



In like a lion!

# Community News ~ March 2024

## Friendly Village of Gorham



out like a lamb.

### Dates to remember in March:

- 1 - Zero Discrimination Day *Get along*
- 8 - International Women's Day *Girl Power*
- 10 - Daylight Savings Begins *About time*
- 14 - National Popcorn Lover's Day
- 17 - Saint Patrick's Day *Where green*
- 20 - March Equinox, First Day of Spring
- 21 - International Forest Day *Hug a Tree*
- 22- World Water Day *Protect our water world-wide*
- 23- National Puppy Day *So cute*
- 30 - National Doctors' Day *Thank your Doc*



**Daylight Savings begins, Sunday March 10, 2024**  
 at 2:00 AM  
 turn your clocks *forward*  
 1 hour to be 3:00 AM  
 local daylight time.



*May you find pots of gold at the end of your rainbow, but don't let the "bad" leprechauns get to it.*

### Don't Forget to Lockup.

Lock the doors and windows of your home. Lock your car doors, trunks, and truck toolboxes. Never leave any valuables in your vehicle, not even your glove box. Always report any mischievous conduct to the police and also please let the Friendly Village Office know.



**Residents!!** Please use caution around the Community snow plows and Residents clearing their driveways. We do have significant snow banks and there are blind spots where sometimes you cannot be seen or heard!!

**Happy Birthday to all residents who are celebrating a March Birthday... We hope you have a great one!**



**Please drive with care, let the people working the snow blowers and plows know you are there, once seen they can move out of your way. The last thing we want is an accident to a resident or park equipment!**

## MANAGEMENT CORNER

Spring wants to show up early this year but there is still time for a sneaky snow storm so don't put the shovels away yet!

If you have any limbs that have falling during the winter at your site, please put them by the curbside for pick up.

Residents are reminded to check with the office prior to listing their home for sale or doing any improvements that require Management's approval.

With good window opening weather coming remember please keep TV, radios and stereos noise down, so your neighbor doesn't have listen to what you are.

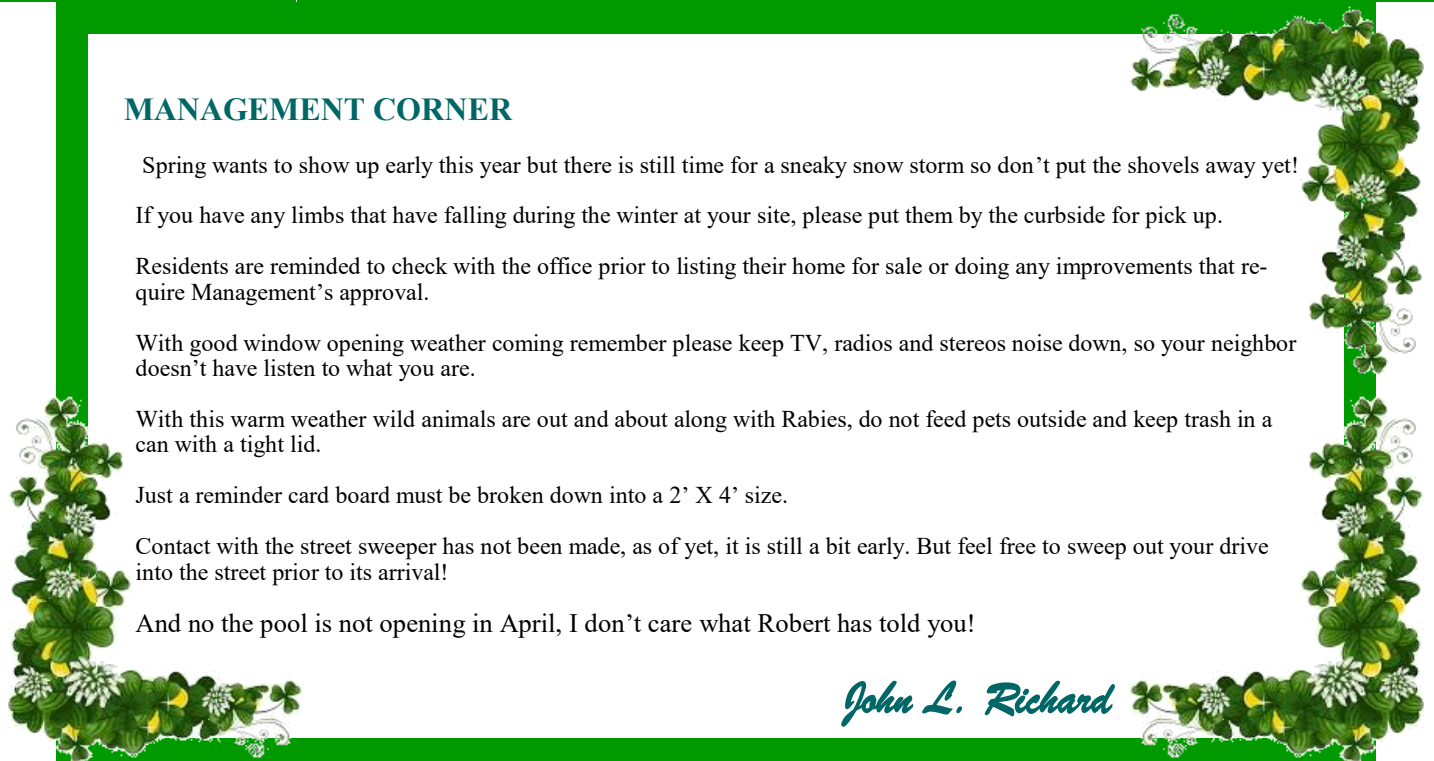
With this warm weather wild animals are out and about along with Rabies, do not feed pets outside and keep trash in a can with a tight lid.

