinn McAdams
Adeline McCrillis
Greta McDowell

Reagan Nash
Ella Todd
Gracie Woodman
Riley Young

8th Grade Honors

Ava Aceto
Nola Albert
Avery Allen
Grace Allen
Cirrus Arlet
Ethan Barney
Cole Bennett
Helen Bernier
August Bischof
Noah Boucher
Auroralyn Bragg-Malloy
Aubree Breton
Michael Brockman
Daphne Capponi
Isabelle Castillo
Max Castonguay
Cameron Connolly
Leah Dargie
William DeVinney
Ava Duchaine
Moaeen Elnimier
Tessa Farnham
Emily Feldhaus
Ava Fiorito
Minjee Flanders
Malachi Gossen
Maggie Greenlaw
William Haase
Charlotte Hahn
Emilee Hamblen
Philip Hanken
Chloe Hatch
Graham Hebert
Thomas Holland
Mason Hopkins
Khane Horten
Emma Howe
John Hutchins
Nina Joy
Keegan Karcanes
Hannah Kimball
Annabelle Klipple
Kylie LeMay
Charles Livingston
Cayden Lowberg
Matthew Mason
Lia Mazza
Clara McBride
Lillian McCarthy
Pierce McDermott
Hunter Miller
Reid Minichiello
Leela Morris
Evelyn Morton
Kerrigan Nadeau
Travis Neily
Piper O'Keefe
Samuel Otis
Molly Penley
Avery Peters
Riley Peters
Jillian Roy
Tyler Sampietro
Caroline Sargent
Jenna Schlicher
Michelle Shaw
Rosie Simpson
Finleigh Sirois
Reid Stevens
Rose Stover
William Sundik
Willow Verry-Gardella
Brooklyn Walker
Henry Walsh
Luke Williams
Nathan Williams
Rataj Zamat

Gorham High School First Quarter Honor Roll

9th Grade High Honors

Eva Alden
Sarina Alden
Matilda Arturo
Finnegan Bailey
Rhiannon Boissonneault
Carter Bourgoin
Carson Brown
Addison Bunch
Alina Clark
Quaid Cossitt
Parker Cyr
Briggs Downing
Layla Forastiere
Andrew Fortier
Gabriella Friedlund
Kaleigh Garand
Bradley Genovese
Logan Hall
Alia Herrick
Timothy Hodgdon
Natalie Kenny
Damona Kim
Lillian King
Breanna Lampen
Jessica Loiselle
Kaidan Marchand
Tessa McBride
Jacob Palmer
Mia Rand
Mya Rego
Carmella Richards
Lukas Romano
Chloe Schuehle
Samuel Springer
Hannah Symanski
Loretta Vo
Emily Watson
Amelia Winkler

9th Grade Honors

Benjamin Albrecht
Joshua Allison
Malk Almkhtar
Mallak Almkhtar
Audrey Arsenault
Keagen Beaulieu
Emma Bennett
Jason Bennett
Riley Benoit
Aylah Boucher
Elizabeth Bradshaw
Ashton Brethauer
Devan Brown
Logan Burns
Sophia Burns
Julia Capozza
Ruby Carnahan

Lauren Chadburn
Taylor Chadburn
Chase Cote
Abigail Cyr
Jacob Cyr
Nolan Delaney
Daniel Deprez
Addison Dougherty
Quinn Dougherty
Lauren Drenski
Jacklyn Dunbar
Kaleb Dyer
Makram Elshafie
Ella Ferrante
Aidan Foley
Benjamin Fredette
Violet Gain
Shekinnah Gakunzi
Anabelle Gasbarrone
Dasha Gorham
Abigail Gow
Levi Heath
Ashyr Herrick
Xavier Hill
William Hjort
Zoey Houston
Lily Hunnewell
Keelyn Hunt
Nolan Hurder
Hunter Keniston
Daniel Koo-Kepka
Kaiden Laughlin
Theodore Leconte
Jeremy Levesque
Rebecca Lewis
Annie Lorfano
Alexia Lowell
Brody Marchand
Sophia Marquis
Samuel Martin
Cerys McCormack
Mason McDonald
Darcy McFall
Harper McManus
Madison Milligan
Declan Mulcahy
Jaydn Murphy
Abdalla Nasr
Yoan Kent
Ndayishimiye
Kourtnee Newcomb
Jayden Olson
Zane Perry
Lyla Placey
Emma Plummer
Ezekiel Provencal
Wesley Quang
James Rock
Brittney Sabine
Charles Sands

