

Gorham Times

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Lakes Region Art Studio Exhibition

John Tiedje, Staff Writer



Photo Credit: John Tiedje

Work on display from the Lakes Region Art Studio in the Baxter Memorial Library this month.

The Lakes Region Art Studio is on exhibit in the Baxter Memorial Library for the month of March. The show features work in a variety of mediums: watercolor, acrylic and oil paints. Pastel drawings and book constructions are also presented. Floral, landscapes, portraits (human and animal), abstract and still life are the variety of subject matter.

The Lakes Region Art Studio has been a welcoming place for artists working in all mediums for several years. The studio is part of the Lakes Region Senior Center. The center can be found in the Little Falls Recreation Center off of Route 202.

Most of the pieces on display are for sale. Drop by the library and get a good sampling of work from our local artists.

GHS Student at the State House

Kelli Deveaux, Staff Writer



Photo Credit: Kelli Deveaux

GHS and WRVC junior Jackson Lavertu prepares to take the podium alongside Dwight Littlefield, Maine Department of Education's Career and Technical Education Director.

Last month Gorham's own Jackson Lavertu, a junior at Gorham High School, addressed educators, legislators and students in the Hall of Flags at our state's Capitol Building in Augusta. A second-year student with the Building Trades program at Westbrook Regional Vocational Technical

Institute, Lavertu was selected as one of two student speakers statewide to share his perspective on the value and impact of Career and Technical Education (CTE).

He was poised as he shared that through his time at WRVC he has "learned the importance of work ethic, integrity, and showing up ready to do your best every single day." Lavertu noted that these skills have helped him with the forming and growing of his woodworking business, JBL Woodworking, where he has turned his passion into a profession, making and selling handcrafted cutting boards and kitchen utensils, and has begun working on furniture pieces.

He reminded all present that "Career and Technical Education isn't a backup plan; it's a smart plan. CTE students like us aren't just learning skills, we're stepping into careers that are needed, respected and in high demand."

This was not Lavertu's first time representing the quality and value of Maine's CTE programming.

A State of Maine first place winner in last year's Skills USA cabinetmaking competition, Lavertu competed last summer at the national level, where he ranked 16th out of 39 competitors.

Gorham Hockey Team Battles York in the Regional Finals

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo Credit: Gorham Ice Hockey Association

Gorham Boys Ice Hockey Team 2025-26 playoffs

Reaching the Regional Finals in high school hockey is a significant achievement, this being the second consecutive season for them. The Rams playoff journey began on Feb. 24, going in as the No. 1 seed taking on No. 8 Gardiner in the quarterfinal game. The Rams cruised to victory with a 4-0

win. Levi Wagner picked up a goal and assisted. This led the team to the semifinals against a Poland/GNG team. The Rams came out on top 3-2. Wagner scored the game winner with Zach McCormick and Everett Michaud also scoring. The Regional Final took place on March

4 between No. 1 Gorham Rams and No. 2 York Wildcats at the Cross Arena in Portland. Gorham and York met during the regular season just 21 days prior to the Regionals. The teams had split with one win apiece. With both teams knowing the strengths of one another, they were well prepared for this high-stakes showdown.

The Wildcats came out strong, scoring a goal three minutes into the game. Gorham countered seven minutes later with a goal by freshman Isaiah Waterman on a power play with help from seniors Wagner and Andrew Collins. York countered with a quick puck possession and goal, making the score 2-1. The second period proved to be the same back-and-forth goal scoring on both sides.

York opened the second period scoring two minutes in. The Rams battled hard throughout the period, having numerous goal scoring opportunities, including two power plays, but were unable to find the back of the net.

Gorham's Zack McCormick eventually brought the Rams within one with a crucial goal assisted by Jackson Altham with two minutes remaining in the period. The Rams fought hard in the third period but it concluded with an empty net goal for York, ending the game with a score of 4-2.

Gorham coach Shawn Sullivan shared with local media, "It could have gone either way. That first period, they came out hard. We have a lot of young guys, too, and I think it was kind of an eye-opener for them at the start, but I think we really settled in. We had our chances, and Connor Thibault had some great saves for them. You have to be on your game to beat them."

"They don't give up. They just keep going and going, and they have dangerous players," York coach Peter Douris said about the Rams.

The Rams end a very successful 2025-26 season with a record of 16-5. Congratulations to the team and Coach Sullivan.

The Gorham Times is gathering information from the public about the possibility of an Amazon warehouse coming to town. Complete our survey here: <https://tinyurl.com/2xhh5s7f>

To have a copy of the survey mailed to you, contact us at (207) 839-8390.

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FIRST ROBOTICS
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A Budget Prioritizing Affordability and Healthy Communities

By Rep. Ellie Sato

With the second session of the 132nd Legislature in full swing, my colleagues and I have begun working on the supplemental budget – changes to the two-year budget the Legislature passed last year. This budget is one of the most important pieces of legislation in the second session, and it will play a critical role in shaping the direction of our state in the near future.

Gov. Janet Mills released her budget proposal at the end of January. Now, it's in the hands of the Legislature, and we are working with the governor, state departments and agencies, public-interest groups, and the public to finalize a balanced budget, as required under the Maine Constitution.

This session, the budget will reflect Maine Democrats' continued commitment to the foundations that support healthy communities, like public education and access to health care. It will also prioritize measures that provide relief to address the increasing cost of living. The governor's budget proposal includes many provisions aimed at making progress in these areas, but the entire bill will undergo rigorous negotiation over the coming weeks.

