

Gorham Times

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

State Primary and Annual School Budget Election

Gorham Times Staff



Photo Credit: Roger Marchand

Ballot box at the Gorham Municipal Center.

As stated on the town's website, "The town clerk's office is responsible for all elections held in the town (federal, state and local). This is a year-long, on-going process."

There's much more at that website, so be sure to visit <http://gorhammaine.gov>, and search for 'voting information' so that you are well-prepared to vote on June 9. Sample ballots were not yet available at the time of this printing.

At the town's website you can learn

about registering to vote (required), voting locations according to your address, absentee ballot requests, workshops, and more. If you have a specific question and can't find it on the web for some reason, call the town clerk's office at (207) 222-1670.

Gorham offers the Accessible Voting System designed for those with sight or mobility impairments, allowing them to cast their ballots independently. They are not required to use it, but can have assistance from another person if they prefer it. To use the system, let the check-in clerk know when you arrive.

For those new to voting in Gorham, Gorham is located in Cumberland County. It's part of Maine's 1st Congressional District. For state legislative purposes, it is in Senate District 30 and House Districts 108 and 109.

Also available to learn about state and local elections in Maine is the Secretary of State's website, <https://maine.gov/sos/elections-voting/upcoming-elections>.

Spring in Gorham

Roger Marchand, Staff Photographer



Photo Montage Credit: Roger Marchand

After a long, hard winter Gorham Village became alive with activity during the first weekend of May. The Gorham Village Alliance, Gorham Public Works and the Gorham Conservation Commission held its sixth annual Gorham Clean Up Day. The Gorham Farmers Market started a new year with more and

varied vendors. The Baxter Memorial Library held its Annual Book Sale. The Great Falls Elementary School Odyssey of the Mind (O.M.) Team held a sale to help support their trip to the National finals at Iowa State University. And the Second Annual Jane's Walk took place exploring the history of USM and its buildings.

GHS Baseball Team Dominates Early On

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo Credit: Coach Ed Smith

The Rams began preseason in Newport, Rhode Island

Rams Baseball extended their dominant win streak to three games with wins against Sanford, Scarborough and Deering. On the road at Sanford, Hunter Finck was on the mound to lead the Rams right out of the gate. Finck pitched four

innings, no runs, eight strikeouts, and hit a triple that drove in two runs. The Rams returned home to play Scarborough. Miles Brenner got the win; he pitched seven innings, one earned run and eight strike-

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Fire Safety Opportunities

Gorham Times Staff



Photo Credit: Courtesy of Gorham Fire Department

Training new firefighters for Gorham.

On Tuesday, May 12 at 6 p.m. at the station at central station (270 Main Street), the Gorham Fire/Rescue Department will hold their second community information session including a Q&A session, apparatus tours, and a station tour. Whether you are interested in joining, or just want to learn more about the department, this info session is for you. To register for this

event, send an email to senright@gorham.me.us and specify if you will be joining in person or need a link to join virtually.

In the interest of public fire safety, the department wants the public to understand what kind of training it takes to be a firefighter and EMT, what our fire department actually does, the equipment that is used, and

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Working to Lower Costs This Legislative Session

Rep. Parnell Terry

On April 29, the Legislature officially wrapped up its work for this legislative session. Over the last few months, we passed hundreds of new laws to address the real issues facing Mainers.

As the rising cost of living makes it harder for families to make ends meet, my priority in Augusta has been to pass policies that lower expenses and support a stronger community for the people of Gorham.

While serving on the Legislature's Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, I worked on successful legislation to build badly needed permanent housing for our veterans. On the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee, I helped pass bills that promote Maine's outdoor industries and protect our important heritage economies.

This session, I also supported measures to expand property tax relief, build additional housing, fund public schools and make childcare more affordable. I voted for the supplemental budget, which protects core services by providing critical funding for MaineCare, K-12 public education and the state's Highway Fund to protect our essential infrastructure and fix our aging bridges and roads.

This budget 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 childcare they need.

Additionally, the budget will provide Maine people \$11.4 million in direct property tax relief through the Property Tax Fairness Credit by increasing the maximum benefit for Mainers under 65. And it includes important funding to help us build more housing and continue addressing the shortage of units throughout our state, which will help our workforce shortage.

Over the last few years, the cost of electricity has skyrocketed, largely due to New England's dependence on natural gas to produce our power. The price of natural gas for electricity generation is up 37%, resulting in a direct impact on the state's electricity rates. But electricity is a necessity, not a luxury – I believe it's important for the state to take action to help working families, veterans and seniors on fixed incomes afford to keep the lights on.

To help address this, I cosponsored legislation, LD 2078, that would have helped lower electricity costs by removing sales tax on all electricity sold and delivered to residential homes in Maine. Under current state law, only the first 750 kw of electricity delivered to homes each month is exempt from sales tax.

The bill successfully passed both the House and Senate with strong bipartisan support. Unfortunately, it didn't receive funding during the budget process, and it didn't become law before we adjourned for the year. But I will continue to fight for policies like these going forward.

Now that the 132nd Legislature in Augusta is over, I'm looking forward to being home in Gorham more. But I will still be hard at work here in our community preparing for the next legislative session, so that the hard-working people of Gorham can afford to live, work and build a life here.

Please feel welcome to reach out to me at Parnell.Terry@legislature.maine.gov with any questions or concerns, or if there is any support I can provide. It is an honor to serve you in the Maine House of Representatives.



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

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 for my husband and myself in support of Ellie Sato for State Senate. My husband and I are residents of Gorham. We are registered as unenrolled voters and have been looking at all candidates.