Just a reminder card board must be broken down into a 2' X 4' size.

Contact with the street sweeper has not been made, as of yet, it is still a bit early. But feel free to sweep out your drive into the street prior to its arrival!

And no the pool is not opening in April, I don't care what Robert has told you!

*John L. Richard*



## Roast Chicken With Spring Vegetables

Total:  
40 min  
Active:  
5 min  
Yield: 4 Servings



### Ingredients

- 3 1/2 pounds skin-on, bone-in chicken quarters
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 lemon, halved
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 pound fingerling or other small potatoes
- 2 bunches radishes
- 1 bunch scallions
- 1 bunch baby carrots
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh dill

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F. Rinse the chicken and pat dry. Season with salt and pepper, then place skin-side up on a rimmed baking sheet. Squeeze 1/2 lemon over the chicken and drizzle with 1 tablespoon olive oil. Roast 15 minutes. Meanwhile, cut the potatoes and radishes in half and cut the scallions into thirds. Toss the potatoes, radishes, carrots and the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil in a bowl; season with salt and pepper. Remove the chicken from the oven and scatter the vegetables around it. Continue to roast until the vegetables are tender and the chicken is golden and cooked through, about 20 more minutes. Squeeze the remaining 1/2 lemon over the chicken and vegetables. Top with the dill and season with salt.

### WHAT'S IN SEASON

- Artichokes
- Cabbage
- Beets
- Brussels Sprouts
- Carrots
- Garlic
- Grapefruit
- Greens
- Maple Syrup
- Onions, Shallots
- Potatoes
- Squash
- Turnips



### Do you qualify for an Exemption on your taxes?

Will you have owned your home for at least 12 months prior to April 1st? If so, you might qualify for a Homestead Exemption. Visit: [www.gorham-me.org](http://www.gorham-me.org) or stop by the Gorham Town Office for more information.



### PAY YOUR RENT ONLINE

Lot rent payments may be made online, you may review your balance and look at your transaction history.

Contact the office by phone or email to set up a user name and password then simply go to:

[Http://www.mainemobilehomes.com/resident.html](http://www.mainemobilehomes.com/resident.html)

Click the link to Pay Lot Rent and sign in.

Pay at your convenience from home, any time of day or night. No more writing checks. Pay using your checking account, savings account or by MC/VISA

SIGN UP FOR AUTO PAY

NO Late Fees, No Forgotten Rent payment, No Hassle.

MC - VISA - DISCOVER  
CHECKING AUTO DEBIT



### Are you a veteran?

You may be eligible for a reduction in the valuation of your property. Are you a veteran who was *not* dishonorably discharged? Did you serve during any recognized war period? Are you over 62 or an unremarried widow of a qualifying veteran?

Visit: [www.gorham-me.org](http://www.gorham-me.org) or stop by the Gorham Town Office for more information.

## Spring and Summer Home Maintenance

It's important for you to conduct routine maintenance on your home to prepare it for the changing seasons. Here are a few tips to keep in mind for the spring and summer.

For the inside of your home, start by

Changing your air filters every 30 to 90 days

Clean behind and under furniture

Deep clean all your kitchen appliances inside and out. Be sure to throw away any outdated products left in your fridge or pantry.

