

Gorham Times

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2026 Juried Student Art Show at USM Art Gallery

John Tiedje, Staff Writer



Photo Credit: John Tiedje

"Right," a ceramic sculptured piece by Crystal Reynolds.

This year's USM 2026 Juried Student Art Show is now on display at the USM Art Gallery. There were cash prizes for each Best in Show, for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place.

It's always invigorating to see what art students come up with in subject matter and their use of a medium.

This year's show has many unique pieces, well expressed in their choice of material.

The sculpture, painting, photography, ceramics are all well crafted. There are several pieces that are on the edge of being surreal. Some of the more interesting pieces are the sculptures.

Lydia Laslavic's piece, "Oystah," is a



Photo Credit: John Tiedje

Lydia Laslavic's "Oystah," fabric pillow.

fabric "pillow" with beads, ribbons and a disco ball that has a colorful, soft aesthetic.

Other pieces of note are several ceramic sculptured pieces by Crystal Reynolds, using shaped vessels. They form into mounds in various sizes. The use of the glaze extends the design.

One piece of construction that is truly unique and inventive is a wire sculpture, "The Photonic Healing Machine," by David G. Stevens. It is designed to be worn on the hand and head.

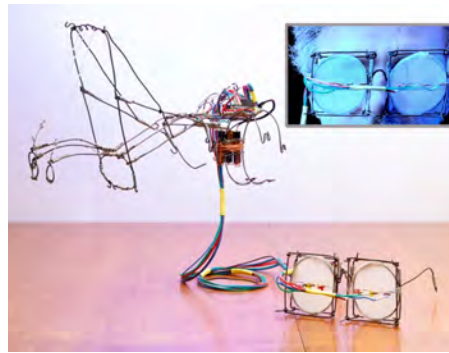


Photo Credit: John Tiedje

Wire sculpture, "The Photonic Healing Machine," by David G. Stevens, with an accompanying video.

Added to the originality of this piece is an accompanying, descriptive video (complete with its own commercial).

This and all the pieces presented are well worth viewing.

The 2026 Student Art Show runs through March 24 at 37 College Ave., in Gorham. Go to <https://usm.maine.edu/gallery/hours/> for gallery days and hours.

The Winners

1st Place Best-in-Show

"To Some I am Prey"

By Coffin

2nd Place Best-in-Show

"Courtney Elisabeth's Folklore"

By Courtney Rog

3rd Place Best-in-Show

"Bare"

By Alyssa Letendre

Local Residents Protest ICE Enforcement

John Ersek, Staff Writer



Photo Credit: John Ersek

Heather Robinson has long been interested in current events, both locally and further afield. This is partially what led her to start the Gorham Scoop Facebook page about two years ago.

In a recent interview, Robinson noted that she has been intensely following the enhanced immigration enforcement policies that the federal government has implemented around the country over the past year.

When Maine news outlets began

announcing in mid-January that a local ICE enforcement "surge" was imminent, she decided to start having weekly protest rallies on the sidewalk in front of the Gorham Walgreens. She said participation has been encouraging despite the frigid conditions, and was probably related to the actual ICE enforcement surge, which began Jan. 20 and was named "Operation Catch of the Day."

She added that there were 13 participants on Jan. 18, then the number grew to

over 50 on Jan. 25, then decreased to about 35 on Feb. 1, and 15 on Feb. 8. Besides residents of Gorham, people have also been coming from several nearby towns to take part, such as Buxton and Standish.

Regarding concerns about the use of explicit language on some of the protest signs, Robinson stated that, based on community feedback, she is re-considering the use of strong language (on the signs).

She also emphasized her position that non-threatening protest language is constitutionally protected in most situations. She said she believes many of the protesters are there to express their anger about what they see as ICE agents targeting immigrant communities without just cause, by detaining non-violent working individuals who thought they had some form of legal status.

Robinson said many of the people driving by on Route 25 have given them the "thumbs up," and most of the comments from people shopping at Walgreens have also been positive. She said she plans to continue having the rallies indefinitely, as she believes the continuing fear of local people being detained by ICE is having a significant negative effect on many local residents, including children missing school, adults missing work, and people generally being afraid to leave their homes.

POETRY CORNER

Pacing the Floor

By Lori Arsenault

Pacing the floor,
I don't know what to say,
I don't know what to do,
I don't know how to be.

Pacing the floor,
So many unanswered questions
Floating in the air.
"When has this happened before?"

Who knew?
Was I told?
Even more,
Did I listen?

Pacing the floor,
What if I had been there?
What if it had happened here?
What else was going on
To cause so great a fear?

Pacing the floor,
I have to ask believers,
Does trust in God
Mean we don't have to care?
Unless we're there?

Jan. 29, 2026
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LIANA EDWARDS
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Fighting for Lower Costs and a Stronger Gorham

Rep. Parnell Terry

The Legislature recently convened for the start of a new session, and this year, we will consider hundreds of bills before our expected adjournment date in mid-April. One issue I hear from constituents more than almost any other is that the rising cost of living has been putting a lot of pressure on Gorham family budgets. From the costs of housing and health care to energy and child care, it's getting a lot more difficult for families to make ends meet and build their lives here. Working to lower the cost of living, build stronger communities and address the real challenges facing Maine families will be my top priority in Augusta. Last month, I joined many of my colleagues to support the introduction of a package of policy proposals that will do just that. Right now, too many hardworking Maine families are being priced out of homeownership. To help more families be able to afford to purchase a home, I've cosponsored a bill, LD 2077, that would direct the Maine State Housing Authority to provide grants of up to \$15,000 to eligible Maine homebuyers to help them lower their mortgage rate. This is a common-sense proposal that would make a real difference in lowering costs for potential homebuyers. For example, lowering the interest rate

from 6% to 5% on a \$300,000 mortgage would save a family nearly \$200 a month – which amounts to almost \$70,000 over the life of a 30-year loan. That's money directly back into the pockets of working families that can help pay for groceries, child care, utility bills and other everyday expenses. While it wouldn't solve all of our affordability challenges overnight, it would provide a meaningful step to help more folks be able to realize their dream of homeownership. Additionally, I also hear a lot from constituents that rising energy bills are putting real strain on their budgets. To help address this, I co-sponsored another bill, LD 2078, to help lower electricity costs by providing eligible Mainers with a new income tax credit of up to \$600 per year. The credit would work similar to the state's existing Property Tax Fairness Credit and Sales Tax Fairness Credit, two proven policies that we know work well and help mitigate costs for working families across Maine every year. Over the last few years, the cost of electricity has skyrocketed, largely due to New England's dependence on natural gas to produce our power. But electricity is a necessity, not a luxury – and this bill would help us to provide meaningful relief to those who need it the most.

