

Gorham Times

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Gorham Libraries: A Passport to Lifelong Learning

Sally Fay, Staff Writer



Photo Credit: Sally Fay

Left: Baxter Memorial Library on South Street. Right: North Gorham Public Library on Standish Neck Road.

September is Library Card Sign-up Month, an annual national campaign sponsored by the American Library Association to promote the advantages of being a library card holder. Here in Gorham, we can experience those advantages firsthand at the town's two public libraries, Baxter Memorial Library and North Gorham Public Library. The two facilities offer a range of resources, programs and services that foster connection, learning and creativity for children and adults alike.

In recognition of the importance of these and Maine's other 255 public libraries, the Maine Library Association and Maine State Library have launched a statewide Library Passport Contest,

which runs from Sept. 1 through Dec. 31. "Each library in the state is special and unique in its own way, and MLA and MSL would love for Mainers to experience as many libraries as possible before the end of the year," explains Jon Knepp, vice president of the Maine Library Association and director of the Thompson Free Library in Dover-Foxcroft. Contestants are challenged to visit at least one library in each of Maine's 16 counties and collect either stamps or signatures on their library passport to verify their visit.

Participants can obtain a passport via download at mainelibraries.org/passport or by visiting a local participating library,

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Town Makes a One-Way the Right Way Toward Solutions

Kelli Deveau, Staff Writer

Multiple municipal offices, as well as school leaders and town officials, have collaborated to create a new traffic pattern for the portion of Access Road that connects Ballpark Road and the Gorham High School parking lot.

In an effort to address parking, safety, and traffic patterns, the Gorham Town Council's Capital Improvement Projects/

Economic Development Committee examined options for the heavily congested area, which provides access and parking for Baxter Memorial Library; the Municipal Center, including the School Department's Central Office and Gorham Parks and Rec; Gorham High School; a cooperative pre-

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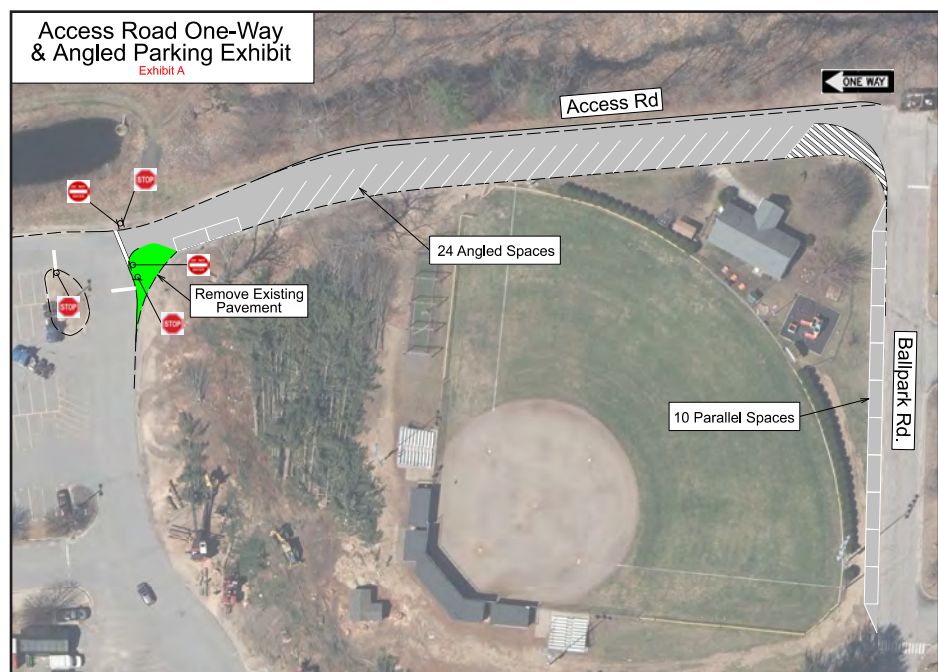


Photo Credit: Courtesy of the Town of Gorham

Concept map of new traffic pattern.

Local Baseball Tournament Promotes Friendship With Japan

John Ersek, Staff Writer



Photo Credit: Sam Freeze

Two-year-old Arthur Freeze prepares to make the ceremonial first hit of the tournament, assisted by his mother, Hallie Balcomb, while tournament players and a coach look on. Arthur and Hallie are both descendants of the Wilson family of Gorham's White Rock section. The tournament's first game took place Aug. 15 at the newly dedicated Horace S. Wilson field at the Little Falls Recreation Area. Scarborough won the inaugural game in a close contest over Bonny Eagle, 10-9.

The inaugural Horace S. Wilson Invitational U-12 Youth Baseball Tournament took place from Aug. 15

to Aug. 21 at the Little Falls Recreation Area. Four teams took part in the double

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Countdown to Fall Sports 2026

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo Credit: Eric Tirrell

The volleyball (three-peat state champs) team photo for the new '26 season

As local high school fields and courts come alive for the autumn season, community pride takes center stage with a full lineup of student-athletes ready to represent our town.

Volleyball: Coach Tirrell shared, "We defended our way to the state title last season. We had a winning record but some losses along the way that helped us make changes to being stronger in the playoffs. We graduated senior captains Lauren

Dunbar, Addyson Simcock, and Emily Fluet."

Coach Tirrell added, "We have 10 seniors playing as well as a senior manager. Senior captains are Abigail Stevens, Adyson Hutchins, Liana Edwards, and Luna Button. Many seniors will have an impact on our team: Abigail Stevens, Adyson Hutchins, Annabelle Gilman, Cassidy Hjort, Emily McLean, Jordyn Fotter, Larissa Moore, Liana Edwards, Lindsay

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Access Affordability Resources This Fall

Rep. Ellie Sato

As summer comes to a close and families begin to prepare for the colder months ahead, there are two issues I have been hearing more about from constituents: the \$300 relief checks being sent to eligible Mainers, and how to access heating assistance. This year, the Legislature passed a measure that will provide \$300 relief checks to help working families and seniors with the rising cost of essentials like gas and groceries. To receive a relief check, you need to file a 2025 state tax return by Oct. 15, 2026. The state began sending the checks at the end of July to full-time Maine residents making less than \$50,000 a year, heads of household earning under \$75,000 and married couples filing jointly making less than \$100,000 annually. If you have already filed your 2025 tax return, you should be all set. For Mainers who do not owe state income tax, like those living on Social Security income, the process is simple: you can complete an abbreviated Form 1040ME by checking Box A and then fill out the Schedule PTFC/STFC form. Through this abbreviated state income tax filing, you may also qualify for the Property Tax Fairness Credit and the Sales Tax Fairness Credit. You can file online at www.maine.gov/revenue/ or by mail using the forms found on that page. Maine Revenue Services (MRS) also has a helpful list of frequently asked questions, which can be found at <https://www.maine.gov/revenue/affordability>.

