

News About Town

A Message From Our Town Manager

Hello Friends and Gray Citizens,

November was an eventful month for Gray, most notably because of the tremendous turnout we had for Election Day. Thank you to those who voted, and those who worked to ensure Election Day was secure and safe. You can view election results on our [website](#).



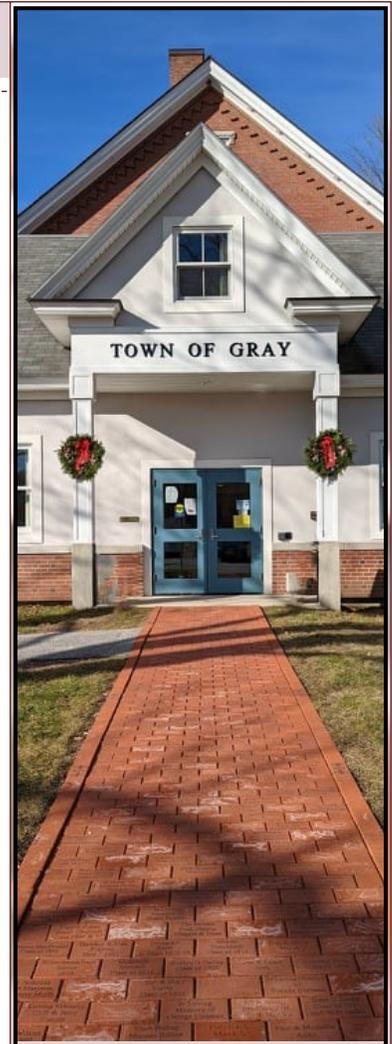
It's remarkable that 2022 is almost upon us, and I'm still reflecting on the progress we've completed here in Town government in 2021 despite enormous obstacles. This progress includes Gray Village area road construction planning, strategic acquisition of the Main Street parcel across from Town Hall, and various updates to ordinances and policies that will help Gray embrace the business and real estate growth coming to our region. Reflecting over the Thanksgiving holiday, I shared with family and friends how much I have enjoyed my first calendar year as Town manager, and I look forward to everything we will accomplish together in 2022.

I hope you all have a happy, safe, and festive holiday season!

All the best,

Nate Rudy

Town Manager



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Events	2
New Splashes of Color Around Town	2
Santa Helps Light Gray's Christmas Tree	3
Village Green Activity and Education	4
New Welcome Packet Available	5
New GIS Map Layers ...	6
Committee Openings ...	6
In Case You Missed It....	7

Upcoming Events

Dec. 4:

5 p.m.: Public Supper
- American Legion—
15 Lewiston Road,
Gray

Dec. 3 and 17:

12:30 p.m.: Gray
Food Pantry Open
— Gray
Congregational
Church Parish
House

Dec. 2 and 8:

4 p.m.: Gray Town
Council Workshop -
Zoom

Dec. 7:

5:30 p.m.: Town
Council Workshop -
Zoom

7 p.m.: Town Council
Meeting - Zoom

Every Weds. And Friday:

10:30 a.m.: Facebook
Story Time — Gray
Public Library
Facebook Page

Dec. 22:

7 p.m.: Zoning Board
of Appeals—Zoom



L-R: Zi Li, Hailey, and Lexi showing their art in front of Town Hall.

New Splashes of Color Around Town

In 2020-2021, the Gray Community & Economic Development Committee (CEDC) worked on creating new beautification projects around town: the 'Bird House Project' at the new Village Green, fall and winter street pole banners around the Village, and three murals on display at Town Hall (pictured above). This winter, ice fishing-themed banners (pictured right) will be on display in the Village and on portions of Route 26.