These are just a handful of examples of some of the bills I plan to support in my legislative work this year, and I look forward to updating you on all of our efforts to make life better for all Mainers as the session progresses. This includes a new proposal that the Legislature will consider from Governor Janet Mills to make tweaks to the state's two-year budget. As always, please feel free to contact me at Parnell.Terry@legislature.maine.gov with your questions and concerns. I am here to serve you, and I can do that best by hearing directly from you. Maine people deserve leaders who are fighting to keep our communities strong, ensuring we can all afford to live out healthy, prosperous lives in this great state we call home.



Rep. Terry is serving his first term in the Maine House and represents part of Gorham. Terry is a member of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee and the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee.

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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,

As a Gorham Town Councilor, it has been incredibly frustrating these past nine days to have so little power over what was going on; even our own police department was given zero information on any ICE activity. Senator Collins put out a press release saying ICE has "ceased enhanced operations in Maine." Even if this is true, this is not the end. ICE will still have a presence in Maine as it did before. If history tells us anything, it will take action, vigilance, and perseverance for things to get better. ICE's actions are unacceptable to me. Everyone should be treated with respect and dignity regardless of immigration status. Under the false pretense of "targeting the worst of the worst," ICE has terrorized many communities, including our own: snatching people from their cars, from their places of work, and in front of family. For many people in Gorham, it made them feel unsafe, whether afraid to leave their homes because of the color of their skin, or afraid to speak up in fear of retaliation and intimidation. I keep thinking about how much distress, how much fear, how much instability has been caused by ICE's increased presence. At times like this, when things feel bleak, we need to remember our strength as a community. I think about how quickly people organized to action. I think about how many people in our community mobilized to help neighbors. I think about the Gorham residents who are working

behind the scenes to foster safety for everyone. These things give me hope and make me certain that through our shared resilience, we can minimize harm in the future. As we prepare for whatever comes next, I encourage you to remember what gives you hope. As always, I can be reached at ssiegel@gorham.me.us or 207-200-7341. Seven Siegel, Gorham

To the Editor,

I thank GT for publishing Mike Smith's message, "Where has your physician gone?" I have been seeking an answer to that question since last August when my annual exam with my PCP was canceled by letter just one week before the appointment. No reason was ever given, and I have not been able to locate the PCP, who probably is practicing elsewhere, maybe nearby? Finally, I have an appointment at the same medical service with a new PCP in April! The statistics Mike quotes are truly mind boggling; if a "concierge" DPC physician can make a good living with only 400 patients but the larger practices need 1,200 to 1,400 this tells us that the large practices are INEFFICIENT and bloated. Those new buildings with modern equipment, nurses, techs and overhead including multiple VPs are expenses the DPC docs don't have to contend with. Is the recent "over-billing" scandal by a local practice part of the problem? David Alexander, Gorham

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Upcoming Advertising Deadlines
February 18
March 4
March 18
April 1

Boy Scout Troop 73 Summer Plans

Jacob Young, Troop 73 Scout/GHS Student



Troop 73, Philmont group, Sawyer Pond, left to right: Cole Stinson, Sam Merrow, Lukas Romano, Josh Allison, Zeke Provencal, Harper Winkley, Jacob Young, Brandon Romano, Jared Burt, Richard Burt, and Nick Stinson.

This upcoming summer, 12 members of Troop 73 will be traveling to the Philmont Scout Ranch in northern New Mexico. This high-adventure base, owned and operated by Scouting America, is where the scouts will be taking a nine-day backpacking trek. Philmont is a working ranch that also houses the largest youth camp in the world. It offers a variety of options for backpacking adventures across miles of beautiful and rugged terrain, where the scouts will have an itinerary full of Old West activities, modern physical challenges, and the ultimate backcountry experience. The journey will be mentally and physically taxing, and the troop has already begun to prepare themselves individually and as a group. The team has completed two shake-

down hikes this past fall, with more to follow beginning in the springtime. These shakedown hikes were short backpacking trips where the scouts tested out their gear, their bodies, and their teamwork for this upcoming event. In September, the group did a beautiful hike at Sawyer Pond in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, located off of the Kancamagus Scenic Byway. They traveled 12 miles in distance and covered 967 feet of elevation gain. Later, in October, they completed another hike at the Bigelow Range in Maine that totaled 18 miles in distance and around 4,600 feet of elevation gain. The troop members backpacked up to the Safford Notch campsite, where they left their gear and continued up to Avery Peak, which sits at 4,088 feet of elevation.

Cherry Hill Barn Construction

John Ersek, Staff Writer



The construction of the new event center at Shaw Cherry Hill Farm has been continuing despite the cold weather. On Monday, Feb. 2, this open-air view of the large Douglas fir beams could still be seen from near the Cherry Hill parking lot. By Friday, Feb. 6, most of the walls and roof had been attached, so the open view was no longer available to be seen. The event center is expected to open by next fall.

