

Gorham Times

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First Parish Church Wins Grant to House Refugees

Patrick and Cindy O'Shea, Staff Writers

The First Parish Church of Gorham (United Church of Christ) has recently announced a major new refugee housing initiative which its members believe will bring its mission of serving the community to a new level. In an interview, Pastor Christine Dyke said, "Our beliefs are rooted in the faith that what we have is not just for us. We believe we must care for each other and the earth." Those beliefs have guided a variety of initiatives.

The church's latest initiative will support four refugee families, (12-16 people) with housing. Back in the late 1980's, the church added a 47,000-square-foot addition to the building to support its large Sunday school population and other programs

Over time this space has become less used, and the question was asked, "Why do we have all this extra space and how can we better utilize it?" After a careful information gathering and sharing process, it was decided by 100% of the congregation to apply for a grant through Maine Housing that would assist refugees who are seeking asylum and in need of housing.

First Parish Church was awarded a 2-year grant for \$376,250 which will pay for the renovation of space and some of the

program costs for the first year. Showing strong support, 86% of the congregation voted to accept the grant. Work will begin soon, and the project will be completed and ready for occupancy by October 31, 2023.

The space to be converted will be for congregate living. Each family will have their own bedroom and shared common space including a kitchen. Great Falls Construction has been selected as the contractor for the project. Amy Leddy will serve as project manager and John Milano as the church point person.

An important part of helping the refugee families will be to provide them with support. Greater Portland Family Promise will provide a case worker for 10 hours a week. The church will establish a committee to oversee the grant implementation. This 6- to 8-person Oversight Committee will be formed with representatives from Missions, the Church Executive Council, along with congregation and community members. Each of the four families will be assigned two "Buddy Families" from the congregation to assist them. So that everyone knows what is expected of them there will be a written agreement with each family regarding space



First Parish Church

Photo credit: Roger Marchand

rules, expectations, and payment of rent.

First Parish has many initiatives that support its beliefs. The church has had a longstanding relationship with the Courage House located across the street. They supply bedding and other essentials along with Thanksgiving dinner for the residents and in return, the residents of the Courage House assist the church with room setups.

The belief that taking care of the earth

is the responsibility of all of us is reflected in three of the church's improvements. Two charging stations for electric vehicles have been installed in the parking lot, heat pumps have been installed in part of the annex building and 66 solar panels will be installed in July.

This is the kind of initiative that the First Parish community believes will help to fulfill their mission.

Memorial Day Parade Then and Now

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer



Photo credit: Anonymous; From the collection of Wilma Johnson

Memorial Day Parade of Girl Scouts on Main Street circa 1930's.

Gorham's Memorial Day Parade will step off from Village School at 11 a.m. on Monday, May 29. The parade will turn right onto South Street and then right onto Main Street and will end at the Eastern Cemetery where there will be a memorial service. Groups who wish to march in the parade are asked to register at <https://gorhamrec.com> and be ready to line up at Village School at 10 a.m.

Groups in attendance include our Recre-

ation baseball and softball teams, Knights of Columbus, our local color guard, Gorham Police and Fire, Gorham Public Works, Wyman's Bee Mobile, many of our local churches, various local businesses and so many more. The speaker at the memorial service will be Col Bill Benson USA, retired.

The first Memorial Day ceremony in the U.S. to honor fallen Union Civil War soldiers was held on May 1, 1865, when 10,000 mostly freed slaves along with members of

the 54th Massachusetts and other Black Union regiments and white missionaries gathered in Charleston, South Carolina to honor the fallen. The Uniform Monday Holiday Act moved Memorial Day from May 30 to the last Monday in May.

Customarily, the American flag marks Memorial Day by flying at half-staff from sunrise until noon, then at full staff until sundown to honor the fallen soldiers of all wars.

The National Moment of Remembrance Act was signed by President Bill Clinton and takes place at 3 p.m. local time each Memorial Day asking the public to pause for a minute of silence to remember and honor the sacrifices of those who have given their lives for our country.

Memorial Day celebrations and military burials also include the playing of "Taps," written in 1862 by General Daniel Butterfield, a wounded Union brigadier general from New York. He served as Assistant Secretary of the U. S. Treasury and is buried at West Point Cemetery.

The land that became Arlington National Cemetery was a plantation belonging to Robert E. Lee and originally belonging to George Washington's step-grandson, George Washington Parke Custis. For more than 14,000 soldiers, Arlington is their final resting place. The Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery was established in 1921, and has been a final resting place for unidentified World War I service members, and from later wars added in 1958 and 1984.

Town Council Approves Reduced School Budget

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer

At a special meeting on May 16, the Town Council (TC) voted (6-0, Pratt recused), to approve the School Committee FY24 budget, after voting to reduce it by \$800,000. If approved by voters on June 13, the \$51,141,479 budget would result in a \$1.31 increase on the mil rate.

Before a packed house and after eleven people made public comments in support and opposition to the budget, Councilors discussed reducing the proposed budget by as much as \$1.8 million. They were reminded that the TC can cut the budget, but the SC determines what to cut from the budget. In previous years the SC reduced their Capital Improvements (CIP) budget in response to TC budget reductions. However, SC Chair Darryl Wright made clear the SC had not discussed where they would make cuts if required to by the TC.

All councilors recognized the tension between maintaining Gorham's excellent schools and the impact of the mil rate on taxpayers. Councilor Phillip Gagnon, noting the rise in property taxes last year, questioned what an appropriate yearly increase is. Councilor Rob Lavoie, who had reached out and toured schools, said, "We need to support teaching and students, but can't have such an impact on taxpayers."

While saying the proposed bud-

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GHS ARTISTS RECOGNIZED
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NEWS FROM AUGUSTA

Policy on News from Augusta: The Gorham Times asked our three state legislators from Senate District 30, House District 109 and House District 110 to provide us with "News from Augusta." We publish their articles on a rotating basis. The submissions are devoted to updates of legislative and administrative news, proposed and passed bills and laws, and developments and events that are of interest and have an impact to Gorham residents. The Gorham Times reserves the right to edit the submissions and it further reserves the right to reject any submission, in its sole discretion.

You May be Missing Money

Rep. Jim Boyle, D-Gorham

Beyond my work on the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee, my job in Augusta is to advocate for you and connect members of our community with state resources. Sometimes that looks like sponsoring legislation to help address a local issue, or offering guidance for folks navigating state agencies, but it can also include educating people about what programs and services the state provides. One such program is the unclaimed property program run by the State Treasurer's Office.

Every year, incorrect addresses, misspelled names and forgotten accounts cause Mainers to lose financial property. If you check the State of Maine unclaimed property list, you may find out that you or someone you know is missing money that can be reclaimed.

Maine annually releases an updated list of dormant bank balances, missing checks, stock dividends, inheritances and other assets that have gone unclaimed. All of this adds up to hundreds of millions of dollars that are held by the state until the rightful owners come forward.