Lucy Sandstrom
Zachary Sawyer
Leila Schmoyer
Taylor Schutte
Ava Scott
Ellis Scott
Ethan Shaffer
Caroline Shaw
Emma Spiller
Carra Sprague
Dominic Steller
Alexander Sundik
Aloe Swanson
Charlotte Taylor
Hailey Tracy
Viannah Vercoe
Amara Vincent
Elijah Waterman
Sophia Webster
Zoe Whitehead
Harper Winkley
Kate Woods
Caleb Yaeger
Jada Yates

10th Grade High Honors

Jared Burt
Haley Chandler
Annalise Coffelt
Bryn Cunningham
Charlotte Deveaux
Luella Dolley
Velina Doucette
Jesse Doyle
Grant Emerson
Oliver Emerson
Clara Finoia
Julia Giguere
Annabelle Hatch
Wyland Herrick
Nara Holland
Madelyn Leeper
Abigail McCrillis
Carter McGonagle
Drew McManus
Benedito Moco
Amanda Neumann
Jackson Prunier
Katelyn Pyle
Kenneth Reed
Alina Senasy
Laurali Vail
Wyatt Walker
Tessa White

10th Grade Honors

Ahmed Abdulzahra
Tia Aceto
Nicolas Andrade

Jean Bamba
Clover Bayly-Schram
Hope-Davina Bisimwa
Aspen Blair
Clover Brown
Jensen Burton
Myka Bush
Zackary Carlson
Ty Caron
Jaxon Chestnut
Lia Collins
Lylyyanna Cook
Doria Crockett
Camden Curtis
Oliver Dennis
Beckham Dezdel
McKenzie Dicks
Owen Eling
Anna Faatz
Jack Feldhaus
Alexander Fernandez
Abrie French
Gianna Gakunzi
Bailey Grimard
Luke Hahn
Isabel Hamann
Husna Hamidi
Neve Hanley
Nicholas Harrington
Eligh Head
Lilah Hebert
Henry Hofmann
Sydnie Ireland
Shania Imbibi
Caroline Jones
Luke Jones
Anneka Kuntz
Fiona Lane
Brayden Logan
Natalie Lyford
Sophie MacIsaac
Lucy Mason
Olivia Mason
Connor McHenry
Allison Mero
Jennifer Miner
Yanis Munyaneza
Mitchell Neff
Abe Palme
Connor Pellegore
Grant Peters
Kasey Plaud
Nolan Plummer
Sophia Proulx
Grayson Randall
Nathan Reckert

Jackson Rousseau
Christopher Rumery
Isla Rutherford
Aaron Samara
Lucas Santiago
Abram Sargent
Nora Schucker
Finnegan Senatore
Sophia Soler
Lydia Spear
Addison-Shane Spiller
Parker Thibault
Mackenzie Thompson
Whitney Varney
Cooper Warner
Emma Webster
Maggie Weeks
Sawyer Wheaton
Trent Whitaker
Nikolai Wilkins
Jack Williams
Logan Wilson
Dominic Woods
Haojun Xie

11th Grade High Honors

Zachary Bourgoin
Luna Button
Kimarah Cajuste
Sheila Casco
Mariana Castro
Harrison Crider
Chloe Cyr
Antoine Dube
Jordyn Fottter
Alvar Garcia Suarez
Everett Hurder
Anna Johnson
Daniel LaBarge
Brandon Levesque
Audrey Livingston
Larissa Moore
Elsie Moreno
Anna Nichols
Molly Peters
Salomé Richard
Lauren Roy
Adriana Russo
Milo Saucier
Isabelle Smith
Annabelle Vail
Lola Vance
Isaiah Whitehead

