

Gorham Times

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GORHAM, ME
PERMIT NO. 10

Volume 32 Number 8 | April 23, 2026

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

Gorham High School Spring Sports Outlook 2026

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo Credit: Meghan Cushing

Girls Lacrosse Team

Girls Lacrosse :

As explained by Coach Meghan Cushing, "The team finished 10-4 last year. We finished as the fourth seed out of around 22 teams. This was the best finish for us in a very long time.

We got upset in the first round of the playoffs. We had some big wins, including a huge win against Falmouth. We graduated a big senior group and are looking to rebuild this year. We are led by an amazing group of six seniors this year. Logan Doughty, Rilyn McInnis, and Winni Moreland will be our three senior captains this year.

"Players to watch: Kennady Peary, junior midfielder. Peary is an extremely dynamic midfielder returning to the field this year. After two strong seasons, she will look to take on a bigger role this year. During the 2025 season, she had 31 goals, 54 draw controls, 29 ground balls, and 16 caused turnovers. Logan Doughty, senior, midfielder. Doughty is a tall and commanding midfielder. She has played a critical role on the field for us for all four seasons of her career. Last year, she had 34 goals, 86 draw controls, 47 ground balls, and 23 caused turnovers. Winni Moreland, senior, defense. Moreland is our top returning defender and is the

anchor of our defensive unit. She had 25 ground balls and 13 caused turnovers during the 2025 season. She will be a key component of our defense this season."

Coach Cushing added, "We are a very young team this year, with only 10 varsity returners. The goal is to learn and grow with each game of the season and build on the foundations that have been set in the past. Even though we are young, the team is excited and ready to go. Windham, Falmouth, and Kennebunk will all be tough opponents for us."

Boys Lacrosse :

According to coach Zach Bryant, "Last year the team ended the season with a 6-8 record, which was an improvement from the prior year as my first season running the program. With this season being my third year as head coach, our goal is to have a .500 or better record and make it back to the playoffs. With a heavy senior influence on the team I see a chance at this happening this year. Team captains are Max Duplisea, Aiden Dudley, and Cole Chasse. Cole Chasse

had a huge junior year with 30 goals, 7 assists, 36 ground balls and 16 caused turnovers as a midfielder. Chasse was named an All Conference Player last season. With that said I think he's set to have an explosive senior season. Max Duplisea is a 4-year varsity starter and 3-time captain. He's been named All Conference twice and was an honorable mention one year. Last year he tallied 28 ground balls and 11 caused turnovers. Returning goalies Wyatt Sawyer (11) and Finn Dixon (12) are both looking promising early on. With the starting spot going back and forth last season it will be interesting to see how it goes this year."

Coach concluded, "Class A is a tough conference with a lot of talented programs. I know TA and Falmouth will be challenging games, as well as Scarborough and our swing game with York."

Baseball :

Last year the baseball team ended the season with a 12-6 record. The Rams lost in the second round of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Odyssey of the Mind Teams Excel at Competition

Michael Lortie, School News Editor



PROBLEM 4 : DIVISION 1 - 1ST PLACE WINNERS

Photos provided by the parents of teams

Great Falls Fourth Grade: Great Falls fourth grade team finished first in the Structure problem.

On Saturday, April 4, Gorham had eight teams compete at the Odyssey of the Mind Tournament. All of Gorham's teams performed exceptionally well, with three teams placing first and two teams placing third. Teams that place first or second are invited to attend World Finals. The Great Falls fourth grade Structures team, one of the first

place finishers, is the only team to decide to compete at the tournament's World Finals at Iowa State University in May.

In order to make this exciting experience a reality, the team is actively seeking fundraising support. If you would like to help send these talented students

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Second Jane's Walk, A Community Tour

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer



Photo Credit: Greater Portland Landmarks

Jane's Walk last year focused on South Street neighborhoods.

Join friends and neighbors at this year's 2nd Jane's Walk, which will be held on Saturday, May 2. Building on last year's great success, this year's event will be led by Libby Bischof, Ph.D., Gorham resident, USM professor of history and university historian, and executive director of USM's Osher Map Library. The walk will focus on buildings on USM's Gorham campus. Participants will meet, rain or shine, at 1 p.m. at Corthell Hall.

Dr. Bischof will share an historical and architectural timeline of Maine's educational cornerstone, originating from 1806 as the Gorham Academy. It became a pioneering teacher-training institution (Gorham Normal School) in 1878, with the campus now part of the National Register of Historic Places in one of Gorham's Historic Districts.

Some of the sites included on the walk are Corthell Hall, the McLellan House, the Civil War Monument, Russell Hall, the Arboretum, the President's House and several historic homes on College Avenue. Research conducted about the Academy Building will be presented by Gorham High School History Department students.

The walks are named in honor of Jane Jacobs (1916-2006), a writer and activist with innovative beliefs about urban planning. She believed that communities, whether urban or rural and of all shapes and sizes, are strengthened and enriched by sharing history, face to face with neighbors. This year, on the first weekend in May, over 500 walks will be held in communities around the world to honor and build upon her vision.

Each Jane's Walk is community-driven and thus is unique in each participating location. Yet each walk shares some commonalities. Organized by volunteers, the walks recognize that "hometowns," whether a large city or a small village, are living ecosystems with a past, a present and a future and that communities benefit when neighbors have an opportunity to share ideas and history face to face.

The event is open to the public and will be held rain or shine. Refreshments will be provided courtesy of USM. Jane's Walk Parking passes will be available for participants.

TEACHER OF THE YEAR
PAGE 6

inside the Times



GOCAM

YouTube

2 Augusta 4 Living 5 Municipal 6 School 7 Sports

9 Community 10 Business 10 Calendar 11 Blotter

ART PROGRAM
PAGE 4

A Hard-Fought Win for Working Families

Rep. Ellie Sato

After many long days and nights at the State House, I'm proud to report that at the beginning of April we accomplished one of our biggest goals: passing a supplemental budget that delivers for Maine's working families.

It's often said that budgets are a reflection of our values. We heard from Mainers across the state, including right here in Gorham, who told us what this budget should look like – protecting access to critical services, providing property tax relief, and offsetting the rising costs of gas, electricity and groceries.

I listened, and fought for a budget that will do the most amount of good for Gorham, and strengthen our community.

The budget protects core services by providing critical funding for MaineCare, K-12 public education, and the state's Highway Fund. It will help feed hungry kids by closing the gap in our universal meals program, and it will clear the Child Care Affordability Program waitlist so families can find the child care they need.

The budget also provides \$11.4 million in direct property tax relief through the Property Tax Fairness Credit by increasing the maximum benefit for Mainers under

65. It includes important funding to help us build more housing and continue addressing the shortage of units throughout our state.

For far too long, budgets have been balanced on the backs of those who can least afford it. During the LePage administration, taxes for the richest Mainers were slashed, shifting the burden onto working families and property taxpayers. As a state, we're still bearing the consequences.

To make our tax system more fair for working families, this supplemental budget includes another huge, hard-fought win: a tax on millionaires that will ensure the highest earners in our state pay their fair share. The new millionaires' tax will only impact around 2,600 Mainers – less than 0.4% of all taxpayers – but it will go a long way to generate revenue that helps support the basic services that we all rely on. It is a major step forward to correct a longstanding injustice as we work to create a fair tax system that benefits us all.