The Treasurer's Office is current-

ly holding more than \$300 million of unclaimed property after adding over \$13.3 million this year alone. It is possible that some of that money belongs to you, your business or a family member.

There are two ways to look up yourself, your family or your business and make a claim, both of which are free. The most effective way is to search online at: www.maineunclaimedproperty.gov. If you are having trouble accessing the online search, you can also call the Treasurer's Office's unclaimed property hotline at 624-7470 during normal business hours.

When beginning this search, it's important to be mindful of scams, which are increasingly becoming more sophisticated. Scammers have in the past pretended to be speaking for the Treasurer's Office in an attempt to commit identity theft. While there are some legitimate businesses that can help match you with missing property, be careful of people who try to contact you unsolicited. The safest thing is to contact the Treasurer's Office yourself using the methods above. If you suspect a scam, get in touch with the Attorney General's Consumer

Protection Division at 1-800-436-2131 or consumer.mediation@maine.gov.

It's not often that we are able to deliver such a straightforward benefit to folks, so I'm happy to be able to do so through this program, which can help reunite Mainers with their hard-earned money. So please take a moment to see if you, a family member or your business are on the list. If you have any trouble navigating this process, please feel welcome to reach out to me for assistance.

If you have any questions about this or about anything going on in the Maine Legislature, please feel free to reach out to me at James.Boyle@legislature.maine.gov.



Rep. Jim Boyle, D-Gorham, is serving his second term in the Maine House of Representatives and previously served two years in the Maine State Senate.

He is a member of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee. Contact him at Jim.Boyle@legislature.maine.gov.

Letter to the Editor

Letters to the Editor must be fewer than 300 words, signed with a first and last name, typed or e-mailed and include a phone number. 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.

To the Editor,

State Senator Stacy Brenner framed her argument for expanding legalized abortion in the May 11 issue by asserting that health care, including abortion, is a human right. Later in that same opening paragraph, she also states that she has told herself and others that abortion is a fundamental right. Such statements sound authoritative but on what authority are they based?

What is their foundation? To assert that health care is a human right is to assert that every and all humans have a right to health care. But that is not what Senator Brenner is proposing. She is proposing that some humans have a right to health care while others do not or else she is suggesting that some persons are human and others are not. In either case, the line that she draws is not based in long precedent, not even a

lifetime, but in the whim of an age. Such whims are the cause of many a genocide.

To claim that abortion is a fundamental right is to rest upon something that transcends humanity and our laws, whether it be natural law or divine law. To claim a right as being fundamental is to say it is foundational, eternal, and cannot be taken away, because it transcends human laws such as the claim of our Declaration of Independence as it states that life is an inalienable right endowed by one's Creator.

I doubt this letter will change anybody's position on abortion, but I do hope it helps others to see that rights based upon shifting morality, are rights that are easily done away with by the next regime. In other words, they are not rights that shape human laws, but privileges awarded to or stripped of citizens by rulers.

Timothy Sandeno

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Pursuant to MRSA, Title 21A, Sec 101, you are hereby notified that the Registrar for the Town of Gorham, Maine will hold the following office hours for the purpose of registering voters and making corrections to the voter list:

Tuesday and Wednesday, June 6, 2023 & June 7, 2023, 8:00am - 4:00pm,
Thursday, June 8, 2023, 8:00am-6:30pm,
Friday, June 9, 2023, 8:00am-1:00pm,
and Monday, June 12, 2023, 8:00am-4:00pm

Laurie Nordfors
Town Clerk

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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WHERE ARE THEY NOW

GHS Grad Closes "The Phantom of the Opera"

By Chris Crawford, Staff Writer



Photo credit: Matt Murphy

Sara Esty in the final dramatic scene from the closing performance of "The Phantom of the Opera" the longest running musical in Broadway history.

"The Phantom of the Opera," one of the most celebrated musicals of all time and winner of seven Tony Awards, features the brilliant score composed by Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber. The longest-running show in Broadway history closed its doors in April of 2023, after celebrating its 35th anniversary on Broadway.

The final performance ended as all the preceding ones had: a single character, Meg Giry, kneels alone on the darkened stage. Lit by a spotlight, she holds the Phantom's mask, gazing out in fear and wonder. The last person alone on the stage for the final performance of this legendary musical was Sara Esty (GHS '04). Sara recalled, "That final moment in Broadway history was transcendent. How this fell to me, I will never know. But life led me there."

While still a company member with Miami City Ballet - a career spanning ten years - Sara first auditioned for "Phantom" on a whim in 2007. After moving to NYC in 2014, and auditioning three more times, she landed the role of Meg Giry for what turned out to be "Phantom's" final season. Sara was hired in February 2020. A quick trip home to Gorham before starting rehearsals became a prolonged stay of more than a year. She said, "I saw the news of "Phantom" and the rest of Broadway shutting down due to COVID as I was on a Concord Trailways bus exiting the city."

Sara's onstage experience with "Phantom" lasted almost two years, but her history with the show started much earlier. She and her identical twin, Leigh-Ann Esty, who is also in the performing arts, were born the same year that "Phantom" premiered in London. Their Aunt Fran took them to see "The Phantom of the Opera" on Broadway for the first time when they were 7 years old. Aunt Fran, now in her 90's, was thrilled to watch Sara perform as Meg Giry in the very same

theater during "Phantom's" final run in a poignant, full circle moment for Sara.

Sara also recalls learning about "The Phantom of the Opera" in 4th-grade music class at Village School. "Mrs. Gray showed us the music, lyrics, and history of the play. When she asked us to try to sing the really high notes of the lead female, I was able to squeak it out. I felt so proud," Sara laughed.

Following her epic journey with "Phantom", Sara looks forward to upcoming theater, TV, and film projects in keeping with some of her previous theater credits: "An American in Paris," "A Chorus Line," "Brigadoon," and TV/film credits such as: "Fosse/Verdon," and Steven Spielberg's "West Side Story."

Sara also teaches at Steps on Broadway, a prestigious dance school in New York City. "Teaching is incredibly rewarding and just plain fun. It is in my blood as my mother had a 40-year career in education here in Gorham," she added.

Sister Leigh-Ann is an award-winning photographer and a rehearsal director and faculty member with the New Jersey Ballet Company. Leigh-Ann is currently starring in "An American in Paris" at The Cape Playhouse in Cape Cod and is directing a dance short film. Visit her website at leigh-estypictures.com.

Sara is grateful for the wonderful experiences available for Gorham students interested in the Arts. She and Leigh-Ann found their home in the many art-centered experiences available at GHS, Maine State School for the Performing Arts, and Maine State Ballet. "Dancing, singing and acting are in my heart, my gut and my soul," she said. Sara encourages young performers to know that persistence, focus and discipline will help to pave their way. "The Arts is a hard industry, but if it is your passion, don't give up," she said.