Addressing affordability includes maintaining the state share of K-12 public education costs at 55% and state-funded direct relief programs like the Property Tax Fairness Credit and the Homestead Exemption, so costs for local services don't fall more on municipalities and further increase property taxes.

In order to offset increased costs for families, the proposed state budget also includes

additional funds to ensure Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients can continue to put food on the table. Moving forward, many of the services that Mainers rely on will receive drastically reduced federal funding.

Federal cuts are having a significant impact. To address this, more state funds will be needed to support our state Medicaid program, MaineCare, as well as family planning services, which include cancer screenings, vaccinations, access to birth control, and testing and treatment for STIs. Significant funds will also need to be dedicated to comply with MaineCare work requirements imposed by Congress, which will cost the state \$3.8 million.

In addition to the budget, Democrats are working on a slate of bills to address the affordability crisis, including legislation that would remove the sales tax on all Mainers' residential electricity bills, build more affordable housing and help Maine homebuyers lower their mortgage rates, putting homeownership back within reach of more working families.

To address the ongoing health care crisis, we are also working on legislation like LD 2208, An Act to Offset Federal Cuts to Health Insurance for Certain Maine Families and Seniors, which would provide funding to rural hospitals, stabilize insurance costs and support MaineCare's accessibility.

As a part of my work serving on the legislature's Judiciary Committee, we are reviewing several initiatives in the budget to preserve Mainers' constitutional

rights and access to justice. These initiatives would provide much-needed funding for public defense services to continue to address the Sixth Amendment constitutional crisis, and ensure that every Mainer has the right to due process protected.

Another judiciary-related issue in the budget that I have been tracking closely is funding for the inventory and tracking of sexual-assault kits. Right now, Maine is the only state in the nation that has not passed legislation to meaningfully address forensic examination kit backlog and processing issues. Funding this legislation will be just one step of progress towards expanding access to justice for survivors of sexual assault.

We have a lot more work to do, but I am confident that the passage of a supplemental budget will have a positive and lasting impact across Maine and right here in Gorham. It speaks to our commitment to addressing the pressing needs of our community and ensuring a brighter future for all Mainers.

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 directly 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,

Amazon is a multinational technology company mostly known as the world's largest shopping retailer, but also engaged in things like Artificial Intelligence. The Town of Gorham is currently near (April) completing sale of a parcel of land off of Route 25 in Gorham allegedly to be used as a distribution warehouse. In 2019 the then current Town Council presented a bond referendum question to Gorham voters to purchase the land for development, but not for potential sale to any particular entity such as Amazon.

Important!: voters did not vote on approval of the site as an Amazon distribution center. Since the time the Town engaged with Amazon for sale of the property, there have been no public meetings held (either by the Town or Amazon) to review the details and potential impacts of the proposed distribution center. The sale appears possibly near finalization (April). Meanwhile Gorham residents have become increasingly aware of the sale and significant negative impacts, including potentially changing forever Gorham's small town character cherished by long-time and new residents (some of whom moved here for that reason). The potential negative impacts are many and positive impacts (good jobs and tax relief) are dubious on closer look. At the March 3, 2026 Council Meeting several

residents commented on impacts. Those comments can be seen on the Town of Gorham website: Gorham Government Education Television: Town Council Meeting 3/3/26: Communications and Reports. It's my belief that if a referendum vote or a public meeting was held at this time, residents would not approve a sale to Amazon knowing what is now known. It is now up to Gorham's current Town Council to make a decision that reflects the type of Town residents want to preserve. There are ways out of the sale to Amazon, well worth whatever the price. Jeff Christiansen, Gorham

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Upcoming Advertising

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March 18

April 1

April 15

April 28

Conference on Palestine Held at First Parish After USM Cancellation

John Ersek, Staff Writer



Photo Credit: John Ersek

Reverend Christine Dyke welcomes conference participants to First Parish UCC church

After nearly being canceled, the “Consequence of Palestine” conference took place at Gorham’s First Parish United Church of Christ on Saturday, Feb. 28. The conference was sponsored by the Maine Coalition for Palestine and Maine Voices for Palestinian Rights.

Approximately 300 people were registered to attend, from all around New England. According to organizers, most were able to attend despite the change of venue, and about 100 people participated via a video connection.

The event had been scheduled to take place on USM’s Portland campus. However, just five days before the conference was supposed to begin, USM administrators informed organizers that they had rescinded permission to hold it on campus. The conference organizers then began exploring alternate options, including First Parish UCC church.

In an email, Reverend Christine Dyke stated “in talking with them, I knew they were having a difficult time finding a space because of the treasury designation of the first speaker. We knew that it would be a low risk event for the church, so we were glad to say “yes.” As a congregation we engage in many justice projects, and this was an event that addressed the injustice in Palestine, and the injustice of silencing an employee of the UN who was speaking truth to power.”

A university spokesperson said the cancellation happened because one of the planned participants was barred

from participating, even via video call, without specific Treasury Department approval (which the university believed had not been obtained).

According to organizers, USM’s chief objection to the conference was the planned participation (via video call) of Francesca Albanese, an Italian who has been designated as “U.N. Rapporteur for Human Rights in the Occupied Palestinian Countries.” Last year, the U.S. government objected to certain comments Albanese had made and sanctioned her, barring her from receiving funds from any U.S. enterprise. Organizers stated that they believed they were in compliance with the federal rules.

In the end, Albanese’s video participation from Italy went ahead as scheduled.

In an email, a conference organizer stated that overall the conference was “excellent.” She went on to refer to “a spirit of community and resilience, as we had rallied together to find a new venue and hustled to take care of the logistics with just a few days’ lead time.” She added “registration numbers surged after people found out about USM’s actions. The conference participants came from around New England. The response was universally enthusiastic, especially when Francesca Albanese spoke remotely.”