At that same website, you can look up the status of your refund. If you are having any trouble, MRS has a hotline you can call during regular business hours: (207) 624-9924. You can also email them at Affordability.MRS@maine.gov. If you need help filing your taxes, CA\$H Maine and AARP Maine offer free tax preparation and assistance to qualifying individuals. Closest to Gorham is CA\$H Greater Portland, located at 550 Forest Avenue, Suite 100 in Portland. Make an appointment by calling (207) 347-2335. Or, reach out to AARP's Tax-Aide Gorham location at St. Anne's Church on 299 Main Street by calling (207) 518-8579. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is also available to help families afford to heat their homes. This program is available to homeowners and renters. If there comes a time this winter when you have an extremely low supply of heating fuel, you may qualify for crisis assistance through the Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP) — but don't wait until then to apply. HEAP is only available until funds run out, and applications opened on Aug. 1. Those who rely on electricity for heat may also be eligible for help with their electric utility bills through the Low Income Assistance Program (LIAP). Gorham residents can learn more and

apply through the Opportunity Alliance. To get started, give them a call at (207) 553-5900. For more information, visit their webpage: www.opportunityalliance.org/heap. You can also go directly to MaineHousing's website, <https://www.mainehousing.org/>, to apply online or by phone, and to learn more about each program. If you need to make energy-related repairs to your home, which can significantly reduce long-term heating costs, MaineHousing also offers two programs that can help: weatherization and central heating improvement (CHIP). These programs provide grants to reduce energy costs by improving home energy efficiency or to repair or replace central heating systems. Some households may also qualify for low-cost energy loans to make repairs or upgrades. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you need assistance navigating state services or even just to introduce yourself. You can contact me by email at Ellie.Sato@legislature.maine.gov or by phone at (207) 287-1430.



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.

Absentee Ballot Requests Available

Gorham Times Staff

Absentee Ballot requests are available now for the Nov. 3, 2026 election. You can request an absentee ballot by phone at (207) 222-1670, in person at the Town Clerk's Office or by visiting <https://absenteeballotrequest.sos.maine.gov/>. Ballots will be sent out once they are received, the first week of October.

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be fewer than 300 words, signed with a first and last name, and hometown. The Gorham Times reserves the right not to publish letters that include personal attacks or inflammatory language. Letters are solely the opinion of the writer and not that of the Gorham Times. They are published at the discretion of the Gorham Times as space allows and are subject to editing. Anonymous letters are published at the sole discretion of the Editor.

New Traffic Pattern

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

school; athletic fields; and the recently revitalized and heavily utilized phase 1 of Robie Park. Town and school staff, as well as interested community members, offered creative solutions, and a drone was used to better understand the traffic patterns and issues. Town engineer Chuck Norton was then tasked with drafting a plan for consideration. Norton, a Scarborough native with extensive training and experience in civil and transportation engineering, went to work. He considered slowing traffic and rerouting away from the corner of Morrill Avenue and South Street, where the daily backup during school dismissal time was a frustration. Additionally, he looked at signage, crossing traffic patterns, and ways for slowing traffic on the heavily congested footprint. For a solution, he looked to the intersection of Access Road and Narragansett Street (Route 202) to take on more of the traffic exiting the area, noting the better sight lines and higher speed limit that naturally creates more gaps between traveling cars into which traffic can merge. What emerged as the lowest-cost and best plan included making the segment of roadway that travels along the left outfield of the softball field and by the entrance of the cooperative preschool a one-way street,

allowing only cars traveling from Ballpark Road and the Municipal Center parking lot to traverse. In addition, diagonal parking spaces were added along the left side of the roadway, slowing traffic and increasing parking by an estimated 10 spaces that can be shared by the high school and preschool. High school principal Brian Jandreau sent a notice and a map to all GHS students and families in August apprising all of the new traffic pattern as part of his back-to-school message. As of Sept. 1, his administrative team had no complaints about the new pattern. Norton praised the town's and schools' effort to collaboratively seek solutions, noting, "It is a difficult and complex site, and we are working within the parameters we have and chipping away at the edges" of the problems the site presents. Public Works placed a roadside sign warning drivers of the new traffic pattern, and to date it seems that there is broad compliance. Norton has not received any criticism for the change in the traffic pattern. He said the biggest message he hopes to convey is, "Just slow down. I've studied this extensively, and increasing your speed doesn't significantly impact your arrival time, but it can significantly impact safety."



Gorham Parks & Recreation
75 South Street, Gorham, Maine 04038
Office Hours: M-F 8:30am - 4:00pm

Gorham Times

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

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Upcoming Advertising Deadlines
September 16
September 30
October 14

Lakes Region Senior Center Art Show

John Teidje, Staff Writer



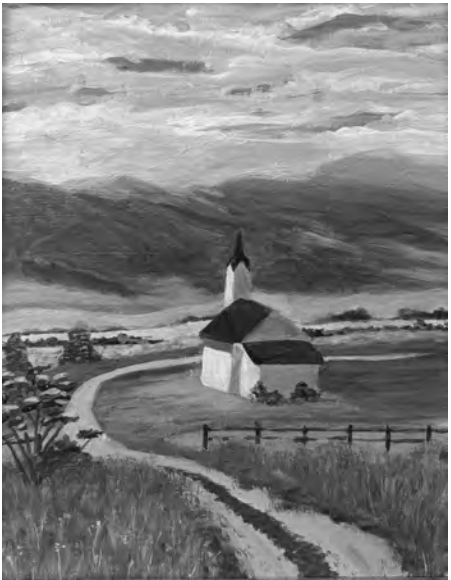
The Lakes Region Art Studio show at the Thomas Memorial Library in Cape Elizabeth.

Members of the Lakes Region Senior Center’s Studio Group, which meets each Wednesday at Gorham’s Little Falls Activity Center, are exhibiting their art this month in the Stier Family Gallery at Thomas Memorial Library in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. The Lakes Region Senior Center’s Studio Group is composed of over 14 members who have met weekly since the group’s inception in 2018. They are a diverse assemblage of friendly, creative retirees from Gorham and surrounding communities who help inspire each other in oils, acrylics, watercolor, pastels and pen-and-ink creations. The members showing at the library are John Jackson, Sharmon Toner, Shelby Driscoll, Pat Allen, John Tiedje, Mary Snell, Diane Caswell, Mikki VanSummern, Diane Atwood, Brenda McGovern and Bernie Wall. Stop by the Thomas Memorial Library,

6 Scott Dyer Road, Cape Elizabeth, and see what talent we nurture here in Gorham. The exhibit, which opened on Sept. 1, runs through the end of the month.



Painting by Sharmon Toner



Painting by Mikki VanSummern



Painting by Brenda McGovern



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Flower to the People

Trevor Basner, Staff Writer

On College Avenue, across the street from the University of Southern Maine, a community effort is blooming. Look for a green hand-painted desk laden with colorful bouquets. Flower to the People is a by-donation flower stand working to raise funds for families affected by immigration enforcement. Emelia Inkpen, creator of the stand, works with volunteers to place fresh bouquets in the stand every morning. The stand offers the flowers for free while asking for donations from those who are able to give. All proceeds are donated to two Maine organizations that help immigrant families: Maine Needs and Project Relief Maine. Inkpen started the stand with flowers from her own garden, but since she opened the stand on July 28, it has grown into a community movement.

She now receives flower donations from five different sources, including professional farms, while neighbors and local businesses have also contributed jars and flowers and volunteered their time. Inkpen hopes to grow the movement beyond the single stand on College Avenue. The Flower to the People website lays out a four-step plan for growth that includes setting up multiple stands and donation buckets around Gorham while volunteers hand out flowers. All growing proceeds are given back to help defend neighbors in need. There are multiple ways to get involved with Flower to the People. Visit the stand, volunteer, follow on social media, or simply return a jar. To learn more about Flower to the People and how you can contribute, check out <https://flowertothethepeoplemaine.org/>

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Family Focus

Beth Wilkins, Contributing Writer

Part of my job is to watch other people’s children climb trees. I run an outdoor program for children that is centered around play, and for some kids, climbing trees is where it’s at. When I’m stationed at the climbing trees on our site, I often have many things going through my mind at once: memories of how it felt to climb trees when I was a child, analysis of how this particular child is tackling the task of climbing, and of course, my mind can fill with all the ways that this experience could go wrong and the child gets hurt.