We listened to Ellie's speech at a Democratic event in town. We were impressed with Ellie's presence, her passion and deep knowledge about issues we in Maine struggle with, such as the lack of reasonable housing both to own or rent. Ellie herself has a working-class background; she understands what it means to struggle to pay monthly bills, the deep need for health care and what it means to be from a minority group as she is Asian-American. She has knowledge of the Senate as she has worked in the past as an aide. She has taken a strong stand against ICE's presence as our representative over the past several months, in fact wrote and helped pass LD2106 which protects immigrants' due process rights. We all need to be concerned - if they lose those rights, none of us may be protected regardless of our status, immigrant or citizen.

We have found Ellie to be a strong independent thinker, having deep Maine values, she demonstrates working hard, being honest with her constituents and the importance to stand up and fight passionately for those who cannot stand for themselves.

We encourage residents of Gorham/Scarborough to support Ellie Sato for State Senate. It is time for a change in our Maine Senate.

Jeffrey and Leah McLean, Gorham

To the Editor:

On June 9, please join me in supporting Ellie Sato in the Maine Democratic primary. Ellie, currently serving as Gorham's state representative, is smart, hard-working, forward-looking, and above all, an effective

leader for her home constituents. It's time for a new generation of leadership to take the reins, and Ellie is just what our community needs in the state senate.

As our state representative, Ellie has provided Gorham with an effective and caring advocate in Augusta. As a state senator, she will be able to build upon her already impressive body of work in the State House. Just recently, the governor signed into law LD 2106, a bill that Ellie wrote that will protect immigration due process in the face of federal oversight. She saw the illegal ICE raids facing our state and she took direct action. Ellie understands the issues important to our community and because of her experience first as a former legislative aide and now a State Representative, she knows how to get things done.

As a former state representative for Gorham, I, too, know what it takes to get things done in Augusta. Ellie Sato has been an excellent advocate for our community as a state representative, and I am confident she will have an even greater positive impact for Gorham and Scarborough in the state senate. I hope you'll join me in voting for her in the Democratic primary on June 9.

Andrew McLean, Gorham

To the Editor:

Sophie Warren has proven herself to be a results-driven leader for Scarborough, and I'm glad to support her run for State Senate. During her time in the Maine House, she has focused on practical issues that affect everyday people, including energy affordability, public health, and protecting individual rights.

What stands out most is her approach—she takes the time to listen, works across differences, and follows through. That combination of responsiveness and effectiveness is not always easy to find. Our communities will benefit from her

continued leadership, and I hope others will consider supporting her campaign.

John Thurlow, Scarborough

To the Editor:

I believe we need more young people and women in government. I have been pleased to see Sophie Warren of Scarborough serve in the Maine House of Representatives the past six years. I believe she has done a very good job. I like her strong opposition to the harmful effects of climate change. I also admire her courage in speaking out against the violent actions of ICE and the federal government against people with black and brown skin.

In the June 9, 2026 primary election for Maine State Senate, District 30, which includes Scarborough and Gorham, I will be voting for Sophie Warren. Won't you join me?

Mary Floyd, Scarborough

To the Editor:

We are coming up to voting time, and I need to show my support for a really hard working young lady, Sophie Warren, who is running for the Maine State Senate, and will represent Gorham and Scarborough.

I have known Sophie and her family now for over 25 yrs. Have worked with her dad on the Maine Baseball Hall Of Fame scholarship fund since SHS coach Phil Martin, and SHS athletic director Packy McFarland asked me to help in 1986.

I have supported Sophie since she first ran for the Legislature in 2020. She has been a really hard-working advocate of our town since being elected. She always responds to questions from constituents, and stays in touch with the taxpayers that put her there.

Sophie would now like to be part of the Maine State Senate District 30 for Gorham

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BRINGING THE NEWS TO ALL OF GORHAM
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EDITORIAL POLICY

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

May 13

May 27

June 10

Summer break

and Scarborough and get even more done than she did in the Maine House of Representatives. On June 9, 2026, I'll be voting for Sophie in the Democratic primary for the Maine State Senate to serve you all. And I hope, and ask you citizens of Scarborough, and Gorham to vote for Sophie as well.

Stephen Mills, Scarborough

To the Editor:

I am writing to state my support for Sophie Warren who is running for State Senate. We need more young, energetic, enthusiastic and intelligent people to serve in our political and government positions in Maine. State Representative Sophie Warren

possesses all of these qualities. I have known her since she was a young girl studying piano with me and she has always remained consistent with her attributes and goals.

Representative Sophie Warren has been an advocate for the citizens in her district and beyond in Augusta since 2020. She is a fierce fighter against the harmful effects of climate change, stood up consistently against the militaristic and illegal actions of I.C.E. and the federal government handling of minorities.

Please join me, Scarborough and Gorham, to vote for Sophie Warren for Maine State Senate, District 30.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy P Curran, Scarborough

Be On the Lookout

Chris Crawford, Features Editor

The Maine Forest Service is asking residents to be on the lookout this year for two insect infestations, both of which have been spotted in Gorham: the native spruce budworm (SBW) and the invasive emerald ash borer (EAB).

Spruce budworm is one of the most damaging forest insects in Maine and North America. While they are native in our forests, severe outbreaks occur every 30 to 60 years and can cause devastating damage to balsam fir and spruce trees while the insect is in its caterpillar stage.

The last big occurrence of SBW in the 1970s damaged or killed close to 7 million acres of trees. Recent severe defoliation is occurring in southern Quebec and is expected to move south towards Maine over the next three years. Large-scale damage of this proportion not only kills trees but also impacts air quality and can become a fire hazard as well.

In southern Maine, the State is asking owners of woodlots, Christmas tree farms and homeowners with landscaping specimens to be on the lookout for signs of infestation. If possible, take a close-up photo of the pest and the damage that is occurring and contact the Maine Forest Service at forestinfo@maine.gov. Look for the tab for reporting insect infestation or call (207) 287-2791.