One of the main purposes of the conference was to highlight the deaths of over 70,000 civilian Palestinians in Gaza

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Photo Credit: John Ersek

United Nations representative Francesca Albanese addresses “Consequence of Palestine” conference on a video call from Italy

Financial Focus: Unlock the Full Potential of Your 401(k)

Jim Flagg, Contributing Writer

Your 401(k) is one of the most powerful tools for securing your financial future. But are you using it to its full potential? Here are some strategies to help you maximize its benefits.

Earn your employer’s match. It’s a good idea to contribute as much as you can afford to your 401(k) plan. In 2026, you can put in up to \$24,500, or \$32,500 if you’re 50 or older. If your plan allows, there’s also a “super catch-up” contribution of \$11,250 for people aged 60 to 63, for a total contribution limit of \$35,750. At least put in enough to earn a matching contribution if one is offered. Otherwise, you’re shortchanging yourself. For example: Your employer matches 50% of your contribution up to \$5,000. If you put in \$8,000, your employer’s 50% match is \$4,000, and you’re leaving \$1,000 “on the table.”

Give your plan a raise. When your income increases, consider increasing contributions to your 401(k). When you get a bonus or a tax refund, you could use some or all of

that to boost your retirement savings.

When you invest in a traditional 401(k), you contribute pre-tax dollars, lowering your taxable income that year. Your earnings grow tax-deferred and are taxed when you withdraw. If your employer offers a Roth 401(k), you contribute after-tax dollars, so your taxable income doesn’t drop that year. However, withdrawals in retirement, contributions and earnings alike, are generally tax-free. (Employer matching contributions and related earnings remain taxable.) If you expect a higher tax bracket in retirement or want to diversify tax treatment for flexibility in retirement, consider the Roth option. In 2026, the Roth option must be used for catch-up contributions if you earn more than \$150,000 and you are 50 or older. Consult your tax advisor before deciding.

Build an appropriate investment mix. You may have multiple investment options in your 401(k). The driving principle early on is growth so your

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Car Care

Doug Carter, Contributing Writer

New Hampshire has repealed its state requirement for an annual emission and safety inspection as of Feb. 13, 2026. A federal judge has blocked the move. Gordon-Darby is an out-of-state contractor responsible for the state inspection emission testing. They have filed a lawsuit to prevent the repeal. Their position is that removing the program violates the Clean Air Act. The state is exploring options to comply with the court's order.

Will Maine follow suit? Here is why I believe the law should not be repealed in our state. Yes, most vehicles on the road are in decent condition and are safe for the road, and most people are responsible with their vehicles and take care of them. But having a state safety inspection law is no different than having DUI laws or speed limits or any other law that helps keep people safe.

The laws are there for the few people who don't want to follow them. Most people don't drive drunk or speed—not just because it's the law but because they are responsible for their actions. It's the few that either don't care or are just too ignorant to know better. For \$18.50 in Cumberland County (\$12.50 in the rest of the state) you can have your vehicle checked out and get a knowledgeable opinion on its safety. That is a bargain price considering most shops charge from \$150 to \$200 an hour.

Why the price difference in Cumberland County? That is Maine's way of complying with the Clean Air Act. Cumberland County has the most registered vehicles so by applying the emission standard to those vehicles it is satisfying the regulation for the whole state. Why doesn't the whole state have to comply? I have asked this question for 30 years since it was enacted in 1996. The best response I have received from the State Police is that the shops in the other counties can't afford the equipment needed to properly diagnose and repair emission-related

failures, and the people living in the rest of the state cannot afford to repair their vehicles that have emission-related failures. Catalytic converters are one example. This seems unfair to make the people of Cumberland County bear the weight to comply with a federal mandate.

I have had some vehicles in my shop with such worn brakes or broken coil springs that it's hard to believe the owner wouldn't have noticed a problem. Is our system perfect? Of course not. The safety inspection is no different than it was when it was implemented in 1930. The sticker station buys stickers from the State Police. This funds the program, testing technicians and enforcement.

I believe it's time to update the system to the twenty-first century. Charge a more appropriate fee for an inspection: \$40 to \$60.

A large percentage of that would fund the administration of the program. It's been \$18.50 for the last 30 years. Have a website that the shops would have access to. Enter the vehicle plate number; all the pertinent information would be brought up. Plug a bluetooth dongle into the data link connector that would read the vehicle's readiness monitors and any fault codes. If it passed then the sticker would be printed. If it failed, that information would be stored and if the customer tried another shop the information would be on record. That's my opinion. I welcome yours.



Doug Carter is the owner of Carter's Auto Service, Inc. He's been in the auto service business since graduating from Gorham

High School in 1981.

Financial Focus CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

plan can fund a long retirement. But growth-oriented investments are naturally riskier than fixed-income vehicles. When starting your career, you may prefer a portfolio weighted toward aggressive growth, as you have years to recover from downturns. Nearing retirement, though, consider shifting to a more conservative mix. A financial advisor can help you choose an appropriate mix at different stages, based on your risk tolerance, time horizon and goals.

Keep your plan intact. At times, you may feel a financial pinch that leads you to consider taking out loans or early withdrawals from your 401(k). However, this can cause you to incur taxes and penalties and will likely slow the growth needed to help reach your retirement savings goals. Taking steps to prepare for unexpected expenses, such as building an emergency fund contain-

ing three to six months' worth of living expenses, can help you avoid dipping into your 401(k). You may also be able to find other ways to access cash.

By following these steps, you can unlock the full potential of your 401(k) and position it as a cornerstone of your retirement income.