11th Grade Honors

Alexis Alfreds
Ali Almkhtar

Fatimah Almkhtar
William Andreasen
Rigel Arlet
Ryan Bachner
Seamus Bailey
Fatima Beshir
Arli Bisson
Sara Brawn
Preston Brown
Collin Bunch
Gracin Bunch
Josh Castonguay
Piper Cathcart
Quincy Corcoran
Harvey Crider
Dante Cuesta
Jack Cyr
Liam Delaney
Moritz Deppner
Bennett Deveaux
Hazel Dolley
Erica Donnelly
Maia Downing
Colby Drew
Lindsay Farquhar
Baxter Flagg
Danika Garcia
Annabelle Gilman
Eddie Grimard
Bavin Hakizimana
Evan Hall
Claire Kennedy
Rehoboth Kina
Gillian Lachance
Madelaine Lampron
Lucas Lane
Jackson Lavertu
Maxwell Lodgek
Hannah Manchester
Hannah Martel
Kylie Martorano
Emily McLean
Logan Mills
Tyler Morey
Ishami Munyaneza
Chloe Ndoli
Haylie Nicely
Gretchen Paul
Brooklyn Payer
Keaton Pollard
Colby Pratt
Rowen Reed
Logan Rench
Madison Rogers
Rylee Ruby
Nicholas Sallinen
Madison Sampietro
Robin Schneider
Jack Sellick

Abigail Stevens
Lucas Stover
Carter Taiani
Owen Todd
Alexander Tukey
Isaac Vail
Aylla Vaughn
Cooper Whitehead
Henri Wichmann
Peyton Wilkins
Tatum Wing

12th Grade High Honors

Hope Barney
Kaleigh Bauer
Gianna Berthiaume
Benjamin Brown
Bria Bush
Grayson Cole
Andrew Collins
Abigail Dalphonse
Ava DeVinney
Logan Doughty
Kasey Downes
Laurel Emerson
River Engelter
Abigail Fortier
Lauren Greenier
Benjamin Keil
Sean Kenny
Tabitha Lavigne
Hanna Logan
Derek Luo
Lorisse Matta
Mia Messina
Stella Moores
Eleanor Morgan
Rebecca Neumann
Tyler Olson
Jacqueline Parenteau
Ruby Soule
Elizabeth Springer
Taylor Tenuta
Haley Vickery
Natalie Wilkins

12th Grade Honors

Ali Abdulzahra
Colby Allie
Jackson Altham
Abigail Baker
Jay Banks
Lily Beardsley
Addison Campbell
Eli Castles
Cole Chasse
Jocelyn Clark
Annabelle Collier
Aubriana Cossitt
Adam Cowing
Delaney Coyne
Grace Cunningham
Cameron Cyr
Zoe Dellinger
Bryce Dipietrantonio
Mia Dodd
Quinn Drake
Aron Dumais
Lauren Dunbar
Kylee Durgin
Griffin Gava
Maddison Gines
Alexandria Gossen
Abdul Baset Hamidi
Elle Hanley
James Hatch
Madison Hatch
Kristan Hirwa
Reece Leclerc
Tamia Lema-Santellan
Eben Lorfano
Isabella McBrady
Rylyn McInnis
Tessa McNally
Maya Moores
Winni Moreland
Liam O'Hora
Cabot Pepper
Isabel Phinney
Lucas Plowman
Natalie Pouliot
Terra Rioux
Gracen Roberts-Locke
Shawn Rumery
Addyson Simcock
Carson Southyongnorath
Julie Stevens
Sawyer VonderHaar
Rose Wandell
Tobias Wane
Shane Webber
Claudette Wesse
Adia Wezowicz
Atticus Whitten
Noah Williams
Jayden Wing
Lillian Woodcock
Elle Woodman
Stella Wu
Preston Zwart

COMMUNITY

OF INTEREST

The Gorham Police Department has many bicycles needing to be returned to their owners. If you own a bicycle you suspect of being stolen or even just misplaced, please make contact to discuss identification of your items. Per State law, the Gorham Police Department holds recovered property at the police department for a period of time and then properly disposes of it. There are bikes made by: Trek, Schwinn, Mongoose, Next, Huffy, Roadmaster, even E-Bikes. Many other personal property items are waiting for their owner as well. A few notable items are two gas generators, a snowblower, a set of downhill skis with boots, chainsaws, iPhones, Apple watches, and many sets of keys with remotes. Contact Detective Jason Wagner at the Gorham Police Department, jwagner@gorham.me.us or (207) 222-1698. If you can identify an item as belonging to you, you can be reunited with your property.