Some of the kids in our programs have been climbing trees for years and they have a comfort and ease about them as they climb. They have experience using their body as a whole – their muscles work together as they support their weight first with their arms and then with their legs, gripping and releasing with their hands. They are enthralled with height and as they look down at us mere mortals below, they wish they had wings to fly.

Some of the kids in our programs have never climbed a tree and they are equally impressed by how easy some kids make it look and the fact that no one is stopping them. They may shout to those who are already climbing to “be careful!” and “you’re going to get hurt!” They have been trained to expect the worst when taking this sort of risk.

But as they watch and feel the hard ground beneath their feet, eventually some of them begin to climb. They may look over at me occasionally, checking to see if I’m watching, and perhaps trying to gauge whether they are in danger or not. This indicates to me that they have not developed their own inner

gauge that lets them know if they are pushing past their capabilities and allows them to assess a risk. Because there really is only one way to help our children develop this all-important skill – by letting them try stuff, at their own pace and within reason. Children need to have chances to push the boundaries of what they know, so they can grow and change.

But I keep all of this to myself as I watch them go back and forth between struggle and success, one branch at a time. All they need from me in those moments is acknowledgement - I see you! You’re doing it! It’s hard, but you’re trying! Maybe they don’t get past the first set of branches, but the glow on their faces shows me that they know they are making progress and are riding the edge of their learning curve. Their internal motivation system is activated, helping them to push past feelings of discomfort to achieve a goal. It may not happen today; they may jump down and run off to do something else. But then before you know it, they are back, mastering the skill of climbing up one branch, getting ready to tackle the next one. One branch at a time. At their own pace.

These are the moments when I know I’m in the right line of work – holding a space for children to develop skills for life, skills that they will take with them forever.



Beth Wilkins, a mother to three boys, is an early childhood teacher and a licensed occupational therapist and currently is the owner and lead teacher for Bedrock Play, located in Gorham.



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Baxter Memorial Library and Gorham Community Access Media present

Meet The Candidates!

MAINE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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MAINE SENATE DISTRICT 30
TOWN COUNCIL
SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 23
6:00 PM

Join us at Baxter Memorial Library for an evening with our School Committee, Town Council, Maine House of Representatives, and Maine Senate Candidates. Each candidate will introduce themselves and their platforms, followed by an opportunity for conversation and questions. GoCAM will livestream, broadcast on Channel 3, and provide video to view later.

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH THE LIVESTREAM



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Turkey Hunting Season

Chris Crawford, Features Editor

Wild turkey hunting season runs from Sept. 14 to Nov. 7, 2026. Youth Fall Wild Turkey Day is Sept. 12. Anyone age 10 and older must obtain a license to hunt. Turkey licenses are \$22 and are available at the Town Clerk’s office or online from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) website. It’s a good idea for hunters to visit both websites for more specific info about limits and closure dates.

The Town of Gorham website also has specific info, including a map, which shows where you can and cannot hunt locally. It is a violation of Gorham’s Firearms Ordinance for any person to discharge a firearm of any type in the following restricted municipal areas:

- A. Within 500 feet of any school property
- B. Gorham Municipal Center
- C. Baxter Memorial Library
- D. The Chick property, located between Main Street, Libby Avenue and Gray Road
- E. Within 300 feet of the Public Works Garage
- F. Within 300 feet of the fuel tanks located on Huston Road
- G. Fort Hill Park
- H. Little Falls Recreation Area
- I. Little Falls School Area
- J. Shaw Park
- K. Robie Park
- L. Cherry Hill property, located between Route 237 and Smith Road on Main Street
- M. Lavoie Pumptrack
- N. Gorham Industrial Park
- The Narragansett Game Sanctuary, a 3,600 acre plot of land located in the cen-

ter of downtown, has special provisions as defined in Title 12, M.R.S.A. Sec. 12706 (1) (S) and Title 12, M.R.S.A. Sec. 12707 (2)(D).

Both hunters and land owners can find excellent information at the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife website, including rules about hunting and trapping on private property and a listing of Public Lands, most of which are open for hunting.

Homeowners should know their rights. Unlike most other states, Maine relies on an implied permission structure, meaning that if land is not posted, it is legal for hunters to use the land.

For hunters, the unwritten rule is to always ask permission. Hunting, fishing or otherwise using private land without the owner’s permission is reckless and dangerous. It puts everyone’s future access at risk.

When seeking permission to hunt on someone’s land, ask specific questions to find out what matters most to the landowner. Follow all special requests they make. Make sure you ask where you can or cannot drive or park a vehicle. Just because you can hunt there does not mean you have permission to place a tree stand or game camera or cut a shooting lane. Game cameras or tree stands/observation stands require written/verbal permission from the landowner before being placed, and must be labeled with a 2 x 4-inch tag with the owner’s name and contact information along with the address of everyone the landowner has authorized to use it.

Heading into hunting season, it’s time to be a good neighbor. Play it safe and be careful out there.

CryptoVerse

by A. Logophile

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INN XNNE DB YOZB MBL O MBOLIYLNBSBE OZGBQ.

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SOLUTION ON PAGE 11



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GORHAM REAL ESTATE EXPERT

Zoning Matters Discussed

Sally Fay, Staff Writer

The town’s Capital Improvement Projects/Economic Development Committee held its monthly meeting on Aug. 20 with all three members present. The committee continued to consider and discuss strategies for updating Gorham’s zoning map to promote higher-value development that generates more net positive property tax revenues, particularly in areas along Main Street from the Industrial Park to the Village Center and other growth areas. Discussion focused on introducing a “Village Approach” district for mixed-use development in certain areas currently identified in the Comprehensive Plan. An area was identified as a potential new Office Residential zone to provide more flexibility for developers. The committee also explored how flexible zoning along University of Southern Maine campus borders could encourage community-facing developments instead of insular ones. The committee also reviewed the matter of providing for an exemption of transfer overlay district density bonus fees within .25 miles of the existing Husky Line bus stop in Gorham Village. The group concurred that several questions remain to be discussed before formal recommendations can be sent to the Town Council and the Ordinance Committee, and also agreed to explore rezoning efforts around Libby/Main Street to align with the Comprehensive Plan’s vision for mixed use. Detailed meeting minutes can be accessed at <https://www.gorhammaine.gov/capital-improvement-projects-economic-development-committee>.

Town of Gorham Trash Transition Updates

Gorham Public Works

Cart Deliveries: The rollout of our new automated trash and recycling carts has begun. Delivery of the new carts will follow this route schedule: Monday, Friday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday. **Do Not Use Your New Carts Yet:** Collection will begin on Monday, Sept. 14 for all days (Friday, Sept. 11 for the residents with a collection-day change) barring unforeseen circumstances. Do not use your new carts until the automation for your route day has started. Check out the updated collection schedule on the Town’s webpage under Public Works, Trash & Recycling tab. **Continue Using Trash Tags:** Tags are required to be used until the transition with mechanical collection begins. Bags without tags will not be collected. **Disposal of Old Trash Cans & Recycling Bins:** Roll-off containers will be available until Sept. 25 for disposal of Gorham residents’ old trash cans and recycling bins. The containers will be located at Gorham Public Works (near the upper shop), 80 Huston Road, <https://www.google.com/maps/search/80+Huston+Road?entry=gmail&source=g>. After this period, residents can dispose of their old containers at Riverside Recycling or Casella Transfer Station for a fee. **Trash Schedule:** Gorham is transitioning from a Monday-to-Thursday, four-day trash collection schedule to a Monday-to-Friday, five-day collection schedule. Please take a look at the collection schedule by day to see if your road’s collection day has changed. **Questions?** If you have any questions or concerns about the transition, please reach out directly to the Gorham Public Works Department at (207) 222-4950 or email dpw@gorham.me.us.