Jim Flagg operates a Gorham branch office of Edward Jones. This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local

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Gorham Times

Adolescent Angst

Bruce Webb, Contributing Writer

As most adults can attest, adolescence is one of the most challenging periods we experience in life. The transition from child to adult is fraught with issues of identity, change, mastery, discomfort and rapid growth. This critical stage has become even more challenging in the past few years with a swift rise in adolescent anxiety and depression experienced by teens and observed by parents, educators and counselors.

Social psychologist Jonathan Haidt has compellingly reported this phenomenon in his recent book "The Anxious Generation." The alarming data quantifies a notable increase in teenage anxiety, frequent school absences, parental concerns and mental health referrals. This phenomenon is not confined to national boundaries but is seen in many societies around the globe.

In his research, Haidt noted that this shift coincides with the advent of three developments that occurred around 2010 and continue today. The first is the release and the adoption of mobile phone technology. Paradoxically, this device offers widespread access to the entire world while fostering social isolation as attention is focused on screens rather than immediate surroundings.

The second shift is the wide availability of the Internet and social media. This technology has enabled constant interaction among users, albeit at a distance, without face-to-face social interaction. The explosion of streaming services has also led to the wide exposure to news about mass shootings, child abductions, false information, pornography, the climate crisis and wars.

The third development is a radical shift in parenting practices. As access to news sources mushroomed, perceived risks have increased in intensity. Parents have sought to create a risk-free childhood where kids are largely shielded from consequences of their behaviors and deprived of opportunities for social learning and interaction.

Brian Jandreau, the Gorham High School principal, confirms this increase in anxiety, depression and mental health referrals. Teachers, counselors, staff and parents are seeing this scenario unfold. Jandreau notes, "We saw this spike in student anxiety and depression with Covid but things are gradu-

ally improving as we learn how to respond."

Jandreau has encouraged his staff to read "The Anxious Generation" so that everyone has the same baseline of information about these concerns. Along with his colleagues from other school districts, Jandreau has instituted some remediation measures. Staff training is used to review strategies and access updated information. The use of smart phones is limited in the school buildings. The availability of mental health services for students has increased, as well as enhanced services for addressing parental concerns.

These dynamics are evolving as we learn more about what is impacting our kids and how to address these important issues. Clearly, technology is not going away. The real challenge is how best to adapt to the new circumstances in a beneficial way.

Haidt suggests the following measures:

Restrict the use of smart phones until age 14. Every child needs time to learn how to reconcile the available technology with their social surroundings.

Limit access to social media before age 16. Teenagers mature quickly and need the skills to evaluate the content delivered via social media. Increase unsupervised play. The young of all species need to grow, experiment and learn how to navigate the world. This maturing process is best achieved by allowing unstructured play with other children.

We live in tumultuous times with massive changes in multiple spheres. We are challenged with incorporating new technologies while protecting against harmful consequences. This is a community issue that can best be addressed by all constituents - parents, children, educators, counselors and the citizenry.



Bruce Webb has been a Gorham resident for 40 years. He was a home energy auditor and is involved in environmental activism.

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SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

Town Council Meeting, March 3

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

The Gorham Town Council met for their monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 3. Vice Chairperson Seven Siegel called the meeting to order with six members present. Chairperson Phillips took the leadership role when she arrived at 7:45. The council's first action was to approve the minutes of the Feb. 3 regular meeting (6-0).

GMS social worker Brooke Proulx spoke about the Gorham Action Team for Youth (GATY), whose mission is to promote positive youth development, prevent substance use and address mental health in Gorham. This year they hope to get more students involved, involve families, expand awareness, produce a resource guide for families and provide initiatives that support the prevention of risk behaviors. Ms. Proulx requested \$5,000 from the Town Council to complete some of these activities.

Twenty-seven members of the public addressed the board. One questioned the fairness of family exemptions for the sprinkler inspection item, which was approved at the last meeting. Two spoke about the traffic issues around the municipal center and high school and expressed a desire to work with the Town Council to develop some solutions.

Twenty-three citizens spoke about the Amazon project, with 22 opposed and 1 in support of the proposed sale. Many were concerned about the effects that it will have on traffic, property values, small businesses in town and quality of life for the neighbors of this project. They also expressed concerns and mistrust of Amazon and their intentions with this project. They encouraged the council to not allow Amazon to proceed with this project and many offered to help fund the penalty that the town would be obligated to pay.

The council accepted a written report from the School Committee mentioning GHS theater, winter athletics wrap-up, the transition to providing early childhood special services to 4-year-olds and the on going budget process.

Each council member was provided the opportunity to provide updates. Councilors Willis and Siegel mentioned that all decisions are made through an established practice and procedure. There have not been any secret council meetings and council members have not toured other Amazon facilities. Chairperson Phillips spoke about the goal of communication with the public and investigating strategies for getting additional information out, and Councilwoman Kuech highlighted the school budget development meetings taking place each Monday night.

Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak discussed the public works projects in town. The Main Street project is something that

has been considered for five or six years and the sidewalk project is being funded partially through a grant. The box culvert projects will begin when the weather improves.

The council voted (5-2, Siegel, Simms) to amend the Land Use and Development Code to allow curb cuts on low-traffic accessory dwelling units (ADUs) if certain conditions are met.

The council voted (7-0) to approve a proposed Vacant/Abandoned Buildings Ordinance to provide a mechanism to deal with this issue when it arises.

The council voted (7-0) to approve the appointment of 28 citizens to serve on community boards and committees. There is a process for reviewing applications and choosing candidates to serve the town.