Additionally, as a member of the Legislature's Judiciary Committee, I am relieved to share that we included several crucial initiatives to protect the rights

of all Mainers. We put millions toward funding public defense and civil legal aid to ensure access to justice, and support essential services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Over the coming months, I look forward to providing more information about what we are doing on the state level and what other new initiatives and support are available in this budget.

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

I am writing in strong support of Sophie Warren for State Senate, representing Scarborough and Gorham. During her five years as a State Representative, she has served Scarborough with dedication—working to address climate change, reduce energy costs, and protect reproductive rights. Sophie brings both experience and a proven record across a wide range of important issues, and she is well prepared to represent our communities in the Senate. I encourage others to join me in supporting her in the June 9 primary election.

Ann Blanchard, Scarborough

To the Editor,

Five years ago I voted for Sophie Warren to represent Scarborough at the State House. She has exceeded expectations, sponsoring and supporting important legislation around climate change; home energy efficiency and access; housing affordability; criminal justice reform and food insecurity. Sophie has worked tirelessly to sustain and improve the quality of life we all value. She is now willing to take her passion, energy and experience to the State Senate to continue to work on our behalf on these important issues. Please join me in supporting Sophie for State Senate.

Patricia Brigham, Scarborough

To the Editor,

As a young adult who spent time growing up near the beaches of Scarborough, State Representative Sophie Warren demonstrates the positive impact that dedicated young leaders can have on local government. With the rising costs of healthcare, gas, groceries, and more, Sophie brings a fresh and compassionate perspective to protecting Mainers from all walks of life.

For those worried that their local government has disregarded them, State

Representative Sophie Warren continues to exceed expectations. Rep. Warren also has been a leader in the fight for our human rights and constitutional rights in the face of a federal government that simply acts as a law unto itself and discriminates against people of color. As my current state representative, I know that Sophie cares for Mainers not only as constituents but as neighbors. Whether it be protecting Maine's natural resources through expanding the usage of solar energy, or defending immigrant communities, I'm confident that as State Senator Sophie will continue to work tirelessly so that her constituents can live with dignity.

Perhaps most importantly, in a time where government officials at all levels choose division over compassion, Sophie Warren reminds us all what it means to be a kind leader. Now, Sophie seeks to take her work to the Maine State Senate. On June 9, 2026, I'll be voting for Sophie Warren for Maine State Senate, District 30! I hope all people who believe in compassionate political leadership will join me.

Sincerely,

Olivia Gauvin, Scarborough

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

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

Upcoming Advertising Deadlines

April 29
May 13
May 27

Gorham VFW Post 10879 to Honor Fallen Service Members on Memorial Day

Jakob Bauder, Post 10879 Quartermaster

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Gorham Memorial Post 10879 will join the Gorham community this Memorial Day in honoring the men and women who gave their lives in service to the United States.

Memorial Day remains one of the most solemn observances for the Veterans of Foreign Wars, as members reflect on the sacrifices made by fellow service members and ensure their legacy is never forgotten. In Gorham, Post 10879 plays an active role in local remembrance efforts, supporting ceremonies and community participation throughout the day.

“Memorial Day is about honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country,” said Quartermaster Jakob Bauder. “It’s important that we, as a community, come together to remember their service, reflect on the freedoms we enjoy, and ensure their legacy lives on for future generations.”

Residents are encouraged to attend

Memorial Day observances and take time to recognize the significance of the holiday. These events provide an opportunity for the community to come together in remembrance, pay respects at local cemeteries, and honor those who served.

Gorham Memorial Post 10879 continues its mission year-round by supporting veterans and their families through outreach programs, community service, and participation in local events that promote patriotism and remembrance.

The post also welcomes eligible veterans in the Gorham area to become involved and continue the tradition of service beyond military life.

For more information about Memorial Day activities, membership, or upcoming events, contact Quartermaster Jakob Bauder at 207-607-0370.

Follow Gorham Memorial VFW Post 10879 on Facebook for updates and event details. Donations supporting veteran programs may be made at <https://venmo.com/u/vfwpost10879>.

Moon Matters

Chris Crawford, Features Editor

The Artemis II launch has renewed our interest in the Moon. Artemis, the Greek goddess of the hunt and of the Moon, gives her name to a program that has again turned our attention skyward. The Earth’s beautiful satellite has long captured our human imagination and has sparked thousands of songs and poems written in its honor.

The Moon is located about 239,000 miles from Earth. In early April, we were treated to stunning photos of the far side, along with images of our own beautiful blue Earth - all from the comfort of our own couches. It was truly inspiring.

The Moon itself is volcanic rock and space debris, dusty and airless, without wind or rain or life as we know it. It is one-quarter the size of Earth and its gravity is one-sixth as strong. That is why earlier Apollo astronauts were able to make a “giant leap for mankind.” Average temperatures fluctuate greatly from 250 degrees Fahrenheit during the day to minus 208 degrees Fahrenheit at night.

We often take the Moon for granted as it waxes and wanes on its regular schedule, occasionally interrupted by an eclipse. Yet our companion is vital to life on Earth. Its gravitational pull drives ocean tides and its steady orbit helps stabilize our climate. Without the Moon, many animals such as corals, some fish and sea turtles would struggle to survive. The light of the Moon tells them when it is time to mate, or how to find the ocean after they hatch, in the case of the turtles. Surfers would sadly miss some great waves

without the Moon’s gravitational pull.

More importantly, according to the Institute of Physics, without the Moon, Earth’s rotation would be destabilized. The Earth could tilt so far over that the north and south poles would lie east-west and be burning hot, while the equator would run north-south and be freezing cold.

Another little known fact is that the Moon experiences “moonquakes,” the lunar equivalent of earthquakes. Seismometers placed on the Moon during earlier Apollo missions in 1969 to 1972 recorded thousands of these events. India’s Chandrayaan-3 mission detected a moonquake in 2023 and also found evidence of water, frozen as ice within lunar rock.

NASA scientists believe that the Moon’s interior is slowly cooling and contracting, causing these quakes. Although generally weaker than those on Earth, the shaking from moonquakes can last longer than an hour.

Much of the seismic activity occurs near the Moon’s south pole, where NASA wants to send humans on subsequent Artemis missions. Knowing and planning for moonquakes will dictate how safe, permanent structures on the Moon will need to be built. According to NASA, the lunar south pole was chosen because it also has water, trapped as ice in volcanic rock in higher concentrations than in other areas of the Moon.

There is a lot more to learn about our solitary satellite. NASA’s website, <https://www.space.com/> and the Institute of Physics website were consulted for this article.

Gorham Troop 73 Rummage Sale

Christine Karcanes, Community Contributor



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Troop 73

Gorham Troop 73

Gorham Troop 73 is hosting a community rummage sale on Saturday, May 30 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. next to Baxter Memorial Library. Proceeds from the sale will support the troop’s activities like camping adventures, community service projects and merit badge/rank advancement requirements.