Town Clerk’s Office System Update

Town Clerk’s Office

What Is Changing? Beginning Sept. 8, 2026, the Town will transition to a new finance system designed to improve services and operations. **What to Expect** During the transition period, the Town Clerk’s Office will need to process certain transactions in both the current system and the new system. This dual-entry process is expected to last for at least five months and will affect registrations for:

- Motor vehicles
- Boats
- ATVs
- Snowmobiles

As a result, some transactions may take longer than usual to complete. **How You Can Help** We appreciate your understanding and support during this important transition.

- Please allow extra time when visiting the Town Clerk’s Office.
- Be patient with our staff as they learn and adapt to the new system.
- Consider completing eligible motor vehicle re-registrations online to avoid waiting in line and save time.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as we work to improve our services for the community. We look forward to continuing to serve you efficiently throughout this transition.

Town Council Meeting Sept. 1

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

The Gorham Town Council met for their monthly meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 1. Chairperson Suzanne Phillips called the meeting to order and all seven members were present. They approved the minutes of the Aug. 4 regular meeting (7-0). Nine members of the public addressed the board. Five spoke in opposition to the proposed Amazon project, citing traffic congestion, the environmental impact of the project and the importance of town ordinances being enforced. One spoke in favor of the Amazon project, citing the need for businesses to be welcomed in the town. Two other community members spoke about the ramifications of changes in the sewer proposal for the Fairways project. One spoke about the wonderful dedication of the Horace S. Wilson Field, as well as the need to revisit the necessity of the turnpike spur. For the public hearing on amending the Town Zoning Map for a portion of a parcel owned by Shaw Brothers from Urban Residential to Industrial, 22 members of the community spoke. Sixteen spoke in opposition to the change, citing environmental and quality-of-life concerns. Many encouraged the council to wait until the council-requested study was completed and submitted. Six others spoke in favor of the proposal, citing the treatment of workers and professionalism that Shaw Brothers has demonstrated. After a lengthy discussion the change was approved (4-3, Hamblin, Siegel, Simms). Each council member was provided the opportunity to provide community updates. Councilor Kuech encouraged drivers to be careful now that school is back in session. Councilor Willis thanked members of the public for coming out to express their concerns and made people aware of the Stephen Ward 5K Fundraiser on Sept. 13. Councilor Dearborn mentioned that the Gorham Historical Society would not be meeting this month. Councilor Simms spoke about the misconceptions that had appeared in a recent letter to the Gorham Times; Amazon will not be bringing in huge amounts of tax revenue to the town. He stated that 100 new houses would bring in about three times as much revenue as the Amazon project. He reminded the board that Amazon represents their shareholders and not the town of Gorham. Town manager Ephrem Paraschak provided reminders about the trash program and that all carts will be distributed in the next two weeks. He also mentioned that the town will facilitate recycling of the old carts. Nicole Yeo-Fisher, chair of the Gorham School Committee, provided an update from the School Department. The school year is off to a great start. It was necessary to add a new fourth-grade teacher to Great Falls School due to increased enrollment. She mentioned that three bus drivers had resigned in the past week, so these positions need to be filled. There are also openings for special education educational technicians. She thanked GOCAT and the Gorham PD for an excellent public service announcement, thanked Public Works for their work on the Village School parking overlay and highlighted the ribbon-cutting ceremony at GHS. The council voted (6-1, Dearborn) to extend the Moratorium Ordinance on large-scale mobile-home-park lot-rent increases for an additional 180 days. The council voted (7-0) to authorize the Town Clerk to issue the warrant for the Nov. 3 election and appointed ward clerks and established voting hours. The council voted (7-0) to approve all qualifying applications from the Senior Property Tax Relief Programs for a total of \$68,350.00. The council voted (7-0) to accept the resignation of Stephen Crisafulli from the Planning Board and to thank Mr. Crisafulli for his service to the town. The council voted (7-0) to forward to the Planning Board for a public hearing and comments on amending the Land Use Development Code to restrict large-scale data centers in the town. The goal of this action is to define a “data center” and to effectively prohibit land in town for this use. The council voted (7-0) to forward to the Ordinance Committee for review and recommendation the possibility of restricting or banning automated license plate readers and similar products on town roads and property. The council voted (6-1, Dearborn) to forward to the Ordinance Committee for review and recommendation an ordinance that would prohibit town employees from interacting with and/or supporting federal officials with immigration enforcement actions. The council approved (7-0) to forward to the Ordinance Committee to work with town staff to draft Smart Use principles for road connectivity. The council approved (7-0) to instruct staff to work with the Town Council and Ordinance Committee to develop additional standards and definitions for mixed-use land use. The council voted (7-0) to forward to the Ordinance Committee amending the land use code to allow greater flexibility for existing land owners with regard to accessory apartments. After a long discussion and multiple proposals, the council voted (4-3, Phillips, Dearborn, Willis) to authorize the Town Manager to use up to \$32,400 in TIF funds to complete the previously approved hiring of a consultant to review Gorham’s quarry and mineral extraction ordinances. The council voted (6-1, Siegel) to forward to the Planning Board a request for a contract zone located at 252 Ossipee Trail East for a dog daycare and overnight boarding facility. For a complete account of the meeting, a copy of the minutes and a recorded video of the meeting may be found on the Gorham Town Council website.

Libraries CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

including Baxter Memorial, and asking for one. Entries can be submitted by mail to the Maine Library Association, P.O. Box 1993, Portland, ME 04104 or by sending a photo of the completed passport via email to vicepresident@mainelibraries.org. Completed entries will be eligible for gift cards and prize packages from contest sponsors, including L.L.Bean, Briar Patch Books, Shaw’s, Hannaford and The Maine Whoopie Pie Festival. Winners will be determined by random drawing at the beginning of January and prizes will be mailed out soon afterwards. Libraries have the power to expand our horizons and open doors to new worlds. Start your Maine library appreciation tour by getting your passport validated at Gorham’s own Baxter Memorial Library—or if you’re not up for a road trip, visit either town library and sign up for a library card!

Welcome Students to a New School Year

Gorham Times Staff



Photo Credit: Erin Eppler, Narragansett Principal
First day of school for some of the Narragansett crew!



Photo Credit: Kristal Goff, Administrative Assistant
Smiling faces and warm hugs on the first day.

GHS Ribbon Cutting and Open House

Michael Lortie, School News Editor



Photo Credit: Kelli Deveaux, Aspire Gorham
Room 104, Ms. Sheets' French classroom

On Tuesday, Aug. 25 Gorham High School held a ribbon-cutting ceremony and a public open house to celebrate the opening of four new educational, athletic and student spaces at the school.

The four spaces comprise the expansion of the cafeteria, the creation of seven modular classroom spaces, the completion of the tennis courts and the replacement of the track and field.