At approximately 8:30 the Town Council went into Executive Session for approximately 45 minutes to consult with legal counsel regarding a public access easement issue.

Upon returning to public session, the council voted (7-0) to work with the Capital Improvements Program Committee and the Economic Development Committee to consider updating the zoning map to promote higher-value development particularly along Main Street.

Afterwards, the council considered a series of referrals to the Ordinance Committee to review and update existing standards. They accepted referrals for consideration on idling standards (5-2, Willis, Dearborn), buffering standards (7-0), sidewalks (7-0), noise standards (6-1, Dearborn) and lighting standards (5-2, Phillips, Dearborn). They chose not to advance an amendment for industrial zone air quality standards because one already exists (3-4, Phillips, Dearborn, Willis, Kuech).

The council voted (5-2, Phillips, Dearborn) to authorize the Town Manager to hire a qualified industry consultant to review municipal ordinances related to mineral extraction and processing operations.

The council set a workshop on April 14 (7-0) to receive updates on upcoming infrastructure projects, as well as a review of all completed projects in the past 10 years.

The council voted (7-0) to authorize the town to issue its general obligation bonds in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$4,920,000 to finance already approved projects. These projects include the box culvert replacements; the GHS track and field, bathroom and sprinkler updates at Narragansett School; construction of a connector to White Birch Lane; and sidewalks at Great Falls School.

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.

Municipal Projects On Tap

Sally Fay, Staff Writer

Two municipal projects are scheduled to be under way this spring along sections of Main Street (Route 25). Beginning this month, sewer main extension work is planned to connect a missing section between Portal Way and Mosher Road

(Route 237). In a separate effort, approximately 1,050 linear feet of 10-foot-wide shared-use path will be installed from Route 237 to Shaw Cherry Hill Farm. Work will include improvements to the traffic signal at the intersection of Route 25 and Route 237.

Planning Board Meeting Recap

Sally Fay, Staff Writer

The Planning Board met on Monday, March 2, with five members in attendance (absent: (Crisafulli, Delaney). The meeting agenda comprised two public hearings.

Item 1, a request for review of a proposal to construct a material storage and lay-down yard with associated infrastructure on the rear side of an existing multi-tenant

commercial site at 625 Main Street, was approved with conditions (5 Ayes, 2 Absent).

Item 2, a proposed amendment to the Land Use and Development Code that would create a sewer impact fee for parts of Main Street, was sent to the town council with a recommendation for adoption as amended by the Planning Board (5 Ayes, 2 Absent).

School Committee Special Meeting, Feb. 25

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

Chairperson Nicole Yeo-Fisher called the meeting to order. All members of the committee were present. The members of the committee and district administrators took a facilities tour of the middle school led by Principal Lucas Witham.

K-8 curriculum coordinator Kim Fadrigan and GHS teacher James Welsch discussed the social studies curriculum. Mrs. Fadrigan explained that the K-5 social studies curriculum is based on a continuum of age-appropriate units aligned to the state learning standards. Each grade has areas of focus, including community building in grades one and two, colonial history including a study of Gorham in grade three, the Revolutionary War in grade four and the Civil War in grade five. Grades six through eight have an official curriculum and use the Discovery digital textbook series. Mr. Welsch explained the high school program, which requires three full credits in four years. In ninth grade all students take a survey course of world history. Grade ten students take the U.S. history course, either standard or advanced placement, while eleventh graders have a series of options, including the second course of world history and a series of optional half-credit choices on various topics, including economics, psychology and philosophy for life.

Social worker Brooke Proulx, accompanied by members of the Gorham Action

Team for Youth (GATY), offered a presentation on the Maine Integrated Youth Health Study (MIYHS), which is given to Maine middle and high school students every two years. MIYHS looks at group information including student assets and risk behaviors. In general, the scores have been consistent over the past 10 years and in most cases are below the state averages. Generally, in Gorham we want all of the students to feel supported and valued and look for ways to positively engage our students. Over the years there have been many types of programs that did not effectively address student risk behaviors. GATY's mission is to promote positive youth development, prevent substance use and address mental health in Gorham. Students Fatima Beshir and Sona Ahmed, members of GATY, outlined the organization's goals for the year: to get more students involved, involve families, expand awareness, produce a resource guide for families and provide initiatives that support the prevention of risk behaviors.

Norm Justice, facilities director, reviewed the bid proposals for the GHS Athletic Track and Field Replacement Project. There were three bids received and the committee voted (7-0) to move forward with the project and accept the bid from Shaw Brothers.

The committee then went into Executive Session to discuss the annual required emergency management plan.

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SCHOOL

Village School's Fifth Graders Participate in Discover Dairy's "Adopt a Cow" Program

Alicia Sotir

Meet Your Calf

Doris



Birthday:
August 24, 2025

Gender:
Heifer (Female)

Breed:
Holstein

Birth Height:
30 inches

Birth Weight:
65 pounds

Caretaker:
Farmer Patricia

Students in Mrs. Pagliaro's fifth grade class at Village Elementary School are diving deeper into their study of Maine agriculture by participating in the Discover Dairy's "Adopt a Cow" program. This year-long experience allows students to connect classroom learning to the real work of farming and food produc-

tion, helping them better understand what agriculture means in their own state.

For the 2025-26 school year, Mrs. Pagliaro's class has "adopted" a Holstein cow named Doris, who lives on a working dairy farm in Old Town, Maine, at the University of Maine Farm. Through regular

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Narragansett Students Love Math

Erin Eppler, Principal, Narragansett School



Photo Credit: Erin Eppler

Narragansett students love math. The school won first place in the Prodigy State Challenge representing Maine for answering the most math problems correctly. Students in Mrs. Burns', Mrs. Bishop's, Mrs. O'Donnell's, Mrs. Klein's and Mrs. Corcoran's classes participated in the challenge. They are now in the running for the National Challenge in May.