Follow Sara on Instagram @estygrl.



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Parents Love Gorham Schools

By Kelli Deveaux, Gorham Parent, Maine Educator



Photo credit: Kelli Deveaux

Signs thank Gorham School Staff during Teacher and Staff Appreciation month in May.

On a recent stormy Sunday afternoon, a group of Gorham residents was out, determined to spread a bit of sunshine in the community.

Hand-painted signs that read "We ♥ Gorham Schools" were erected by the entrances of each of Gorham's five schools, and lawn signs with the same message were sprinkled around town to ensure that Gorham educators would see the messages of appreciation on their way to work Monday, May 1.

The month of May includes appreciation days for many specific positions in schools, such as principals, school nurses, food service providers, and teachers, so a grassroots group of Gorham parents declared May "Gorham Educator Appreciation Month," and decided to show their appreciation for the month with the signs. In addition, Partners in Education (PIE) groups have also provided treats and gift cards, and people have been posting messages of appreciation on social media.

The signs were made or bought by the parents, who say they hope to share this kind of message every May. When asked about the \$1,000 she spent for the signs, Michelle Littlefield, Gorham resident and mom of two elementary school students, said her hope was that this was an investment in kindness.

"I hope we can remind the educators every year that we appreciate all they do for our kids and community, and remind the community to share their appreciation," said Littlefield. "We have had so many thank us for the messages, and it's heart-

warming to know Gorham school staff feel seen and appreciated."

Littlefield went on to explain that the parents will be back out to collect the signs at the end of the month but noted that unfortunately there have been some signs that have been stolen or vandalized, and at least two residents have even gone to the Town Manager to complain about the signs. She said, "While it's really disappointing to see that some people can't just let a simple message of gratitude exist in the world, I hope this kind of behavior says more about them and not about our community."

Superintendent Heather Perry confirmed that the signs have gotten lots of positive mention. "Those signs are great, and just what the staff needed to lift their spirits and know they work in a community that cares about them" said Dr. Perry. "We recently interviewed candidates for positions here in Gorham, and every one of the candidates mentioned the signs as an indication that Gorham would be a great place to work."

Luci Bowers, literacy specialist at GHS felt grateful to the community members who organized this kind and thoughtful display. She stated, "As you know, teaching is not easy even in the best of times, but it seems especially challenging right now as we are adjusting to life post-COVID while also trying to navigate the sharp divide in which we seem to find ourselves, both locally and nationally. When I looked out my window during a recent downpour and spotted the ever-so-thoughtful, "We Love Gorham Schools" sign in my front yard, I felt a surge of gratitude for the gesture and a renewed sense of pride in my work and my community."

Families who are interested in joining in the "We ♥ Gorham Schools" effort and to thank our educators are invited to wear Gorham gear or colors and march together in the Gorham Memorial Day parade. More information can be found at <https://bit.ly/3O6lA5H>.

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NEW PATIENTS ALWAYS WELCOMED



LIVING

Build a Strong Mealtime Bond with Littles

Carolyn Milles, Contributing Writer

When mealtime emotions run high, the feeding experience feels less inviting and more stressful for all parties involved. This article will break down ways to create a positive eating experience for infants and toddlers, strategies to combat food neophobia, and also how to ease the toddler-parent mealtime power struggle.

Food neophobia, or the fear of trying new foods, is considered a normal stage in child development. Research shows that the early introduction of new foods (before the age of two) is critical to familiarize infants and toddlers with new textures, tastes, and smells.

When babies are ready to start solids/complementary foods, it is important to encourage food play. Yes, let them get messy. Clean up baby once the mealtime is over. This encourages a full sensory experience for your little one.

Toddlers are tiny sponges, taking in all the world has to offer. Often, mealtime preferences can be swayed by what caregivers like to eat, or better yet, do not like to eat. It's important to remain neutral when talking about food with our toddlers, especially when introducing new foods.

We encourage pairing a new food item with a "safe food" item. A safe food is a comfortable, "go-to" item. For example, if your little one really loves blueberries, you could offer a few blueberries with whatever new food item you plan to introduce at snack or mealtime that day. Remember that not every eating encounter needs to have a new food introduced, allow this to happen over time.

Littles thrive on routine, so it is important to create one for mealtimes. Better yet, make it fun. Encourage your child to help set the

table, create a song to signal that it is almost time to sit down for the meal, and participate in hand washing together prior to the meal.

As a caregiver, it is important to not force feed or bribe at mealtimes. We want our little ones to learn how to listen to their hunger and fullness cues. Our job as caregivers is to provide and prepare the food, the child's job is to determine what and how much they will eat.

By age two, toddlers begin to express more body autonomy and show signs that they want to make mealtime decisions. After all, they have very little control over many other things in their life. Often, these kiddos are labeled as "picky" or "fussy" eaters. However, this is a normal transition in your toddler's stage of development. By allowing your little one to be fully involved in the mealtime experience (what they serve themselves, the foods they choose to eat, the utensils they use, etc.) the mealtime experience will slowly start to become a more positive one.

It is important to note that we always encourage family meals whenever possible but, as we know, life is busy, and we are not always able to sit down together - and that is okay. Always remember to do the best you can with the things and time you have.



Carolyn Milles, RDN, LD is a third-generation dietitian who believes life is for living, not restricting. She happily serves individuals in their journeys to nourish, move, create balance and be well in the Gorham area.

First Year of GHS Chess Club

Rachael Grady, Teacher, GHS



Photo credit: Rachael Grady

(L to R): Rhys Saunders, Austin Hanscom ('23), David Boucher ('23), Behar Hodgkin, Christopher Bolton, Madison Hatch, Bruce Hodgkin ('23), Tyler Reynolds ('23) and Kayleigh Greenlaw ('23).

In January of 2021, students successfully petitioned to start a Chess Club at Gorham High School. Meeting after school to play on scavenged sets, the intrepid founding members soon built a base of dedicated

members. In the fall of 2022 the Chess Club won a GEF grant to purchase 20 tournament-style sets and the competition and fun took on a whole new level. Five GHS seniors are involved with Chess Club.



Photo credit: Wilma Gould Johnson

Old Blue Eyes has got its eye on you.



Photo credit: Wilma Gould Johnson

A group of turtles sunning themselves on a rock.

MUNICIPAL

May 16 Town Council Meeting

Sheri Faber, Staff Writer

The Town Council reviewed the proposed budget for fiscal year 2023-24 and made the following changes before voting on the final budget:

Voted 7-0 to remove \$145,000 from the Capital Part II budget and set funds aside for use by the School Department.

Voted 1-6 to remove \$70,000 from the budget for the refurbishment of the Central Fire Station floors.