Heather Perry, superintendent of Gorham Schools, said, "We are incredibly grateful to our community for their unwavering support of the recent construction project in Gorham Schools. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our patient neighbors on Morrill Avenue, who have shown understanding throughout this process. We also extend our appreciation



Photo Credit: Kelli Deveaux, Aspire Gorham
The ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 25. Pictured: Facilities director Norm Justice, School Committee chair Nicole Yeo-Fisher, Principal Brian Jandreau, student Lucas Lane, Superintendent Heather Perry and Jon Smith of Great Falls Construction.

to Great Falls Construction, Shaw Brothers, Gorham Public Works and other local businesses whose exceptional craftsmanship has greatly contributed to our vision."

She continued, "This project is not just about building facilities; it represents an investment in our students and the broader community. The enhancements we've implemented will provide long-lasting benefits, ensuring that our schools continue to thrive for many years to come. Together, we are fostering an environment that supports education and growth, and we couldn't have achieved this without the collective effort of everyone involved."



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School Committee Meeting Aug. 26

Michael Lortie, School News Editor

Chairperson Nicole Yeo-Fisher called the meeting to order and all seven members were present.

As determined at the last meeting of the school year, Superintendent Heather Perry informed the committee of all teaching contracts that had been issued this summer. They approved (7-0) nine new educators:

- Erin Malloy, School Psychologist
- Sean Fitzsimons, Special Education Elementary Teacher
- Paul Lamson-LaPlume, GHS Math Teacher
- Mary Fagan Murphy, GMS Math Lab Interventionist
- Kyle Hanson, GMS Special Education Teacher
- Emily Bisson, Pre-K Occupational Therapist (.6)
- Jaymie Frazier, GMS Music Chorus Teacher
- Elizabeth Connell, GMS Health
- Acadia LeSiege, Elementary Teacher

At this point, all teaching positions are filled, but there are openings for educational technicians and substitute bus drivers.

Due to increased enrollment over the summer, the committee voted (7-0) to add a fourth grade to Great Falls School.

Heather Perry presented a draft of the superintendent goals for the 2026-27 school year. The four goals that she will prioritize are a continuation of the work with staff on the metrics for student success, staff literacy on Artificial Intelligence, development of the Aspire Program Pre-K through grade

5 focusing on building fine and gross motor skills, and purposeful learning through play and the purposeful use of technology. She asked the committee to review the document and offer feedback before the goals are officially approved at a later meeting.

Superintendent Perry presented a draft of the School Committee schedule for the 2026-27 school year. This is a guideline that can be adjusted as needs arise.

Superintendent Perry presented the 2025-26 State of the Schools Report reviewing data and information about successes and challenges of the school system. Some of the successes noted are that GHS graduation rates continue to outpace Cumberland County and state averages; school culture and engagement ratings are very high with staff, students and parents; there are some strong elementary school gains; and a strong career preparation focus and a high family satisfaction rate of 95 percent. Some of the challenges noted are attendance and discipline at GMS, growing student support needs, slipping reading scores on the NWEA this past spring, persistent equity gaps in discipline and attendance, and identification and readiness gaps at the elementary level.

The committee voted (7-0) to designate Michelle Littlefield as delegate and Lowansa Tompkins as alternate delegate to the MSMA (Maine School Management Association) Delegate Assembly this fall.

The committee voted (7-0) to go into Executive Session to discuss contract negotiations and superintendent goals.

GHS Seniors 2027



Seniors paint T-shirts preparing for their upcoming senior school year.

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Fall Sports Preview

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Farquer, Luna Button, Kailey Hanscom. Liana Edwards, 2024 Gatorade Player of the Year, is definitely a player to watch. Up-and-comer sophomore Sophie MacIsaac will hopefully make an impact for us, as well as our returning sophomore Ava Scott.”

This season challenging opponents for the defending state champs will continue to be Scarborough, TA, and Cheverus. The team is expected to make it far into the playoffs again.

The coach added, “A huge strength of our team is their dedication to each other and competitive nature. Our seniors have been a part of a state championship every year so far, which is incredibly special, and drives them to want to win this year. I can’t wait to see what we do.”

Boys Soccer: Coach Viola shared, “Last year, we achieved a 12-3-1 record and made it to the SMAA semi-finals, losing 2-0 against Falmouth. We lost only two seniors from last year’s team. We will be returning 17 players to this year’s roster.”

Coach Viola continued, “This year’s seniors will have a significant impact on our team. Our returning captain from last year is senior defender Antoine Dube. Other impactful seniors will be Corbin Wilson (goalkeeper), Liam Delaney (defense), Will Andreassen (midfield), Cohen Landry (forward), and Rowen Reed (forward). Players to watch plus the following returning players from the junior class include Moises Ntango (midfield), Sawyer Wheaton (midfield), and Ty Caron (midfield), all of whom saw significant minutes last year as sophomores.

New players include juniors Ahmed Abdulzahra (forward) and Brayden Logan (defense).

Coach Viola concluded, “As always with this program, expectations are high, particularly with the number of returning players to this year’s team. We embrace that challenge and seek consistency every day in the way we perform to exceed those expectations.

“The strength of our team will be our defense. We return our entire defensive lineup from last year. We also have a number of dangerous attacking players who can score at any time.”

Girls Soccer: The 2025 regular season schedule ended with a 10-4-0 record. In post-season play, the Rams beat Deering 4-0 in a Prelim game and lost to Kennebunk 2-1 in PKs.

Incoming head coach Andy Higgins shared, “We have five seniors leading this year’s group: Anna Nichols, Adriana Russo, Kara Nygren, Kennady Peary, and Erica Donnell. Players to watch and impact newcomers include Russo (Sr.) (All SMAA 2nd Team in 2025), Courtney Cyr (Jr.) (SMAA Honorable Mention 2025), Haley Chandler (Jr.) Lauren and Taylor Chadburn (So.), and Tessa White (Jr).”

Coach Higgins added, “The preseason

is off to a good start, with the kids learning a new staff and style of play, but they are competing and working very hard to push each other to get better every day. The team is committed to remaining positive and being the best teammates they can be.” Challenging opponents in Coach Higgins’ opinion will be “Scarborough, Windham, Falmouth, Kennebunk and the entire SMAA.”

Field Hockey: Head coach Rebecca Manson reported that last season her team finished in the semi-final game, losing to the eventual state champs, Cheverus. Her team graduated four seniors, including Annie Collier, now playing at Sacred Heart, and Reece Leclerc, now playing at St. Michael’s. Their overall record was 8-8.

Coach Manson shared, “This season’s top returning players include Sydney Quimby (Sr. forward captain) with 10 goals and 4 assists last season. She may be small but she’s mighty. Very quick and has the ability to beat opponents multiple times down the field. She can play the whole game at a high level of play and has the competitive edge to withstand tough opponents. She scored the game-winning goal in our quarterfinal game last season to send us to our fifth straight semi-final game. She was All-Conference honorable mention last season; she’s looking at first team this season and has a high potential to make All-State. She has 22 career goals and 6 career assists. Acadia Sylvia (Sr. defender) This will be her third year anchoring the defense and she’s been a huge part of our success defensively during that time. Eva Wandell (Sr. goalkeeper) returns in goal as a two-year starter. Last season she made 80 saves off 110 shots, giving her a 73% save rating. Wandell is tall, athletic and quick to the ball and easily a top goalie in SMAA. Haylie Nicely (Sr. midfielder) is a two-year starting player moving from attack to center-mid this season, filling an integral role for the team in distributing the ball with excellent passing ability. Bryn Cunningham (Jr. forward/mid captain) will be a two-year returning member of the team. She will go between attack and midfield this season with excellent leadership. Also making a huge impact on our team and strong returning players are Maia Downing (Sr. captain forward), Hazel Dolley (Sr. forward), Jenny Miner (Jr. defender), and Luella Dolly (Jr. midfield). We have two newcomers, Adi Spiller and Alyssa Lampen, who stand to impact the offense and scoring ability with amazing speed and endurance. Freshman Maddy Chaisson is a newcomer and defender who will impact the backfield with strong defensive play.”