Operation Holiday Spirit: The Town of Gorham offers assistance to families in need during the holiday season, matching a family with a business or individual who will "adopt" a family and provide gifts and winter essentials. Families can apply by visiting the Town Clerk's office or call (207) 222-1670 to fill out an application.

Gorham Schools is looking for old and unwanted GHS yearbooks that are out in the community. If you have one to donate, contact Sarah Dolley at sarah.dolley@gorhamschools.org.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

The Gorham Medical Closet is available to Gorham residents in need of medical equipment. The Closet also accepts CLEAN donations. Wheelchairs, walkers, canes and scooters are just some of the items available. The closet is open Monday through Thursday by appointment only. Due to health issues, please do not call Gerry Day but call Carol Robinson at (207) 400-7171 or Anne Murphy at (207) 671-5971 and they will assist you.

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 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 contact the director at 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. 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.

HOLIDAY AND CRAFT FAIRS

Galilee Church, located at 317 Main Street in Gorham, is hosting a Christmas Penny Store for school children to purchase gifts for family members for 1 cent each. The dates and times are: Dec. 3 from 12 to 3 p.m. and Dec. 6 and 13 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Gorham Arts Alliance is hosting a Holiday Fair on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 34 School Street to benefit the new Gorham Senior's Cooperative.

Living Waters Parent Teachers Organization is holding a craft fair on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 197 Parker Farm Road, Buxton. Handmade local crafts, wreaths, gifts, books, ornaments, children's crafts and cookie decorating and more. FMI: Danica Reed, (207) 939-5088.

LIBRARY NEWS

The North Gorham Public Library Holiday Craft Fair, Book Sale, and Raffle is on Saturday, Dec. 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Saturday, Dec. 13, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., library visitors will decorate miniature artist canvases to make beautiful Christmas ornaments. The event is free, donations are welcome. The Library is open Monday 3 – 6 p.m., Tuesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 – 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday closed, Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday closed. FMI: email libng@north-gorham.lib.me.us.

Baxter Memorial Library offers many reading events each week. Check our calendar for what's coming up soon. Library hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays, and closed on Sundays. FMI: (207) 222-1190.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE NEWS

The USM Art Gallery's exhibit "20 Walks: Lin Lisberger" is open and running through Dec. 10. For more information, visit <https://usm.maine.edu/gallery/exhibitions/20-walks-lin-lisberger/>, or contact usmartgalleries@maine.edu, (207) 780-5409.

USM Department of Theatre presents a compilation of original dance works from USM Dance faculty and guest choreographers performed by USM dance students. Directed by Jessie Laurita-Spanglet. Friday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. Tickets: <https://portix.com/whats-on/usm-fall-dance-concert/#book>

Find more events at the University of Southern Maine at <https://usm.maine.edu/events>.

Around Town - Where Have All the Papers Gone?

Due to increased electricity supply costs, since June the Gorham Times has been paying a 5% surcharge on the papers we print. This summer, we increased the number we print from 4,200 to 4,800 to accommodate the Gorham residents who shop in Windham and Standish, so the electricity surcharge is just under \$50 per issue. Just since mid-November, we are now paying an additional 70¢ in tariffs per aluminum plate used each issue printed for the plates that come from Canada. According to our supplier, Maine Trust for Local News, there is a case at the Supreme Court to decide whether the president has the right to impose tariffs. If it is decided he cannot, then the tariffs should be rescinded and the charges taken off our invoices. At this time, the Gorham Times is not planning to pass these extra costs on to our advertisers. Our rates will not change for 2026, and the Gorham Times is still free. Many thanks to all who make the Gorham Times possible.

