

Gorham Times

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Sen. Brenner Honors Heather Perry, Maine Superintendent of the Year

Gorham Times Staff

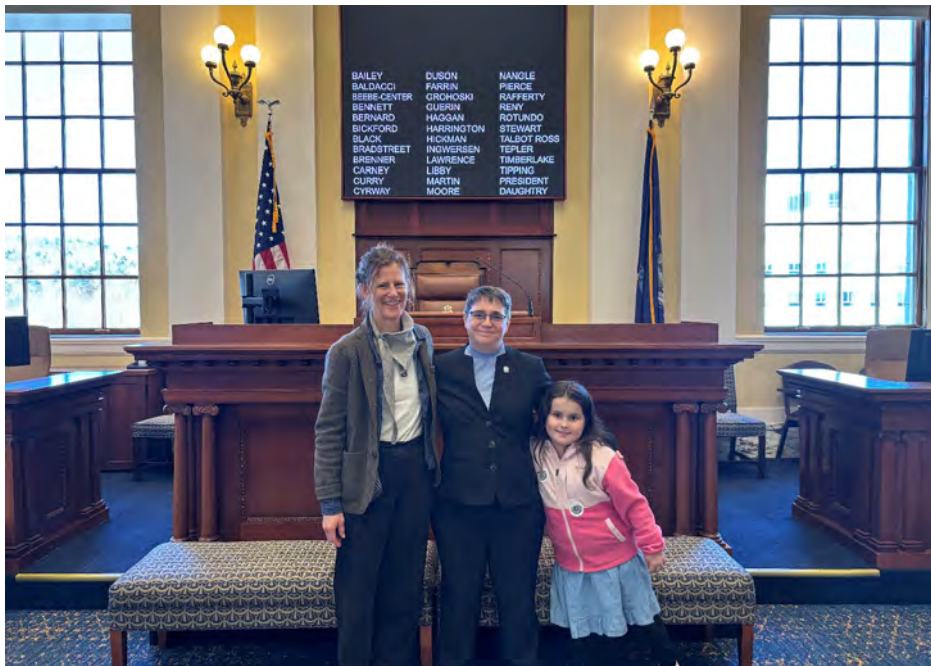


Photo Provided by Stacy Brenner's Office

Sen. Stacy Brenner, D-Scarborough, with Heather Perry and her granddaughter, Emelin Gosselin, in the Senate Chamber before session on March 18.

According to a press release from the office of State Senator Stacy Brenner, on March 18, Senator Brenner, D-Scarborough, presented

a legislative sentiment to Gorham Superintendent Heather Perry recognizing her selection as the 2025 Maine Superintendent of the Year.

This year, Perry also became the first Mainer to be named a finalist for the National Superintendent of the Year since the award's inception in 1988.

"In her decade of service to the Gorham schools, Heather has proven herself time and time again to be an enormous asset to students, families, teachers and staff alike," said Senator Brenner. "She sets the tone for school leaders not just in Maine but across the country. I have no doubt that the Gorham community is all the better off for her thoughtful leadership, tireless dedication and deep commitment to fostering children's growth within and beyond the classroom as young leaders, critical thinkers and engaged citizens."

In her 10 years with the Gorham School District, Superintendent Perry has spearheaded transformative efforts to increase students' access to postsecondary and professional opportunities. Under her leadership, the district revamped its alternative education programming and significantly expanded student participation

in internships, mentorships and career and technical education. She built partnerships with local businesses and community leaders to deepen students' exposure to career pathways beginning as early as kindergarten. These efforts have contributed to a climbing graduation rate now exceeding 96 percent.

Her commitment to teachers runs just as deep. "As a current principal and Gorham School employee for 27 years, I still have the same energy and enthusiasm due to Heather's leadership," said Great Falls Elementary Principal Becky Fortier. "She continues to inspire us all to do our best work."

Heather has been a steady leader in advancing innovative solutions to the education workforce challenges weighing on so many communities across the country. She helped to launch the state's first educator apprenticeship initiative in Gorham, now the model for similar programs in dozens of districts statewide, to improve staff recruitment, retention and career advancement through coursework and on-the-job training.

Cheryl Fotter Named Principal of Village School

Gorham School Department



Photo Credit: Gorham School Department

Cheryl Fotter

The Gorham School Department is proud to announce that Cheryl Fotter will serve as the new principal of Village Elementary School beginning July 1, 2026.

Ms. Fotter brings more than three decades of experience in education, including extensive leadership within the Gorham School Department. Most recently serving as interim principal at Village Elementary School, she has

demonstrated a deep commitment to fostering a safe, inclusive and student-centered learning environment. Her leadership is grounded in building strong relationships with students, families, staff and the broader community, ensuring that all learners are supported academically, socially and emotionally.

Throughout her career, Ms. Fotter has served in a wide range of roles including assistant principal, K-5 math and science coordinator, district mentor coordinator, and classroom teacher. Her work has consistently focused on high-quality teaching and learning, using data-informed practices, professional collaboration and targeted supports to meet the diverse needs of all students. She is known for her collaborative leadership style, commitment to shared decision making and dedication to continuous improvement.

Ms. Fotter holds a master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Southern Maine, along with additional certifications in curriculum

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"Experience Art" at Baxter Memorial Library

John Tiedje, Staff Writer

On Thursday, April 16 at 1:30 p.m., the Baxter Memorial Library will be hosting "Experience Art." The event features a lecture on the appreciation of art by USM Art Education faculty Sarah Warshaw and Mary Ledue-Bell. The afternoon will center around fun and engaging ways to experience art from the lens of personal experiences.

Two afternoon activities, "Token Response" and "Critical Response," are games to spark conversations about art beginning from our own lives and expanding out from there. The games are designed to be light and engaging, and build confidence by providing easy tools for participants to

enjoy and interpret art on their own.

The lecture will be followed by a short talk given by Denise Beck on how to ride the Greater Portland Metro. Following talks, the group will take a Metro bus to the Portland Museum of Art for a tour of the Museum's collections. Admission to the museum is free. The bus ride is the usual fare. Registration is required by going to a link on the Baxter Library website.