There are several ways to participate:

1. Come to the sale and shop.
2. Donate items for the troop to sell

- Items can be dropped off at On Point Storage, 551 Main Street, during normal business hours between April 1 and May 8. Check in with the office when you arrive. Items must be in sellable condition (clean, not broken, working) and please no appliances.

3. Rent a table (\$50) to sell your own wares. Reach out to mitchellzaninelli@gmail.com for more information. Tables are being provided by Party with Confetti Rentals.

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Library Art Program

Roger Marchand, Staff Photographer



Photo Credit: Roger Marchand

A large group of Gorham residents attended the Baxter Memorial Library art program on April 16. Top left Sarah Warshaw and Mary Ledue-Bell of USM, Center Mary Ledue-Bell presentation, middle left Sarah Warshaw's art appreciation presentation, bottom left participant in one of the art appreciation activities, bottom center Denise Beck of Greater Portland Metro, bottom right getting on the bus in Gorham.

The Baxter Memorial Library presented a new type of program on April 16. Adult Services and programs director Nissa Flanagan developed the program that included the cooperation of the University of Southern Maine, the Greater Portland Metro Service, and the Portland Museum of Art. The session included an introductory art appreciation lesson from USM art education faculty Sarah Warshaw and Mary Ledue-Bell. This was followed by Denise Beck, of the Greater Portland Metro, giving

an overview of how the Husky bus works in Gorham as well as the overall Metro system. After a short walk to the Gorham Metro bus stop the participants rode the Husky Line bus to Portland. From there they went to the Portland Museum of Art, with free admission and a museum educator who led a tour of the collection. The group then returned to Gorham on the bus. The large number of participants felt that this program was a success and hoped that the library would do similar activities in the future.

Financial Focus: Risks Threaten Gen Z's Retirement

Pete Watt, Contributing Writer

While older generations worry about having enough money for retirement, many Gen Z workers aren't even starting to save. Research in 2025 by Edward Jones and Morning Consult shows that nearly half haven't begun setting money aside for their golden years, and only 22% are contributing to a workplace retirement plan. The culprit is a perfect storm of financial pressures that can make saving for the future feel impossible. One of the biggest challenges this generation faces is debt. High-interest credit card balances and persistent student loan payments leave many feeling they're just trying to stay afloat, rather than planning decades ahead. The cost of living doesn't help either. Nearly 60% of Gen Z renters are considered "rent burdened," spending more than 30% of their pre-tax income on rent, according to a StreetEasy Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data. Rising prices driven by inflation and tariffs squeeze budgets further, moving retirement savings down the priority list. The nature of work has also changed. Gen Z is more likely than previous generations to hold gig jobs, contract positions or other flexible work arrangements that often don't include employer retirement plans, according to Pew Research. Even when plans are available, only 22% participate. Feeling overwhelmed by jargon, confused by investment choices or focusing only on today's experiences and technology can all delay participation. These early gaps may lead to catch-up needs later in life. Unfortunately, Gen Z has little faith in the retirement safety net. Only about a third of Gen Z-ers say they believe Social Security will still exist when they retire, according to the latest information from the CATO Institute. Fortunately, there are steps Gen Z can take now to get their retirement savings off to a good start:

- Start small. Even a few dollars per paycheck builds a savings habit and gets com-

pounding interest working in their favor. Early momentum matters more than starting big.

- Let compounding do its work. Small, consistent contributions can grow dramatically over time, especially when they have decades to accumulate.
- Use a workplace retirement account. For anyone with access to a plan, enroll and contribute at least enough to receive any employer match. It's one of the few forms of "free money" available.
- Open an IRA. If no plan is available through work, take charge by opening an individual retirement account (IRA).
- Simplify investing. If the choices feel confusing, consider options such as a target date fund, which reduces complexity and helps keep you properly invested without needing expert advice.
- Use found money. Direct tax refunds, bonuses or gig income into retirement savings to boost progress without straining the monthly budget.
- Automate contributions. Automatic transfers make saving effortless. Review this annually and increase contributions as income grows.
- Build confidence. If investing feels overwhelming, look for quick financial education resources from an employer, plan provider or reputable nonprofit organization. Even a little knowledge can make decisions easier.

The path to retirement doesn't require perfection — just progress. Building consistency early helps create choices, security and financial breathing room later in life.



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SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

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Town Council Meeting, April 7

Michael Lortie, Staff Writer

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

Nine members of the public addressed the board. Several spoke in opposition of the Amazon project. One of the leaders of the group represented numerous other community members and explained to the board that they had intentionally reduced their numbers out of courtesy for the councilors' time at the meeting. Another community member advocated for the council to spend \$45,000 to repair the town cemeteries. In addition, one citizen questioned why there wasn't a more positive attitude from the board towards a local company, one spoke in opposition to an event at the Baxter Memorial Library and one spoke about the need of the board to investigate and enforce the water management policies particularly in the area of Lawn Avenue.

School Committee Chair Nicole Yeo-Fisher provided an update to the council. She mentioned the budget process timeline resulting in a May 12 council vote and a June 9 referendum vote. She detailed the implications of several items in the governor's budget and proposed bills that might impact the local schools. She provided a list of dates for events within each school through to the end of the school year. During National Assistant Principal Week she recognized Deanna Etienne, Sean Hanson, Jennifer Baker, Vanessa Nickerson, Marc Sawyer and Christina Cifelli.

Each council member was provided the opportunity to provide updates. Councilor Hamblen admitted to feeling stressed about all of the opposition to the Amazon project. Councilor Willis noted the date of Gorham Cleans Up (April 25) and the Friends of Baxter Book Sales (May 1, May

2). Councilor Siegel mentioned that the Baxter Library has free tickets to the USM Planetarium, wished everyone a Happy Passover and confirmed that he was running for state representative. Chairperson Phillips spoke about the upcoming Jane's Walk on May 2, the Taste Walk on June 7 and several Horace Wilson field events for the spring and early summer.

Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak announced that the parking bans have been lifted, the street-sweeping schedule is available on the town website and there is a joint budget workshop with the School Committee on April 25. He also detailed upcoming projects including South Street sidewalks and continued work on Robie Park as soon as weather improves.

The council voted (7-0) to issue a renewal massage license to Heather Theriault and a new massage license to Mallory Parks.

The council voted (7-0) to amend the Land Use and Development Code to create a sewer impact fee for parts of Main Street.

Two members of the public spoke about concerns to the proposed changes to the Fire Suppression System Ordinance. The council voted (6-1, Phillips opposed) to amend the code to allow fees in lieu of systems, although there is considerable council support to eventually retract the ordinance.

The council voted (7-0) to appoint a roster of Democratic and Republican election workers for the next two years.

The council voted to authorize the transfer of \$7,500 from the opioid settlement funds to the Gorham Action Team for Youth (GATY) for drug prevention activities.

An item to allow an exception of transfer overlay density bonus fees within a quarter-mile of the Husky Line bus stop in the Village was forwarded to the Economic and Development Committee. (7-0)

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.

