



Friendly Village of Gorham

Community News

March 2026

March dates to remember

- 1 Zero Discrimination Day
- 2 American Citizenship Day
- 6 National Dress in Blue Day
- 8 Daylight Saving Time begins
- 15 World Consumer Rights Day
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 19 Certified Nurse's Day
- 20 Spring Equinox
- 21 World Forestry Day



Please use caution around the Community, keep an eye out for snowplows and Residents clearing their driveways. We do have significant snowbanks and there are blind spots where sometimes you cannot be seen or heard.



SPRING FORWARD
SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD AN HOUR
March 8



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 with a Resident or park equipment!



MANAGER'S CORNER

Residents be warned! There have been some shifty people knocking on doors in the past few weeks. They have been trying to sell services and or products. Please call the office to report this kind of activity immediately, so we can deal with it accordingly.

A reminder that no motorized vehicle may be driven on the streets of Friendly Village unless you have a valid drivers license.

Residents are asked to keep their eyes open and watch for any suspicious activity and report any concerns to the Gorham Police Department. Also let the office know!

Still time left for more snow and ice. Any fallen branches may be brought out to the curb for pick up.

JOHN L. RICHARD



Water Update

At this time you may be experiencing cloudy water; it is just air due to people running water as our usage is double. We are still in a drought as the ground froze, not letting rainwater charge the aquifer. Again, several contractors are lined up for providing bids on drilling and treatment; hopefully they will be received soon so we can get started.

-JLR

Spring and Summer Home Maintenance

It is 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 Be sure to throw away any outdated products left in your fridge or pantry.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

Roof 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 ruin the granules on the shingles.

Property Tax Information

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 an unremarried 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 online on the Town's website or by contacting the Gorham Assessing Office. **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.
2. Fill out and **return the 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; Application forms are available online on the Town's website or by contacting the Gorham Assessing Office.

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

Non-emergency dial: 839-5581

**For Friendly Village
Maintenance Emergencies
(Water-Sewer-Power)
Call:
207-295-5286**

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

friendlyvillage@mainemobilehomes.com

www.mainemobilehomes.com

facebook.com/friendlyvillage.ofgorham

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9-4

Notary services are available in
the Friendly Village Office.



SNOW PLOWING

Steve Martin
207-229-2011

James Meehan
207-590-3618

ROOF CLEARING

Peter Lavoie
339-793-0429

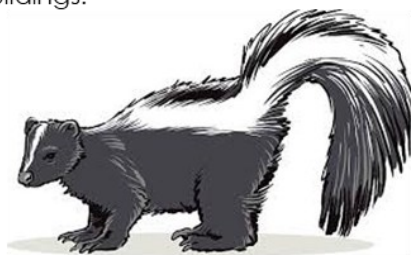
Anyone who would like to advertise
services please call the office to advertise
here on the newsletter.
207-839-5577

SPRING IS HERE...AND SO ARE 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.



Classic Jumble Answers

WEAVE
BUDDY
MOSAIC
HONCHO

Surprise puzzle answer

On the breezy day, Mount
Rushmore's presidents were
experiencing – HEADWINDS

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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 any dark and quiet denning space unattractive may help as well. Make sure the skunk is not close by before setting up the disturbances.