The Museum tour will take about an hour and everyone should be back to the library by 6:30.

Be prepared to walk about a half mile to the bus stop and then from the Metro stop downtown to the Museum.



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Investing in Our Lands, Waters and Future

Senator Stacy Brenner

2026 marks 50 years of diverting single-use bottles and cans from the waste stream under Maine's nation-leading bottle bill. The program incentivizes consumers to return their beverage containers for recycling to redeem the 5- to 15-cent deposit they paid on each bottle at the time of purchase.

The bottle bill has been resoundingly successful, with Maine boasting one of the highest redemption rates in the nation. But still, participation is imperfect, and plenty of bottle deposits go unredeemed each year. Current state law directs those unclaimed deposits back to beverage manufacturers, totaling an estimated \$10 to \$16 million annually.

As I see it, these are public dollars that are feeding private gains, missing a critical opportunity to reinvest in the bottle bill's bottom line: protecting environmental health for the public benefit. As Maine enters an era of unprecedented strain on the natural resources at the heart of our communities' health, economy and cultural heritage, the need for investment in these public goods cannot be overstated.

Fertile farmland is one such vulnerable resource as soaring land values and development pressures threaten agricultural viability across the state. Farmland

conversion is occurring faster than conservation can respond, with more than 82,000 acres of agricultural land falling out of production between 2017 and 2022. Maine's Working Farmland Access Protection Program (WFAPP) is poised to combat this trend by leveraging voluntary, market-based conservation easements to ensure Maine's most productive farmland remains available for commercial agriculture, but the program has never received funding.

Meanwhile, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection reports ongoing declines in lake water quality statewide, driven by nutrient runoff, warming temperatures and harmful algal blooms. Compounded by cuts to federal programs supporting water quality monitoring and improvement, these pressures pose real threats to fisheries, tourism, property values and local economies. Investment in the Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund would enable communities to proactively protect the \$14 billion asset that Maine's lakes represent, preventing degradation, reducing nutrient runoff and restoring water quality.

My bill, LD 2141, proposes to remedy documented declines in farmland retention and lake health – and the

cascading environmental, social and economic repercussions that result – by directing \$2 million to the WFAPP and \$2 million to the Lake Fund annually from unclaimed beverage deposits.

Following the precedent set by neighboring states, LD 2141 aims to fund these essential natural resource programs within existing law, requiring no new tax and redirecting only a portion of existing, unclaimed revenues. By putting public dollars towards critically important public uses, it seeks to restore accountability and relieve pressure on Maine taxpayers.

In line with the deposit system's original environmental promise, this bill would enable immediate action to protect our natural resources from crisis-level degradation by ensuring that, if a bottle deposit doesn't come home to the person who paid it, it comes home to Maine – to its farms, its lakes and its future.



As always, you can contact me at Stacy. Brenner@legislature.maine.gov or (207) 287-1515 for help navigating state services or to share

questions, comments and concerns.

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,

I am writing today to provide some insight into the Amazon Facility site-plan application process and the review required before it is approved. Their submission includes building location, stormwater management, onsite traffic movement, landscaping/buffering, site lighting, etc. These items will be reviewed by the Planning Department to ensure all requirements of the Land Use Development Code and items specific to the particular zone are met. Staff also engages outside consultants (peer review) to provide a second look at the entire submission. Police, Fire and Public Works also provide feedback on items that pertain to their department.

Along with local review, the State also analyzes stormwater (Department of Environmental Protection) and traffic movement (Department of Transportation).

As this process develops, the applicant begins the Planning Board review, whose responsibility is to determine if the project meets all requirements of the local and state entities. The staff provides a document (Findings of Fact) which summarizes all review comments. During this timeline, a public hearing is held to allow comments from the public. Typically, a project has 2-3 meetings. Items of particular importance are usually site lighting, buffering of abutters and traffic.

If the project meets all conditions, it is approved. Comments/opinions made about the applicant that do not have bearing on permitting and zoning requirements cannot be taken into consideration.

For reference, the site was zoned Industrial prior to the Shamrock Drive

development. Also, Core X had a project of similar size and functionality approved in 2024 on the same parcel.

I hope that anyone who has an interest in this project, or the site plan review process, attends future Planning Board meetings. Having an informed constituency will only improve our town.

Jim Anderson,
Former Gorham Planning Board member and chairman, Gorham



Cheryl Fotter CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

coordination and school administration.

Her long-standing service in Gorham Schools reflects both her deep institutional knowledge and her unwavering dedication to the district's mission to "Prepare and Inspire" all students for future success.

In addition to her professional responsibilities, Ms. Fotter has been actively involved in district committees and community initiatives, further demonstrating her commitment to student success and community engagement.

"Cheryl's leadership, experience and deep commitment to the Gorham community make her an exceptional choice to lead Village Elementary School," said Superintendent Heather J. Perry.

"She is a trusted and respected leader who prioritizes relationships, instructional excellence and the well-being of every student. We are thrilled to officially welcome her into this role."

The Gorham School Department looks forward to the continued success of Village Elementary School under Ms. Fotter's leadership and is excited for the future of the school community.

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

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Upcoming Advertising Deadlines

April 15
April 29
May 13
May 27

Ticks are Back

Chris Crawford, Features Editor

Be prepared. As we head outdoors to start our spring yard clean up, it's important to remember that even though it is still chilly, ticks are already out in force.

According to the Maine Center For Disease Control (CDC), Maine is home to about 14 species of ticks, not all of which bite. Ticks can carry over a dozen diseases of varying severity that can be transmitted to humans and animals. A tick bite should not be taken lightly. Maine deer tick bites can cause some pretty nasty diseases such as anaplasmosis, babesiosis, Lyme, and Powassan Virus.

If you are traveling out of state this summer, it would be prudent to check on the status of ticks in the area you will be visiting. A number of other serious tick-borne diseases are found around the country that are not currently found here in Maine.

