



Community News

Friendly Village of Gorham

March 2025

March dates to remember

- 1 Zero Discrimination Day
- 3 World Hearing Day
- 7 National Day of Unplugging
- 8 International Women's Day
- 9 Daylight Saving Time begins
- 14 Pi Day
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 21 National Flower Day
- 31 National Crayon Day

Please use caution around the Community, keep an eye out for 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.

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!



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.

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



SPRING FORWARD
SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD AN HOUR

March 9

If anyone is interested in gathering at the Clubhouse for crafting, book club, or to just gather socially and meet your neighbors, please contact the office.

MANAGER'S CORNER

Okay so I thought we were going to get off easy this year with the snow..... again Mother Nature wins and wins big! Days are getting longer, and spring is only 20 days away can you believe it!

All residents please be cautious while driving, with high snowbanks at the end of driveways and pedestrians walking in the street.

This is also the time of year when wildlife starts to come out, so please do not feed your animals outside and keep your trash securely covered.

Once the snow has melted and you find the limbs that fell in November all around your yard, just put them at curbside for pickup.

Also, residents should scan their lot for broken limbs (hangers) in the trees and report them to Michelle at the office.

JOHN L. RICHARD



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.



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 perimeter and, 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

**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

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www.mainemobilehomes.com

facebook.com/friendlyvillage.ofgorham

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9-4

Notary services are available in
the Friendly Village Office.



**Dirigo Handyman
Services**

Tim Hopkins

Fully Insured

Also offering roof raking

Dirigohandyman@gmail.com

207-423-5224

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

PRONG
MOMMY
EXCEED
HYMNAL

Surprise puzzle answer

When the U.S. Mint asked its employees to work overtime they –
MADE MORE MONEY

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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.