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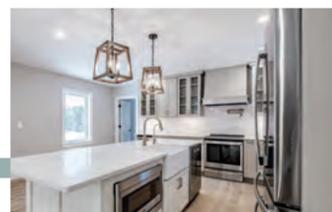
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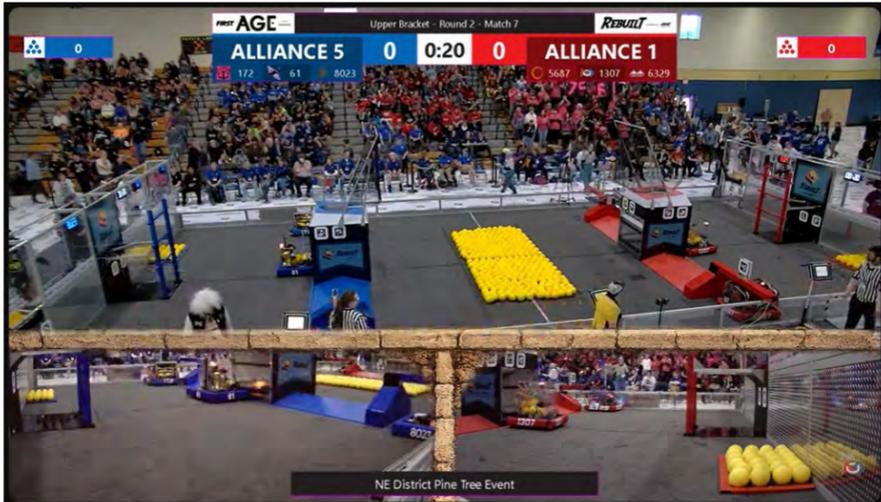


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SPORTS

FIRST Robotics Team 172 at the Pine Tree District Competition

Gorham Times Staff



Screenshot by: Lori Arsenault

Gorham/Falmouth Team 172 on the Blue Alliance at the NE FIRST Robotics Pine Tree District Competition that was held on Saturday and Sunday, March 7-8, at Falmouth High School.



Screenshot by: Lori Arsenault



Screenshot by: Lori Arsenault

FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Competitions are like a sporting event, and depend on volunteers and gracious professionals to mentor the students, run the competitions, and much more.



Screenshot by: Lori Arsenault

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131 MOSHER ROAD	JERALD L. CUNNINGHAM	CARRIE A. ALLEN	875,000.00
28 CARSON DRIVE	KIMBERLY L. CLARK	YVES MPUNDU	849,000.00
9 HALTER LANE	JOHN D. TOYE	JESSE SAWIN	800,000.00
60 PHEASANT LANE	BOBBIE L. AHERN	JAKE FOGARTY	751,000.00
1 HORSESHOE LANE	S.V.T. PROPERTY, INC.	CHRISTOPHER MARK LARSON	740,750.00
5 PAULIN DRIVE	BARRY V. PAULIN, JR.	VANESSA MUNSON	720,000.00
213 GRAY RD	TRAVIS W. YOUNG	JACQUELINE NDIKUMANA	700,500.00
8 FAE LANE	ANGELICA KIMBALL ELING	MICHAEL PETER GRIFFIN	699,000.00
2 LUCAS LANE	FP DEVELOPERS, LLC	VIKTOR POCHTALION	695,000.00
6 CRAIG DR	THOMAS P. FORGUES	RONALD JAY GRANT	689,000.00
167 FALCON CREST DRIVE, UNIT 23	COTTAGE ADVISORS ME, LLC	JOHN D. TOYE	665,000.00
LOT 6 MITCHELL HILL ROAD	S.V.T. PROPERTY, INC.	FELIX MUTUNZI	664,770.00
3 HEATHER WAY	JEAN M. BERGQUIST-GUIMOND	LINDA M. STINSON	662,500.00
2 HORSESHOE LANE	S.V.T. PROPERTY, INC.	ROBERT J. KUNI, III	653,000.00
162 FALCON CREST DRIVE, UNIT 49	COTTAGE ADVISORS ME, LLC	WALTER FRANCIS KILGALLON, II	596,400.00
164 FALCON CREST DRIVE	COTTAGE ADVISORS ME, LLC	DENNIS JAMES	581,900.00
45 MITCHELL HILL ROAD	JESSE SAWIN	SALMAN FARHAN	560,000.00
17 BAXTER LANE, #4	PATRICIA F. GALLANT	KELLY CHAMPNEY	555,000.00
125 SCHOOL STREET	STEPHANIE S. FEYLER	LINDSEY STEVENS	536,000.00
245 NARRAGANSETT STREET	ROLAND MCFARLAND TESTAMENTOR	PATRICIA GALLANT	518,000.00
9 SAMANTHA DRIVE	DOROTHY J. HUGHES	KEITH KLOCK	495,800.00
29 BURNHAM RD	LINDSEY R. JOHNSON	ILSE P. FERNANDEZ HERRERA	458,500.00
47 HIGHLAND AVENUE	CHRISTOPHER P. NEWCOMB	RITA T. RIX	440,000.00
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157 SOUTH STREET	LEROY E. DIXON	ANTHONY FERNANDEZ	425,000.00
29 JOSEPH DR, UNIT 19	DORIS R. GARDNER	KATE M. PHILLIPS	415,000.00
35 FARRINGTON ROAD	JUDITH G. JONES	JOHN KAYSER	415,000.00
257 FORT HILL ROAD	ESTATE OF PRISCILLA M. WHEATLEY	WADE BROWN, JR.	353,000.00
468 MAIN STREET	DANNY H. WOLFE	JOHN A. WOLFE	300,000.00
15 AMY'S WAY	RICHARD L. THEBERGE	JLL REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS LL	255,000.00
175 OSSIPEE TRAIL	JAMES ALAN BAUER	175 OSSIPEE TRAIL, LLC	250,000.00
11 CONNOR DRIVE	MICHAEL BOUCHARD	JUDITH BOUCHARD	230,000.00
0 JOSHUA TREE DR	ANDREW T. ROBINSON	ZACHARY DAVID SHAW	45,000.00