Dust blinds and wash curtains to help prevent dust and dirt from building up

Clean out drains and dryer vents

The outside of your home is just as important as it serves as the first line of defense against mother nature. Be sure to

Conduct regular yard maintenance including trimming trees and shrubs around your home

Check window screens for holes or tears

Check your roof for damaged or missing shingles and leaks

Remove debris from gutters and around down spouts

In addition to having your heating and air unit serviced annually, remove any debris that may be on or around the unit

*You've got to take the good with the bad, smile with the sad, love what you've got, and remember what you had.*

*Always forgive, but never forget. Learn from mistakes, but never regret.*

Unknown author

### DOES MOBILE HOME SKIRTING HAVE TO BE VENTILATED?

YES, IT DOES. VENTILATION OF THE CRAWL SPACE IS JUST AS IMPORTANT FOR A MANUFACTURED HOME AS A SITE-BUILT HOME, AND LACK OF VENTILATION CAUSES SIMILAR PROBLEMS TO BOTH: WOOD ROT OF THE FLOOR FRAMING, WARPED FLOOR BOARDS, AND MOLD GROWTH.

THE SKIRTING ITSELF IS NECESSARY FOR TWO REASONS: TO KEEP RODENTS AND OTHER NUISANCE ANIMALS OUT OF THE CRAWL SPACE AND BECAUSE MORTGAGE LENDERS REQUIRE IT AS PREREQUISITE FOR LOAN APPROVAL. BUT AIR FLOW THROUGH THE SKIRTING IS NECESSARY TO CARRY AWAY THE MOISTURE THAT IS CONSTANTLY RISING OUT OF THE SOIL UNDER THE HOME.

THE STANDARD PRESCRIPTION FOR VENTILATION IS ONE SQUARE INCH OF VENTILATION OPENING FOR EVERY SQUARE FOOT OF FLOOR SPACE OF THE HOME. SKIRTING WITH BUILT-IN VENTILATION HOLES IS AVAILABLE OR YOU CAN INSTALL SOLID DECORATIVE SKIRTING, SUCH AS SIMULATED BRICK OR ROCK, AND CUT-IN THE REQUIRED VENTS AT REGULAR INTERVALS. THE VENTILATION OPENINGS SHOULD BE EVENLY DISTRIBUTED ON ALL FOUR SIDES OF THE HOME TO GET THE NECESSARY CROSS-VENTILATION AIR FLOW. ALSO, BE SURE TO PLACE A VENT WITHIN 3-FEET OF EACH CORNER TO PREVENT ANY "DEAD AIR" POCKETS IN THE CORNERS, AND DON'T BLOCK THE VENTS WITH STORED ITEMS IN FRONT OF THEM LATER.

WHEN YOU SEE A MOBILE WITH SOLID SKIRTING ALL AROUND, EXPECT TO FIND WET SOIL AND HIGH HUMIDITY IN THE CRAWL SPACE UNDER THE HOME.

WHILE SKIRTING VENTILATION IS IMPORTANT, IT'S JUST ONE PART OF KEEPING THE UNDERSIDE OF A MANUFACTURED HOME DRY AND SECURE. WE RECOMMEND THAT YOU CHECK THE CRAWL SPACE REGULARLY, LOOKING FOR ANY OF THESE POTENTIAL PROBLEMS:

- 1)A CLOTHES DRYER VENT THAT TERMINATES UNDER THE HOME DRAMATICALLY RAISES HUMIDITY LEVELS. MAKE SURE THE DRYER VENT DUCT HAS A LOUVERED TERMINATION PANEL AT SKIRTING OR BEYOND, AND THAT THERE ARE NOT TEARS IN THE DUCT RUN.
- 2)TEARS IN THE BELLY BOARD (ALSO CALLED BELLY WRAP, WHICH IS THE PLASTIC SHEET THAT SEALS THE UNDERSIDE OF THE HOME) LEAVE THE HOME OPEN TO MOISTURE INTRUSION COMING UP THROUGH THE FLOOR. OPEN THE SKIRTING AT A FEW POINTS AROUND THE PERIMETER, AND DO A QUICK SCAN OF THE UNDERSIDE OF THE HOME WITH A FLASHLIGHT. FOLLOW UP WITH REPAIRS AS NECESSARY. WE TYPICALLY SEE OPENINGS IN THE BELLY BOARD WHERE MINOR PLUMBING REPAIRS HAVE BEEN DONE UNDER THE FLOOR AND THE BELLY BOARD HAS NOT BEEN RESEALED SECURELY.
- 3)A PLUMBING LEAK CAN ALSO CAUSE PROBLEMS UNDER THE HOME. BIG WATER PIPE LEAKS MAKE A MESS QUICKLY AND GET NOTICED RIGHT AWAY. BUT A PINHOLE LEAK CAN GO UNNOTICED FOR MONTHS, WHILE SOAKING THE INSULATION UNDER THE FLOOR AND SLOWLY SPREADING. WHEN CHECKING UNDER THE HOME, LOOK FOR ANY BULGES IN THE BELLY BOARD, WHICH IS THE FIRST INDICATION OF THIS PROBLEM.
- 4)GAPS IN THE SKIRTING, SIZABLE DAMAGE HOLES, OR AN ACCESS HATCH THAT IS LEFT AJAR WILL ALLOW CRITTERS UNDER HOME THAT PULL DOWN AREAS OF BELLY BOARD AND INSULATION, ALONG WITH DAMAGING DUCTS. KEEP THE SKIRTING ZIPPED UP.
- 5)BAD SITE DRAINAGE CAN MAKE THE GROUND UNDER A HOME MUDDY OR, EVEN WORSE, ALLOW PONDING WATER DURING THE RAINY SEASON. A PROPERLY GRADED SITE, WITH THE GROUND SLOPING AWAY FROM THE CRAWL SPACE ON ALL SIDES, IS IMPORTANT. IF YOU FIND THAT THE GROUND UNDER YOUR HOME REMAINS WET FOR LONG PERIODS, CONSULT A PROFESSIONAL CONTRACTOR FOR A SOLUTION.





**POLICE - FIRE- RESCUE, Emergency dial: 9-1-1**  
**Non-emergency dial: 839-5581**  
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**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: friendlyvillage@maine.rr.com  
www.mainemobilehomes.com  
facebook.com/friendlyvillage.ofgorham  
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9-12 & 12:30-5  
(Hours subject to change w/out notice.)  
Notary services are available in  
the Friendly Village Office.



### **Driveway and walkway snow cleanup**

**CALL OUR OFFICE IF YOU CAN OFFER SERVICES TO RESIDENTS FOR SHOVELING, SNOWBLOWING AND CLEARING OFF ROOFS. OR SPRING YARDWORK, MOWING, RAKING ETC.**

**WE WILL ADVERTISE FOR YOU IN NEWSLETTER CALL THE OFFICE**

## **SPRING IS HERE AND SO ARE THE SKUNKS!!**



### **Protecting your yard Habitat modification**

Skunks are opportunists at heart — they're mainly attracted to low-hanging fruit like garbage and pet food left out at night, as well as convenient denning sites, such as wood and rock piles, elevated sheds, openings under concrete slabs and porches and crawl spaces.

Preventive measures, such as removing attractants around houses, will decrease the likelihood of an unpleasant skunk encounter. This includes [securing trash](#), covering window wells, feeding pets indoors, or if fed outdoors, removing food immediately after pets eat.

Skunks also dig for grubs in lawns when wet soil conditions push grubs close to the surface — their presence may be a sign of an overwatered lawn. Occasionally, however, a skunk may also wander into an open garage or shed, which is a compelling reason to secure all outbuildings.

### **Preventing denning (exclusion)**

Exclusion techniques should be used proactively to prevent denning before an animal moves in. Any suspected skunk den should first be checked to determine if it has residents.

This may be done by loosely filling the hole (or holes) with soil, leaves, straw, crumpled paper or similar material. If a skunk is present, the animal will easily push their way out overnight and reopen the hole.

If the plug remains undisturbed for two or three nights, it is safe to assume that the hole is unoccupied and can be filled. In the winter, skunks may remain inactive for longer periods, so provide them with a bit more time to disturb the plug before blocking the den entrance. Permanently exclude skunks (and other den-seeking creatures) with an [L-shaped footer](#) of welded wire or similar barriers.

If a skunk is using the den, either harassment or eviction using a [one-way door system](#) is recommended. When evicting skunks, be sure that dependent young are not present. When in doubt, assume they are and use the door only after they start following their mother to forage. Leave the door in place from two or three nights to a week to be sure the skunk has left.

### **Harassment**

When it is safe to displace skunks, mild harassment can be very effective. This can be as simple as loosely repacking the den hole with leaves or straw or other material to see if the skunk gets the message and moves elsewhere. If they require more persuading, adding light and noise to make an dark and quiet denning space unattractive may help as well. Make sure the skunk is not close by before setting up the disturbances.

