



Community News Friendly Village of Gorham February 2023

Park office is closed February 20th for Presidents Day



Dates to remember in February:

- 1- Spunky Old Broads Day
- 2- Groundhog Day
- 3- Feed the Birds Day
- 4- World Cancer Day
- 12- Lincoln's Birthday
- 14- Valentine's Day
- 20- President's Day
- 21 - Mardi Gras
- 22- Washington's Birthday



Do you need a little extra
assistance with
your groceries?

The Gorham Food Pantry
offers food assistance
at no cost to any
Gorham resident in need.

Gorham Food Pantry
299-B Main St., Gorham

Open Thursdays 9-11AM

They are also open on the 2nd &
4th Wednesday of each month
from 6-7PM.

For additional information visit the
Gorham Town Office.

Happy Birthday

to all residents who
are celebrating a
February Birthday...

We hope you have a
great one!



February 2, Groundhog Day, originated on this day
back in 1887 in Punxsutawney, PA, by German settlers.
If the groundhog comes out of its hole and sees its
shadow, we will have 6 more weeks of winter. If it does
not see its shadow, we will have an early spring.

German Proverb:

"The badger peeps out of his hole on Candlemas Day and
if he finds snow, walks abroad; but if he sees the sun



MANAGEMENT CORNER:

I know that we have started to have some significant snow storms, but I still would like
to remind you of the following:

No parking on the streets during snow storms so that we may get the streets as clean as possible.
Vehicles will be towed at your expense.

Keep pathways to your oil tank and water shut offs clear of snow.

Snow should be removed from your roof after 6 or more inches have accumulated.

And remember if you see icicles you have a chance for water backup, causing damage to
the interior of your home.

February can be a very snowy month, so we're not out of this winter yet!

On a positive note Spring is only 48 days away!

John L. Richard



PINEAPPLE UPSIDE-DOWN CAKE SUNDAES

Warm pineapple/sugar/cinnamon mixture spooned over crumbled pound cake and ice cream

MAKES 4 SERVINGS TOTAL PREP: 15 MINUTES

- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1/8 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 cup chopped pineapple or canned pineapple tidbits, juice packed and drained
- 1 pint French vanilla ice cream
- 1/4 of a frozen loaf pound cake, thawed and coarsely crumbled
- Whipped cream and maraschino cherries with stems

DIRECTIONS:

1. In a heavy skillet, melt butter over medium heat. Stir in brown sugar, honey and cinnamon. Bring to a boil, reduce heat. Simmer uncovered for 2 minutes. Add pineapple. Cook and stir for 1 to 2 minutes or until heated through. Remove from heat
2. Scoop ice cream into four dishes. Top with crumbled cake, warm pineapple mix, whipped cream and a cherry. Serve immediately

Tip: To toast pound cake preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spread crumbled cake pieces on a sheet pan. Bake 5 to 10 minutes until lightly toasted.

YUM

The Property Tax Stabilization Program:

A Guide for Applicants What is it? Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens, also known as the Property Tax Stabilization Program (the "Program"), is a State program that allows certain senior-citizen residents to stabilize, or freeze, the property taxes on their homestead. As long as you qualify and file a timely application each year, the tax billed to you for your homestead will be frozen at the amount you were billed in the prior tax year. Eligible residents who move may transfer the fixed tax amount to a new homestead, even if that new homestead is in a different Maine municipality. Who qualifies? To be eligible for the Program, an individual must meet all of the following as of April 1 of the property tax year for which they are requesting stabilization (so for applications due December 1, 2022, qualifications must be met as of April 1, 2023): 1) at least 65 years old, 2) a permanent resident of Maine, 3) have owned a Maine homestead for at least ten years, and 4) be eligible for a homestead exemption on the property they are placing in the Program. If your homestead is owned by more than one individual as joint tenants, only one owner needs to qualify for the Program to participate. There are no income or asset limitations to qualify. Permanent resident. You must have established a permanent residence in Maine. "Permanent residence" means that place where an individual has a true, fixed, and permanent home and principal establishment to which the individual, whenever absent, has the intention of returning. An individual may have only one permanent residence at a time and, once a permanent residence is established, that residence is presumed to continue until circumstances indicate otherwise. Ten-year homestead. You must have owned a homestead in Maine for at least ten years. The ten-year period does not have to be consecutive. A homestead means residential property that you occupy as your permanent residence.