Transmission times also vary. According to an infectious disease doctor at Mercy Hospital, babesiosis

can be transmitted quickly in only a 15-minute length of time. It has symptoms that are similar to malaria. There were at least two cases of this disease in Gorham last summer.

The Maine CDC also has a list of symptoms for these diseases which range from mild to moderate illness, to requiring hospital interventions to deadly, for Powassan and babesiosis in older populations.

Tick bite prevention is key. Use EPA-approved repellents every time you go outside and also wear clothing treated with permethrin. Light-colored clothes make ticks easier to spot. Tucking pant legs into your socks is good prevention too as research has shown that most ticks climb up your legs to find a place to bite.

Know your area. Deer ticks like forests while dog ticks prefer open, grassy areas. In your yard, avoid leaf piles. A boundary of stones to separate the lawn from the woods is helpful, too. When walking, stay in the middle of trails.

If you get bitten, save the tick for testing. For a cost of \$20, Maine residents can send a tick to be tested for a variety of diseases at University of Maine Extension Diagnostic & Research Lab in Orono, with results usually within three business days.

The tick testing service provides information on ticks and tick-borne disease in Maine. The service only tests the tick and does not provide testing for human or animal samples. Consulting a physician should not wait for tick testing results. See a doctor immediately. It can take weeks for evidence of disease to become apparent in human testing.

The tick does not have to be intact for testing. Dead or alive, even a few pieces are enough to be tested, although most of the disease-causing organisms are found in the salivary glands in the head, so try to include this portion of the tick. Use tweezers if possible and always wash your hands after removing a tick.

How To Have a Tick Tested in Maine

The website <https://extension.umaine.edu/ticks/submit/> has complete information on how to prepare the tick for shipping and an online tick submission form to fill in. Samples without this form will take longer to be processed. Send with the sample along with a check (or pay online) a check made out to UMaine Tick Lab UMAINE

**Mail to: UMaine Extension Diagnostic & Research Lab
ATTN: Tick Lab
17 Godfrey Drive
Orono, ME 04473-3692**

They currently tests deer ticks and related species for the organisms that cause:

- Lyme disease (*Borrelia burgdorferi*)
- Anaplasmosis (*Anaplasma phagocytophilum*)
- Babesiosis (*Babesia microti*)
- Borrelia miyamotoi* disease (*Borrelia miyamotoi*)

They test American dog ticks, lone star ticks, and other related species for the organisms that cause:

- Rocky Mountain spotted fever (*Rickettsia rickettsii*)
- Ehrlichiosis (*Ehrlichia* species)
- Tularemia (*Francisella tularensis*)

In addition to these panels they now test all samples for two tickborne viruses:

- Powassan Virus and Heartland Virus

Are You New to Medicare?

Gorham Times Staff

Turning 65 soon or new to Medicare? Join Southern Maine Agency on Aging (SMAA) for a free Welcome to Medicare Seminar designed to help you understand your Medicare options and make informed, confident decisions about your healthcare coverage. Services are offered by certified State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) counselors, which are federally funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. We'll cover the basics

of Medicare Parts A, B, C and D; enrollment timelines; common mistakes to avoid; and how to choose a plan that fits your needs. The seminars, offered both virtually and in-person, are educational, easy to follow, and include time for questions. Whether you're approaching eligibility, recently enrolled, or helping a loved one, this seminar is a great way to get free, clear and unbiased information about Medicare. Call us at (207) 396-6524 or register online at smaa.org/events.

Gorham VFW Post 10879 Invites Veterans, Community to Monthly Meetings

Gorham Times Staff

Gorham Memorial Post 10879 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, located at 270 Main Street in Gorham, invites local veterans and community members to get involved. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the post. The

organization supports veterans and their families through community service, outreach efforts, memorial ceremonies and local events honoring those who have served. For more information, contact Quartermaster Jakob Bauder at (207) 607-0370.

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Needs to have complete knowledge of OSHA standards and requirements.
Strong communication skills, ability to manage and positively motivate a crew.
Minimum of 1 years of sitework construction supervision experience.
Must have a valid driver's license with a good record.
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Possess the ability to solve problems and adapt to changing conditions.
Must be self-motivated and organized with strong work ethics.

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Call: (207) 929-8812 - Stop by in person: 999 Narragansett Trail, Buxton, ME 04093

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Job Description: Dearborn Construction is seeking a full-time year-round Crushing Plant Operator at our Waterboro facility. This individual would be responsible for the safe and efficient operation of the crushing plant as well as maintenance. Join a well-established family-owned business that has been completing construction projects since 1984.

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Experience operating and maintaining crushing equipment.
Strong understanding of plant safety procedures. Understanding MSHA and OSHA standards and requirements.
Strong communication skills to coordinate with crew and supervisors.
Mechanical ability as well as ability to weld and fabricate. Ability to monitor and keep up with routine maintenance.
Willingness and ability to operate or drive other construction vehicles/equipment during downtime
Must be self-motivated and organized with strong work ethics
Must be reliable and work well with others.
Physical ability to perform manual tasks.

Pay: Top pay based on experience.

Benefits:
50% paid Health Insurance. 9 paid days off for holidays.
100% paid Dental. Profit Sharing Yearly Bonus
100% paid Life and Disability Insurance. Discounts on products.
Competitive paid time off. Aflac Insurance is available

Spring Feeding of Trees and Shrubs

O'Donals Team, Contributing Writer

Dormant buds are beginning to swell, marking the beginning of spring and our growing season. As plants emerge from dormancy, their need for nutrients to support their growth increases significantly. Applying fertilizer to your gardens now helps ensure that your plants have a healthy and productive year.

Most established trees and shrubs benefit from early spring application of fertilizer. Spring fertilizing supports growth and maximizes foliage, flower and fruit development throughout the current growing season.

For new plantings, supplemental fertilizing, assuming they were planted using backfill soil amended with high-quality compost, is not necessary in the first year. The compost provides the nutrient base necessary for the first year of growth. Young plants need to prioritize root development over heavy foliage growth. Fertilizing these plants with a high-nitrogen fertilizer is not recommended since it encourages the plant to produce foliage it is unable to support with its limited root system. If you feel your new plants will benefit from fertilization, feed it only with a high-phosphorus fertilizer to support the development of a strong root system.