Voted 7-0 to amend the order to add two firefighters/paramedics to the budget but wait to hire them until 1/1/24. (Savings of \$64,927)

Voted 5-2 (Phillips, Gagnon) to add \$7,750 for a stipend for Planning Board members with \$1500 to the Chair and \$1250 to the Vice Chair, and \$1000 to each remaining member.

Voted 7-0 to increase the Conservation Commission budget from \$3,000 to \$4,000.

Voted 7-0 to increase the Health Council budget from \$600 to

\$1,000.

Voted 7-0 to add a line to the Health and Welfare budget for \$1000 for the Food Pantry.

The Council voted to adopt the budget as follows:

General Government:	\$2,493,129
Public Safety	\$5,781,896
Public Works, etc.	\$3,616,752
Health and Welfare	\$102,000
Rec. Comm. Center, Cable	\$741,192
Libraries & Museum	\$590,602
Development	\$263,756
Debt and Interest	\$1,734,950
Capital Items	\$515,000
Insurance/Employee Benefits	\$4,161,203
Other Town Services, uncl.	\$302,572
Subtotal	\$29,304,052
Cumberland County Property Tax	\$1,543,224
Total	\$21,847,276
Non-property tax revenues	\$10,559,759
Total Capital Budget	\$4,330,765

What's the Buzz?

Chris Crawford, Staff Writer

Honey bees are essential as pollinators for many food crops consumed by humans. They are also the only insect that makes food we can eat. Their honey is 80% sugars and 20% water. According to scientific research, it contains a beneficial antioxidant that improves human brain functions.

Bees live in model communities, working cooperatively for the good of a colony that may contain 40,000 to 60,000 bees during warm months. Bees are tidy and industrious. Each member has a specific role: food gathering, defense, nest building, or rearing of the young. They communicate with each other in a variety of ways.

A single bee weighs .00025 pounds, and 4,000 bees together weigh only one pound. Their distinctive buzzing is caused by their wings beating at 11,400 times per minute. A honey bee can fly as fast as 15 miles per hour for up to six miles, collecting nectar. According to Big Island Bees website, a hive of bees will fly over 55,000 miles to make 1lb of honey.

Each hive's single queen bee lives for about 2 - 4 years and is dedicated to reproduction. During the warm months, she can lay 600 to 1500 eggs a day, up to 800,000 eggs in her lifetime. She eats a special honey and pollen-rich mixture called "royal jelly" which makes her fertile.

Honey bees are beneficial, but their

stings can be painful or even deadly if a swarm attack occurs or if an allergy is involved. When bees feel their hive is threatened, only the females attack. Males do not have stingers. Bees react to a perceived threat by injecting a stinger filled with venom into the skin. The stinger also releases a pheromone that alerts and attracts other bees.

To prevent stings, the Scientific American website advises wearing light-colored clothing. Dark colors, including the color red, (seen by bees as black) are threatening to a bee, appearing dark like their natural predators such as bears and badgers.

Bee stings, though painful, will heal on their own. If the bee's stinger is still in your skin, remove it by scraping it with your fingernail. Never use tweezers which can squeeze the venom sac and release more venom. Wash the area with soap and water, then apply one of the following remedies: baking soda and water paste, Calamine, alkaline toothpaste, or apple cider vinegar.

Bee stings rarely require a visit to the hospital unless allergic symptoms develop such as itchy welts (hives) or dizziness, rapid heart rate, difficulty breathing, facial swelling, or tightness in the throat. If these anaphylactic shock symptoms develop, seek medical treatment immediately.

If you know you are allergic, carrying an Epi-Pen is a must.

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CLUE: B = T

SOLUTION ON PAGE 11

Meet the Town Staff: Kevin Jensen, Economic Development Director

Sheri Faber, Staff Writer



Photo credit: Kelli Deveaux

Signs caption needed

Kevin Jensen grew up in Vienna VA, near Washington, DC. He graduated from The George Washington University and earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Maxwell School at Syracuse University. After graduation, he moved to New York City where he met his wife who grew up in Maine. After the birth of their first child, they decided to move to Maine to be closer to family.

In New York City, Jensen worked in city government, workforce development, and fundraising, "all of which blends well with what I do here in Gorham," said Jensen.

As the economic development director, Jensen serves as the primary point of contact for the business community, developing and maintaining relationships with new and existing businesses, and helping businesses navigate the process of starting and operating a business in Gorham. In addition, Jensen administers the Revolving

Loan Fund program, which provides gap financing and is only eligible for Gorham businesses, and he develops other programs to support the Gorham business community, such as the recent Façade & Leasehold Improvement grant program. "We heard from business leaders and we're working to develop new programs that address their needs," Jensen said. "By listening and responding to business concerns, we hope to offer the type of support they can use to thrive and grow in Gorham."

Jensen also works to raise the Town's regional profile and promote Gorham as a great place to do business. He actively works to identify and apply for grant funding that will benefit and help advance the Town's development goals. This has resulted in consecutive years of federal earmark funding being awarded to the Town in support of major infrastructure initiatives, recently including road construction for the Gorham Industrial Park expansion project and conducting a feasibility study for connecting water and sewer along Rt. 22 in South Gorham.

Recently, Jensen has been meeting regularly with USM leadership to identify areas for collaboration that can benefit both the Town and the university. "Gorham is a college town and USM is an important partner for us," Jensen said. "There is certainly more that can be done mutually that will help us both in the long run."

Public Works News Corner

Kelly Meslin, Admin, Public Works

We hope everyone is enjoying this much warmer, sunnier weather. Public Works summer hours are 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

The recycling containers at 80 Huston Road are for recycling only. Please do not leave non-recyclable materials. Contact us to request a complete list of what can and cannot be recycled or look up more than 1,000 items on ecomaine's free Recyclopedia app. Find more information at www.ecomaine.org.

Public Works will be closed Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.

There will not be any changes to trash collection the week of Memorial Day. Please have trash curbside by 7 a.m. and ensure each bag has a tag.

Arrests, April 2023

Gorham Police Department

Portland male, 38, was arrested for an OUI.

Portland male, 23, was arrested for violating conditions of release.

George Street male, 42, was arrested for violating conditions of release.

Limington woman, 33, was arrested for violating conditions of release.

Gambo Road male, 22, was arrested for OUI and leaving the scene of an accident.

Main Street male, 33, was arrested for violating conditions of release.

Huston Road woman, 39, was arrested for failing to appear.

Portland, male, 52, was arrested for unlawful possession of methamphetamine, violating conditions of release and operating after license suspension.

School Budget CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

get was unsustainable and required some reduction, Councilor Suzanne Phillips said the town needs to grow businesses and increase the tax base.

The town and schools need to work together, Councilor Virginia Wilder Cross said: "We have to make this work."