Planning Board Names Officers, Committee Assignments

Sally Fay, Staff Writer

The Planning Board convened its monthly meeting on April 6 with six board members in attendance (Chair James Hager, Vice Chair William Benson, Stephen Crisafulli, Rob Delaney, Russell Frank, David Walsh) and one absent (Barbara Nichols). The meeting's first order of business was election of officers and subcommittee assignments for the new term, which began April 1.

The following members were elected to serve as Planning Board officers: James Hager, chair; William Benson, vice chair; and Barbara Nichols, secretary. David Walsh (chair), William Benson, and Robert Delaney were assigned to serve on the Ordinance Committee and Russell Frank (chair), Stephen Crisafulli, and Barbara

Nichols to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee.

Public hearings were held on five agenda items.

Item 1 was a proposal for construction of Thistle Petite Condominiums, 31 units of multifamily housing with associated infrastructure, on County Road. The board moved to postpone review of the final subdivision and site plan pending responses to remaining issues (6 Ayes, 1 Absent).

Item 2 was a request by Atlantic National Trust, LLC to amend the zoning map from Rural (R) to Suburban Residential (SR). The board moved to send to the Town

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

School Committee Meeting April 8

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

The Gorham School Committee held their regularly scheduled monthly meeting on April 8. Chairperson Nicole Yeo-Fisher called the meeting to order and all seven members were present. They approved the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 11; the Budget Workshop Meetings of March 9, March 16 and March 23; and the Special Meeting of March 25. (7-0)

Art teacher Mrs. Sotir and eight students made a presentation about the Village School Family Art Night. The students spoke clearly about their enjoyment of this night and their love of art class. They proudly exhibited their artwork to the School Board.

Kelli Deveaux and Michelle Bourget summarized the Aspire Program from grades

PK to 12. The program has grown since 2017 from a grant and a question: "Everyone has a story, what's yours?" Presently, there are activities in all buildings, including STEAM Nights (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math), guest speakers, field experiences, career investigations and ELOs (Extended Learning Opportunities). Four students spoke passionately about their personal ELO experiences and the impacts on their career choices and future goals.

Superintendent Heather Perry spoke about the governor's budget and possible impacts on the Gorham schools. She also mentioned testing cycles occurring in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Clerk's Corner

Kimberly Getchell, Assistant Town Clerk

Spring is finally here! Fishing licenses are available for purchase online and in person.

We will begin registering ATVs May 1 for the year 2027.

Absentee ballot requests are available for the June 9, 2026 Primary

Election, online and in person.

Postcards went out for late dog registrations. We acknowledge that some cards were sent in error and we apologize. If you registered your dog for 2026 please disregard the postcard.

Grandma's Attic Treasures

Open House and Mother's Day Sale

featuring

*vintage & antique linens ** 19th century prints and paper ** Victorian era antiques, collectibles, gifts and accessories*

One Weekend Only

Saturday, May 2nd
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, May 3rd
12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Grandma's Attic Treasures Studio is located at the sign of The Colonel's Lady, 82 South Street (Route 114) Gorham, ME. 04038

School Superintendent Submits Budget to Town

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

On April 15, after unanimous support from the School Committee, Heather Perry, Gorham Superintendent of Schools, submitted a budget request of \$60,483,408 to the town. This request represents a 5.11 percent increase and will result in an 85-cent increase on the mill rate.

The school administration and School Committee have worked for months on this budget. The process has included reviews at the building levels and administrative level as well as weekly meetings through the month of March. The next steps in the process are a joint meeting between the School Committee and Town Council on April 28, the Town Council vote on May 12 and a community referendum vote on June 9.

The cost drivers for the increase are threefold: 1) to maintain the current level of services, 2) the CIPS (Capital Improvement Plan) budget for necessary facilities maintenance and improvement and 3) initiatives based on shifting student

needs. In the initiatives part of the budget proposal, there are replacement of radios for school safety; some equipment replacement; some training; the purchase of a safe, closed-environment AI system; and nine teaching positions throughout the system.

The average per-pupil expenditure in Cumberland County is \$23,998.51, and Gorham ranks 14th out of 15 school systems in the county with a per-pupil cost of \$20,304.51. Gorham continues to strive to provide quality educational services at a lower cost than many of the neighboring towns.

Superintendent Perry has held a series of community forums in the town to review the budget. In addition, members of the public are encouraged to visit the school website to review the budget, the entire process and videos of School Committee budget discussions. To view online, go to gorhamschools.org, click on "About us," choose "School Committee" and find the links to School Budget Information.

Junior Achievement Teacher of the Year - Mary Ridge

Michael Lortie, School News Editor



Photo Credit: Jaimie Crawford

Celebrating the award: GMS Principal Lucas Witham, Junior Achievement CEO Michelle Anderson, Mary Ridge, and volunteers Brenda Polluck and Christine Goth

Gorham Middle School teacher Mary Ridge was named the Junior Achievement 2025–2026 Educator of the Year. This was an honor recognizing her educational expertise and her ability to connect with students and impact their learning and their lives.

Junior Achievement recognizes educators who help students see the connection between what they're learning and the world they're about to enter. It's a deceptively simple idea, but it takes real skill to pull off consistently, especially with middle schoolers, who have an excellent radar for anything that feels forced or performative. In Ms. Ridge's

classroom, students there don't just learn content, they figure out what to do with it.

Lucas Witham, principal of GMS, stated, "What stands out about Mary isn't any single lesson or project, it's the accumulation of small moments where a student leaves her class thinking differently about themselves or their future. That kind of teaching is hard to quantify, but it leaves a mark."

He continued, "For the staff at GMS, this recognition felt like a confirmation of what was already known. Mary Ridge is the kind of educator who makes one proud to work alongside her, and this award reflects not just what she's accomplished, but who she is."

Bell-to-Bell Phone Ban Enforced in Schools Across Maine

Larissa Moore, GHS Student Intern

On April 10, Governor Janet Mills passed a law enforcing a bell-to-bell phone ban starting in August. Across the country, cell phones have become an ongoing distraction from many students' academic focus and motivation. The Maine legislature decided to take a step forward in order to improve school environments and eliminate the distraction of cellular devices.

Gorham's superintendent, Heather Perry, has announced that the Gorham School District will take a "minimalistic" approach to abide by this law.

Gorham schools will require their students to keep their phones out of sight from the first morning bell, until the end of the school day. They won't, however, be required to use the "Yonder pouches," which is a new phone locking system that is becoming more popular in schools across Maine.

Superintendent Perry noted, "School is first and foremost a place for learning. While technology certainly plays a role, we already provide the tools students need to

create, collaborate, and engage academically. Personal cell phones are not essential to that work and often compete with it."

As Perry said, technology truly is an amazing educational tool; but students have to learn self regulation, and be able to balance using technology for pleasure and using technology for their education.

Not only is this new policy important for academic growth, but it is also important for students to build social connections and gain responsibility.

Gorham Schools recognizes that the distraction of cell phones goes far beyond the classroom and they strive to help their students develop healthy technological habits that they can carry on into their future.

"Our students are thoughtful, adaptable, and already understand that this is a consistent expectation being implemented across schools in Maine."

Superintendent Perry said, "At the end of the day, this policy shift is about reducing distractions so students can be more successful and fully engaged."