In Coach Manson’s view, six teams stand out as top contenders: Biddeford, Cheverus,

Sanford, Gorham, Scarborough and TA.

Coach Manson added, “Gorham is strong again this season with seven returning starters and a strong group to fill in the open spots. Newcomers provide depth on the bench, allowing Gorham to be a tough opponent and a top team in the SMAA.”

Football: Coach Morrison provided the following: “The team finished up last year 2-7 with multiple close losses, including a game in overtime at Scarborough and games down to the wire, which included a 12-10 loss to the eventual State Class B champions, Westbrook. We graduated key seniors, including four-year starters Atticus Whitten and Lucas Graham, as well as three-year starting quarterback Garrett Poulin. We have a roster above 50 for the fourth straight year, which has been awesome this preseason; it’s been very competitive on the practice field.”

This year’s senior leaders/captains, coach Morrison explained, will be anchored by an experienced offensive line, including Alden Whitten (captain), Jack Feldhaus, Gracin Bunch, Ryan Wheeler (captain), and Dustin Densmore, with Nick Harrington and Logan Rench most likely getting some time up front. “Our skill positions will be led by returning All-Conference football player Isaac Vail (captain) at the free safety and wide receiver position and Cooper Whitehead at running back, our fourth captain. Wyatt Walker will take over at the quarterback position and has had a great offseason and preseason thus far. Players to watch will be Cooper Whitehead, Isaac Vail, Alden Whitten, and Ryan Wheeler, along with the veteran line group already mentioned.”

Coach Morrison added, “I would argue B South is top-to-bottom one of the most challenging conferences in football. So every opponent will be tough and it starts off with a B North Crossover and blueblood program like Lawrence. Then we will hit the road for Biddeford and return home to host Marshwood on Pooch Night [an annual GHS football tradition dedicated to honoring Officer Wayne “Pooch” Drown and benefiting the Pooch Memorial Scholarship]. Every week we will get to measure ourselves against the rest of the league as we have all B South teams on our schedule

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Good luck GHS
fall athletes



Horace S. Wilson

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Photo Credit: Cindy Hazelton

Todd Bacon, Gorham coach and Little League Baseball president, presents Consul General Seiichiro Takahashi of Boston an official commemorative bat from the Inaugural Horace S. Wilson Invitational Tournament while at Hadlock Field for the Portland Sea Dogs Japan Day observance, Aug. 23. Bacon also made the bat at his Dirigo Bats shop.

elimination event: Gorham, Bonny Eagle, Scarborough, and Yarmouth. Six days later, Scarborough won the championship game over Yarmouth, 12-2. Altogether, 56 players, 6 umpires, and 12 coaches took part.

The tournament had some unique aspects, with a primary purpose being to encourage international friendship through sports. The games promoted friendship between the people of Gorham and the people of Japan by emphasizing the shared bond of baseball, which is Japan’s most popular sport. To this day, Horace S. Wilson’s legacy is honored by baseball fans throughout Japan, and the Japanese government maintains positive ties with local Wilson descendants, some of whom live on the historic family farm.

Japanese Deputy Consul Eri Maeda traveled from Boston for the dedication event, which took place prior to the first game at Little Falls, where both the flag of the United States and the flag of Japan were raised. The tournament events were organized by Gorham Parks and Recreation.

The tournament honored the historic legacy and accomplishments of Horace S. Wilson, who grew up in Gorham’s White Rock section. Wilson is credited with introducing baseball to Japan in the 1870s, after being hired by the Japanese government to teach English in the island nation.

On Sunday, Aug. 23, the Portland Sea Dogs celebrated the second annual Japan Day at Hadlock Field. Consul General Seiichiro Takahashi of the Japanese Consulate in Boston was present for the game, where he threw out the first pitch.

Representatives of Gorham Little League and Gorham Recreation were also present.

Tyler Robinson
Vice President



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BUSINESS AND THE ARTS

USM Theatre Department Announces Fall Season

John Ersek, Staff Writer

The USM Department of Theatre has announced an extensive schedule of performances for the fall 2026 season, beginning with a musical play focused toward school-age audiences. “The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical” is a touring production in collaboration with the Children’s Museum and Theatre of Maine. Running Sept. 25, 26 and 27, the show is directed by Danny Hutchins, with musical direction by Jeff Christmas.

The next production is part of the department’s student-directed series. “Ride the Cyclone” is described as a “darkly comedic, moving musical.” It is directed by Quintessa Marcotte and will be performed on Oct. 2, 3 and 4.

The major production of the season will be “The Real Inspector Hound,” a classic comedy whodunnit. It will be performed on Oct. 23, 24 and 25, and also on Oct. 30 and 31 and Nov. 1. The show is directed by Reba Askari.

“Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind” will be presented on Nov. 13, 14 and 15. Described as “neo-futurist,” the performance is billed as “30 plays in 60 minutes.” The show is directed by Rachel Price-Cooper.

USM Dance will perform their winter dance concert on Dec. 4 and 6; it is directed by Jessie Laurita-Spanglet.

All performances are at Russell Hall on the USM Gorham campus.

<https://usm.maine.edu/department-theatre/box-office-tickets/>



Upcoming Town Meetings

9/14 Ordinance Committee Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
9/14 Affordable Housing Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
9/14 Planning Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
9/15 Town Council Workshop, 6:30 p.m.
9/15 Conservation Commission Meeting, 7 p.m.
9/16 Gorham Economic Development Corporation Meeting, 8 a.m.
9/16 Minor Site Plan Review Committee Meeting, 1 p.m.
9/17 Board of Appeals Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

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Child Nutrition and No Charge School Lunch 2026

NSLP News Release

School Year 2026-27 free and reduced-price meal benefit applications are available for families with students enrolled in Gorham School Department, which is participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP). Meals will be offered to enrolled students at no charge in Maine public schools participating in the National School Lunch Program due to State of Maine Legislation.

While meals are provided for no charge, it is still important to complete the School Year 2026-27 free and reduced-price meal benefit application. Students may be eligible for additional benefits, such as the USDA Summer EBT program.

The following household income guidelines for School Year 2026-27 have been provided by the United States Department of Agriculture:

For more information, contact: diana.blanchard@gorhamschools.org In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language) should contact the responsible State or local agency that administers the program or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

Household Size	Maximum Household Income Eligible for Free Meals			Maximum Household Income Eligible for Reduced Price Meals		
	Annually	Monthly	Weekly	Annually	Monthly	Weekly
1	20,748	1,729	399	29,526	2,461	568
2	28,132	2,345	541	40,034	3,337	770
3	35,516	2,960	683	50,542	4,213	972
4	42,900	3,575	825	61,050	5,089	1,175
5	50,284	4,191	967	71,558	5,965	1,377
6	57,668	4,806	1,109	82,066	6,841	1,579
7	65,052	5,421	1,251	92,574	7,715	1,781
8	72,436	6,037	1,393	103,082	8,591	1,983
Each add'l member	7,384	616	142	10,508	876	203

To apply, fill out a Free and Reduced Price Meal Benefit Application and return it your local school district. The information provided on the application is confidential. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year. A complete application is required as a condition of eligibility. A complete application includes: (1) household income from all sources or Food Stamp/TANF case number, (2) names of all household members, and (3) the signature and last four digits of social security number or indication of no social security number of adult household member signing the application. School officials may verify current income at any time during the school year.