Here's how to identify SBW on fir or spruce trees. Spruce budworm caterpillars feed on the outer portions of the tree on new growth, the tips that develop in the current year. Homeowners can place a white sheet of paper beneath a branch and shake the branch sharply to see if any larvae will fall onto the surface. Be on the lookout for gray weblike fibers on the tips of branches.

Small SBW outbreaks can be treated with insecticides. Look for products

registered for caterpillar control with the active ingredient Btk (*Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*). Want to steer clear of pesticide use? If the infestation is light and the trees are small, you can hand prune the tips of branches once a week or so. But you have to be vigilant over the course of the summer and next year as well. Put the clippings in an airtight bag, not into compost.

Natural predators, birds such as the black-capped chickadee, red-breasted nuthatch, and pine siskin and some wasps will feed on them and help keep the caterpillars in check if their population numbers are low. Mature larvae will drop to the ground and pupate in the soil around host plants with typically two or more generations per year.

The second pest to watch for, the emerald ash borer, has been found in all of Cumberland County. First spotted in 2018, this brilliant green insect threatens all of Maine's ash species except for mountain ash. In order to slow the spread of this invasive species, firewood from outside the state should be banned. To identify, look for highly active woodpecker activity on infested trees, which will have a flecked outer marking on the bark called "blonding," S-shaped serpentine patterns under the bark, or D-shaped exit holes.

Also, do not be fooled. The EAB has a doppelganger, a twin called the tiger beetle. Both are a brilliant iridescent green. The tiger beetle is a beneficial native, so do not kill it or report it. The tiger has big eyes, longer antennae and legs and a cinched-in waist. It will be found on the ground, not on trees like the EAB. Several photo apps such as Seek by iNaturalist can help you identify both of these problematic Maine pests, as well as many other insects just for fun.

Check Twice, Save a Life

Gorham Times Staff



Photo Credit:

This phrase was created by Bob Doiron of Moultonborough, New Hampshire. Paul W. Cote of Amesbury Massachusetts and the Massachusetts Motorcyclist Survivors Funds teamed up in the year 2000 to encourage new ways of reducing motorcycle accidents, injuries and fatalities. Since 1982, over 2 million bright yellow bumper stickers, CHECK TWICE - SAVE A LIFE, MOTORCYCLES ARE EVERYWHERE, have been placed on cars, trucks and trailers. This photo is a patch. The associated website is <https://checktwice-savealife.com/>, if anyone is interested in acquiring a yard sign, stickers, patch and key rings. Submitted by Dave Perkins of Gorham.

Real Estate Transfers, March 2026

ADDRESS	SELLER	BUYER	PRICE
ROBIE STREET SUBDIVISION LOTS 1	KV ENTERPRISES, LLC	ROBIE HEIGHTS, INC	2,940,000.00
22 GATEWAY COMMONS DR	GAIL S. KALLOCH	SAMANTHA BAILEY	775,000.00
32 MIDDLE JAM ROAD	MIDDLE JAM ROAD, LLC	DAVID K. DAILY	745,000.00
42 BRANDONS WAY	DEANE MACBETH	JULIA LAINE MARQUIS	679,000.00
4 MUSKET DRIVE	JOHANNES L. BOUWER	ANGELA L. BUCK	641,000.00
182 FALCON CREST DRIVE, UNIT 56	COTTAGE ADVISORS ME, LLC	LUCILLE BOYCE	622,950.00
185 FALCON CREST DRIVE UNIT 29	COTTAGE ADVISORS ME, LLC	BLUEBERRY BLUES LLC	591,400.00
188 FALCON CREST DRIVE, UNIT 58	COTTAGE ADVISORS ME, LLC	MARSHA GRAHAM	580,400.00
52 MORRILL AVENUE	COLLEEN MARY CONWAY NORBERT	CHRISTOPHER F. JOHNSON	527,000.00
11 DRAGONFLY LANE	DAVID M. LANCASTER	YASMIN AZEL	399,000.00
9 BURNHAM ROAD	DARCY LYNN DYER	FIVE STAR HOLDINGS, LLC	372,500.00
116 DINGLEY SPRING ROAD	LORIE L. FRANKLYN	LA PROJECTS, LLC	277,200.00

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Gorham Times



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Featured Car Of The Week

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NEW PATIENTS ALWAYS WELCOMED

Electric Vehicle Event

Bruce Webb, Contributing Writer



Photo Credit: Roger Marchand

At the Climate Caretakers Electric Vehicle (EV) event a panel of EV owners spoke of the benefits and issues with owning electric vehicles. The panel from left to right included Linda Webb, Camille Rowe, Bruce Webb, Bill Jenks, Christy Damon, Alan Damon, Chuck Hayward from ReVision Energy, Phil Rowe, and Christenia Alden-Kinne.

On a recent Saturday morning, a group of enthusiastic electric vehicle owners and curious citizens met to discuss this new transportation option. The Electric Vehicle Showcase featured a display of eight different EV models. Owners shared their experiences with the cars, fielded questions from the audience, and led a lively discussion focused on the benefits and challenges of the technology. Following the dialogue, attendees examined the cars while a few took test rides.

Owners reported that their strongest motivation for getting an EV was to reduce carbon pollution, but they also cited lower maintenance and operational costs. A common observation from owners was “this is the best car I’ve ever owned,” “great fun to drive,” “smooth and quiet operation” and “superior acceleration.”

Several owners compared the EV to “a computer on wheels,” reflecting the need to acquire new skills for a new technology. Other comments focused on the need to use cell phones to plan trips and locate charging stations along the trip routes.