Odyssey of the Mind CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to World Finals for this opportunity, please consider making a financial contribution. You can write a check to Great Falls Elementary School, with "Odyssey of the Mind Fund" noted in the memo,

and mail it to Great Falls Elementary School, 73 Justice Way, Gorham, ME 04038. Great Falls School and the team are extremely grateful for your support in helping our team reach for the stars.



Photos provided by the parents of teams
The fifth grade Narragansett team took first place in the Performance problem and also received the Dube Award. This award is given to the team that achieves the highest score in all three categories—long-term, style, and spontaneous—when competing against six or more teams.



Photos provided by the parents of teams
An eighth grade team that competed in the Classics problem also placed third.



Photos provided by the parents of teams
The fifth grade Great Falls team placed first, competing in the Technical problem.



Photos provided by the parents of teams
Another eighth grade team competed in the Classics problem and placed fourth.



Photos provided by the parents of teams
The sixth grade Vehicle team placed third.



Photos provided by the parents of teams
Two seventh grade teams competed in the Performance problem and placed fifth and sixth. This is one of the seventh grade teams. (The second team was unable to submit a picture.)

Aspire Program Connects Gorham Students to Their Future

Kelli Deveaux, Aspire Coordinator

What does a pre-K student in Gorham have in common with a high school senior doing a professional internship across town? If Aspire has anything to say about it — quite a lot.

Gorham school staff and students provided an update on the PK–12 Aspire initiative to the School Committee on April 8. Begun in 2017, Aspire is built on a simple but powerful idea: every student, at every grade level, should be able to find purpose in their learning and see a connection between school and their future. Since then, the program has grown into one of the most comprehensive career-readiness systems in the region.

"The vision was that every student, in every grade, would find purpose in their learning, and inspiration in imagining their successful future," Kelli Deveaux, the Career Aspirations and Community Coordinator, told the School Committee.

That vision has taken root across all three levels of the Gorham school system. Elementary students now participate in career fairs, STEAM family nights, and intentional field trips designed to expose

them to the wide variety of careers that exist right in their own community. At the middle school, hands-on programming like Try-It Day, Bio-Lab, A Day of Adulting, and Health & Wellness Careers Day give students an early taste of real-world pathways.

At the high school level, the centerpiece of Aspire is the Extended Learning Opportunity program, known as ELOs. Launched in 2019 with just nine students, ELOs allow high schoolers to earn academic credit through internships, job shadows, research projects, and community-based experiences tied to their individual career interests. The growth has been remarkable — more than 55% annually on average — and interest shows no sign of slowing. For the 2026–2027 school year, over 200 junior and senior students have already expressed interest in participating.

The ELO experience is structured as a 60+ hour, semester-long, 0.5-credit course. Students spend the first five weeks on career exploration and skill develop-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Spring Sports CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Photo Credit: Adam Parvanta

Tennis pre-season senior Griffin Gava

playoffs in a nailbiter to Thornton Academy (who would eventually move on to the state championship game). The team graduated four seniors, all of whom played a vital role: P/1B Wyatt Nadeau, now pitching at Vanderbilt University; P/IB Jack Karlonas, now pitching at Husson University; catcher Mason Finck; and P/OF Casey Skolfield.

As outlined by Coach Ed Smith, "This year's captains are senior P/SS Miles Brenner, committed to Wheaton College, and senior P/IF Wyatt Washburn, committed to Colby College. Other players to watch are juniors P/IF Hunter Finck, who has verbally committed to play at Alabama; catcher Cooper Whitehead; and P/IF Dante Cuesta.

Other players expected to contribute significantly are junior outfielders Sawyer Smith and Bennett Deveaux and IF Preston Brown.

Coach shared, "We expect to be competitive and play among the top of the league again this year. There are a lot of new coaches throughout the league, creating some unknowns, but I expect South Portland, Thornton Academy, Scarborough, Marshwood and Noble to be very strong, among others."

The team took a trip to Rhode Island again this year for preseason, which was a great team-building experience. The preseason scrimmages (weather permitting) will be played against Oxford Hills, Cape Elizabeth and Morse.

Off the field, Coach added, "we will be celebrating teacher appreciation week in early May where each player will give their jersey to a teacher to wear for



Photo Credit: Adam Parvanta

Tennis pre-season senior Tyler Olson

the week in appreciation and recognition for the positive impact that they have had on their high school career."

Softball:

Last year the team wrapped up with a 14-4 record and fell to the eventual State champions during the playoffs. Seniors on that team who graduated included Lily Tukey, Winnie Dubail and Lucy Dubail. According to Coach Dubail, this season six seniors return: Sawyer VonderHarr, Bella McBrady, Terra Rioux, Abigail Buckelew, Brooklyn Giroux and Kylee Lebrun. Each senior had an impressive junior year, and we're excited to see how their final high school season unfolds.

Statistics for the seniors are as follows: VonderHarr (SS) .556 average, 10 doubles, 3 home runs and 21 RBIs. McBrady (P) .326 average, 5 doubles, 19 RBIs, 92 innings pitched, 94 strikeouts with a 2.35 ERA. Buckelew (C) .326 average and 13 RBIs. Rioux (CF) .400 OBP, and 18 runs scored. Giroux (2B) .400 OBP. Lebrun (RF) .406 average, 26 hits and 16 RBIs.

Other key players to watch: Ady Hutchins (junior) finished strong last season at 2B, batting .333 over 27 at-bats. Tatum Wing was solid defensively both in the infield and outfield and is expected to make key contributions again this season. Maddy Leep (sophomore) pitched in five games last year, posting a 2.33 ERA and hitting .400. Myka Bush (So.) played 12 games between the infield and outfield with a .333 average. Natalie Lyford (sophomore) appeared in four games last season and is working hard to earn more varsity experience this year.

Coach added, "We are excited about our talented freshman class, Audrey Arsenault, Cam Allen, Jazmyn King, Sophia Marquis and Viannah Vercoe, who all hope to gain varsity playing time this season. Southern Maine teams are especially competitive this year, with several teams battling multiple times each week for top playoff seeds. Our focus is on consistent improvement and bringing our best performance come playoff time in June."

Coach provided an update on other activities the team is up to, including hosting a free Little League clinic every Saturday at 8 a.m. during the season at Robie Field, open to all Little League-aged players. This marks the third year running the clinics. The first session, on April 11, was the biggest turnout.

The coach continued, "We look forward to local youth players' progress throughout the season."

The team will travel to Orlando for team bonding and competition.



Photo Credit: Adam Parvanta

Tennis pre-season senior Will Andreasen

They will play six games in four days, enjoy the parks and attend a college softball game (UCF vs. Kansas).

Boys Tennis:

The season opener for Boys Tennis is Thursday, April 16 at Sanford. Last year the team finished as the fifth seed and lost in the quarterfinals to fourth-seeded Cheverus. As outlined by Coach Landry, the team graduated their No. 1 and No. 2 doubles players last year, so expect the doubles teams to get better and better throughout the season.