Establishing a regular spring fertilizing regime with a slow-release granular fertilizer will benefit your plants. Slow-release fertilizers consist of small pellets that gradually break down, ensuring a steady supply of nutrients over several months, covering the spring and summer growth cycle. It is preferred over liquid fertilizers, which provide a temporary surge of nutrients that can quickly leach out of the soil during heavy spring rains. When selecting a product, it is important to match the fertilizer category to the specific requirements of the plant group you are fertilizing.

All-purpose granular blends typically have a balanced N-P-K ratio and are suitable for most deciduous trees, and shrubs. N-P-K are the most common elements needed by plants. N = Nitrogen: supports the growth of leaves and chlorophyll production; P = Phosphorus: promotes root development, flowering and fruiting; and K = Potassium, for promoting disease resistance and fighting stress.

For acid-loving plants, such as azaleas, rhododendrons, and blueberries, choose a granular fertilizer designed for plants that require a lower pH level. These fertilizers contain acidifying agents to help maintain the soil conditions these plants need for optimum nutrient uptake.

For large established trees, we recommend using tree spikes: compressed cylinders of fertilizer designed to be driven into the ground along a tree's drip line. They are available in three different formulations made specifically for deciduous trees, evergreen trees or fruiting trees. They tend to be more effective than using surface-applied granules, which might be absorbed by other plants growing beneath the tree canopy.

One common misconception is that fertilizer will heal sick plants. If a plant is struggling due to pests, fungal disease or watering issues, adding fertilizer can exacerbate these stresses. Fertilizers are essentially salts; in a plant already weakened by environmental factors, these salts can further dehydrate the root system. Additionally, stimulating growth of a sick plant through fertilization can deplete its remaining energy reserves. Fertilization should only occur once the underlying cause of the decline has been identified and stabilized.

If you would like to know more about the quality of your garden soil before choosing a fertilizer, contact Cooperative Extension of Maine. They can provide you with a soil collection kit and can do a soil analysis for a small fee.

All the different categories of fertilizers described above can be found at your local garden centers. Don't miss this excellent window for feeding your garden. You will see the results.



O'Donal's Nursery strives to provide customers with excellent service, knowledge and experience by offering an exciting selection

of quality, hardy, and healthy plants so that you can relax and enjoy the beauty of your gardening experience.

The Value of Cyber Insurance

Ethan Johnson, Contributing Writer

As cyberattacks become more frequent and costly, it's crucial for organizations to maximize their financial protection against related losses by purchasing sufficient insurance. Cyber coverage can help organizations pay for a range of expenses that may result from cyber incidents—including (but not limited to) data breaches, ransomware attacks and phishing scams.

Specific cyber insurance offerings differ between carriers. Furthermore, organizations' coverage needs may vary based on their particular exposures. In any case, cyber insurance agreements typically fall into two categories: first-party coverage and third-party coverage. It's best for policyholders to have a clear understanding of both categories of coverage. This article highlights the value of cyber insurance by outlining common first- and third-party coverage offerings.

First-Party Coverage: Can offer financial protection for losses that an organization directly sustains from a cyber incident. Covered losses generally include the following: 1) Incident response costs—This coverage can help pay the costs associated with responding to a cyber incident. These costs may include utilizing IT forensics, restoring damaged systems, notifying affected customers and setting up call-center services; 2) Legal costs—Such coverage can help pay for legal counsel to assist with any notification or regulatory obligations resulting from a cyber incident; 3) Data recovery costs—This coverage can help recover expenses related to reconstituting data that may have been deleted or corrupted during a cyber incident; 4) Business interruption losses—Such coverage can help reimburse lost profits or additional costs incurred due to the unavailability of IT systems or critical data amid a cyber incident; 5) Cyber extortion losses—This coverage can help pay costs associated with hiring extortion response specialists to evaluate recovery options and negotiate ransom payment demands (if applicable) during a cyber inci-

dent; and 6) Reputational damage—Such coverage can help pay for crisis management and public relations services related to a cyber incident.

Third-Party Coverage: Can provide financial protection for claims made, fines incurred or legal action taken against an organization due to a cyber incident. Types of third-party coverage usually include the following: 1) Data privacy liability—This coverage can help recover the costs of dealing with third parties who had their information compromised during a cyber incident. These costs may include handling third-party lawsuits or legal disputes, offering credit-watch services and providing additional compensation. 2) Regulatory defense—Such coverage can help pay fines, penalties and other defense costs related to regulatory action or privacy law violations stemming from a cyber incident. 3) Media liability—This coverage can help reimburse defense costs and civil damages resulting from defamation, libel, slander and negligence allegations associated with the publication of content in electronic or print media. The coverage can also offer protection amid copyright, trademark or intellectual property infringement incidents.

Cyber insurance can make all the difference in helping organizations avoid large-scale financial losses amid cyber incidents. Contact your local independent agent today for more risk management guidance and coverage solutions.



Ethan Johnson works at Chalmers Insurance and has over 20 years of experience in the industry. A USM

graduate, he is passionate about helping people and giving back to his local community of Gorham, where he lives with his family.

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School Committee Meeting, March 25

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

The Special Meeting of the Gorham School Committee was called to order by Chairperson Nicole Yeo-Fisher. Five members were present. (Absent: Thistle, Tompkins)

The meeting began with a tour of Narragansett School led by Principal Erin Eppler. Narragansett has undergone three phases of expansion over the past few years. Several members of the tour expressed positive statements about the quality of construction and the thoughtful use and reuse of spaces through the building.

Curriculum coordinator Kim Fadrigam and GHS teacher Nan Acker-Wolfhagen presented an overview of the PK-12 Science Curriculum. At the PK-Grade 5 levels, the approach is exposure through a series of units of study including wind and water, the world of color, shadows and reflections and things that grow. At GMS there are units that build on elementary learning through the use of hands-on activities, research, lectures and experiments. At the high school, there are a series of courses presented at both advanced and standard levels. The focus of grades 9 and 10 are earth science and biology, respectively. In the final two years there are a variety of classes, including chemistry and physics at different levels, as well as elective choices, including marine science and forensics.