Councilor Seven Siegel, who supported passing the budget as presented, opposed postponing needed capital improvements, and said "other cuts will hurt staff and students. There is no magic solution." Councilor Ronald Shepard, who as vice-chair ran the meeting, noted that in his nine years on the council, this was the largest budget increase ever.

The Town Council considered a number of amendments to the motion that the FY23-24 school budget be approved. They proposed \$1.8 million in cuts, \$1.5

million, \$1 million, and no cuts at all. All failed. Town Manager Ephrem Paraschak reminded them that they had to approve a budget. If they did not, the process would start all over again, be costly and extend into the next fiscal year. Councilor Gagnon remarked that he thought the process broken, in part because the TC had not discussed the budget enough at workshops before this meeting.

After some discussion about whether the Town might assume responsibility for some capital improvements, the TC voted (6-0) to reduce the proposed budget by \$800,000. Gorham voters will be asked to approve a \$51,141,479 budget on June 13.

Later in the meeting, the Town Council voted to include in the FY 23-24 Municipal Budget a \$140,000 allocation for School Department capital improvements.

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GHS Artists Recognized

Sarah Dolley, GHS Art Teacher



Photo credit: Josephine James, GHS Senior

Pictured (left to right) Front row: Lillian Miner, Sammi Barlow, Hailee Willey, and Maeve Donnelly; Back Row: art teacher Chris Crosby, Emma Mathews, Ruby Soule, Claudette Wesse, and art teacher Sarah Dolley. Missing are Kylie Foley, Ellie Keil & Rylee Tenuta

The Gorham High School art department of Chris Crosby and Sarah Dolley would like to recognize 10 artists for being selected to compete in the annual Gorham Woman's Club Art Show.

Senior Hailee Willey's portraiture painting placed 1st, Junior Sammi Barlow's colored pencil composition of manikins

placed 2nd, Senior Maeve Donnelly's digital portrait placed 3rd and Senior Lillian Miner's oil pastel observational composition placed 4th. These artists then competed at the District and State level competitions and received more accolades; Maeve placed 1st at the District level and Sammi placed 3rd at the State level.

Narragansett Students Community Service

Erin Eppler, Narragansett School Principal



Photo credit: Theresa Connolly, Narragansett Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Woods and Narragansett's Alternative Education students were hard at work over the month of April collecting pet food and supplies for the Animal Refuge League. Students create posters, make morning announcements, and deliver the supplies to lucky dogs and cats. Pictured left to right: Mrs. Woods, Lothian, Brian, Evelyn, Jack and Kenzie

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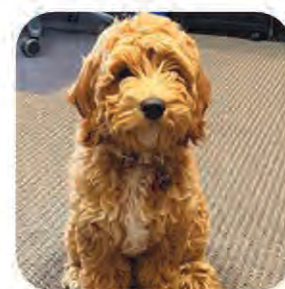
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Rams Baseball and Softball Continue Strong Seasons

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo credit: Coach Drew

Amber Bretton on the mound

Both the baseball and softball teams are over the midway mark and are having impressive seasons after a cold start. The Softball team has won 3 in a row and are now 9-4. The Rams baseball team is now 7-5 with a conference win over the Windham Eagles.

The softball team is on a hot streak with a 6-5 victory over Scarborough on May 10, both evenly matched teams and rival schools, which has propelled the Rams since. In the past week, the Lady Rams are 3-0 with wins over Noble, Portland and Marshwood. The team's offense has come alive scoring double digit runs in 4 games, the pitching is solid and the team is playing great defensively. On May 8, they beat TA 12-0 with Senior stand-out Amber Bretton pitching her first no-hitter.

The Rams baseball team is young but they too are off to a good start and hoping for a big run down the stretch. On May 16, junior C.J. Whitehead hit a walk off homerun to beat Windham 3-2 under the lights in a tight SMAA conference baseball game. Sophomore standout Wyatt Nadeau is pitching well, averaging a strike out an inning. Casey Skolfield and Jack Kalonos have also pitched well. Leading the rams in hitting are Sr. Quinn Dillon, Mason Finck and Whitehead.

Both teams have several games coming up in a short period of time; one game at a time, one pitch at a time. The Lady Rams hope to continue with their hot streak and ride the momentum as far as possible as they look to finish their regular season in May and enter SMAA tournament time in June.



Photo credit: Coach Drew

It's a win over Scarborough!

Carson Battaglia: A Few Goals in Mind at SJC

Katie Brown, Sports Editor



Photo credit: Courtney St. Onge (Student Photographer)

Carson Battaglia in action for SJC

Carson Battaglia (GHS '20) and current junior at St. Joseph's College (SJC) has had a remarkable college lacrosse career thus far. Her sophomore year, her team won the GNAC.

Battaglia was voted midfielder of the year by GNAC coaches in 2022, and all conference first team. She broke the single-season record for draw controls and finished 28th in D3 nationwide for draw controls per game.

This year Battaglia broke 100 career points, broke all-time draw control record for SJC, finished 18 in D3 nationwide for draw controls per game, and was named to the All Conference First Team.

Battaglia shared, "I'm glad I chose to play at SJC as I have had significant playing

time since I started. I really love the game and am glad that my parents are there for all the games. My best friend is also at SJC and comes to many home games."

Battaglia added, "I still am disappointed that I didn't get my senior LAX season at GHS because of COVID. We had a really strong team that was getting better each year and I think we could have accomplished a lot that final season."

Battaglia attributes her lacrosse success to key teachers and coaches in her life.

Battaglia reflected, "I feel really lucky to have been exposed to the sport by Kathy Stager at White Rock Elementary School. She was the PE teacher and a lacrosse player at UNH. She watches all my games online and texts me afterwards, and came to many games last year, even the championship game. It was great to have her there to celebrate with. I also had great coaches through the youth program, especially Pete Lyons. He pushed me to get better but also to enjoy playing. Mary Guimond first saw my potential at the draw, and I'm thankful she saw that in me and gave me the opportunity to take them."

Battaglia is looking forward to her senior year at SJC. "I've set some goals for myself and look forward to trying to make those happen."

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Feel the Difference

Jennifer A. Nielsen Wows Gorham Students

Lori Littlefield



Photo credit: Donna Pastore, GMS Literacy Teacher

Jennifer A. Nielsen with students and librarian Suzanne Dix at Gorham Middle School. Front L-R: Brady Higgins, Jayden Olson Back L-R: Daniel Labarge, Carter McDonagle, Cooper Warner, Jennifer A. Nielsen, Mia Johnson, Evelyn Cooley, Elise Touch, Suzanne Dix.

NYT bestselling young adult author Jennifer A. Nielsen spent two days in Gorham in late April, bringing her stories and her writing process to life for our students. Jennifer was able to meet with students in grades four, five, six, seven, and eight at their respective schools. Our students were interested in learning more about her published books, what she might be working on, how she came to be an author, and what it feels like to have one of her books turned into a movie.