Foster children may be eligible regardless of the income of the household with whom they reside. If a family member becomes unemployed or if family size changes, the family should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the family eligible.

Households will be notified of their children’s eligibility status for free or reduced-price meals. If any children were not listed on the eligibility notice for families receiving SNAP, TANF or FDPIR, the household should contact the school to have free meal benefits extended to those children.

If any child(ren) was not listed on the eligibility notice, the household should contact their local school district to have free meal benefits extended to that child(ren).

A Gorham School Department determining official will review the application and determine eligibility. If a parent/guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, they may wish to discuss the decision with the hearing official on an informal basis or he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to the school district’s hearing official.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or (2) fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

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Gorham Times

COMMUNITY

GRADUATIONS

Abigail Houp graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics from the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, Rhode Island.

Alyvia Caruso graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Textile Fashion Merchandising & Design from the University of Rhode Island in Kingston, Rhode Island.

OF INTEREST

Galilee Church presents a family-friendly food & movie night on Sept. 18 at 6 p.m. This will be on the lawn at 317 Main Street. For more information, call 207-839-6985.

Gorham Adult Education has a new location at 381 Main Street in Gorham. FMI, or register in person or online at <https://gorham.maineadulted.org>, (207) 222-1095.

The Maine Department of Transportation will hold a Drop-in Open House in Gorham to update the public on findings from its Portland West Balanced Mobility Improvements Study to address congestion and improve safety and mobility in the communities west of Portland. The open house will take place in Shaw Gym at the Gorham Municipal Center, 75 South Street, on Tuesday, Sept. 22 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. There will also be a virtual public meeting on Sept. 24 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. A registration link for the virtual meeting can be found at <https://www.maine.gov/dot/major-projects/portlandwest>.

The University of Maine Cooperative Extension has launched Tractor Safety: Foundations, a self-paced online course that provides learners with the foundational knowledge needed to operate tractors and agricultural equipment more safely and confidently. Designed for beginning tractor operators, both youth and adult, the course expands access to critical safety training, particularly for those in regions of the state where in-person options are limited. The online format covers the same core curriculum as UMaine Extension's popular 5-week in-person program, but without the hands-on driving experience. For more information and to register, visit the Tractor Safety: Foundations course webpage at https://discover.maine.edu/product?catalog=Tractor_Safety_Foundation.

The Gorham Backpack program is collecting school supplies and pantry items. According to their recent Facebook post: "As our students head back to school, we want every single one of them to feel ready and supported. The good news is that school supplies for our elementary students have been donated. But right now, we have nothing for our middle and high school students in need, and the food closet at Gorham High School is completely empty. If you're able to help, we'd be so grateful for donations of school supplies for our middle and high schoolers, and food closet items to help restock GHS." Donations for Gorham may be dropped at the Middle School.

Play Golf – Do Good! The 32nd Annual Rotary Classic Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, Sept. 28 at Val Halla Golf & Recreation in Cumberland, ME. Thanks to many generous sponsors, Westbrook-Gorham Rotary Club Charities had a record-breaking tournament in 2025. Join the fun by entering your team or by becoming a sponsor. Find more information at <https://westbrookgorhamrotarygolf.org>. Proceeds benefit Rotary's local high school and vocational scholarships; a 4-Day Rotary Youth Leadership camp each summer; Interact Clubs at Westbrook and Gorham High Schools; projects in literacy, fighting food insecurity, and supporting veterans; and other local community programs and causes in the Town of Gorham and City of Westbrook.

The Gorham St. Anne's Knights of Columbus will host its 4th annual 5K Race/Walk on Saturday, Oct. 10 at 9 a.m. at Shaw Cherry Hill Farm on Route 25 in Gorham. This year's goal is to raise \$9,000 to benefit local food pantries. Proceeds will benefit the Gorham Food Pantry, Standish Food Pantry, Buxton Food Co-Op, Buxton Community Cupboard, and the Sebago Warming Hut Food Pantry. The first 100 registrants will receive a T-shirt, and all participants will have breakfast and the chance to win prizes and awards in various best-of-age categories. Registration costs \$25 per adult, or \$15 for kids up to age 12. A special family rate of \$60 for 3 or more registrations is also available. To register, visit www.gorhamknights.org/events/5k.

VFW Post 10879 thanks Gorham for its continued support of local veterans through donations and participation in Post fundraisers throughout the year. The success of these efforts would not be possible without the tremendous support of the people and businesses of Gorham, and the Post is proud of the relationship it has built with the community. Veterans who have served in foreign conflicts are invited to attend the Post's monthly meetings, held the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Gorham Fire Department, 270 Main Street in Gorham. Eligible veterans are encouraged to join for camaraderie, continued service, and the opportunity to connect with fellow combat veterans while supporting those who have served our nation. For questions, contact Jake Bauder, Quartermaster, at (207) 607-0370.

Riding the Metro bus is now easier! Greater Portland Metro has launched a new Tap-to-Ride fare payment option, allowing riders to tap their phone, Apple Watch, or credit card when boarding the bus. Smartcard and mobile app users should continue to use their Dirigo Pass for frequent riders benefits, including fare capping and free transfers. Tap-to-Ride is ideal for infrequent riders taking single-leg trips who are not eligible for a reduced fare. All trips are charged the full base fare for the route being boarded. Visit the Greater Portland Metro's site for more information at <https://www.gpmetro.org/trip-planning-online-fare-apps/#tab-taptoride>.

PUBLIC SUPPERS

Scarborough Free Baptist Church is hosting a Public Bean Supper Saturday, Sept. 12 from 4 to 6 p.m. Two kinds of beans, hot dogs, chop suey, mac & cheese, coleslaw, homemade biscuits and brown bread. Plus PIES for dessert. Adults \$10, under 12 \$5. 55 Mussey Road, Scarborough.

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 summer 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 resumes for the season on Sept. 16 and will meet 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 – Hidden Gems of Maine presented by Nigel Osborne, Maine State Visitor Information Center Manager, on Sept. 15 at 2 p.m. This is an updated, fun and inspiring talk that highlights beautiful, lesser known places to visit across Maine during the autumn - from cozy getaways and scenic drives to hidden trails, local artisans, and small town adventures. IT: Ask Me Anything! is held every Wednesday from 3 to 4:30 p.m. with Cody in the Schneider Room. Check the calendar in this issue for what's coming up at the library, or visit the library in person or online at <https://baxterlibrary.org/events/> to see what's happening. 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.