Assistant Superintendent Quinton Donahue presented the superintendent's nomination of Cheryl Foter as principal of Village School. This nomination followed a four-step, extensive process including interviews, meetings with stakeholders' groups and a final interview with Superintendent Perry. The committee voted (5-0) to accept the nomination.

Adult Education Director Bridget Kahn presented an overview of the program, which includes high school equivalency, English acquisition, academic advising, workforce training and personal enrichment.

The populations of each of these service areas have shown steady growth and they have outgrown their present space at GMS. Eventually, the program would ideally be located closer to the high school. The committee brainstormed some long-range options to be investigated and considered in future years.

The committee reviewed the Annual Fire Drill / Lockdown Plan for the Gorham schools. This plan has been evolving over the years due to the changing needs and concerns of students at different levels and the use of the ALICE safety plan (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate). Student safety is a major concern for all administration and staff and steps are taken to handle each unique situation with thoughtfulness and caring for student needs and comfort.

The committee voted (5-0) to go into executive session to review the SAA (Gorham Educational Support Personnel Association) contract negotiations pursuant to Maine state laws. A vote was taken after the executive session to approve the contract. (5-0).

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Spring Clerk's Corner Report

Laurie Nordfors, Town Clerk

Happy Spring Everyone. The weather is finally getting better, and the snow is almost gone.

Fishing season began April 1. Hunting and fishing licenses can be obtained online or in the Town Clerk's Office. Boat re-registrations can also be done online and starting May, you can re-register your ATV for 2027.

Motorcycle registrations were due March 31. Renewals may be completed online or in the Town Clerk's Office. Please bring your current registration, proof of insurance, and mileage.

The second half of the 2026 property tax bill is due May 15. Copies of

tax bills are available on the town's website at <https://www.gorham-me.org>.

The animal control officer is out issuing summonses for unlicensed dogs. Dogs not licensed for 2026 may be subject to a summons. Licenses are available through the Town Clerk's Office with a current rabies vaccination certificate.

Election Day is June 9, 2026, for the 2026-2027 Gorham School Budget and the State Primary for Governor, U.S. Senate, and state and local offices. Absentee ballot applications will be available beginning April 9 at the Town Clerk's Office, online, or by calling (207) 222-1670. Ballots will be mailed when available in early May.

Gorham MAINE Upcoming Town Meetings

- 4/11 Town Council FY26-27 Budget Workshop, 9 a.m.
- 4/13 Ordinance Committee Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
- 4/13 Affordable Housing Committee Meeting, 5 p.m.
- 4/13 Historic Preservation Commission Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- 4/15 Conservation Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 4/16 Capital Improvement Projects / Economic Development Committee Meeting, 11 a.m.
- 4/16 Board of Appeals Meeting, 6:30 p.m.



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- April 21 at 9am Get \$5 off from Casco FCU
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- April 22 from 10am-12pm
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- April 23 from 1-2pm
Baxter Memorial Library
- April 24 from 10am-12pm
393 Ossipee Trail, West Gorham




*Must be 13 or older and have a cosigner that's 18 or older to open a Casco FCU Teen Checking Account. Teen Checking Accounts opened in April 2026 will be paid \$100 into the account and be eligible to win a pair of Beats Studio® Pro Wireless Headphones. Promotion offered April 1-30, 2026. Drawing will be held on May 1, 2026. Membership eligibility required. Other restrictions may apply. **Federally insured by NCUA.**



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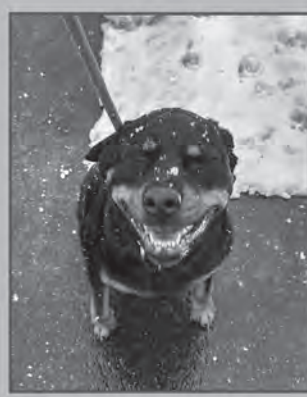
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REALTOR KELLEY'S PUP OF THE MONTH:

MEET ROSIE! Rosie is a sweet 6 year old Rottweiler who is here because her owner sadly passed away. She is a very good girl who is well behaved and housebroken. She's happy to be with other dogs but we believe she would do best in a home without cats.

To find out more information about Rosie please visit www.harvesthills.org.

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





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GMS Musicians Participate in Honors Festivals

Rosemarie Skilling, Band and Music teacher, GMS



Photo Credit: Rosemarie Skilling

7th & 8th Grade MMEA District 1 Honors Festival Band
 Row 1 (Front): Lillian McCarthy, Adeline McCrillis, Lyla Hatch
 Row 2: Emma Howe, Evan Holland, Ethan Butler, Maria Muanza
 Row 3: Houlton Hofman, Reid Stevens, Ben Emerson, Will Sundik

Seventh and Eighth Grade MMEA District 1 Honors Festival: Students audition in the fall. Only a certain number of students make it into each ensemble. Then, in late winter, for

two days, students work with students from several other schools and a guest conductor to perform for their families. This year's festival was held at Westbrook Middle School.

Gorham was very proud that four students earned first chair (top score) on their instruments: Ethan Butler (French Horn), Adeline McCrillis (Alto Saxophone), Lillian McCarthy (Trombone), and Lyla Hatch (Clarinet). Sixth Grade MMEA District 1

Honors Festival: Students are nominated by their teachers. Each year, a certain percentage of students are chosen to participate in this festival. For many students, this is their first experience of playing at a festival. This year's festival was hosted here at Gorham High School.