Palestine Event CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

over the past two-and-a-half years. These deaths have occurred since the Israeli military began a counteroffensive involving Gaza and other areas, following Hamas attacks against Israel that began Oct. 7, 2023.

Conference participant Fatch Azzam (a member of Maine Coalition for Palestine) was quoted as stating "we are seeing the severe consequences of this failure after two-and-a-half years of horrific genocide and continued

ethnic cleansing. For Palestinians, but also for the rest of the world, we are discovering just how callous and brutal intertwining systems of political and economic power are."

Underscoring the conference speakers' calls for peace in the Middle East and around the world was the fact that the U.S.-Israeli attack on Iran was announced on Saturday morning, just before participants began arriving for the conference.

"Adopt a Cow" Program CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

updates from Farmer Patricia, students are gaining insight into the daily responsibilities of dairy farmers, the care and nutrition cows require, and the role dairy farming plays in Maine's agricultural landscape. Rather than simply reading about farming, students are watching it unfold in real time.

Each month, the class receives engaging materials, including photos and updates of Doris, activity sheets, and an informational PowerPoint filled with pictures and facts about dairy farming. These resources are designed to reinforce curriculum standards in science, math, reading and social studies while making learning interactive and fun.

A key part of the program encourages meaningful communication: students will write letters to Doris and Farmer Patricia to share what they've learned, ask questions, and deepen their connection to the farm. This practice not only builds writing skills but strengthens students' sense of community and empathy for the animals they're studying.

Learning about agriculture and animal care as elementary students is especially

valuable. The Discover Dairy curriculum offers real-world context for classroom lessons, helping students explore life cycles, nutrition, ecosystems and the science behind food production. By connecting what they learn in textbooks to a living animal and a real farm, students gain insight into responsible animal care, the importance of agriculture in daily life and the work involved in producing the food they eat.

The Discover Dairy program offers these experiences at no cost to educators, providing free lesson plans, videos, hands-on activities and assessments aligned with Common Core and STEM standards. It has reached more than a million students nationwide, showing classrooms from urban to rural communities just how important dairy farming, as well as agriculture in general, is to the world around them.

Mrs. Pagliaro's class is thrilled to follow Doris's journey this year, making classroom learning come alive while gaining a deeper appreciation for agriculture, animal care and the role farms play in communities like their own.



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Claudia Peterson, Emmanuel College, Boston, Massachusetts
Maeve Donnelly, Emmanuel College, Boston, Massachusetts

OF INTEREST

The Gorham/Westbrook/Windham TRIAD group will meet March 11 at 11 a.m. at the Gorham Police Department. The speaker will be Emma Tidemann, the "Voice" of the Portland Sea Dogs. She is the announcer for the games. All are welcome to the meeting, and bring a friend. Heads up, the Gorham Police Department will be having a drug take-back on Saturday, April 25, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On Saturday, Mar. 14, the Society of Women Engineer's (SWE) professional chapter is hosting an event for the Girl Scouts of Maine (GSME) at USM's Gorham campus alongside the USM chapter of SWE. This is a great outreach event that has evolved over the years and this year, it introduces the GSME participants to various different branches of opportunity in STEM. The hope is that it not only benefits the young community with outreach but to help women of all ages in engineering grow in their career and provide them a place for support. FMI: Isabelle Grant (izziergrant@gmail.com)

The Climate Caretakers at First Parish Church will hold a presentation on resilient lawns. Gorham homeowner and advocate for sustainable gardening, John Ersek, will share information on native grasses. Robyn Landes of the City of South Portland's Sustainability Department will speak, along with Lia Farnham, veteran volunteer and program coach with "100 Resilient Yards," a popular program in South Portland. The presentation will be on Friday, March 20 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at First Parish Church, 1 Church Street. Free and open to the public.

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. They are open Monday through Thursday by appointment only. 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

Cressey Road Christian Church is having a bean supper on Saturday, March 14 from 5 - 6 p.m. Kidney and pea beans, hot dogs, biscuits, cole slaw, desserts, and drinks. \$10 for adults and \$5 ten and under.

LIBRARY NEWS

All are invited to create bookmarks and notecards at the monthly crafting workshop at North Gorham Public Library on Saturday, Mar. 14 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Everything you need will be provided, including inspiration. Send an email to northgorhampl@gmail.com if you plan to attend or have questions. 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. 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.

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CALENDAR

Thursday, March 12

Baxter Memorial Library
Toddler Storytime, 10 - 10:30 a.m.
Book Group: "Unsheltered" by Barbara Kingsolver, 10:10 a.m.
Friends of Baxter Memorial Library Meeting, 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, March 14

Society of Women Engineers event for Girls Scouts of Maine, USM Gorham.
North Gorham Public Library Monthly Crafting Workshop, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Cressey Road Christian Church Bean Supper, 5 - 6 p.m.