Governor Mills Recognizes Women's Crucial Role in Agriculture

Larissa Moore, GHS Student Intern

Governor Janet Mills has officially declared 2026 as the International Year of the Woman Farmer in Maine. Over time, women have transitioned from being overworked dairy farmers or occasional laborers, to serving major leadership roles in well-known farms. The town of Gorham is home to over a dozen operational farms, many of which have women playing a crucial role. Ever since Gorham was founded in 1736, farming has been an integral part of the town due to the naturally good soil and the nearby Presumpscot River. Over the course of history, women have been fundamental in the success of local Gorham farms. Orchard Ridge Farm, on Sebago Lake Road, is a testament to the hardworking women in agriculture. Owned by mother and daughter Mary Walker and Erica Gottshalk, Orchard Ridge Farm is a beloved local farm. They are known for their walking trails and their year-round farm market.

In early January this year, the farm suffered a terrible fire that originated from the family's house. This called for much perseverance and motivation to repair the damages in order to keep their farm up and going. After less than a week, the farm reopened due to the dedication of the owners and community support. They weren't willing to let a bump in the road ruin their years of success. This goes to show how passionate Gottshalk and Walker are about their farm. Farming is more than a job to the Gottshalks; it represents freedom and "love of the land we live on," Erica Gottshalk explained. The declaration of the International Year of the Woman Farmer is succeeding at giving women in agriculture the acknowledgement they deserve. Gottshalk said, "Women are tough, resilient, caring, and take working seriously. We have many incredible women in agriculture around the state. I'm proud to stand as one of them!"

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It's a Balancing Act

Linda Whitten, Contributing Writer

As we age, our balance tends to deteriorate. Did you know that the loss of strength is a contributing factor to deteriorating balance? Your muscles, bones and nervous system all work together to maintain balance. So, the stronger your muscles – especially those in your core, legs and ankles – the better your stability will be to keep your center of gravity aligned. If your muscles are weak, even minor stumbles could lead to bad falls.

Your brain also benefits from strength training. When you perform strength training exercises, you stimulate your brain to allow you to move better in your positioning and in the environment around you, such as climbing stairs or walking on uneven pathways, slippery sidewalks and driveways. Research has shown that people who perform regular strength training fall less often than those who don't; and should they fall, it is more likely a bruise than a break. I have heard of many friends and neighbors who have taken bad falls this winter, ending up in the emergency room with badly sprained ankles or broken wrists. Remember, common sense matters too. Wearing your eyeglasses, proper shoes and boots and having a clear range of vision can help to ensure you don't take a tumble.

The good news is that you can improve

and maintain a more stable posture. Start by focusing on bodyweight exercises. Begin with exercises you can perform comfortably and then increase your weights to challenge yourself. Perform balance exercises, practice yoga or tai chi. Be sure you have the proper technique and form to make the most of your routine. Exercising three times each week will provide you with the consistency you need to make your sessions a habit. Speak with your physician, physical therapist or fitness trainer regarding an exercise program that is right for you and your goals.

You're never too young or too fit to work on improving your balance. It is a great way to help protect and preserve your body and brain health.



Linda Whitten, a long-time resident of Gorham, recently retired from a career in HR. She volunteers as a program community educator for the Alzheimer's Association, is a member of the Rehabilitation and Survivorship Task Force for the Maine Cancer Foundation and serves on the Board of Trustees for Greater Portland Landmarks.

Fat Bike Season Is Here

Bill Moreno and Sam Morton, Contributing Writer

When the snow piles up, it isn't the end of the trail season. Most of us are familiar with snowshoes, cross country skis, and snowmobiles, but for a growing number of people fat biking is becoming a great way to get outside during winter. Fortunately, Gorham residents don't have to travel far for fun trails to do any of these activities, and we're home to some of the best fat biking in the state.

At first glance, a fat bike looks like a mountain bike on steroids. The big difference is the 4" to 5" wide tires that help the bike "float" better on packed snow and provide better traction. These tires are also available with studs to provide extra grip on icy trails. While the extra wide tires help the bike float, deeper snow still needs to be packed firm before riding, similar to conditions for cross-country skiing. Trails are groomed by a SnowDog - a motorized, tracked sled, similar to a snowmobile without the skis. A SnowDog is compact and nimble for negotiating narrow, twisty trails. These machines are owned and maintained by Greater Portland New England Mountain Biking Association (GPNE MBA) and are used by trained volunteers who regularly groom over 20 miles of trails at the Lavoie Bike Park, Tannery Brook Preserve and the Hamblen network. The paths at Cherry Hill Farm are also an option.

Snowmobile trails can also be used by fat bikes, but please respect all posted signs. Some snowmobile trails may not have landowner approval for multi-use activities. And if you ride, snowshoe or ski on a snowmobile trail, please pay extra attention for snowmobiles (do not wear headphones). You can check with Gorham SnoGoers about their trail use policy.

If you are ready to give fat biking a try but don't have a bike, check in with local bike shops; several offer fat bike rent-

als. They can also give you guidance to determine if your current bike is good for winter riding. Rentals may also be available at some cross-country ski trail centers.

Gearing up for winter riding is a balance of staying warm and not overheating. Fat biking can require high exertion and it's important to avoid the "sweat-chill." If you dress like you're going downhill skiing, there's potential to overheat. Dress in layers you can easily add or remove to regulate your heat.

Once you're geared up, these tips will help maximize the fun. The best time to ride is when the snow is packed enough so that you're not struggling to pedal. If your tires are making a rut in the groomed track it's best to turn around. It's greatly appreciated if skiers, snowshoers, walkers and trail runners follow the same guidance. A deep boot imprint, or "post hole," can damage the trails for other users. Also, just like with driving, you'll need more time to slow down and stop, and corners can be a bit slippery. Remember that many of the trails in Gorham are on private land and are multi-use; please be respectful to landowners and share the trail. Snowshoeing and cross-country skiing on groomed tracks are always welcome. Beyond the physical workout, fat biking can offer a thrill of zipping along a snowy track or it can be a quiet, serene ride through a snow-covered forest, far away from the slushy salt of the roads. Either way, it's a great way to get outside in winter and enjoy your local trails all year round.