Photo Credit: Rosemarie Skilling

7th & 8th Grade MMEA District 1 Honors Festival Chorus
 (L to R): Kyler Smith, Amélie Esmiller, Cici Vo, Nora Emler, Ada White, Patrick Vanmeter, Max Castonguay, Gabe Soler, Will Haase, Caleb West, Tony Costa



Photo Credit: Rosemarie Skilling

6th Grade MMEA District 1 North Honors Festival Band
 Left to Right: Will Reynolds, Gabby Saldivar, Rowan Connor, Madeline Musser



Photo Credit: Rosemarie Skilling

6th Grade MMEA District 1 North Honors Festival Chorus
 (L to R): Rae Whitty, Grace Wallace, Evelyn Willett, Abby Espejo, Hala Abdelraheem, Gwen Garland-Morris

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Gorham Times

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Roasted Cabbage/ Chick Pea/ Pepita Salad

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 or 2 cans of chick peas, drained | 1 1/2 teaspoons reduced-sodium soy sauce |
| 1 cup pepitas (pumpkin seeds) or sunflower seeds as a substitute | 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard |
| 1 small head green cabbage, chopped into 1-inch pieces (about 8 cups) | 1 large clove garlic, grated with a Microplane or finely diced |
| 4 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil, divided | 1/4 teaspoon ground pepper, plus more for garnish |
| 1/4 teaspoon salt | 1 1/2 teaspoons reduced-sodium soy sauce |
| 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese | 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard |
| 2 tablespoons rice vinegar | 1/4 teaspoon ground pepper, plus more for garnish |

Position oven racks in top third and lower third; preheat to 425°F. Toss cabbage, chick peas and pepitas with 2 to 3 tablespoons oil and salt in a large bowl until well coated. Spread in an even layer on 2 large rimmed baking sheets.

Roast the mixture until tender and golden, about 25 minutes, rotating the pans between top and bottom racks halfway through. Meanwhile, whisk Parmesan, vinegar, soy sauce, mustard, garlic, pepper and the remaining 2 tablespoons oil together in a large heatproof bowl. (For a creamier dressing, process in a blender until creamy and smooth, about 30 seconds.) Transfer the hot roasted mixture to the bowl with the dressing; toss until evenly coated. Let stand for 15 minutes to allow the flavors to meld. Garnish with additional pepper before serving, if desired.

Questions about this recipe can be e-mailed to Barbara Schneider at btsme21@gmail.com

McDonald & USM Baseball Off to a Strong Start

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo Credit: USM Athletics

Huskies pre-game huddle

As of April 2, the University of Southern Maine baseball team is off to a great start to the season with a 13-4 record (5-0 in their LEC conference). Junior Colin McDonald, who is pitching right where he left off last season, is the second Husky to have been named the Maine College Baseball & Softball Association (MCBSA) Pitcher of the Week, on March 24.

According to the Southern Maine athletic director's press release, McDonald was dominant on the mound in a 15-1 (seven innings) Little East Conference win over UMass Dartmouth, striking out a season-high nine batters while allowing just five hits and no walks.

McDonald retired 11 straight hitters from the fourth through the sev-

enth inning, including five by strikeout, and punctuated the outing by striking out the side in the fifth. McDonald's game 1 win over the Corsairs helped Southern Maine earn the LEC sweep on the weekend of March 21. Currently McDonald has pitched 26 innings and has an ERA of 1.73.

Other leaders featured for the Husky baseball squad include upperclassmen Kyle Douin (23 hits) and Peter Koblinsky (25 hits), who have paced the team offensively. Freshman pitcher Hayden Stroud earned rookie of the week on March 17, while junior infielder Evan Baschnagel was named player of the week on March 6. Gabe Gifford and Carson Black have also pitched well for the Huskies, solidifying their rotation.

Transfer Caleb Vacchiano, who pre-

viously played for UMaine, has been a steady bat offensively with three triples, a homer and a .276 average. Gorham natives Quinn Dillon and freshman Josh Polchies are hitting .311 and .400 respectively.

Head coach Scott Heath is in his sec-

ond year at the helm, replacing long-time Hall of Fame coach Ed Flaherty. Heath previously served as an assistant coach at the University of Maine.

Good luck to the Huskies the rest of the season.

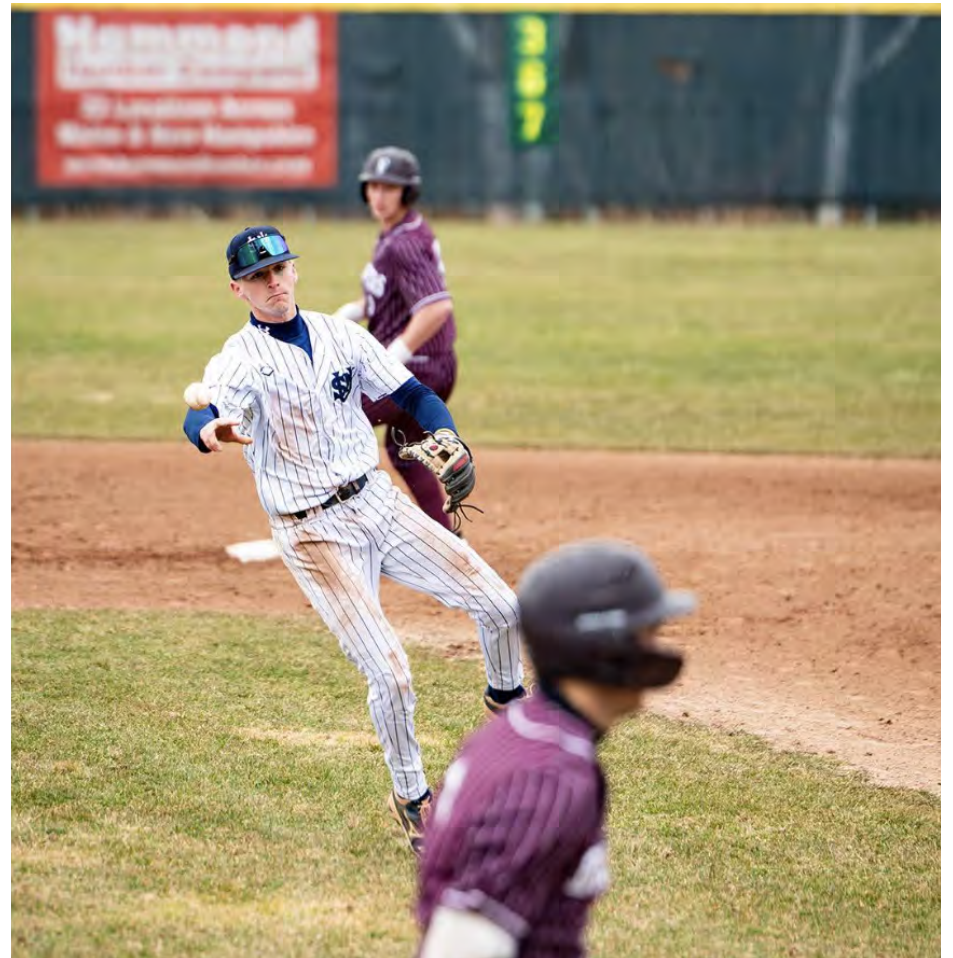


Photo Credit: USM Athletics

Infielder Josh Polchies in action.