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CALENDAR

- Thursday, Dec 4**
 Baxter Memorial Library, Toddler Storytime, 10 to 10:30 a.m.
 Baxter Memorial Library, Book Group: The Stationary Shop, 10:15 a.m.
 Baxter Memorial Library, Library Trustees Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 5**
 USM Theatre - Fall Dance Concert, Russell Hall, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Dec. 6**
 North Gorham Public Library, Holiday Craft Fair, Book Sale, and Raffle 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 USM Athletics: Wrestling vs. Ted Reese Invitational at 9:30 a.m.
 Galilee Church, Christmas Penny Store for School Children, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 USM Athletics: Women's Basketball vs. Western Connecticut State at 1 p.m.
 USM Athletics: Men's Basketball vs. Western Connecticut State at 3 p.m.
 USM Theatre - Fall Dance Concert, Russell Hall, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Dec. 7**
 USM Theatre - Fall Dance Concert, Russell Hall, 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, Dec. 9**
 Baxter Memorial Library, Preschool and Kindergarten Readiness Storytime, 10 to 11 a.m.
 USM Athletics: Women's Ice Hockey vs. Bowdoin College at 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 10**
 USM Athletics: Women's Basketball vs. University of Maine-Farmington at 5:30 p.m.
 USM Athletics: Men's Basketball vs. University of Maine-Farmington at 7:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Dec. 11**
 USM Athletics: Men's Ice Hockey vs. Salve Regina at 7 p.m.
- Friday, Dec. 12**
 USM Athletics: Men's and Women's Track & Field vs. USM Alumni Open at noon
- Saturday, Dec. 13**
 North Gorham Public Library, art frame ornament crafting, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Galilee Church, Christmas Penny Store for School Children, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Wednesday, Dec. 17**
 Baxter Memorial Library, Community Forum: Our Schools, Our Future, 6 to 7 p.m.

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

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GORHAM'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER SINCE 1995 CELEBRATING 30 YEARS IN 2025

Courtesy of the Gorham Police Department

the blotter

Citizen came to the Police Department for a cell phone she found near the White Rock Fire Department. While speaking with an officer, she informed the officer that she just got a text message saying whom the phone belonged to. She kept the phone and went to drop it off.

An officer was dispatched to attempt to locate a blue motorcycle coming from Windham. Windham Police Department advised dispatch that it was going 80 mph passing vehicles. Officer drove from Main Street down Gray Road until Little Falls, with negative contact.

Officer initiated a suspicious call for a vehicle parked in a parking lot. The driver advised the officer that he was calling his wife to see what size diapers he needed to buy.

Officer noticed a vehicle bearing State of Maine registration traveling down the side of the road at a slow rate of speed with hazard lights on. Operator stated that he was having issues with his wheel bearing and was worried his wheel might fall off. He attempted to get it towed but did not have any luck. Officer followed him to a church on Ossipee Trail and then let him try to figure out a safe way to get it somewhere for the night.

Caller reported that she saw a young girl crying and screaming halfway in the road. The caller attempted to check on her but

the female told her to go away. Two officers checked the area but were unable to find her.

While driving East on Main Street, officer soon found a vehicle heading the same direction as the officer, but driving up the wrong side of the road. They were starting and stopping in front of every house and stopped for an extended time as the officer pulled up behind them and watched. They then re-entered the proper travel lane before officer pulled them over, and soon learned it was the mailman making deliveries while trying to stay out of the heavy rain.

A citizen called in asking what he should do with his license plates since his new car does not have a front license plate frame. Officer advised him that as long as it was plainly visible and secure from the front, he could get creative with temporary solutions until a frame could be installed.

A citizen contacted Police Department via telephone to report a suspicious drone that was flying outside of her doorstep.

A student forgot a musical instrument at the middle school while en route to the high school for tennis practice. Officer transported the saxophone and delivered it to the student.

Officer moved a life preserver out of the road, leaving it on the side of the road in order that hopefully the owner may come by and see it.

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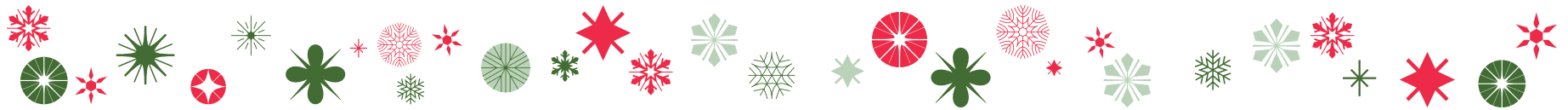
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SHOP THE VILLAGE & WIN

This holiday season, Gorham Village Alliance invites you to Shop the Village and support your favorite local spots. Visit participating locations to enter to win a gift card to your favorite Village shop or restaurant!

How to Enter:

- Look for raffle boxes at participating Village businesses (see list)
- Fill out an entry form and drop it in the box
- Check Facebook for the most up-to-date list of participating locations

GREAT PRIZES!

Week 1: Drawing December 5

2 Winners • \$50 Gift Card

Week 2: Drawing December 12

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Drawing: December 19

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