Jennifer's Ascendance series drew a lot of questions, likely because it was intended to be a trilogy that was published between 2012 and 2014. Jennifer shared how Sage, the main character, suddenly popped into her psyche requesting that the rest of his story be told. Books four and five were published between 2020 and 2021. Jennifer did admit she may have another storyline percolating, but it would likely be Sage's daughter who has her own story to tell. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, Jennifer is doing a great deal of research. She shared how she loves the research part the most: accumulating what she calls "stupid facts" that can be the impetus for an amazing scene. Like when she badly burned her

arm as a teenager and her grandmother started slicing potatoes. It turns out that raw potatoes draw the heat and burn out so Jennifer never even had a scar. She finds that her research leads her to ask more questions, taking her twice as long to research, than for her to write the book. That surprised our students.

At Narragansett, a few adults were discussing a bit of her research before students arrived, and Jennifer used that to launch our fifth-grade discussion. It was fascinating: the level of her research in finding primary sources, and then having to confirm each before she will use it in her stories. While she writes fiction, nearly all her books are very much grounded in real history: places and events that were significant at the time.

Jennifer shared a graphic of what a story idea will look like in her head and the reality of what she first creates. She stressed the importance of editing. Her mom, being her first reader, and most honest, Jennifer shared how even her mom thought that the first draft was terrible.

"She's my mom, who loves me - and even she didn't like it." So, don't be afraid to write a bad book - just write and expect it could be the "worst book ever written" so "do not go back and revise while still writing, do not edit." Simply write it!

This one visit motivated students: a large group of fourth graders requested more writing time as soon as they arrived back to their classroom, kick-started a group of fifth graders to begin their own novels, and helped to revive some older writing pieces that students are giving another look at. More than one student realized Jennifer helped them figure out how to use their ideas and look at things with a new perspective, then ask questions to help write their own stories.

The Gorham schools would like to thank Jennifer for sharing her experiences with our students. Its full impact is yet to come.

GHS Students Travel to NYC

Grace Johnson, GHS Student Intern



Photo credit: Eliza Kenigsberg, GHS Teacher

Pictured left to right is Rachel Cummings, Erin Lawrence, Claudia Peterson, Grace Johnson, Annie Cunningham, Klarha Cajuste, and Sadie Fiore.

On Tuesday, March 15, a group of Gorham High School (GHS) students and adult chaperones squeezed themselves into a van and set out on what would prove to be a very long drive to New York City. There, they spent five days and four nights exploring the city, meeting new people, and breaking down any preconceived notions that they might have had about the world around them.

Operation Breaking Stereotypes (OBS) is a club at the high school that is part of a greater national organization. The mission of OBS is to connect students across a wide range of cultural, ethnic, and geographical backgrounds to discuss the similarities and differences between their lives.

The OBS group at the high school consists of only seniors and has been meeting nearly every month since they were freshmen. All of their discussions and meetings have been building up to a trip to NYC, where they would meet up with a partner school to participate in a dialogue about stereotypes that exist in both Maine and New York. A few weeks ago, this trip was finally able to happen.

The group consisted of seven seniors, one teacher chaperone, and one parent chaperone. Their packed schedules for

each day kept them busy. Aside from the visit with their partner school, they went to several museums, watched a Broadway show, explored Chinatown, and had a meaningful dialogue in Central Park.

Eliza Kenigsberg, a teacher at GHS, is the advisor for OBS and the reason that the club was brought to Gorham in the first place. She has been working all year to plan this trip and make sure that her students would be able to get the most that they possibly could out of the experience.

"Our OBS trip to New York City was designed to expose group members to new experiences. For many, this involved a certain level of discomfort," Kenigsberg said. "I think this discomfort was the most important part of the experience. We don't grow unless we stretch ourselves."

Overall, the trip was a huge success. Seeing as the partnership with the NYC school is set to continue into next year, Kenigsberg is already looking to the future and planning to recreate the trip with a new group of students.

"The experience of advising an OBS group at Gorham High School was truly meaningful," Kenigsberg noted. "Given its impact and value, I would like to find a way to offer it to more students."

May 10 School Committee Meeting

Kathy Corbett, Staff Writer

Teacher Appreciation Week, held the week of May 1, was the subject of public comment at the May 10 regular meeting of the Gorham School Committee. Michelle Littlefield and Kelli, Deveaux, parents of Gorham students, read comments from their children praising their teachers. The two women spearheaded a project that put "We Love Gorham Schools" on lawns throughout the town.

Eliza Kenigsberg and Grace Olsen made a presentation reviewing the Extended Learning Opportunities program, part of the Aspire Gorham initiative. With a \$250,000 grant from the Department of Education, they hired Olsen, who oversees the apprentice program. The experience gave teaching interns an appreciation of mentors, confidence in what careers they might choose, and experiences outside of their comfort zones. Thirty-five students were able to participate in internships with local businesses and a total of 70 were given the opportunity to explore careers in the community with more than 45 businesses. Some seniors with community internships will be eligible for \$500 stipends.

The Gorham Adult Education program in cooperation with Westbrook had a record year, according to director Shelli Pride. They hired a new English language

instructor. There are at least five graduates with high school diplomas. Eighteen are preparing for the HiSET test or preparing for college. There were 14 English Language Learners. Six students were in the "earn while you learn" CNA program at Gorham House. The first Certified Drivers License (CDL) class will be held this spring. There were 166 enrichment courses this year that enrolled 672 adult students.

Superintendent Heather Perry announced that NWEA assessment testing for students in grades 3-8 and 10th grade are beginning. She also said that the ESSER report was accepted. ESSER funds will be used to address potential COVID learning losses. She said that the Town Council will vote on the FY24 Budget on May 16 and that the approved budget will go to voters on June 13.


Among comments by SC members were a reminder on Mental Health Awareness Month from Nicole Hudson and congratulations to the GHS class of 2023 expressed by Stewart McCallister.

Members voted 7-0 to approve the revised policy on Public Concerns & Complaints that made clear that one must be a Gorham resident or parent of a Gorham student to use this opportunity. They also voted 7-0 to accept the

Great Falls Construction Company bid of \$1,558,352 for modular site work.

They voted unanimously to extend 1st year probationary contracts and 2nd year continuing contracts to teachers on a list submitted by Superintendent Perry and to approve five new hires.

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Village School Teachers Appreciation Week

Christine Karcanes, SAIL Program Educational Technician



Photo credit: Christine Karcanes

Village Elementary School teachers and staff were treated to a week-long celebration of Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week. Parents and administration were so generous with donating gift cards, tasty food, a 10-minute chair massage, and beautiful student-decorated posters lining the walls. A HUGE shout-out to the parent community. The staff would like to thank the Village community for all the love and support.