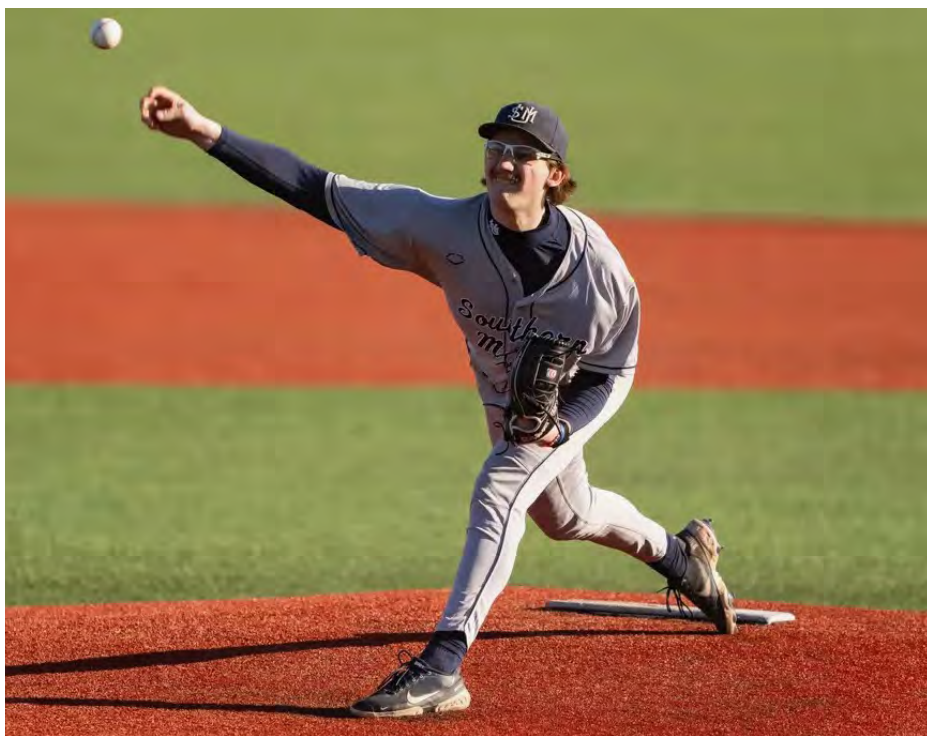


Photo Credit: USM Athletics

Colin McDonald on the mound

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COMMUNITY

OF INTEREST

Veterans of Foreign Wars Gorham Memorial Post 10879, located at 270 Main Street in Gorham, invites local veterans and community members to connect with the post and learn more about its work supporting veterans and their families in the Gorham community. Post meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 14 at 5:30 p.m. at Gorham Memorial Post 10879. The post participates in community service projects, veteran outreach, memorial ceremonies, youth programs, and events honoring those who have served our country. FMI: Jakob Bauder at (207) 607-0370. Facebook: Gorham Memorial VFW Post 10879. Donations supporting veteran programs can be made via Venmo: venmo.com/u/vfwpost10879

Electric Vehicle Event at First Parish Church, April 18, 10 a.m. to noon. The Climate Caretakers at First Parish Church, 1 Church St., will host an opportunity to learn more about electric vehicles. Brief presentations will be made and current EV owners will be available to show their cars and talk to participants about the joys and challenges of ownership. If you are concerned about the price of gas or the precipitous heating up of our planet from the use of fossil fuels, this event is for you! FMI: Linda Webb (lwebb34@gmail.com)

Presumpscot Regional Land Trust is holding a Field Guide Workshop on Thursday, April 23 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Black Brook Preserve in Windham. This guided walk along a family-friendly 1-mile loop will demonstrate how to use several tips and tricks for identifying plants, trees, birds and other wildlife with the aid of several phone applications. This event is open to all ages. Children must attend with a parent or guardian. More information on Black Brook Preserve is available at <https://www.prlt.org>. The event is free to attend, but registration is required. Children must be attended by an adult. It will be helpful to download the recommended phone applications ahead of time and start practicing: iNaturalist, Seek by iNaturalist, Merlin Bird ID by Cornell Lab, eBird by Cornell Lab.

The Cumberland County Retired Teachers Association is offering a \$2,000 scholarship to any Cumberland County resident majoring in education. FMI: <https://www.CCREAMaine.org>, Jean Phillips, (207) 329-5652.

UMaine Extension shares a new fact sheet to support individuals who are starting farm enterprises, an effort that often comes with a steep learning curve. The publication, Bulletin #1215, is available free of charge on the program web page: <http://extension.umaine.edu/publications/1215e/>. For more information or to request a reasonable accommodation, contact Nicholas Rowley at (207) 778.4650 or nicholas.rowley@maine.edu.

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 springclothing. 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.

PUBLIC SUPPERS

Cressey Road Christian Church is having a Bean Supper on Saturday, April 11 from 5 - 6 p.m. Beans, hot dogs, cole slaw, a side dish, biscuits, and pies for dessert. \$10 for adults, \$7 for ages 7 to 17, under 7 free.

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.