Coach added, "We are still working on building the ladder but at singles, senior captains Derek Luo and Jeremy Hansen, along with junior Isaiah Whitehead, look to fill out our singles positions. At doubles the teams of senior captain Tyler Olsen and junior Logan Spera, juniors Cohen Landry and Will Andreasen, and senior captain Gavin Monkewicz and senior Griffin Gava look to compete for the two doubles positions. I expect all three of these teams to make contributions through the season."

Coach Landry concluded, "We have many newcomers, and I look forward to seeing how they develop through the season."

Girls Tennis:

According to first-year coach Shannon O'Brien, "The Girls Tennis team lost five seniors last year who largely made up our varsity team; therefore our line-up, outside of Jasmine Radjabova at No. 1 singles, is newer to the varsity-level play." Last year the team ended the season at 10-2, losing the quarterfinal match to end the season. The lone senior this year is Stella Wu. Captains are Stella Wu, and juniors, Jasmine Radjabova and Kayleigh Carlo.

Players to watch: Jasmine Radjabova, Abby Stevens and Kayleigh Carlo. The coach concluded, "Though the majority of our team has not played in varsity matches, we have a large group of athletes that are looking forward to getting their time on the court and enjoying being part of the team."

Boys Track & Field:

As explained by Coach Jason Tanguay, "This season, we are looking to build upon the success we had this past winter. We lost a high point scorer in Antoine Dube due to injury, but we have some great returning athletes who

will be called upon to mentor and guide the many new athletes so we can be competitive in the league and post-season. Top returners: Logan Brassard, senior, jumps; Shane Morrison, senior, sprints, HJ; Devin Swanson, senior, PV and javelin; Harry Crider, junior, long distance; Harvey Crider, junior, long distance; Owen Cummings, junior, long distance; Jack Cyr, junior, sprints; Evan Hall, junior, middle distance; Everett Hurder, junior, racewalk; Kevin Munyaneza, junior, hurdles and jumps; Nick Sallinen, junior, middle distance.

Other athletes to watch: Isaac Vail, junior, sprints; Ryan Wheeler, junior, discus; Adam Auricchio, sophomore, sprints and hurdles; Jackson Lavertu, sophomore, javelin; Brayden Logan, sophomore, sprints; Carter McGonagle, sophomore, sprints and hurdles; Liam Rice, sophomore, sprints and jumps. They all could have an impact on the team's scoring this season."

Girls Track & Field:

As outlined by Coach Christina Stone, "After graduating an experienced senior class last year, the Gorham girls outdoor track team is a young team with strong numbers. We have 50 girls on the roster, and over 30 of them are freshmen or sophomores. The girls are hard-working, positive, and dedicated to the sport of track and field and their teammates.

Returning standout athletes in the junior and senior class include Grace Cunningham in triple jump and the 4x400 relay, Annabelle Vail in the sprints and the 4x100 relay, Zoe Dellinger in mid-distance and 4x800, Eleanor Morgan in long distance and 4x800, and Jessie Moreland in pole vault.

Underclassmen who will make a strong scoring impact throughout the season include Tessa White in hurdles, long jump, and the 4x100; Whitney Varney in the hurdles, triple jump, and 4x100 relays; and newcomer Taylor Chadburn in the sprints and 4x100 relay. Drew McManus will also return to the podium at the state meet in the racewalk as a sophomore."

The coach concluded, "Overall, we have a lot of potential as a team, and coaches are excited to see great performances from our veterans and some surprises from our strong underclassmen presence."

Aspire CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

ment before securing an internship placement. From weeks 6 through 20, they work on-site with a community mentor, with ongoing support from both their instructor and their workplace supervisor. Students finish the semester with a formal reflection on what they learned — not just about a career field, but about themselves.

The program's reach extends well beyond the classroom. Aspire has built a growing database of more than 350 businesses and community partners in the greater Gorham area, developed through relationships with the Gorham Business Roundtable and the Economic Development Office. These partners provide real-world perspectives on the skills students need, and feedback on how well the students that they mentor or employ are able to meet those expectations, giving real-time opportunities to check and correct curriculum and individual goals of students. Nearly every business and community partner has noted the value of the program, commenting they wish they had a program like this when they were in school.

The plan for the future of Aspire is to tap into these partnerships so that

all teachers, all lessons and all students are able to tie the real-world examples into their learning — not just as special events, but as a part of daily learning.

For the students who have gone through it, the experience speaks for itself. Juniors Cora Ellsmore and Frank Veraneau shared their experiences with the Gorham Fire and Rescue and rebuilding a 1967 Impala with support from Doug Carter, respectively. Senior Grayson Cole shared her excitement with watching a robotic hernia surgery in the operating room, while Senior Izzy Phinney gushed about her yearlong, college credit ELO experience and student teaching at Great Falls Elementary as a member of a teacher apprentice cohort. All shared how their ELO placements gave them career clarity, real workplace skills, and mentorship relationships they couldn't have found inside a classroom. One student described the internship as the first time school felt like it was actually preparing them for life ahead.

That, in a sense, is exactly what Aspire was designed to do — and judging by the numbers, Gorham's students agree.

February Real Estate Transfers

Sally Fay, Staff Writer

ADDRESS	SELLER	BUYER	PRICE
6 MIDNIGHT WAY	LAURENT J. CHRETIEN	JUDITH LIBERTY	750,000.00
8 WOLF RIVER RUN	JEFFREY W. BENOIT	JULES EVASE MUTONI	750,000.00
56 HAYFIELD DRIVE	ELAINE B. SCAMMAN	VICTORIA BEAULIEU	650,000.00
75 MIGHTY STREET	MICHAEL C. SINNETT	AMANDA KULAWIAK	630,000.00
186 FALCON CREST DRIVE	COTTAGE ADVISORS ME, LLC	THERESA GEDARO	580,400.00
11A GORHAM INDUSTRIAL PARKWAY	JK PROPERTIES, INC	GORHAM INDUSTRIAL PROPERT	575,000.00
33 BAXTER LANE	J. BROWN INVESTMENTS LLC	JAMIAN WALKER	570,000.00
256 HUSTON ROAD	KATELYN E. RUSSELL	AARON PARADIS	535,000.00
202 COUNTY ROAD	LISA A. TODERICO, CO-PERSONAL R	PAIGE IMPERATO	406,000.00
93 DAY ROAD	JACQUELINE LORENZEN	SHIZAR MAHMOUD	395,000.00
81 WILSON ROAD	KATHARINE WAITT	JACQUELINE E. LORENZEN	375,000.00
93 BURNHAM ROAD	VICTORIA L. BARTHELMES	BARBARA E. BARTHELMES	250,000.00
LOT 3 MESERVE FARM ROAD	HOME INNOVATIONS, LLC	S.V.T. PROPERTY, INC.	200,000.00
LOT 2 MESERVE FARM RD	HOME INNOVATIONS, LLC	S.V.T. PROPERTY, INC.	200,000.00
0 FORT HILL ROAD	NORMAN A. MARTIN, III, PERSONAL R	SARAH PECK	139,000.00
176 BARSTOW ROAD	TIMOTHY E. WIGGIN	DON VELLANI II	97,200.00

Planning Board CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Council with a recommendation for adoption (5 Ayes, 1 Nay (Benson), 1 Absent).