Range anxiety (fear of running out of power before reaching a charging station) was a common concern. Owners cited the ever-increasing range of the latest EV models (exceeding 300 miles), as well as the benefits of installing charging stations at home to keep the car fully charged. Also noted was the rapid build-out of the public charging infrastructure and lowered charging times as the technology becomes more available and robust.

Owners concluded that technology is rapidly changing and improving along with the charging infrastructure. As advancements are made in EV technology, there was wide speculation that they will eventually supplant gas-powered cars. Clearly, an EV is not for everyone, but the owners were enthusiastic about their experiences and predicted future growth as the technology improves and the market embraces and adjusts to EV ownership.

In conclusion, EVs are great fun to drive and save on operational costs, while helping our environment.

Skin Cancer Awareness Starts Now

Rachel Miller, Contributing Writer

May is Skin Cancer Awareness Month, a time dedicated to education, prevention and early detection. After a long Maine winter, it’s easy to assume that sun protection can wait until the warmer months. Many people associate sun damage with hot, sunny beach days—but in reality, your skin is exposed to harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation year-round, even in early spring.

UV radiation is made up of two main types that affect the skin: UVA and UVB. UVB rays are responsible for sunburn and tend to be strongest during the summer months. UVA rays, however, are present consistently throughout the year and penetrate more deeply into the skin. These rays are a major contributor to premature aging and play a significant role in the development of skin cancer. Importantly, UVA rays can pass through clouds and even glass, meaning your skin is still exposed on overcast days or while driving.

In the spring, this exposure often goes unnoticed. Temperatures may still be cool, and the sun doesn’t feel as intense, but UV radiation is steadily increasing as daylight hours grow longer. At the same time, people begin spending more time outdoors—walking, exercising, or doing yard work—often without thinking about sun protection. After months of winter, the skin may also be more vulnerable, making consistent protection even more important.

Another important consideration is that sun damage is cumulative. It is not just the result of a single sunburn or a day at the beach, but rather the result of repeated, everyday exposure over time. Activities like driving, walking the dog, or sitting near a window may seem insignificant, but they contribute to long-term skin damage.

These small exposures add up over months and years, leading to visible changes such as uneven pigmentation and fine lines, as well as increasing the risk of skin cancer.

Fortunately, prevention is straightforward. A broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of at least 30 should be applied to exposed skin every morning, regardless of the weather. If you are spending extended time outdoors, it should be reapplied every two hours. In addition to sunscreen, simple measures such as wearing sunglasses, wide-brimmed hats and protective clothing can significantly reduce UV exposure.

It is also important to remember commonly overlooked areas, including the ears, lips, neck and scalp—especially along part lines or in individuals with thinning hair. These are frequent sites of sun damage and skin cancer, but they are easy to protect with mindful habits.

Skin Cancer Awareness Month is not just about education—it’s about action. Taking a proactive approach to sun protection now helps set the foundation for healthier skin throughout the year. It’s not about avoiding the outdoors—it’s about protecting your skin while you enjoy it. If you have concerns about sun damage, changing skin lesions, or your personal risk for skin cancer, a professional skin evaluation can help guide next steps.



Dr. Rachel Miller, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, is the founder and provider of White Elm Dermatology in Gorham, Maine, specializing in personalized, evidence-based medical and aesthetic dermatology.



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by A. Logophile

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CLUE: Z = L

SOLUTION ON PAGE 11



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Absentee Ballot Requests Now Available, Voting Information

Town Clerk

A State Primary and the Town's Annual School Budget Referendum Election will take place on Tuesday, June 9, 2026. Absentee ballot requests are now available. You can request an absentee ballot by calling the Clerk's Office or by visiting <https://absenteeballotrequest.sos.maine.gov>. Ballots will be mailed out the first week of May once the Town Clerk's Office receives them.

Primary elections determine each qualified party's nomination of candidates for federal, state and county offices. Party candidates who are elected at the Primary qualify to appear on the November General Election Ballot.

Offices included in the 2026 Primary Election are US Senate, Representative to Congress, Governor, State Senate, State House Districts, County

Commissioner, County Sheriff, County Judge of Probate and District Attorney.

Voters enrolled in a party, Republican or Democrat, may only vote that party's primary ballot. Enrolled voters do not have the option to select another party's ballot unless they change enrollment at least 15 days prior to the primary. When a voter enrolls in a new party, they may not change their party enrollment again for three months unless they move to a new municipality and establish a new voting residence there.

Unenrolled voters may choose either the Republican or Democrat ballot.

LAST DAY TO CHANGE YOUR PARTY ENROLLMENT AND BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE IN THE JUNE 9TH ELECTION IS MAY 26, 2026.

Superintendent Presents 26-27 School Budget to Town Council

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

On April 28, Heather Perry, superintendent of schools in Gorham, presented the School Committee-approved budget to the Town Council. All members of the Town Council and School Committee were present, as well as many of the school administrators and town department heads.

Nicole Yeo-Fisher, school committee chair, described the budget process, which began in September and has included multiple reviews and discussions between school staff, administration and the board.

Perry presented the budget of \$60,482,067, which is a 5.11% increase over the past year's budget. In presenting the budget, Perry detailed the three major priorities of the process: maintaining a safe, modern environment for students; retaining a high-quality workforce; and necessary targeted student investments.

In this budget, the schools are reflecting negotiated contract increases, a 7.5% insurance increase, a 10% dental insurance increase, adding updated staff radios, district membership in Magic School: a safe AI space, increasing the art teaching position at Narragansett to full time, adding a kindergarten and first grade

teacher at Narragansett, a .5 Modern Language teacher at GHS, added special education OT and speech services, 3 Transitions teachers, a social studies teacher at GHS, and an Early Intervention administrative assistant, as well as filling some equipment and training needs.