COMMUNITY

DEAN'S LIST

Nathan Cook, Belmont University, Nashville, Tennessee
Campbell Fowler, Wentworth Institute of Technology, Boston, Massachusetts

OF INTEREST

Members of Gorham Scout Troop 73 recently participated in the Kennebec Valley District Camporee held at Camp Bomazeen on the shores of Great Pond in Belgrade. The boys participated in a variety of activities including the achievement of merit badges in engineering and photography. Upcoming Troop 73 outings include another camporee in York County, summer camp at the Yawgoog Scout Reservation in Rhode Island, and a weekend adventure to the White Mountains. To help support their busy events schedule, the troop will be hosting a car wash and bottle drive at Carter's in Gorham on Saturday, May 27 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Photo credit: Nick Stinson

Gorham Scout Troop 73. Pictured preparing dinner, from left to right: Jake Young, Lukas Romano, and Carter Sprague. Not pictured: Daniel Deprez, Joshua Allison, Cole Stinson, Zeke Provencal, and Harper Winkley.

Interested in learning to fly fish? Gorham Recreation is offering an Introduction to Fly Casting session on June 6 at 9 a.m. at Shaw Park with registered Maine Guide Patrick O'Shea. Learn more and register at: https://gorhamme.myrec.com/info/activities/program_details.aspx?ProgramID=29243

Trail Work Day at Little River Preserve in Gorham will be held on Saturday, June 10, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Trail work involves clearing trails of fallen trees and limbs, removing overgrown brush, improving trail signage, installing bridging and more. Register online at <https://www.prlt.org/events>

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Gorham Memorial Post 10879 will meet on Tuesday, June 13 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fire Department Training Room, 270 Main St. For information contact the post at vwfpost10879@gmail.com.

The Gorham Lions meet at the Old Elmwood School on the second and fourth Tuesday of

each month. The next meetings are June 13 and June 27 at 6:30 p.m. New members are always welcome. FMI contact (207) 929-9182.

Stellar Vacation Bible Camp will take place June 26-30 from 8:30-11:30 AM at Cressey Road. Open to children ages 4 through finishing 5th grade. Register now and get ready for a cosmic quest that will rocket kids on an out-of-this-world adventure as they have a blast shining Jesus' light! Register on-line at <https://vbspro.events/p/cresseyrd2023> There is no cost. Donations accepted. FMI: cresseyrdumc.org or 839-3111

St. Anne's Vacation Bible Camp June 26-30, 9 a.m. to noon for K-Grade 5 (Teens and adult helpers are welcome) FMI or to register, contact Sister Jackie at (207) 899-5427.

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

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 12 p.m. and is free for any Gorham resident in need. FMI, (207) 222-4351, visit <https://www.gorham-foodpantry.org> or send a message on Facebook at Gorham Food Pantry Friends.

The Gorham Medical Closet located at the Municipal Center at 75 South Street is free and available to Gorham residents in need of wheelchairs, shower seats, commodes, walkers, canes, crutches and more. Hours are by appointment with a volunteer. Call Gerry Day at (207) 756-2210 and she will connect you with a volunteer.

The Mission of Hope Clothes Closet is open the first and third Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Cressey Road United Methodist Church on Cressey Road to anyone who needs clothing. They have all types and sizes, and many winter coats.

SENIOR NEWS

Senior Meal Site is held on Wednesdays at 12 p.m., St. Anne's Church, 299 Main St. Social time begins at 11:30 a.m. Suggested donation is \$4. Meal site is closed if school is closed or delayed due to such reasons as weather. For updates on the meal and dates open/closed, visit <https://gorhamrec.com> or call (207) 222-1635

The Lecky Brown Senior Center at First Parish Church is open. Gather for Cribbage on Mondays at 10 a.m., all levels welcome. Several different versions are being learned and played. Now, come for a different board game every week. Lots of laughing. Join the Originals guest speaker program on Wednesday at 10 a.m. Upcoming: Maine Button Society, History of Malaga Island, Ham radio and more. Stay tuned for upcoming events and activities. Contact Lisa Becker at Leckybrowncenter@gmail.com for more information about this welcoming community.

PUBLIC SUPPERS & BAKE SALES

Haddock Supper Buffet at Living Waters Church on Parker Farm Road in Buxton, 5 p.m. Take-out option and hand sanitizer is available. Facemasks are recommended for those who are not

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10





Julie Chandler



Mike Griffin



Peter Mason



Benjamin Taylor

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GORHAM

 <p>UNDER CONTRACT</p> <p>BUXTON \$419,000 - This brand new 28x40 home features an open floor plan with cathedral ceilings and future room to grow in the daylight basement. Offers 1120sqft of living space all on one floor with the kitchen open to the dining and front living room.</p>	 <p>UNDER CONTRACT</p> <p>GORHAM \$124,900 - Private setting for this newer 2014 Colony Beacon 14'x67' mobile. Appliance kitchen, dining area, spacious living room, master bedroom with closet, two additional bedrooms, laundry area, full bath, porch with metal roof, large storage shed and paved drive.</p>	 <p>UNDER CONTRACT</p> <p>GORHAM \$479,000 - Solar powered home with 3 bedroom, 2 baths and 1536sf. Enjoy a life with a minimal cost for heat & electricity. Economical at its best! Newer flooring, heat pumps, solar panels & appliances. One floor living with large 16x16 shed w/garage door. Nicely landscaped & well kept.</p>	 <p>UNDER CONTRACT</p> <p>STANDISH \$100,000 - This 2.75ac building lot measures 200'x 600' with 200' of frontage on a paved public road. Power runs overhead along the street frontage. You'll love this country road & rural setting yet handy location just minutes to Sebago Lake Station boat landing.</p>
 <p>UNDER CONTRACT</p> <p>STANDISH \$549,900 - This antique cape with attached carriage house offers plenty of charm. Features a country kitchen w/ample space for dining, living room with a cozy gas parlor stove, 1st floor bedroom with double closets. This unique 58 acre setting encompasses a sizeable pond fed by the Sticky River.</p>	 <p>UNDER CONTRACT</p> <p>GORHAM SUBDIVISION Lots ranging in size from 1.76 acres to 5.45 acres. Survey and soils tests are available. Flat and level lots with usable rectangular configurations that are easy to work with for your next project. A country setting yet only 10- minutes to Gorham Village.</p>	 <p>UNDER CONTRACT</p> <p>WINDHAM \$140,000 - Located on desirable Highland Cliff Road just minutes to the Westbrook-Windham town line. This 1.84 acre building lot offers 201' of road frontage on a paved public road with power available along the street frontage. Survey done.</p>	 <p>UNDER CONTRACT</p> <p>GORHAM \$129,900 - This 2 bedroom / 1 bath home offers an appliance kitchen w/dining area, spacious living room, laundry area & more. Perfect sunny location in the park, features a large 10x20 deck for warm weather. Newer 12x16 workshop/shed with work bench, insulated & power.</p>



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Buxton Centre Baptist Church at 938 Long Plains Road in Buxton will have a plant and food sale featuring house plants and perennials on Saturday, June 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m..