Bill Moreno is Gorham conservation chairman and Sam Morton is VP of Greater Portland New England Mountain Biking Association. Both are Gorham residents.

Financial Focus: Aging Parents

Jessica Szafranski, Contributing Writer

As your parents grow older, it may be time to talk with them about financial and aging issues, which may involve difficult conversations.

You'll want to be careful how you approach this. Mention ahead of time that you'd like to talk to them about their future plans and reassure them that you want to understand their wishes, so their affairs will be taken care of as they would like.

If your parents are agreeable, choose a comfortable location and ask whom to invite (or not invite). Then, think about how to open the conversation, preferably not with what they want to do with their money, as this could be interpreted as your seeking information about your inheritance or being skeptical about their financial decisions. Instead, build a broader discussion about their vision for their aging years. A series of shorter conversations may allow you to cover topics more comfortably rather than trying to solve everything at once.

Health care – Seek to learn whether your parents have established appropriate health-related legal documents, such as a health care power of attorney, which gives someone the authority to make decisions about their medical care if they become unable, and a living will, which spells out the extraordinary medical treatments they may or may not want.

Independence – As people age, they may begin to lose their independence. Have your parents considered options for long-term care, such as an assisted living community, a nursing home or a home health aide? If they plan to receive support from family members, do your parents' expectations match yours?

Financial goals – Focusing on the personal and financial aspects of the legacy your parents want to leave can be a valuable conversation. Have they updated their will or other estate documents, such as a living

trust? Have they created a durable power of attorney for a trusted family member to make financial decisions for them if they become incapacitated? Do they have the proper beneficiary designations on their insurance policies, retirement plan and bank accounts? If you position these issues around your parents having control over transferring their assets, rather than curiosity over "who will get what," you'll more likely have a productive conversation.

Last wishes – You'll want to learn whether your parents have instructions in their will about their funerals and last wishes. Express that you or another close family member should know who is responsible for making sure their wishes are met in a timely fashion.

Money, independence and aging can be sensitive topics. You don't have to go it alone, though — enlist help from another close family member. Or, if your parents work with an attorney, financial professional or other trusted advisor, consider asking if they're interested in having them participate in your talks. You might even be able to introduce your parents to one of your advisors.

In any case, keep talking. These conversations can be challenging, but if handled correctly can be of great benefit to your parents and your entire family.



Jessica Szafranski is a Gorham-based financial advisor specializing in retirement planning, investing and saving for education. This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

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SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

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February Town Council Meeting

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

The Gorham Town Council met for their monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 3. Chairperson Suzanne Phillips called the meeting to order and all seven members were present. Their first action was to approve the minutes of the Jan. 6 regular meeting. (7-0)

Nine members of the public addressed the board. All were concerned about the proposed Amazon project and the lack of transparency in this sale process and the effects that it will have on traffic, property values, small businesses in town and quality of life for the neighbors of this project.

Each council member was provided the opportunity to provide updates. Councilor Siegel noted the recent death of Geraldine Day and her commitment to the town through the Baxter Library, the medical closet, the Lake Region Senior Center and others. Siegel also touted the GHS musical, "Something Rotten." Chairperson Phillips noted the work of the Affordable Housing Committee and the Cemetery Committee and also noted that she attended the grand opening of the Big Moose Harley-Davidson business in town.

Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak reminded community members that the transition to digital applications is continuing and hopes to be completed by March. He thanked all of the town crews for their work on the 29 weather events that have required service this season. He also thanked the municipal staff and volunteers for their work on the ice rinks around town, and noted that there are several open positions on town boards and committees.

Nicole Yeo-Fisher, the chair of the Gorham School Committee, reported on a student-led walkout on Jan. 30 that involved approximately 130 high school students and 25 middle school students. In addition, she reported that district leaders participated in an emergency response tabletop exercise with local emergency personnel on Jan. 13, and that the school budget process is continuing. She also recognized the theater students at GHS for their successful musical and the unified basketball team for their continuing demonstration of inclusivity, teamwork and school spirit.

The council approved (7-0) to adopt a statement on Gorham community values, including the affirmation of the value of each resident and a commitment to ensure that our community continues to be a safe and inclusive place for all residents to live.

The council voted (7-0) to renew the applications of the six massage licenses of the six businesses in town. This renewal is done annually.

The council voted (7-0) to amend the Land Use and Development Code to establish all abutter notification requirements to 500 ft. In addition, they also amended this code (7-0) to allow for more digital application submissions, and changed (7-0) the number of rooms that constitute an "inn."

The council voted (7-0) to amend the Fire Suppression Systems Ordinance to allow a one-time-exception for a "gift lot" and the Ordinance Committee will continue to review and recommend changes to this procedure as necessary.

The council voted (5-2, Phillips, Dearborn) to establish a six-month moratorium on large-scale (over 100 units) mobile park rental increases. There were concerns about the duplication of an existing state law and the methods of monitoring and enforcement.

The council voted (5-2, Phillips, Dearborn) to authorize the Ordinance Committee to review the issue of rent stabilization in large-scale mobile parks and to make a recommendation to the full council.

The council accepted (7-0) the resignation of Sarah Jackson from the Gorham Economic Development Corporation and thanked her for her many years of service to the board. They appointed Corinne Sampson to a position on that board with her term to expire in 2027.

The council tabled (6-1, Kuesch) a proposal to forward to the Ordinance Committee a proposal to update and clarify the town's quarry and gravel processing operations ordinances. There was a long discussion about the need for clarity in direction and possible involvement of industry consultative services.

Action to release \$11,287 to reimburse the Gorham SnoGoers for construction costs of a new trail bridge off Mighty Street was approved. (7-0)

The council approved (6-1, Hamblin) the release of \$1,992,590 in tax increment financing funds for a sewer main project on Main Street between Mosher's Corner and Shamrock Drive.

The council approved (7-0) the Town Council goals for the 2026 year.