Item 3, a proposal for a Land Use and Development Code amendment to exempt accessory apartments from the requirement of being considered a dwelling unit as it pertains to private ways, was sent to the Town Council with recommendation for adoption as amended (6 Ayes, 1 Absent).

Item 4, a request to amend the zoning map and create new zoning districts for the Little Falls Village area to implement the Little Falls-South Windham Master Plan,

was adopted as amended (6 Ayes, 1 Absent).

Item 5 was a proposed amendment to the Land Use and Development Code regarding sign standards for multi-occupant properties. The board moved to send to the next available Planning Board Ordinance Committee workshop for review (6 Ayes, 1 Absent).

The meeting's final agenda item was a request to amend the Cherry Hill Farm Estates Subdivision to split Lot 9 to create two additional lots. After discussion, the board moved to approve the amendment with conditions (6 Ayes, 1 Absent).

School Committee CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

schools and the upcoming budget activities: joint meeting between the School Committee and the Town Council (4/28), the Town Council approval meeting (5/12) and the public referendum (6/9). She invited members of the public to attend all meetings. Finally, in honor of National School Assistant Principal's Week, she recognized all six assistant principals and thanked them for their service to the school system.

Each School Committee member had the opportunity to talk about recent observations within the schools. Lowansa Tomkins spoke about the excitement of All Schools Band Night, Mia DeSanctis thanked Georgia and Ben from Gorham Community Access Media (GoCam) for all that they do, Jeffery Ballard reminded the public about Gorham Clean-Up Day on April 25 and Michelle Littlefield mentioned All Band Night and STEAM Night at Village and thanked Mrs. Cadell for organizing that event. Eric Thistle spoke about his involvement in two ASPIRE events and how impressed he is with the students in the Gorham schools. Finally, Nicole Yeo-Fisher reminded the public about the Back Pack

Program and that donations would be very helpful at this time as they begin the process of building the summer boxes for students. Donations to the Back Pack Program may be made at growgivegorham.org

In their review of school department policies, they approved for a second reading Child Find (IHBAC) and Referral and Use of General Education Interventions (IHBAA). (7-0)

The committee appointed Sarah Little as ECSE (Early Childhood Special Education) teacher at Narragansett School for the 2026-27 school year. Presently, Sarah is a special education teacher at Narragansett.

The committee discussed the school budget. All members spoke passionately about their roles in the process, the needs of the schools, the thoughtfulness behind each budget line, the importance of balancing student needs and tax impacts, and the need to invest in capital projects. They spoke about the transparency and openness of the entire process and the professionalism of all school staff throughout this work. The committee voted to approve the budget and to authorize the superintendent to submit it to the town for approval. (7-0)




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GORHAM \$625,000
This 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath Garrison offers 1992sf of living space. The spacious kitchen is open to the dining area with sliders to the back deck & full day sun. In addition to the living room, the den could be used as a 1st floor bedroom. Upstairs, the master bedroom has a full bath & walk in closet. This well cared for home sits on a quiet 1.4 acre lot with a fenced in area for you furry friend, a deck & patio for entertaining. The gardens are all prepped & ready for blooms. A convenient location...just over 2 miles from downtown.




STANDISH \$649,900
This thoughtfully designed 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath Cape offers over 1,900sf of living space with a bright, sunlit open-concept first floor ideal for modern living & entertaining. The spacious living area is highlighted by a cathedral ceiling and an open railing to the second level, creating an inviting sense of space and architectural interest. The open kitchen and dining area flow seamlessly to the living room, while a full-length farmer's porch provides classic New England charm & the perfect place to relax.




BUXTON \$2,085,000
An extraordinary custom-built estate offering over 5,400sf, thoughtfully designed for both luxury & versatility. Set on a beautifully landscaped 3.34-acre lot in the exclusive Grove Hill subdivision, this upscale home abuts 78+acs of protected open space, delivering privacy, tranquility, and sweeping meadow views--all on a quiet dead-end street. Step inside the dramatic foyer & experience the craftsmanship throughout. The elegant living room showcases a stunning coffered ceiling, while the show-stopping kitchen is truly the heart of the home.




STANDISH \$66,000
Spacious double lot offers this well-kept 14' x 70' mobile home with sunny kitchen, dining area, spacious living room with woodstove, two bedrooms and two baths, deck and oversized storage shed located in the desirable Pine Tree Estates in Standish. This well-maintained park offers a community playground & building for activities. Very nice lot & great location makes this a wonderful opportunity. Only 35 minutes to Portland & close to schools, shopping & Sebago Lake.




STANDISH \$439,900
Move-in ready ranch on 2.96 acres with over 1,600sf of living space, including a walkout daylight basement. The main level features a bright & inviting living room filled with natural light, flowing seamlessly into the dining area complete w/a cozy gas fireplace. The kitchen offers a functional layout with breakfast bar. 2 bedrooms and a full bath complete the 1st-floor plan. The daylight basement expands your living options with a dedicated office area, a bonus room or 3rd bedroom, a half bath, laundry room, and utility room.



Julie Chandler



Mike Griffin



Peter Mason

COMMUNITY

OF INTEREST

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.

First Parish Church will host another informative presentation in the Climate Caretakers series, "Another Reason to Love the Ocean: How It Protects Maine and the People Who Call It Home." All are welcome to an engaging and hopeful conversation about the ocean and its powerful influence on our world, on Friday, April 24 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at 1 Church Street, Gorham. Dr. Charles Tilburg, professor of oceanography at UNE, will explore how the ocean helps regulate Earth's weather - and why it matters so much in Maine. He will also talk about the many ways the ocean actively protects Mainers, from moderating coastal conditions to buffering our communities from extreme events. Drawing on more than 25 years as a physical oceanographer at the University of New England, the University of Georgia, and the University of Delaware, he'll share stories from his research and explain how the ocean quietly drives many of the natural systems that shape our daily lives. Most importantly, Dr. Tilburg will discuss what we can do - individually and collectively - to care for and protect the ocean, one of Earth's most precious resources.

Young bikers are invited to join Gorham Rec's free "Bike Rodeo" on Saturday, April 25 from noon to 2 p.m. in the Gorham Middle School parking lot. Designed to teach and encourage kids from ages 3 to 10 to ride bikes safely, the rodeo will include a helmet check, a bike mechanical check, and then the chance to ride on a closed traffic skills course that teaches the rules of the road. The program is run in partnership with the Bicycle Coalition of Maine.

The Friends of Baxter Memorial Library will hold their Spring Book Sale at Shaw Gym (75 South Street) on Friday, May 1, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, May 2, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. PLUS they will have their big blue blocks out to play! All ages; children under 8 will need supervision.

This year's Jane's Walk will be held on Saturday May 2, at 1 p.m. Rain or shine, it will begin and end at Corthell Hall and will visit several historical sites on USM's campus. Libby Bischof, Ph.D., Gorham resident and Professor of History and University Historian will share an historical and architectural timeline. Brief narrative about several homes on College Avenue will be shared as well as research about Corthell Hall by Gorham High school students. The tour will be followed by light refreshments compliments of USM. Jane's Walk Parking passes will be available for participants.