Veterans Exemption

Title 36, M.R.S.A. Section 653

A property owner may be eligible for a reduction in the valuation of their property if they:

- Own a residence in Gorham on April 1 of the tax year in question
- Are a veteran who is not dishonorably discharged
- Served during a recognized war period in the U.S. Armed Forces
-

Are over 62 or are a not remarried widow of a qualifying veteran

If the veteran is under 62 but is 100% disabled due to a service-connected disability, he/she might likewise qualify. In any case the veteran must fill out a form and provide proof of service and discharge, such as a copy of their DD214 form.

Application forms are available by contacting the Gorham Assessing Office, you can pick one up at the Clubhouse office also. Forms must be in the Assessing Office by **April 1**, to qualify for an exemption for the upcoming tax year.

Homestead Exemption

The 1998 Legislature enacted a law giving homeowners property tax relief beginning in the spring of 1998. Under this law, homeowners are eligible for reduction in their permanent residence's property valuation. This law continues in effect for the coming tax year. Those who applied for and received this exemption in the current tax year and are still residence owners in Gorham will receive it again this year. They **DO NOT need to reapply** for it. It will be applied to qualified owner's property taxes until they sell, move, or the Legislature rescinds the program.

New Applicants Must:

1. Have owned their permanent legal residence in Gorham for the twelve months prior to April 1st of each respective year. Fill out and return this form to the Assessor's Office by April 1st to qualify for the exemption.

The first tax bill to be impacted by an approved Homestead Application will be the Fall bill.

If a residence owner did not receive this exemption last year, they may apply for the coming year by obtaining an application online via Town of Gorham website or pick up one at the Clubhouse office.

Property Tax Stabilization program cont. :

† A homestead also includes property that is held in a revocable living trust for your benefit or property owned by a cooperative housing corporation if you occupy it as your permanent residence as a qualifying shareholder. It does not include real property used solely for commercial purposes. Homestead exemption. You must be eligible to receive a homestead exemption on your home. The homestead exemption generally applies only to your permanent residence. Your property tax bill will usually show whether you are already receiving a homestead exemption. If you are unsure whether you qualify for a homestead exemption, contact your local assessor. How do I apply to the Program? Applications are available at the Maine Revenue Services ("MRS") website or from your local municipal office. You can also call the Property Tax Division of MRS at (207) 624-5600 to have an application mailed to you. Complete an application and submit it by December 1, with any required proof, to your local municipality. The municipality will review and approve or deny your application. How does the Program work? Once you have applied and are approved to participate in the Program, the property tax billed to you for the next tax year will be frozen at the amount you were billed in the previous tax year. You must file a new application each year by December 1 in order to maintain that stabilized tax amount. For example, if you apply by December 1, 2022 and qualify for the Program, the amount of tax billed to you for the April 1, 2023 tax year will be the same as the amount billed to you for the April 1, 2022 tax year. As long as you continue to qualify and to file timely annual renewal applications, the amount you are billed each subsequent year will be frozen at the amount billed for the April 1, 2022 tax year. The State will reimburse your municipality for the difference between the amount billed to you and the tax that would otherwise be due

Valentine's Day is celebrated on February 14 in countries all over the world. It is a chance to show how much you adore or love a special someone, whether they are a friend, child, relative, or sweetheart. All kinds of gifts are given, but the most common ones include: cards, chocolates, jewelry, flowers, and romantic dinners.



Shingled Roofs Last Longer With Some TLC

Most newer models of mobile homes have shingled roofs. Shingled roofs are made by installing asphalt shingles to the wooden decking that frames your roof.

Similar to the flat metal roofs, you will need to watch for any buildup of debris: branches, twigs, leaves, acorns, snow, ice, etc.

Debris that is left alone can create what are called "dams." A little like beaver dams, a dam on your roof is formed when the buildup of debris traps water on the shingles. The danger of these dams is that the water can go underneath the shingles and cause a leak, eventually leading to water damage in the roof, and possibly other areas of your mobile home.

Let's look into how we clean off our shingles!

Clear your roof of Debris

This may not sound too attractive, but the best way to clean up branches, leaves, and other things is to pick them up by hand. If you don't feel stable enough to walk around your roof, please hire a professional to clean your roof for you. Your personal safety is more important than saving money.

If you don't feel that roaming your roof, stooping over and picking up debris is the most efficient use of your time, try using the second best option...a leaf blower. Although easier on your back, you should be aware that it will not be able to remove all the debris that has been wedged in and around your shingles. Sometimes the best way is the hard way!