Perry outlined all of these needs and the rationale for making these requests. She also detailed all of the changes in revenue streams to the district. Through the budget review process, \$1.6 million was previously reduced from administration requests, \$315,000 from reductions to existing budget lines, and \$558,000 through the School Committee review process.

Perry explained that the Gorham schools consistently seek to provide a balance between fiscal discipline and educational realities. Despite having the second-lowest per-pupil expenditure in Cumberland County, our test scores fall in the upper average of the county, just behind the top spending school districts. This proposed budget will result in an 85-cent increase on the mill rate. The Town Council will vote on the budget at their meeting on May 12 and the budget will go to public referendum on June 9.

April Committee Meetings Recap

Sally Fay, Staff Writer

The Ordinance Committee convened at the Gorham Municipal Center for its monthly meeting on April 13, with all members (Committee Chair Seven Siegel, Lou Simms, Kelly Dearborn) present.

Leading off the committee's current business was the development of recommended updates to the town's Mobile Home Park Ordinance to address rent stabilization of mobile home parks of 100+ units. Several members of the public were in attendance and were invited by the committee to speak on the topic. The committee discussed various models on which to base ordinance changes and agreed to gather more data to inform its decision, and will continue to advance this item at its next meeting, scheduled for May 11.

The committee passed a motion to send a requested review of an ordinance to ban the sale of flavored tobacco and vaping products back to the Town Council with a recommendation for no action; 2 Ayes, 1 Opposed

(Siegel). The committee also discussed ordinances pertaining to vehicle idling standards, updated buffering requirements for industrial businesses, and standards for sidewalks.

The Capital Improvement Projects / Economic Development Committee held its monthly meeting on April 2, with all members (Committee Chair Lou Simms, Charles Hamblen, and David Willis) present.

The committee discussed parking issues around the high school and agreed to continue discussing temporary solutions and incentives for alternate parking before sending plans to the full Town Council. They also discussed the latest findings of the wayfinding signage project, which is ongoing, and agreed to send a recommendation to the full Council regarding the discontinuation of two town roads, Carl Lane and Bragdon Road.

Minutes of these and other committee meetings can be found via the town website at <https://www.gorhammaine.gov/boards>.

Gorham MAINE Upcoming Town Meetings

- 5/11 Ordinance Committee Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
- 5/11 Affordable Housing Committee Meeting, 5 p.m.
- 5/12 Special Town Council Meeting (Public Hearing on FY 26-27 Proposed School and Municipal Budgets), 6:30 p.m.
- 5/13 Finance Committee Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
- 5/13 School Committee Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 5/19 Conservation Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.
- 5/21 Capital Improvement Projects / Economic Development Committee Meeting, 11 a.m.



"In-Person Bean Hole Bean Supper" UCC At North Gorham 4 Standish Neck Road, Gorham

Dates of Suppers for the Season:

- May 16, 2026
- June 20, 2026
- July 18, 2026
- August 15, 2026
- September 19, 2026
- October 17, 2026

Time:

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Price: \$12 for Adults/\$8 Children

Meal consists of: kidney beans, yellow eye beans, pea beans, red hot dogs, potato salad, coleslaw, homemade brown bread, rolls, coffee/punch, and homemade dessert.

If you wish to order take out, please call Karen at (207) 838-1832 by 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the supper. Please leave a message if there is no answer or go to <https://northgorhamchurch.org> to place your order.

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GORHAM REAL ESTATE EXPERT

Butterfly Ball Fundraising Event

Danielle Quimby, Gifted and Talented Coordinator

On Saturday, May 16 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Gorham Middle School, there will be a Butterfly Ball, Father and Daughter Dance Fundraiser. All girls in the Gorham School District (Pre-K through fifth grade) are welcome. They are invited to bring their favorite grown-up – dad, grandfather, uncle, or another special adult – for a night to remember. The cost is \$30 for a father-and-daughter pair and \$10 for an additional daughter.

All proceeds from this event go directly toward helping the Great Falls Elementary Fourth Grade Odyssey of the Mind Team

attend World Finals. These students have worked incredibly hard, earning first place in their problem and division and the opportunity to compete on a global stage.

Your support helps cover travel, lodging and competition expenses, making this once-in-a-lifetime experience possible.

At the ball, there will be dancing, light refreshments, a prize raffle, photo opportunities, as well as a whimsical butterfly-themed atmosphere.

This event promises to be a memorable evening and an opportunity to help a team of creative, determined kids chase a big goal.

Gorham School Committee Special Meeting, April 28

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

The Gorham School Committee held a Special Meeting on April 28 at Great Falls School. All seven members were present.

The meeting began with a tour of the Great Falls School led by Principal Becky Fortier. Great Falls is the newest of the three elementary schools, currently in its 16th year of operation. It is a beautiful facility and the school committee was able to tour many classrooms and instructional spaces.

Dr. Quentin Donahue, assistant superintendent of schools, presented an update on assessment and title grant data. Currently, assessment is done within the schools for a variety of reasons, including measuring student learning, informing instruction, identifying students for intervention and enrichment, monitoring student growth over time, informing post-secondary plans and complying with state

and federal requirements. He reviewed the most recent available school data and compared it to state results. He also discussed the federal Title 1 and Title 2 funds that the school system receives for academic support and professional development.

The committee voted (7-0) to appoint the following personnel:

Jill Hyland as multilingual learner specialist at Gorham High School

William Lieberknecht as social studies teacher at Gorham Middle School

Samuel Lenson as physical education teacher at Gorham High School

Tareyn Prince as early childhood special education speech pathologist

Gabrielle Culotta as social studies teacher at Gorham Middle School

After returning, the committee voted (7-0) to approve a one-year unpaid leave of absence request for a teacher in the district.