North Gorham Public Library is hosting a free Chair Yoga Class with a 12-week class beginning in September. The library also offers free one-day passes to the Portland Museum of Art for up to two adults and six children. Also available are free tickets to the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens again this year. Through Oct. 18, the library can provide tickets each day for two adults and up to 10 children (escorted by the adult(s). Come in or call (207)892-2575, or email northgorhampl@gmail.com if you are interested. The NGPL supports North Gorham and Standish, and is open Monday 3 to 6 p.m., Tuesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m., Thursday and Friday closed, Saturday 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Sunday closed. Donate books anytime (please, no textbooks, encyclopedias, or Readers Digest condensed books). FMI: email libng@north-gorham.lib.me.us. Sign up for the library's email monthly newsletter: northgorhampl@gmail.com, or call (207) 892-2575. Check out What's Happening or the Events Calendar on their website, or their Facebook page for weekly updates.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE NEWS

The Department of Theatre has an incredible line-up of shows this year - musicals, mysteries, comedy, radio theatre, student-directed work and more. They have theatre for the whole family and they are ready to see you at Russell Hall. Tickets for the full season are on sale at PortTIX. There is a 10% discount when you purchase tickets to three or more shows or four tickets to the same show. The first production of the season is "The Lightning Thief," a touring production in collaboration with the Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine and the Osher School of Music, Sept. 25-27. If you liked the book "The Lightning Thief" by Rick Riordan, you'll love this rock musical adaptation that's great for kids ages 8 and up. When teenager Percy Jackson discovers he's a demigod, he and his friends embark on an epic journey to find Zeus' missing lightning bolt and prevent a war among the gods. "The Lightning Thief: The Percy Jackson Musical" is an action-packed mythical adventure "worthy of the gods" (Time Out New York).

CLOSE TO HOME

The Friends of Feral Felines 23rd annual book sale is coming back to Westbrook Community Center again this year! This popular sale will be held at 426 Bridge St. in Westbrook from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26, with hundreds of books, including top titles and great prices! All sales support our ongoing mission to reduce the number of abandoned cats in southern Maine through Trap-Neuter-Release, socialization, and forever homes, as well as providing food and medical care. FMI: www.feralfelines.net or call (207) 797-3014.



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along with Lawrence and Scarborough.”

Coach Morrison concluded, “The strength of our team so far this preseason has certainly been leadership, offensive line play, and competitiveness. These guys have hit the ground running and have set some goals and changed some standards within the program, with goals to be highly competitive this year, night-in and night-out.”

XC Teams: Coach Tanguay (year 18), Coach Knowlton (year 3) and Coach Kibler (year 1) have a deep dedication to investing time in safe training, mental toughness, and personal goals for each athlete. This year’s captains/leaders include Owen Cummings (Sr.), Harry Crider (Sr.), Harvey Crider (Sr.), Kevin Munyaneza (Sr.), Anna Johnson (Sr.), Nara Holland (Jr.), and Julia Giguere (Jr.).

Coach Tanguay shared, “This year on the girls side, we return our top three runners in Anna Johnson, Abigail McCrillis and Nara Holland. On the boys side, we return all of our top seven runners in Owen Cummings, Harvey Crider, Harry Crider, Abe Palme, Nick Sallinen, Jackson Lavertu and Evan Fletcher.”

Coach Tanguay added, “Both the girls and boys teams return many runners from last year and are hopeful that the work put in during the summer will pay off with more success in the postseason. The girls are looking to qualify as a team for the state championship and the boys have their eyes on fighting for a top position both in our league and potentially the state.”

The team’s home meet, the Southern Maine Classic Invitational, will be a meet to put on your calendar for Saturday, Sept. 12, starting at 10 a.m.

Golf: Precision and focus will be on display as our student golfers hit the local fairways to compete in regional match play. Will Provost, Graham Staples, and Charlie Sands are among the key returning golfers for the Gorham High School Rams team this fall season. The team outlook: The Rams placed 5th at the Maine High School State Championship team event with a round score of 327. The team opened regular-season play in late August, securing a strong win against Kennebunk.

Good luck to all of the athletes and coaches this season.



Photo #2: Girls Varsity Soccer pre-season action.

Photo credit: Amy Donnelly



Interested in learning more about the Bible?
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Our first series will feature the Book of Revelation.
Recommended to bring a Bible to follow along.
FMI contact Ken at (207) 318-1260

CALENDAR

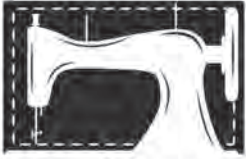
- Thursday, September 10**
Baxter Memorial Library, Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Book Group, 10:15 a.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Board Game Café, noon
Baxter Memorial Library, Friends of Baxter Memorial Library, 6:15 p.m.
- Friday, September 11**
We remember...
- Saturday, September 12**
Scarborough Free Baptist Church, Public Bean Supper, 4 - 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 15**
Baxter Memorial Library, Toddler and Family Storytime, 10 a.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Hidden Gems of Maine, 2 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 16**
Baxter Memorial Library, Baby Storytime, 9:30 a.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Early Release Makerspace, 1 p.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, IT: Ask Me Anything!, 3 p.m.
- Thursday, September 17**
Baxter Memorial Library, Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Board Game Café, noon
- Friday, September 18**
Galilee Church, Easy Friday Family Movie Night on the Lawn, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 22**
Baxter Memorial Library, Toddler and Family Storytime, 10 a.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Life’s Essential 8: How to Improve Your Heart Health, 2 p.m.
Maine Department of Transportation Open House, Shaw Gym, 5 - 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 23**
Baxter Memorial Library, Baby Storytime, 9:30 a.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, IT: Ask Me Anything!, 3 p.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Meet the Candidates!, 6 p.m.

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NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE: Notice is hereby given that the following abandoned vehicle is in the possession of Joshua Fogg: Year: 2012. Make: Toyota. Model: Tundra. Body Type: Extended Cab. Vehicle Identification Number (VIN): 5TFUM5F15DX041739. License Plate / State: N/A. The vehicle came into possession on Aug. 24, 2026. If the owner or lienholder does not properly retrieve the vehicle and pay all reasonable charges for towing, storage, and/or repairs within 14 days of the publication of this notice, ownership of the vehicle will pass to the owner of the premises where it is located. To claim the vehicle or inquire about charges, contact: Joshua Fogg; 207-747-7847; 44 McGill Fern Road, Standish, ME 04084 - Private Residence (No Trespassing – must call prior to meet).



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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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the Courtesy of the Gorham Police Department blotter

Scarborough PD asked for assistance in setting up a perimeter for a male that had fled a traffic stop on Gorham Rd. Two Gorham officers responded and covered the area of Jana Lane, remaining there until Scarborough PD advised they were all set.

A caller reported loud "bassy" music coming from the school, possibly from one of the Great Falls Construction trucks. They said it had been happening almost daily. Dispatch passed the information on to have it addressed with the construction crew.

Officer cleared fallen tree debris from the road.

Officer spoke with a male after finding him walking southbound in the 45 mph zone of the Bypass. He told the officer he is a student at USM and was going for a walk. Officer explained how Cressey Road would be a safer option and he agreed, walking down there instead.

Officer stopped to check on a driver when officer observed her car stopped on Wood Rd with the hazards on. They said the car had overheated and were letting it cool down before driving it the rest of the way home. They said they were all

set to stay by themselves while waiting.

A man was stuck on the side of the road due to a faulty fuel tank. Phillips Towing responded and towed the vehicle. Officer gave the man a ride to his wife's work.

A citizen reported that a vehicle had struck their mailbox sometime overnight and there was no evidence to identify the vehicle or owner, they just wanted us to be aware only.

Officer had a parking issue at GHS. The first violation was a Chevy pick-up parking on an island. The second parked in a no-parking spot. Both were issued a \$25 parking ticket.

DPW was made aware that a traffic green light was out completely. Nothing further at this time.

Officer traveling on Huston Rd observed a vehicle parked in the middle of the road. The vehicle brake-lights kept coming on and off and at points looked like the vehicle would go into reverse then back into park. The vehicle continued to just sit in the middle of the road. Officer approached and the vehicle slowly rolled to the side of the road. Officer checked on the operator, who said he was just doing UBER. Officer confirmed all the information and everything was all set.

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