The council approved the release of development transfer overlay funds for the purpose of preserving active farmland in the rural district in the amount of \$20,000 to preserve the Gordon Farm in North Gorham.

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.



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Notes from Public Works

Kelly Meslin, Public Works Department

Winter has finally found us! Low temps and plenty of snow to keep this crew busy!

Reminder during the winter months:

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.

Please give the plows room to do their job. They are keeping the roads clear for your safe travel.

The Public Works office and garage will be closed Monday, Feb. 16 in observance of Presidents Day.

Please note that there will be NO CHANGES to the trash collection schedule the week of Feb. 16.

For all information regarding Gorham Public Works, follow us on Facebook at: Gorham - ME Public Works Department. <https://gorhammaine.gov/public-works-department>.

Recapping Recent Town Meetings

Sally Fay, Staff Writer

The planned Robie Street Subdivision and pedestrian safety and walkability concerns were among the topics addressed in recent town board and committee meetings.

The Planning Board meeting on Feb. 2 included a public hearing regarding the subdivision and site plan review of phases 1M-4 of the Robie Street Subdivision, a proposed development on 131+/- acres of land behind Village Elementary School, zoned Contract Zone and Urban Residential (UR) / Urban Residential Expansion (UREXP). The board approved the preliminary subdivision and the site plan, both with conditions, 5 Ayes, 2 Absent (Nichols, Benson).

The meeting also included a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the Land Use Development Code to allow additional driveway curb cuts to access accessory dwelling units on low-traffic roads if certain conditions are met. The board moved to send the item to the Town Council with a recommendation for adoption, 5 Ayes, 2 Absent (Nichols, Benson).

In a meeting of the Capital Improvement Projects/ Economic Development Committee on Jan. 15, committee members reviewed and discussed cost-effective street safety and walkability improvements in the Gorham Village area, an issue earlier referred by the Town Council. Sidewalks and connecting roads within and extending from the proposed Robie Street development were among the topics addressed.

Details on the latest agendas and work of these and other town boards and committees can be accessed at <https://www.gorhammaine.gov/boards>.





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Student-Led ICE Walkout at Gorham High School

Gorham Times Staff

Gorham High School students organized a school walkout on Jan. 30 to protest against the corruption of ICE. As ICE becomes more active throughout Maine, many nearby communities are being heavily affected. Even within Gorham, we know of people afraid to leave their homes, and they live every day with the fear of being captured by ICE. Frustrated about the ICE operations, four juniors at Gorham High School arranged the walkout for students to stand up against ICE's actions. The students faced challenges to make this protest happen. But they persevered because they knew the difference that even a small protest could make. One of the leaders of the walkout said, "I've always thought of Gorham and Maine as somewhere where bad things don't really happen, though unfortunately

we found ourselves in the midst of this." Many students wore all black in solidarity. Countless students gathered outside the school, in the parking lot. Many of them carried creative signs about abolishing ICE, and student speakers were invited to use their voices. One of the organizers noted "a particular sense of community amongst students which I had never experienced previously." Another emphasized, "The important thing is that we stand up for those who can't stand up for themselves." This protest represents activism in the Gorham community and in the younger generation. As one of the walkout leaders noted, "It doesn't matter how young we are, we have a huge impact. The perspectives of young generations are crucial in creating a peaceful future where all demographics can live among one another."

NSB Donates to Scholarship

Gorham Times Staff

A shortage of skilled trades workers is a daily challenge to business leaders from around Maine, according to Chrissi Moody, board member of the Maine Blue Collar Scholarship Foundation. The foundation was created and designed by these leaders to remove barriers for motivated individuals pursuing careers in the trades. "Last year, we awarded over 100 scholarships to passionate individuals to assist with the cost of tools, equipment, or continuing education," said Moody.

"We are challenging the belief that a traditional four-year college degree is the only path to success. We champion a future where working with your hands, solving complex problems, and creating innovative solutions as carpenters, electricians, mechanics, welders, plumbers, and many more occupations are recognized and respected." In that spirit, Norway Savings recently donated \$1,000 to their efforts FMI: Visit <https://mainebluecollar.com/>.

Great Falls Career Fair

Julie Murray, Great Falls School Secretary



Photo Credit: Julie Murray
Great Falls Career Fair had two days of Career Fairs. They were a huge success. Grades 3, 4, and 5 students created resumes highlighting their skills and explored careers that matched their interests. There was so much to see and learn, and our presenters were absolutely incredible.

When Will My Mail Be Postmarked?

Lori Arsenault, Managing Editor

After news from another state emerged about how mailpieces may be postmarked several days late, we checked with our postal staff in Gorham. The Gorham Times has been advised that postal customers who wish to obtain a postmark aligning with the date of mailing may request a manual

(local) postmark at a retail location. Customers who wish to retain a record or proof of the date on which the Postal Service first accepted possession of their mailpiece(s) may purchase a Certificate of Mailing. Registered Mail and Certified Mail services also provide mailing receipts for individual mailpieces.

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Liana Edwards - Varsity Maine Volleyball Player of the Year

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo Credit: Eric Tirrell

Liana Edwards and teammates early in the season

Liana Edwards has been named this year’s Varsity Maine Player of the Year for the second consecutive year in volleyball. A number of big hits and a big impact helped define Edwards’ junior season. Edwards is described as a key setter and attacker proving her versatility on the court. Luckily for the Rams, Edwards has one more season to play in a Rams uniform before she heads to college. She has committed to play Division I at the University of Rhode Island. Coach Emma Tirrell shared, “She has been a huge contributor to the program and has been recognized by many different platforms including last year’s Gatorade Player of the Year and Michael Hoffer’s Player of the Year that covers Cumberland County.” Above all else, Edwards has been a key leader of the Rams’ three back-to-back-to-back state championships, a first-ever in high school volleyball. Coach Tirrell shared the program’s successes and stated, “Our continued winning culture comes from our kids committing to our program being as elite as possible.” Club play in the off season, summer volleyball and everyday hard work during the in-season all are key contributors to their continued team success. In addition to Edwards, her teammates add plenty of talent. Lauren Dunbar will be a huge loss as she is graduating. Returning core teammates include Ava Scott, Kasey Plaud, Luna Button, and Addyson Hutchins. Coach Tirrell emphasized, “The girls

are proud to represent Gorham and we have huge parent and community support. Our team has experience in big games now, allowing them to feel more confident when we reach another. We have lower chances of underperforming due to our experience.” Similar to the 2024 season, the Rams lost early matches at home but the team once again turned things around, especially in the playoffs. It will be exciting to see what next season brings for the 3-Peat champs.