Tuesday, March 16

Great Falls Scholastic Book Fair, library fundraiser, March 16 - 20.

Tuesday, March 17

Baxter Memorial Library, Lizards Love Literacy, 4 - 5 p.m.
Great Falls Scholastic Book Fair, library fundraiser, March 16 - 20.

Wednesday, March 18

Baxter Memorial Library
Baby Storytime, 9:30 - 10 a.m.
Early Release Crafternoon, 1 - 3 p.m.
Dungeons and Dragons, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Great Falls Scholastic Book Fair, library fundraiser, March 16 - 20.

Thursday, March 19

Baxter Memorial Library
Toddler Storytime, 10 - 10:30 a.m.
Great Falls Scholastic Book Fair, library fundraiser, March 16 - 20.

Friday, March 20

Climate Caretakers "Resilient Lawns" presentation. First Parish Church, 6:30 p.m.
Great Falls Scholastic Book Fair, library fundraiser, March 16 - 20.

Saturday, March 21

Baxter Memorial Library, Pokémon Club, 10 a.m. - noon
Support Maine Maple Weekend 3/21 and 3/22

Sunday, March 22

Support Maine Maple Weekend 3/21 and 3/22

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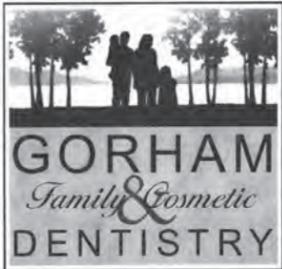


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Gorham MAINE

Upcoming Town Meetings

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3/31 Capital Improvement Projects / Economic Development
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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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.

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the blotter

Dispatch received a report of an Attempt to Locate for a vehicle that was allegedly driving erratically and at high speeds. The caller lost contact in the area of Dingley Springs. No units responded as they were out of position, the plate the caller had given was completely different from the description, and the direction of travel was unknown.

A person came to the residence claiming to be CMP and asked to see their bill... nothing provided by the caller... no other information.

Two officers responded to Tow Path Road caller for a reported trespass. The complainant, stated that she observed footprints in the snow on her property and was concerned that someone may have been on her property while she was sleeping. Officers examined the tracks and noted what appeared to be animal prints as well as human footprints that seemed to be a week old. Officer informed the complainant that the prints may have been from family members or someone pursuing a dog that had entered her property. She expressed appreciation for us checking the area. Officer advised her that if she believes someone is on her property in the future, she should call 911, and a Gorham police officer

will respond to speak with the individual.

Dispatch received a report of a male wandering the street in front of the caller's house and there was a vehicle parked in the road down the street. An officer found the vehicle bearing State of Maine registration. The vehicle was unoccupied and in the roadway. Officer continued to look around the area and eventually saw someone wearing a reflective vest. Officer stopped to speak with him. He stated he was going door to door. He called his boss who the officer advised that they needed a solicitation permit.

Caller was looking for help with a mailing issue and her neighbor. A couple of her packages had been mistakenly delivered to her neighbor's house, as confirmed by the post office, but the caller was unable to get a hold of the neighbor for several days. She did not suspect theft, but was worried about her neighbor, who was very old and she never sees them outside anymore. Officer went over with the caller, eventually making contact with the neighbor. The packages were turned over.

Caller reported an injured deer in the roadway.

BUSINESS

Gorham's Amy Lehigh Named as NSB Employee of the Year

Larissa Moore, GHS Intern

The Town of Gorham is made up of many hard-working employees and business leaders, one of them being Amy Lehigh, who was given the 2026 Employee of the Year award at Norway Savings Bank.

Throughout Maine, Norway Savings Bank has a total of 24 locations, with around 300 employees. Their dedicated employees, like Lehigh, strive to create a positive environment for their clients and help them reach their goals.

Amy Lehigh started working for Norway Savings Bank in 2022. Since then she has taken over the vice president and marketing manager position at the Gorham and Standish branches.

Lehigh is a devoted employee, with over 20 years of experience in retail banking.

Over time she has taken every opportunity to learn from those around her, and form strong connections with her fellow community members. Darci Hamm, the executive vice president and chief operating officer at Norway Savings Bank, said, "Her work ethic is nothing short of remarkable, and she extends the same energy and effort to the work she does in the community."

Not only is she a diligent worker, but she is also extremely passionate about her career. "I love partnering with community members and sharing my knowledge in hopes it allows them to make a financial decision that sets them up for success now and in the future." Lehigh noted, "No one person can achieve success without the support of those around them."

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Hiring for Summer 2026!

Looking for seasonal work? Nappi Distributors has options to choose from!

Delivery Helpers

Are you an early bird that likes working outdoors in the summer? Like having nights and weekends off? **Delivery Helpers** ride out on Nappi trucks to help deliver our fine beer and wine products!

Merchandisers

Like working independently? Looking to pick up hours on the weekends? Merchandisers work at our retail customers' locations and help replenish Nappi products on their shelves!

Warehouse Selectors

Not a morning person? Prefer air conditioning to summer sun? Our Warehouse Selectors work afternoons and nights, Monday-Friday in our climate-conditioned warehouse!

Join our team!



Apply online at [Indeed.com/cmp/NappiDistributors](https://www.indeed.com/cmp/NappiDistributors)



Hello, EXPERTISE WITHIN YOUR REACH.

Reintroducing Northern Light Mercy Hospital.

With new and expanded facilities, compassionate care has never been more convenient. From cardiology and orthopedics centers to a main campus in Portland with added specialties, there have never been more reasons to take another look at Mercy.

How are you?

Connect with us at [northernlight.org/hello](https://www.northernlight.org/hello)