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.

LIBRARY NEWS

North Gorham Public Library supports North Gorham and Standish, and 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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The Gorham Food Pantry



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Zero Energy Homes

John Ersek, Staff Writer



Photo Credit: John Ersek

New homeowner Camille Seo (right) stands in front of her mostly completed home, along with Zero Energy Homes president Carolyn Pryor, and Brian McEachern of Maker Construction.

In a first for southern Maine, Zero Energy Homes (ZEH), an innovative Maine home building company based in the town of Mt. Desert, recently completed construction of one of its affordable, yet highly efficient net-zero homes in North Gorham.

"Net-zero" means the home is designed to produce at least as much electricity as it draws from the grid.

Net-zero homes are not completely new to Maine, but up until now have been fairly expensive. ZEH's state-of-the-art homes make extensive use of solar panels, heat pumps, efficient appliances, 8.5-inch-thick wood fiber insulation, tightly fitted wall and roof components, and triple-glazed windows to reduce electricity use.

ZEH expects that all their homes will be connected to the power grid through CMP or Versant, in order to be eligible for net-energy billing (NEB).

ZEH's stated mission is to significantly lower the cost of highly efficient, solar-powered homes in Maine by using modular and panelized off-site manufacturing, with 80% Maine-made build-

ing materials (most sustainably sourced).

Huber Resources and Timber HP are two of the Maine wood products companies that provide important components for ZEH's manufacturing process. ZEH intends to make all-electric homes with heat pumps more accessible for year-round Maine residents who earn between 80 percent to 160 percent of area median income (approximately \$50,000 to \$115,000 a year depending on the area).

With their new manufacturing facility in Wiscasset, ZEH plans to ramp up to producing 50-60 homes a year. To illustrate the affordable nature of ZEH's homes, the price of the basic "Osprey" model currently averages \$330,000 (not counting land purchase, and site preparation expenses).

ZEH president Carolyn Pryor has stated a goal of getting the average cost down to \$300,000. One of the ways of maintaining such a low cost is by having square footage that is in the moderate range but is still reasonable and livable. For instance, the North Gorham home has 896 sq. ft. on the first floor and 600 sq. ft. on the second floor, for a total of just under 1,500 sq. ft. ZEH officials stated they estimate the use of solar panels and net-zero technology should save homeowners about \$100,000 in energy costs over the course of a 30-year mortgage, much of which would otherwise be spent on fossil fuel sources.

ZEH works closely with Maker Construction of Hebron. They are experts in implementing ZEH's method of construction, which uses prefabricated panels manufactured off-site. Brian McEachern of Maker Construction recently stated, "I like it [energy efficient modular construction] because it serves the middle 80 percent of people, especially the ones who might not be able to afford a home." GLB Construction of Westbrook completed site preparation work for the North Gorham home, including clearing and grading the site.

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Thursday, April 23

Baxter Memorial Library, Book Group: "The Storyteller" by Jodi Picoult, 10:15 a.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Financial Fun with Casco Federal Credit Union, 1 - 2 p.m.
USM Athletics home game, Men's Tennis vs. Thomas College at 4 p.m.
USM Athletics home game, Baseball vs. Salve Regina at 4 p.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Suncatcher Art Night, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Friday, April 24

USM Athletics home game, Men's Lacrosse vs. Massachusetts Maritime Academy at 4 p.m.
First Parish Church Climate Caretakers, 1 Church Street, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Saturday, April 25

Baxter Memorial Library, RPG Club, 11 a.m. - noon.
USM Athletics home game, Softball vs. Vermont State University Castleton at 12 and 2 p.m.
USM Athletics home game, Baseball vs. Vermont State University Castleton at 12 and 3 p.m.

Tuesday, April 28

Baxter Memorial Library, Preschool and Kindergarten Readiness Storytime, 10 - 11 a.m.
USM Athletics home game, Softball vs. Rhode Island College at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.

Wednesday, April 29

Baxter Memorial Library, Baby Storytime, 9:30 - 10 a.m.
USM Athletics home game, Baseball vs. Husson University at 3:30 p.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Book Fair, 4 - 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 30

Baxter Memorial Library, Toddler Storytime, 10 - 10:30 a.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Author Event with Jerry Farnham, 6 p.m.
USM Athletics home game, Men's Tennis vs. Little East Conference Tournament TBA
USM Athletics home game, Men's Lacrosse vs. Little East Conference Tournament TBA
USM Athletics home game, Women's Lacrosse vs. Little East Conference Tournament TBA

Friday, May 1

Friends of the Baxter Memorial Library, Spring Book Sale, Shaw Gym, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Play to Learn Workshop, 10 - 11:30 a.m.
USM Athletics home game, Baseball vs. Eastern Connecticut State at noon and 3 p.m.

Saturday, May 2

Jane's Walk, a community tour, open to the public. Begins at Corthell Hall, USM, 1 p.m.
Friends of the Baxter Memorial Library, Spring Book Sale, Shaw Gym, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
USM Athletics home game, Men's Tennis vs. Little East Conference Tournament TBA
USM Athletics home game, Men's Lacrosse vs. Little East Conference Tournament TBA
USM Athletics home game, Women's Lacrosse vs. Little East Conference Tournament TBA

Tuesday, May 5

Baxter Memorial Library, Preschool and Kindergarten Readiness Storytime, 10 - 11 a.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Dogs Dig Reading, 4 - 5 p.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Dungeons & Dragons, 4 - 5 p.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, French Language Discussion Group, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Poetry Event with Babo Edwards Kamel, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, May 6

Baxter Memorial Library, Baby Storytime, 9:30 - 10 a.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Author Event with Angelica Eling, 6 p.m.
USM Athletics home game, Softball vs. Little East Conference Tournament TBA
USM Athletics home game, Baseball vs. Little East Conference Tournament TBA



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



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Courtesy of the Gorham Police Department

the blotter

A dog, female gray and black, wandered onto school property at Weeks Road. The metal tag on the collar indicated the name of the owner. The on-duty staff member at recess lives in the same neighborhood and placed a call to the residence with no answer. The dog was secured by a leash and the animal control officer (ACO) was contacted to transport the dog and conduct follow-up. The ACO trans-

ported the dog and located the owner.

A caller, 80-year-old female, needed a patch shoveled to her oil intake for home heating oil. A detective went over and cleared a path for her.

Several police officers along with one fire police member and a GVIPS member attended the Gorham Unified Basketball game in support of their home opener.

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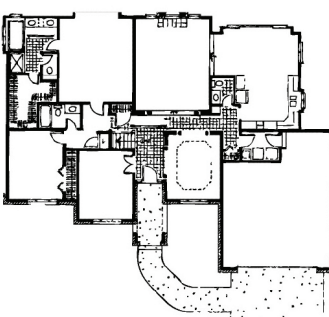


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Gorham MAINE Upcoming Town Meetings

4/28 Town Council FY 2026-2027 Budget Workshop with School Department, 5:30 p.m.
 4/30 Special Joint Finance Committee Meeting, 4:15 p.m.
 5/4 Planning Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
 5/5 Regular Town Council Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

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