Photo Credit: Eric Tirrell

Liana Edwards in action during the state championship v. TA

Track & Field Teammates Compete in BU Terrier Classic

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo Credit: Coach Jason Tanguay

Juniors Jack Cyr and Antoine Dube are both having an outstanding track and field season. They recently qualified and competed in the BU Terrier Classic. The event is a prestigious annual two-day indoor track and field meet hosted by Boston University Athletics. The classic is known for its fast, banked track. It attracts top-tier athletes aiming for personal records and national qualifying times. According to their coach, Jason Tanguay, they had the opportunity to compete against some great college competition. They have now run the fastest and second-fastest 400 meters out of all high school runners in Maine this season. Congratulations to Cyr and Dube.



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Dakota 38 Documentary Film to be Shown at First Parish

John Ersek, Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of Silas Hagerty/ Smooth Feather

A showing of the film "Dakota 38" will take place at 6 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 27, at First Parish UCC Church.

The film tells the story of the December 2008 commemorative ride by members of the Dakota tribe, who rode horses from Lower Brule, South Dakota to Mankato, Minnesota. The now-yearly ride commemorates the Dec. 26, 1862 execution of 38 indigenous Dakota men in Mankato, which took place just after the "Dakota Uprising" of 1862. (It is the largest mass execution in U.S. history.) The film will be introduced by local filmmaker Silas Hagerty, who will lead a discussion following the showing.

Gorham School Committee Special Meeting Jan. 28

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

Chairperson Nicole Yeo-Fisher called the meeting to order. Six members of the committee were present. (Eric Thistle)

The members of the committee took a facilities tour of the high school led by Principal Brian Jandreau and Assistant Principal Marc Sawyer.

Athletics Director Tim Spear presented an overview of the athletics program. Highlights of the program include high levels of student participation, three consecutive state championships in volleyball, strong support and high attendance at most athletic events, several athletes being honored with academic honors and all conference awards and many student athletes continuing their sport at the college level.

At GHS 290 students are involved in fall sports, 275 students involved in winter sports and 275 projected to play in the spring. At GHS, there are over 370 athletic events scheduled and another 250 at GMS annually. Students surveyed report that they play sports because it is fun, they enjoy being "part of the family," their friends play, they are good at it, and for college.

Curriculum coordinator Kim Fadrigan and GHS teacher Amber Hatch reported on the PreK to Grade 12 English and Language Arts Curriculum.

The core curricula, "Being a Reader and Being A Writer," are aligned with the Maine State Learning Results and involve exposure and repetition through full instruction, center work, small groups and independent work. The most recent data, fall NWEA scores, show student success rates to be at the post-COVID norms of the mid 70s percent-

tile with the goal of steadily increasing these success rates. At the high school level, there are a combination of heterogeneous groupings, academic honors challenge, advanced placement and an increasing list of choice semester classes.

The School Committee policy sub-committee is developing a cell phone policy and requested a full discussion of the topic before proceeding. Principal Jandreau and three students answered questions about the current procedure at the high school, which involves student access to phones between classes and at lunch but during class being collected into a cell phone "hotel." This procedure generally works at GHS.

There was a review of survey results from students, staff and parents, and discussion about the governor's proposal of a "bell-to-bell" system where phones are inaccessible during the school day. There appeared to be a consensus that although the bell to bell system was philosophically supported by several members of the committee, they did not want to draft a policy that ignored or changed a successful GHS program. There will be a second reading of the policy at the March School Committee meeting.

The committee reviewed a draft of the 2026-27 school calendar. Due to where the Labor Day holiday falls each year, changes from year to year occur. This calendar involves school opening before Labor Day and does not include two weeks in December like this year's calendar. A final decision on the calendar will be made at a regular School Committee meeting.

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Valentine's Day Quotes

"Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get—only with what you are expecting to give—which is everything."—Katharine Hepburn

"If not for you, my sky would fall. Rain would gather, too. Without your love, I'd be nowhere at all. I'd be lost, if not for you." - Bob Dylan

"The greatest happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved; loved for ourselves, or rather, loved in spite of ourselves."—Victor Hugo

"Where there is love there is life."—Mahatma Gandhi

"Nobody has ever measured, even poets, how much a heart can hold."—Zelda Fitzgerald

"Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down."—Oprah Winfrey

Real Estate Transfers, Sept. '25

ADDRESS	SELLER	BUYER	PRICE
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7 SUGAR WAY	SIMON M WILLCOX	DANIEL P ROSS	1,250,000.00
106 PLUMMER ROAD	THE FENWICK FAMILY REVOCABLE TRUST OF 2015	BROUGH RICHEY	900,000.00
279 FLAGGY MEADOW ROAD	CHARLES W. LORENZ	CHRISTOPHER HARMON	774,000.00
7 POLLWOG LANE	STEVEN P. TUKEY	MATTHEW ALBERT MURRAY	739,500.00
19 STRAW ROAD	CHRISTINA T. TRUONG	ASHLEY BOYLE	738,000.00
10 LEDGE HILL ROAD	URSULA D. GATES	ELIZABETH BERIAU	735,000.00
14 ELIZABETH STREET	VILLI P. ENDERS	MARTIN D. PEARLMAN	706,000.00
80 MAIN STREET	K.P. GAGNON COMPANY, LLC	80 MAIN, LLC	695,000.00
8 FARRINGTON ROAD	KENNETH M. SALZBERG	JOHN IGNATIUS KEATING, III	690,000.00
10 HARDING ROAD	HIER, ROBIN	JOHNSON, KATHRYN	665,000.00
176 FALCON CREST DRIVE, UNIT 53	COTTAGE ADVISORS ME, LLC	JESSE DANA	585,400.00
20 ELIZABETH STREET	LOIS M. MACDONALD	KAYLN ELISE BURGIO	575,000.00
178 FALCON CREST DRIVE, UNIT 54	COTTAGE ADVISORS ME, LLC	CAROLYN S. DINICOLA	574,900.00
32 JENNIFER WAY	SARAH W. REIDY	MADISON PERRY	555,000.00
170 FALCON CREST DRIVE, UNIT 52	COTTAGE ADVISORS ME, LLC	DEBRA A. MOORE	554,900.00
263 N GORHAM ROAD	KATHARINE T CORBETT	DANA L SONE	541,500.00
166 FALCON CREST DRIVE, UNIT 51	COTTAGE ADVISORS ME, LLC	PHILIP R. AFTHIM	534,900.00
12 GRAY ROAD	FARINIA, GERARD J	WOOD, WILLIAM D.	500,000.00
107 FINN PARKER ROAD	MARK FLOHR	KELSEY BROWN	495,000.00
255 MAIN STREET	JOHN H. HUTCHINS, III	VINAL DOODY	480,000.00
150 BRACKETT ROAD	CRAIG S FOGG	KEVIN F. CUNNIFF	460,000.00
75 NORTH GORHAM ROAD	KATHLEEN M. CARPENTIER	TYLER TENNEY	442,000.00
12 WILLOWDALE DRIVE	GEORGE D. HEPNER, III	AUSTIN PINE	415,000.00
8 WOODSIDE DRIVE, #1	8 WOODSIDE, LLC	KRISTA MARSTON	412,750.00
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Gabrielle Evans, Plymouth State University, Plymouth, New Hampshire
Sophiha Kalogerakis, Plymouth State University, Plymouth, New Hampshire

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Harrison Baber, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Worcester, Massachusetts
Hannah Bickford, Stonehill College, Easton, Massachusetts
Laura Burt, Western New England University, Springfield, Massachusetts
Connor Callahan, Western New England University, Springfield, Massachusetts
James Morrison, Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island

OF INTEREST

First Parish Church will hold a screening of the film "Dakota 38" on Friday, Feb. 27 at 6 p.m., 1 Church Street. The title refers to the hanging of 38 Dakota tribesmen during the presidency of Abraham Lincoln. The film tells the moving story of a dream by a Native spiritual leader in 2005 that results in an arduous, extraordinary trip of healing and reconciliation for a group of Native Americans. Local film-maker Silas Hagerty will be in attendance and will lead a discussion afterward.

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 also accepts CLEAN donations. The closet is only open Monday through Thursday, and only by appointment. 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 winter clothing. Share a cup of coffee with the staff while you browse.

The Gorham Food Pantry, located at 299-B Main Street (parking lot of St. Anne's Catholic Church), is open every Thursday morning from 10 a.m. to noon and is free for any Gorham resident in need. FMI, (207) 222-4351, visit <https://www.gorhamfoodpantry.org> or contact the director at director@gorhamfoodpantry.org.

SENIOR NEWS

Gorham Seniors Co-op meets weekly at 34 School Street in Gorham, Mondays at 10 a.m. for Games and Puzzles, and Wednesdays at 10 a.m. for Coffee and Conversation. Seniors from Gorham and neighboring communities are welcome. For more information visit: <https://www.gorhamarts.org/seniorscoop>.

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.

PUBLIC SUPPERS

The Gorham Knights of Columbus are hosting Lenten Fish Dinners Fridays, Feb. 20 through March 27, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Anne Church. Enjoy baked haddock, mashed potatoes, coleslaw, peas, rolls, dessert, and a beverage—all for just \$15 for adults, \$8 for kids. New this year, kids pizza meal is free, and \$8 for adults. Take-out is available, and credit cards are accepted. For more information, contact Gorhamkofcfishdinners@gmail.com.

LIBRARY NEWS

The North Gorham Public Library is a small, non-profit community library, looking for a dedicated volunteer with experience in fundraising and grant writing. Supporting North Gorham and Standish, 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. Sign up for the library's email weekly newsletter.

Baxter Memorial Library offers many reading events each week. On Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 6 p.m., Heather Perry, superintendent of schools, will hold the "Community Forum: Our Schools, Our Future." Check the calendar in this issue for what's coming up soon at the library. Children under the age of 8 require adult supervision. 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 NOTES

Two University of Southern Maine students are celebrating a combined three wins at the 2025 BroadwayWorld Maine Awards, earning statewide recognition for their work on professional and community stages. The annual awards, determined by audience vote, honor Maine's favorite theater productions and artists across both professional and non-professional productions. Senior theater major Emma Graffam earned the award for Best Performer in a Play (Professional) for her role as Shelby Hinkley in Out There Theater Company's production of I'm Gonna Marry You Tobey Maguire – her first professional acting award. Abbie Kneeland, a fifth-year music major in the Osher School of Music, won twice: Best Music Direction & Orchestra Performance (Non-Professional) for Lakewood Theater's production of Anything Goes, and Best Supporting Performer in a Musical (Non-Professional) for Lakewood Theater's production of Footloose. Learn more at: <https://usm.maine.edu/news/usm-theater-and-music-students-shine-at-2025-broadwayworld-maine-awards/>

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USM's New Athletics Director

By Patrick and Cindy O'Shea, Staff Writers

After leading the Athletic Department at the University of Southern Maine for 31 years, Al Bean retired and went on to become the commissioner of the Little East Conference. In May of 2025 John Sutyak replaced him.

Sutyak is a graduate of Scarborough High School, Wheaton College and Springfield College. He lives in Gorham with his wife and family.