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New Film Premiere

Chris Crawford, Features Editor



Photo Credit: Logan Files
Percy, a young genius struggling to find his future, builds a mysterious time machine in the short film "Blueprint," written and directed by Logan Files.

A short film, "Blueprint," by GHS '22 graduate Logan Files will premier at the 16th annual Maine Mayhem Film Festival on May 7. Files developed a love of films while watching movies with his dad. After graduation from GHS, he became more focused in pursuing cinematography as a career. "What began as a dream of mine, became a reality when I enrolled in Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) Communications and New Media program," he said. See Festival dates and times at the end of the article.

Files describes his film as a heartfelt time-travel which explores the consequences of creation and the cost of pushing away those closest to us. The film is full of misadventure and humor when a brilliant young inventor designs a time machine that has far more dangerous

consequences than he anticipates. Files said, "The film is high energy...a wild ride from start to finish with an ending that will leave you smiling." Written and directed by Files, it stars Mason Landre, Owen Bell-Snowman, and Paul Farley.

The Maine Mayhem Film Festival has been held in May and early June for the past 16 years. It showcases films of senior year students in the Communications and New Media program at SMCC. Founded in 2011 by instructor Corey Norman and student James Crocco, the festival has grown steadily over the years. This year's event includes eight featured short films and over a dozen super-short films.

After Mayhem concludes, Files says that "Blueprint" will play in other festivals around the world throughout the rest of 2026. He looks ahead to future projects, including a feature film on the horizon.

Files' parents are Robert and Lori Files. He would also like to acknowledge Mrs. Paul for her belief in him. "Catherine always goes out of her way to check on my art," he said.

Maine Mayhem dates and times:

Thursday, May 7, 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. at Nickelodeon Theater. Ticket \$12.

Saturday, May 23, 3 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. at Portland Museum of Art

Friday, May 29 at 6:30 p.m. at the City Theater in Biddeford.

Fire Department CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

what opportunities are available for those interested and willing to join the department.

According to Captain Gabe Cyr, our department is still very much a community-based organization with a variety of ways to serve the department.

A full-time firefighter, EMT/paramedics have shifts at the central station on an 8-day cycle, 24 hours on, 48 hours off, 24 hours on, 4 days off, with full benefits.

Per diem firefighters/EMTs work 12-hour shifts at the central station. They offer their availability for the next month, and are plugged into the schedule where needed.

Some are on the 'call company,' responding from anywhere within town (home, grocery store, etc.) when available to incidents, or respond to the nearest fire station to respond with apparatus (fire truck). These fire fighter/EMTs are notified via pager and phone system.

The Fire Police Division provides traffic control at incidents. The department also has a live-in student program, the Junior Firefighter Program (mini-

mum age 15) and a Westbrook vocational program for high school students looking for a career in public safety.

As an employee of the Town of Gorham and the Gorham Fire Department in any capacity, workers are paid for all they do with the department, including time on incidents, department-offered trainings, tuition assistance and reimbursement opportunities with prior approval and demonstrated benefit to the department. All personal protective equipment (PPE) is provided by the department. There are required levels of training and engagement/activity with the department.

Four stations are strategically operated by the Gorham Fire Department: North Gorham, White Rock, West Gorham, and Central (staffed). The outlying stations rely on the on-call company, live-in students for apparatus response.

The department has a need for call company, per diem, live-in students, and fire police members who play a vital role in its operational ability to serve the community when needed the most.



GFD responds to a building fire.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of Gorham Fire Department

Rams Basketball Team 2026 Henry O'Neill Spirit Award

Katie Brown, Sports Editor

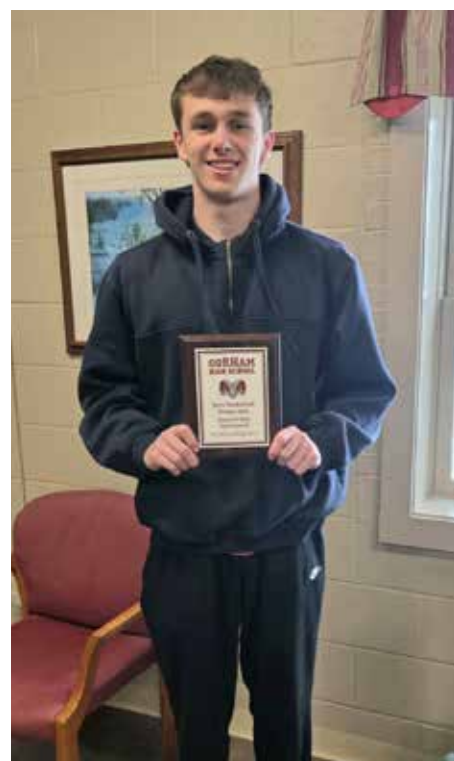


Photo Credit: GHS Athletics

Andrew Migliorini, 2026 Spirit Award recipient

GHS Varsity Basketball Coach Ryan Deschenes recently announced that the recipient of this year's Henry O'Neill Spirit Award is Andrew Migliorini, a senior player for the GHS Rams. Each season, Coach Deschenes explains the history of the award

to his players, and the significance of "Hank It Up," which is an expression that symbolizes the passion Henry had for his friends, teammates and the game of basketball. Coach Deschenes reminds his players to enjoy high school sports and to create life-long friendships and memories along the way.