The Gorham Medical Loan Closet is available to Gorham residents in need of medical equipment temporarily. Wheelchairs, walkers, canes and scooters are just some of the items available. The closet is only open Monday through Thursday, and only by appointment. Call Carol Robinson at (207) 400-7171, or Anne Murphy at (207) 671-5971 for more information.

LIBRARY NEWS

North Gorham Public Library invites everyone to an Open House at the library on Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Enjoy homemade pies, tea or coffee, and the company of good books and good neighbors. They will also be hosting the monthly crafting workshop. Stay awhile and make a bookmark or notecards. 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, April 9

Baxter Memorial Library, Toddler Storytime, 10 - 10:30 a.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Book Group: "The Homemade God," Rachel Joyce, 10:15 a.m.
USM Athletics, Baseball vs. Clark University at 3 p.m.
Friends of Baxter Memorial Library Meeting, 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, April 11

USM Athletics, Men's Lacrosse vs. Eastern Connecticut State at 1 p.m.
USM Athletics, Men's Tennis vs. Vermont State University Castleton at GHS at 1 p.m.
Cressey Road Christian Church Public Supper, 5 - 6 p.m.

Monday, April 13

USM Athletics, Baseball vs. Bates College at 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 14

Baxter Memorial Library, Preschool and Kindergarten Readiness Storytime, 10 - 11 a.m.
USM Athletics, Baseball vs. UMass Boston at 3:30 p.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Dogs Dig Reading, 4 - 5 p.m.
USM Athletics, Women's Lacrosse vs. Husson University at 5 p.m.
VFW Gorham Memorial Post 10879 meeting, 5:30 p.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Author Event with Molly Donlan, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 15

Baxter Memorial Library, Baby Storytime, 9:30 - 10 a.m.
St. Anne's Church Senior Mealsite, 11:30 a.m. social, noon meal.
USM Athletics, Baseball vs. Endicott College at 3:30 p.m.
USM Athletics, Men's Lacrosse vs. UMass Boston at 4 p.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Dungeons and Dragons, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Baxter Memorial Library Community Forum: Our Schools, Our Future, 6 p.m.

Thursday, April 16

Baxter Memorial Library, Toddler Storytime, 10 - 10:30 a.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Experience Art, 1:30 p.m.
USM Athletics, Baseball vs. Bowdoin College at 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 18

Baxter Memorial Library, Pokémon Club, 10 a.m. to noon.
First Parish Church Electric Vehicle Event, 10 a.m.
North Gorham Public Library Open House from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
USM Athletics, Men's Tennis vs. Rhode Island College at Gorham High School, 1 p.m.
USM Athletics, Women's Lacrosse vs. Rhode Island College at 1 p.m.

Sunday, April 19

USM Athletics, Baseball vs. Massachusetts Institute of Technology at 1 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21

Baxter Memorial Library, Music Morning at BML, 10 - 11 a.m.
USM Athletics, Men's Tennis vs. Salem State University at GHS at 3:30 p.m.
USM Athletics, Softball vs. Plymouth State University at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Lizards Love Literacy, 4 - 5 p.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Dungeons and Dragons, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 22

Baxter Memorial Library, Seed Bombs for Peace, 10 a.m. to noon.
St. Anne's Church Senior Mealsite, 11:30 a.m. social, noon meal.
USM Athletics, Women's Lacrosse vs. UMass Boston at 4 p.m.

Thursday, April 23

Baxter Memorial Library, Book Group: "The Storyteller" by Jodi Picoult, 10:15 a.m.
Presumpscot Regional Land Trust Field Guide Workshop, 10 - 11:30 a.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Financial Fun with Casco Federal Credit Union, 1 - 2 p.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Suncatcher Art Night, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

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

You're in the Know. Gorham Times

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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Courtesy of the Gorham Police Department

the blotter

Officer approached the driver side window and made contact with the male operator, also identifying a female in the front passenger seat. The man informed me they needed gas and the GPS kept giving them confusing directions. Officer saw the gas monitor on the vehicles screen showed 45 miles until empty, and confirmed the confusion and difficulty following directions were the only issues. Officer told them that the Shell a little further down on County Road may be 24 hour service for gas. If not the Cumberland Farms in Scarborough likely would be open. They continued on their way and officer cleared the scene.

Caller reported a person that was in the street harassing the protesters. The Sgt. called and advised the person who said he had just asked them about the vulgar language on the signs and if it was appropriate for children to see. He also stated he would get them some black spray paint to cover over it, but was advised not to.

A citizen came to the PD looking for information regarding a harassment order that was placed against her. She wanted to know what the original complainant said in the report. Officer advised her she could reach out to the front desk with no guarantee that they would release the information.

Caller reported a medium-sized dog with brown and white spots and long ears that was in the roadway near Smiling Hill Farm. Officer advised dispatch to make Westbrook aware of the information cleared from the call.

A unit was dispatched to School Street to speak to a citizen who was stating that she believed she was being followed by someone. Was unable to give a description because

she was too afraid to look. Officer drove around the apartment complex and was unable to see a vehicle running or someone walking around. The woman then walked the officer around the building to make sure that all the doors were locked and to show the officer where everything happened. All the doors were secure and it did not look like anyone was in the building. The woman kept saying that the building needed more security because of how the world was going. Officer advised her that when she left that the officer would take another look around the inside and outside the building. Officer also asked if it would be ok to open her door when she locked it. Officer verified that door is locked and then checked the interior.

Standish Deputies made GPD aware of a possibly intoxicated male driving a silver Chevrolet Silverado. Deputies advised he would most likely take Ossipee Trail through Gorham. Officer checked the area with no luck and Standish Deputies were able to locate the male.

Gorham Rec Dept called in looking for help getting a trapped squirrel out of the Old Robie house. After arriving on scene, officers located the squirrel in the kitchen. After coaxing the fat squirrel out of the kitchen and away from the closed window he kept trying to jump through, officers were able to usher him through the open front door to freedom. Officers cleared the scene shortly thereafter.

A caller reported a dark pickup truck that was running red lights and passing people south on Main Street in Windham coming into Gorham. There was no license plate or other information provided. Three officers all looked in the area and did not find the vehicle.

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