The third option for clearing debris is a broom or long brush. However, do not apply too much pressure when sweeping because you can remove the granules from your shingles. Mobile home maintenance can result in cutting down the life of your roof in half!

Algae and Stain Removal

Have you ever noticed dark stains on your roof? It is most commonly called "roof mold," but it is actually algae that have formed on your roof due to dampness. The north side of homes is more likely to get algae stains since it receives less sunlight.

To prevent algae from forming on your shingles, you can use algae-proof shingles for your roof. If you don't need new shingles yet, but already have algae stains, you can use a cleaning solution such as hot water and soap or bleach.

Don't use a power washer to clean your roof! It can void warranties and also ruin the granules on the shingles.

Mossy Monster Attack

1 If you live where the climate is cool and moist you will have to deal with moss. It might look beautiful or mysterious in the movies, but it can cause serious damage to your home! Real roof rot and the damage it causes may not be repairable. This would mean buying new shingles or an entirely new roof! Continual mobile home maintenance can be preventative but never 100%.

2 There are three ways to keep the moss off of your mobile home.

3 Trim trees, or even cut them down, as the shade is a huge ingredient to the growth of moss.

1. Try to keep your roof dry. This goes back to the basics: keep your roof free from debris that can build up and create dams.

2. The last way to keep moss off your roof is to make your roof an acidic environment. This can be done by spraying, or applying, apple cider vinegar, or lemon juice. There are products made to rid your roof of moss at most hardware stores. Put whatever solution you choose in a sprayer, and start misting the areas with moss. *Please remember these are only suggestions. We take no responsibility for the result of your roof. Be sure to consult a professional roofer before attempting.*

WINTERTIME

Buy a roof rake and rake your roof edge free of snow after each storm. This will help your roof shed excess water when the weather warms and snow starts to melt on the roof. This will help stop an ice dam forming on your roof edge, melting wa-



POLICE - FIRE- RESCUE,
Emergency dial: 9-1-1

Non-emergency dial: 839-5581

For Friendly Village Maintenance Emergencies:

Water-Sewer-Power

Dial Friendly Village Pager:
207-400-0368

For Use In An Emergency Only

Weekends & After Office
Hours

Friendly Village of Gorham,
5 Ash Drive, Gorham, ME 04038
Phone: 839-5577 Fax: 839-3233
Email: friend-
lyvlage@www.mainemobilehomes.
com

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 TO
4:30 (Hours subject to change
without notice.)

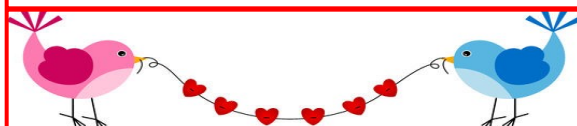
Notary services are available in
the Friendly Village Office.



Myers Property Services
Plowing, roof shoveling etc.
Austin Myers 207-730-0448

ESM Builders—
carpentry services
207-939-8126
ericmason713@gmail.com

Sewing, Pam Cobb
918-850-4120



CONTACT COLEEN AT OUR OFFICE, SHE WOULD BE
GLAD TO HELP YOU

(207) 839-5577 OR (207) 839-3303 Check our website
for homes available for sale

NEW HOME LISTINGS None at this time

PRE-OWNED HOMES FOR SALE None at this time

WINTER

L S O S E K A L F W O N S E L C I C I N
L E Y C E K R A I M N D D R A Z Z I L B
A S C A W V K A I O E C I K C A L B R D
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BLACK ICE	FREEZE	HLIDAYS	SEASON	SNOW SHOVEL	STORM
BLIZZARD	FOG	ICE FISHING	SKATES	SNOW TIRES	SWEATSHIRT
BOOTS	FROST	ICICLES	SKI DOO	SNOWBALL	TOBOGGIN
CARNIVAL	GLOVES	KNIT CAP	SKI PANTS	SNOWBOARD	VACATION'
CHIRSTMAS	HAIL	LON UNDER-WEAR	SKIING	SNOWFLAKE	WIND CHILL
COLD	HEADBAND	MITTENS	SLED	SNOWMAN	WOOL SOCKS
EGG NOG	HIBERNA-TION	OLYMPICS	SLEET	SNOWSHOES	
FIREPLACE	HOCKEY	PARKA	SLIPPERY	SOLSTICE	
FIREWOOD		SCARF	SNOW CASTLE	SOUP	
FOG			SNOW PLOW	STEW	