Coach Deschenes shared, "Andrew Migliorini embodies the Henry O'Neill Spirit Award in several ways. He supports his teammates, pushing them and himself to be better, and is always there to pick up a teammate when needed. He has a bright smile and laugh that is contagious, he has a great sense of humor and makes everyone around him feel positive. The coaches and captains feel he is a deserving award winner to carry on the tradition that Henry O'Neill illustrated for GHS Men's Basketball."

The Spirit Award has been presented five times previously, to Bode Meader (2021), Dylan Morrell (2022), Quinn Dillon (2023), Izak Young (2024), and Jack Karlonas (2025). A scholarship will be presented to the award recipient at the GHS Academic Awards Night in June. Future donations towards this annual scholarship in Henry O'Neill's name may be made directly to the Gorham High School Athletics Department. Henry O'Neill, GHS Class of 2019, was killed tragically in a work vehicle accident in September 2020.

GHS Baseball CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

outs. Offensively Brenner went 2-4 with an RBI and stolen base. On Friday, May 1, the team traveled to Hadlock Field and

took care of Deering. Wyatt Washburn pitched four innings for Gorham, allowing only three hits and striking out six. With three wins under their belt, the Rams



Photo Credit: GHS Athletics

Post game victory - Rams win 12-3 against Scarborough.

GORHAM FARMS!

What's New in 2026?

Send your farm's news and updates to
editor@gorhamtimes.com

What's New at Parsons Farm

Lori Arsenault, Managing Editor



Photo Credit: Lori Arsenault

New location for Parsons Farm Stand on Libby Avenue.

Anyone who regularly drives on Libby Avenue near the Main Street traffic light has probably noticed the new location for Parsons Farm Stand, but that's not all that's changing. Moving the shack further back on the property to meet zoning requirements opened the door to some other improvements to the building's porch and to the driveway that is now more inviting and safe. But there's more.

Parsons Farm was established in 1947 as a dairy farm, with milk as the main product, sold locally at wholesale. After seven generations, it is still a family farm, and is primarily a dairy farm, owned and operated by the Parsons family. The farm is located at the far end of Buck Street in Gorham, and may be difficult to find. Not only does the Parsons Farm Stand on Libby Ave. make the farm's produce more accessible, it also makes the dairy farm more sustainable.

While the Parsons family is working the farm day after day, Tracy Junkins, a Parsons family friend, is the one you will usually find at the farm stand, also helping in other ways. During our visit, she explained that as the price of milk fluctuates, it's getting harder for milk alone to sustain a dairy farm.

One of Parsons Farm's main products beyond wholesale dairy is maple syrup products. They currently have about 2,000 taps, adding more this year to get to that number. They col-

lect the sap, boil it, bottle it, and sell it as one of the farm's sustaining products.

Always improving, this year in addition to the improvements at the farm stand, they added a reverse osmosis system and a new pump house at the farm for the maple syrup production. Maine Maple Sunday at the end of March allows visitors to see the operation first-hand, and begin purchasing the new maple products for sale there, and throughout the summer at the farm stand. But there's more.

With the new location of the farm stand, there will also be more products available at the Libby Avenue location, such as vanilla bean maple syrup produced by Zak's sister, Gabrielle Parsons. Also new will be bees wax products produced by family member bee keepers, Tyler Lockwood and Miranda Beauchene. When you visit the farm stand, you'll also see new produce gardens on the property, such as the garden where you can choose the head of lettuce you want right in the garden, and buy it at its freshest.

As a family farm, Junkins said, "Everyone participates in the tapping, collecting and boiling of the maple syrup, and are very much involved with the farm.

The farm stand will be open daily throughout the season. Find updated hours on the the Parsons Farm Stand Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61575378623155>.

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OF INTEREST

American Red Cross Blood Drive will be held at Cressey Road Christian Church on Thursday, May 7 and Thursday, May 21 from 1 - 6 p.m. Call (800) 733-2767 or visit <https://www.redcrossblood.org> to make an appointment.

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 have a Spring Sale on Friday and Saturday, May 15 and 16 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be plants, books, puzzles, baked goods (only on Saturday), crafts, garden accessories, and much more.

Gorham House is excited to host a prom for their community in June. They are looking for formalwear donations, and would love any men's or women's formal clothing, shoes, jewelry, and accessories for the residents. To arrange a drop-off time, please contact the programming team at 207-839-5757.

Gorham Public Works will be conducting maintenance repairs in the area surrounding the Tannery Brook Dam this spring. During this time, residents may notice equipment, crews, and temporary activity near the site. The public is asked to use caution and respect any posted signage or restricted areas to ensure everyone's safety. Patience and understanding will be appreciated as this important work to maintain our infrastructure is completed.

Cressey Road Christian Church (CRCC) is holding the Mission of Hope FREE Clothes Closet on Saturday, May 16, 2026 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The closet is open to the public and features a rotating inventory and volunteer opportunities. Donations are accepted during open hours. For more information, please visit www.cresseyrdcc.org.

The Gorham Seniors Co-op will have a fundraising sale, "Spring Fling" on May 16, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Gorham Arts Alliance on 34 School Street in Gorham. There will be a yard sale, bake sale, plant sale and a 50/50 raffle. The purpose of the "Spring Fling" is to raise funds for activities that the Co-op sponsors: Game Days on Mondays, Coffee and Conversation on Wednesdays, field trips to museums and plays, speakers and local events for local seniors to attend. The Gorham Senior Co-op mission is to inspire, empower and educate seniors in a supportive environment.

West Gorham Union Church will hold a bake sale and plant sale on Saturday, May 16 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Some plants will be ready for your flower garden, and there will be pies, cookies, bars, brownies, sweet breads, whoopie pies, and maybe some supper items to go. RADA knives are on sale, and the coffee pot will be on. 190 Ossipee Trail in Gorham.