LIBRARY NEWS

At the North Gorham Public Library, weekly story time with songs and crafts is open to children and their caregivers at 10 a.m. every Wednesday. The library is open on Mondays from 3 – 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays from 10 – 11:30 a.m. and 6 – 8 p.m., Thursdays from 3 – 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Meet with Superintendent Heather Perry on Wednesday, May 31st from 6-7pm. Questions about the school budget? All Gorham residents are invited to attend to learn more about the proposed FY 24 Budget and ask any questions. The library's Annual Plant & Book Sale is on Saturday, June 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Plant and book donations are being accepted now at the library!

The Baxter Memorial Library Book Club will be discussing "Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver on Thursday, June 1 at 10:15 a.m. Library hours are Monday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The library will be closed on Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day. FMI, 222-1190 or baxterlibrary.org.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MAINE NOTES

USM's Office of Public Affairs provides a sampling of the steady stream of news about USM students, faculty, staff, and alumni from local newspapers to national television. Find a sampling of those stories at: <https://usm.maine.edu/news/huskies-making-headlines-in-2023/>. It's not too late to enroll in a summer course at USM. Search for courses at <https://usm.maine.edu/registration-scheduling-services/summer/>. Neither is it too late to enroll youth in a variety of youth summer camps, including athletics, music and theatre. Learn more at <https://usm.maine.edu/summercamps>.

CALENDAR

- Thursday, May 25**
Baxter Memorial Library
Toddler Discovery Time (18mos-3yrs) 10 - 10:30 a.m.
Baxter Memorial Library, Understanding Gender & Sexuality Today: Part 2 of 2, 6 - 8 p.m.
- Saturday, May 27**
Haddock Supper Buffet, Living Waters Church, Parker Farm Road, Buxton, 5 p.m.
- Monday, May 29**
Memorial Day Parade, line up starts at 10 a.m. and steps off at 11 a.m. from Village School. The parade ends at the Eastern Cemetery where there will be a memorial service.
- Wednesday, May 31**
Meet with Superintendent Heather Perry about the proposed budget, North Gorham Public Library, 6 – 7 p.m.
- Thursday, June 1**
Baxter Memorial Library Book Club, "Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver, 10:15 a.m.
- Saturday, June 3**
Buxton Centre Baptist Church Plant and Food Sale, 938 Long Plains Road, Buxton, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
North Gorham Public Library Annual Plant & Book Sale, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Saturday, June 10**
Trail Work Day at Little River Preserve, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., <https://www.prlt.org/events>
- Tuesday, June 13**
VFW Gorham Memorial Post 10879 meeting, Fire Department Training Room, 5:30 p.m.
Gorham Lions Club meeting, Old Elmwood School, 6:30 p.m.

Volunteer Distribution Person

The *Gorham Times* is seeking a distribution person to take over our "Western Route" - 120 papers to 12 businesses, along Ossipee Trail (Route 25).
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- The Summer Youth Music and Theatre Camps** at the University of Southern Maine offers performance opportunities for grades 5 - 12 on the Gorham campus. Easy online registration stays open until the camps begin. FMI <https://usm.maine.edu/osher-school-music/youth>, loria@maine.edu, 207-780-5142.

Send short news and information items that would be Of Interest to the whole Gorham Community to loriaam@gmail.com

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Gorham Police and Fire Departments were called to Main Street for a man who seemed to be unconscious and unresponsive. Office banged on side window and man woke up. He said it had been a long day and he was just trying to get a nap in.

Several vehicles slipped off Sebago Lake Road during a snowstorm.

Robie Street caller reported a suspicious person. Officer checked the area but did not see anyone acting suspicious.

Sebago Lake Road caller had hit a neighbor's mailbox and wanted to know if she needed to report it. She was advised to work it out with the neighbor as it was under the damage threshold that needed to be reported.

A wheel fell off a vehicle being driven on Fort Hill Road. Officer assisted in putting the wheel back on.

Main Street caller reported a neighbor playing loud music. Officer gave the neighbor a verbal disorderly conduct warning and the neighbor said he was shutting it down for the night.

Officer located a vehicle stuck in a snowbank at Standish Neck Road and Deerfield Circle. Driver had a friend on the way with a winch.

Gilbert Way caller had not heard from a friend in a few days and was concerned. Caller advised that the police knew where the woman was and that she was safe.

Officer saw a vehicle parked on the side of Gray Road during no overnight parking hours as well as an active parking ban due to the incoming snowstorm. Vehicle was a rental from New Hampshire. As police did not know who the last operator was, he had the vehicle towed by Wyman's Auto Body and left a ticket for the snow removal under the windshield wiper.

Officer advised the owners of a truck, trailer and car parked off South Street that there was a parking ban until the next morning.

Officer responded to a disturbance call at Autumn Brook Way. Both parties were very upset following a verbal argument and needed to be separated for the night. Woman said she was going to leave and try to find another place to live. Driver came to the call box to report she had been involved in a hit and run. Accident had taken place in Westbrook and she was advised to report the incident to them.

Caller asked for a welfare check at a residence on Elizabeth Street. Officer made contact with the resident who reported he had fallen asleep.

A Neighbor of a George Street resident called to inform Police that a man was seen on the neighbor's property. He was not seen to be doing anything wrong or illegal and there was no legal documentation preventing him from being at the residence.

Elm Street caller reported a known individual was contacting her via video chat. There was a Protection from Abuse order in place and the caller was the protected party. She was told that she could not violate her own order and warned that if she responded to the video chat caller, she would be in violation of the order.

A silver Nissan Rogue parked on College Avenue had previously been ticketed twice in Gorham for parking issues. There was a tow order for the vehicle from USM for accumulated fines.

Caller wanted to report drug activity at a location on Main St.

Wilson Road caller reported a package had been sent to the wrong address. She was told to call UPS.

Old Oak Lane resident reported that the landlord was kicking him out after only one week in the residence. He and the landlord had reportedly gotten into a disagreement but he agreed to move out at the end of the month.

Officer responded to a call regarding a verbal domestic argument on Winslow Road. Parties agreed to separate for the night and have a conversation about the next steps the following day.

Jordan Dr caller said an unknown snapchat user wanted him to send \$500 right away. He did not send any money.

Elm Street caller reported a woman was at the apartment and he knew police were looking to serve her with some paperwork. Caller was advised she had already been served.

Flaggy Meadow Road caller wanted to make a delayed report of a crash that had occurred the previous night. Caller was advised that police can only take a report if both vehicles are at the scene so an officer could inspect the damage and observe the circumstances.

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1) extreme/irrational fear of or aversion to something;
2) causes anxiety beyond what the true threat would cause;
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Inner Thoughts...
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