When asked what attracted him to USM he said, "I knew it was a place I wanted to be. It has a great culture and atmosphere and successful athletic programs. I'm excited and honored to be here and getting my feet wet." He believes that the University's job is to develop leaders and to give back to the state. He also believes there is a strong longtime connection between the Town of Gorham and the University that he intends to continue to nurture and build upon. He said, "We want to be a partner with the town."

Some of the connections he intends to continue are the use of shared sports facilities, the connection with Cindy Hazelton and the Gorham Recreation Department, Gorham team nights and Gorham skate night. The connection to the Gorham business community is also one of his priorities. There is the joint committee of local town leaders and university leaders that meets periodically to facilitate working together.



Photo Credit: Eric Ogden, Eric Ogden Photography
John Sutyak, Director of Athletics at USM.

USM offers a strong variety of activities for Husky athletes in 23 different sports, 12 for women and 11 for men. John Sutyak plans to continue the legacy of excellence he has inherited. Sutyak's personal vision states, "My vision as an athletic director is to build an athletic department that sets the standard for excellence, integrity and inclusion. Through collaborative, empathetic leadership, I aim to cultivate a culture rooted in sportsmanship, accountability and shared purpose - one that empowers student-athletes and staff to reach their fullest potential and to emerge as principled leaders who positively shape their communities and the world beyond sport."

CALENDAR

- Thursday, Feb. 12**
Baxter Memorial Library, Toddler Storytime, 10 - 10:30 a.m.
Friends of Baxter Memorial Library Meeting, 6:15 p.m.
- Friday, Feb. 13**
USM Athletics Home Game: Men's Ice Hockey vs. UMass Dartmouth, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 14**
USM Athletics Home Game: Wrestling vs. Norwich University, noon
USM Athletics Home Game: Men's Ice Hockey vs. UMass Boston, 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 17**
Baxter Memorial Library, Board Game Day, 10 a.m. - noon
Baxter Memorial Library, Dogs Dig Reading/Lizards Love Literacy, 4 - 5 p.m.
Gorham Conservation Commission Meeting, Municipal Center, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 18**
Baxter Memorial Library, Frankie Fandom Day, 10 a.m. - noon
- Thursday, Feb. 19,**
Baxter Memorial Library, Big Blue Blocks!, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Sewing Class for Kids, 4 - 5:30 p.m., Limited Spots
Gorham Board of Appeals Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Municipal Center
- Friday, Feb. 20**
USM Athletics Home Game: Women's Ice Hockey, vs. Keene State, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 21**
Baxter Memorial Library, Pokemon Club, 10 a.m. - noon
USM Athletics Home Game: Men's Lacrosse vs. Thomas College, 11 a.m.;
Women's Basketball vs. Vermont State, noon; Men's Basketball vs. Vermont State, 2 p.m.; Women's Ice Hockey vs. Keene State, 3 p.m.
Gorham Historic Preservation Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Municipal Center
- Tuesday, Feb. 24**
Baxter Memorial Library, PreK and Kindergarten Readiness Storytime, 10 - 11 a.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Community Forum: Our Schools, Our Future, 6 p.m.
USM Athletics Home Game: Women's Lacrosse vs. University of NE, 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 25**
Baxter Memorial Library, Baby Storytime, 9:30 - 10 a.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 26**
Gorham Affordable Housing Committee Meeting, 11 a.m., Municipal Center
- NOTE: USM Athletics, Little East Conference Tournament, 2/24 and 2/25 TBA

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

Courtesy of the Gorham Police Department

the blotter

A citizen came in and stated that he wanted options for dealing with someone that was harassing him. Dispatch gave him the proper advice and he stated that if he talked to the person it would make it worse. So he is going to the courts to get a PFH.

A citizen wanted a call back after reporting that a fire alarm in her building had gone off and asked why it occurred and whether everything was ok. Officer informed her that the Gorham Fire Department had cleared the building and confirmed it was a false alarm. She acknowledged this information and asked if it might happen again. Officer explained there could be no guarantee that it would not occur in the future, and asked if she had any further questions. She did not.

A citizen was asked to keep a phone light on if he is walking on the road.

Caller was receiving mail from someone at her residence as well as phone calls. She asked if this was a tactic used to have someone take out a mortgage on her home and officer had never heard of that being used.

Citizen stated that she believed she had a tracker on her car, and PPD advised her to come over to Gorham for services. Officer advised her of an app she can use while in her vehicle to verify. Officer made contact with the detective about this, and will be following up with the citizen afterwards.

FedEx driver was stuck in the snow, and could not move. Officer arrived and was able to assist him out of the snow and he was on his way.

Officer found a person parked at the Park and Ride planning on sleeping there for the night. Officer allowed it and cautioned him from making it a habit.

Caller reported a deceased cat that was found in the road on Shaws Mill road. It had been hit sometime the night prior.

While on routine patrol, officer noticed a vehicle pulled over and a male walking around in front of it with a flashlight. Officer stopped and spoke to him. He said the night prior he dropped his wallet and its tracker showed it was right here. While walking around they located a few items from the wallet but most had flown out. After searching for a while, officer advised that GPD would call him if anyone turned in any more items from it.

Caller on Gray Road reported a grey vehicle parked in the middle of the parking lot. Caller advised that they have not moved for half an hour. Officer arrived on scene and saw the vehicle in question. Officer spoke with the operator who advised the officer that he was waiting to pick up something and he was thinking about getting something to eat. Officer advised the operator that he needed to move and he then left the area.

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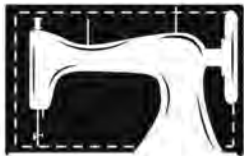
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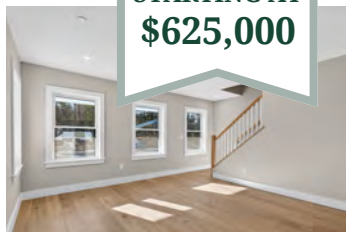
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