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, May 12 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

PUBLIC SUPPERS

Cressey Road Christian Church will hold a traditional community gathering on Saturday, May 9 at 5 p.m. They will be serving beans, hot dogs, various side dishes, and desserts. Adults, \$10, children ages 7-17, \$5, children under 7, free.

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 Thursdays 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 spring 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

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.

The folks at North Gorham Public Library will be "pounding flowers" and making beautiful Mother's Day cards on Saturday, May 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Resident crafter Trish Boissevain will provide the tools and plenty of guidance and inspiration. This free event is made possible by the Davis Family Foundation. On Monday, May 11 at 6 p.m., the library will host Gorham School Superintendent Heather Perry in an open conversation about the future of Gorham's public schools, from budget to curriculum to technology, and anything in between. The 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.

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CALENDAR

Thursday, May 7

Baxter Memorial Library, Toddler Storytime, 10 - 10:30 a.m.
 American Red Cross Blood Drive, Cressey Road Christian Church, 1 - 6 p.m. (Also May 21)
 Baxter Memorial Library, Trustees Meeting, 6 p.m.

Friday, May 8

Baxter Memorial Library, Family Place to Play and Learn Workshop, 10 - 11:15 a.m.

Saturday, May 9

USM 146th Commencement, Cross Arena, Portland, 9 a.m. ceremony
 North Gorham Public Library, "Pounding Flowers" for Mother's Day Cards, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
 Cressey Road Christian Church, traditional community gathering/public supper, 5 p.m.

Monday, May 11

North Gorham Public Library, Superintendent Perry speaks about many school topics, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, May 12

Baxter Memorial Library, Preschool Storytime and Kindergarten Readiness, 10 a.m.
 Baxter Memorial Library, Facts & Facets of Jewish Life in Maine, 2 p.m.
 Baxter Memorial Library, Dogs Dig Reading and Lizards Love Literacy, 4 - 5 p.m.
 VFW Gorham Memorial Post 10879 monthly meeting, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 13

Baxter Memorial Library, Baby Storytime, 9:30 a.m.
 Baxter Memorial Library, Dungeons & Dragons, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 14

Baxter Memorial Library, Toddler Storytime geared for all ages, 10 - 10:30 a.m.
 Baxter Memorial Library, Book Group "The Emperor of Gladness" by Ocean Vuong, 10:15 a.m.
 Friends of Baxter Memorial Library meeting, 6:15 p.m.

Friday, May 15

First Parish Church Spring Sale, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Baxter Memorial Library, Family Place to Play and Learn Workshop, 10 - 11:15 a.m.

Saturday, May 16

Cressey Road Christian Church, Mission of Hope FREE Clothes Closet, 9 a.m. - noon.
 Gorham Seniors Co-op "Spring Fling" fundraising sale, Gorham Arts Alliance, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 West Gorham Union Church, Bake Sale and Plant Sale, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 First Parish Church Spring Sale, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 Baxter Memorial Library, Pokemon Club, 10 a.m. - noon.

Tuesday, May 19

Baxter Memorial Library, Preschool Storytime and Kindergarten Readiness, 10 a.m.
 Baxter Memorial Library, Dogs Dig Reading and Lizards Love Literacy, 4 - 5 p.m.
 Baxter Memorial Library, Dungeons & Dragons, 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.
 MDOT Open House, Westbrook Community Center Gymnasium, 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Wednesday, May 20

Baxter Memorial Library, Baby Storytime, 9:30 a.m.
 Baxter Memorial Library, Teen Advisory Group, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
 Baxter Memorial Library, Early Release Crafternoon, all ages, drop in 1 - 3 p.m.



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BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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





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Courtesy of the Gorham Police Department

the blotter

An officer was dispatched to a possible weapons offense in the area of Taylor Way. The caller reported that around 2:35 he heard what sounded like 5 rapid-fire gunshots from the direction of the Grondin Sandpit off Ossipee Trail. Officer responded to the area and checked the sand pit and Abbot Farm Road area. Officer did not see or hear anything, and told the caller to call back if anything else develops.

On a routine patrol on South Street passing the park and ride by the Bypass roundabout, officer saw a vehicle parked in the far corner of the parking lot. Officer parked and activated the cruise and white lights and called out the license plate on a Kia Sedona. Officer then approached the vehicle and noticed the back window was slightly opened. All the windows were covered. Officer knocked and announced Gorham Police. The registered owner provided officer with his Maine license and informed the officer that he usually spent the night in Portland, but decided to change it up. Officer told him that we typically do not let people use the park and ride for over nights, but told him that he could stay the rest of the night. Officer then cleared the scene.

Caller called in a delayed report that occurred on South St. He claims he was traveling on South St near the roundabout when a drone came in between his car and the next. He claims the drone was possibly looking at people's license plates. Officer checked the area and did not locate the drone and we did not receive any more phone calls on it.

Caller reported seeing a tractor trailer truck with two trailers traveling down the bypass. He thought it was illegal for a truck to have two trailers so he called it in. No violation and did not check the area.

A woman was driving her Ford Ranger when it broke down. Her partner parked behind her and called AAA towing. Officer waited with them until the vehicle could be towed.

The Fire Marshals Office found a lady with a dead battery. Officer was able to use the jump kit and start the vehicle.

A caller passed on information regarding a ATL for impaired driving. No contact was made in Gorham. Cumberland County Sheriff's Office made contact later in the evening.

Manager of a local company stated there was a vehicle that had been parked in their parking lot for about a week and wanted it removed. Officer informed that police would contact the registered owner, but since it is private property he could tow it. He stated he would do so. Officer attempted contact with the owner but the phone number was not set up.


A caller wanted to verify a call he had received referencing the PD wanting a donation from him. Officer advised him that it was in fact a scam.

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