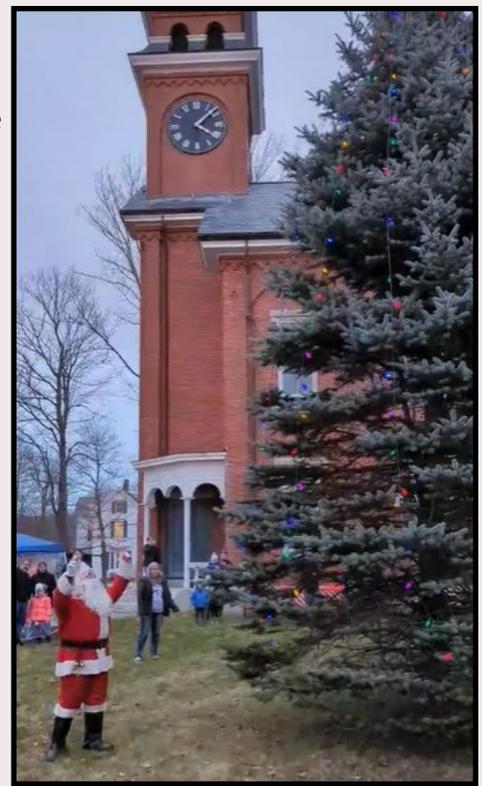
CEDC volunteers will promote design contests for more mural artists to paint around town. In keeping with the theme "Explore Gray," CEDC will also work on a new 2022 spring-summer design for the street pole banners.

If you are an artist in Gray, or know of a G-NG student artist, or would like to help the CEDC with either of these projects, please contact Kristen Muszynski, the Community Planner for the Town of Gray, at (207) 657-3339.



Santa Helps Light the Gray Christmas Tree

A few dozen community members (and a special visitor from the North Pole) turned out to help celebrate the lighting of the Gray's Christmas Tree, located at the Town Hall. Carolers from the Gray-New Gloucester High School were on-hand to bring out the Christmas spirit, and kids could send letters to Santa at nearby letter-writing stations. You can check out the event via our [Facebook page](#). Thanks to Gray Public Safety for making sure the event was safe!



Village Green Provides Community Activities, Permaculture Education

In early November, volunteers visited Village Green for fall clean-up. They applied the permaculture principle "Produce No Waste" and used all the leaves on-site to mulch the gardens and make compost. They also harvested hundreds of seeds and created winter support and protection for some of the trees. The volunteers also hatched an idea to create a plant identification activity for kids and adults to learn about the Village Green's plants.

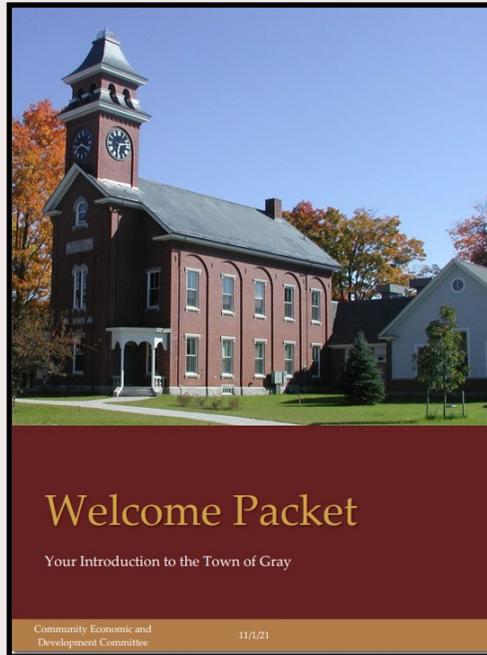
Among other future improvements, the Gray Historical Society will be installing a kiosk about the Great Fire of 1866 and other history relevant to the site, and the Gray Public Library will install a mini lending library.



The park and its stormwater system was featured at the Maine Stormwater Conference in November. The permeable structure which will hold all the rainwater that falls on the site, with zero run-off, is both a stormwater retention area and a parking area and it uses another permaculture principle called "stacking functions." If you would like to get involved with this community space, or work on others, please email [Lacy Antonson](#).

New Welcome Packet Available

One of the best ways to learn about our town is via our Welcome Packet located on our website. Visitors and residents alike can get a better understanding of Gray's various points of interest, government structure, community information, and much more.

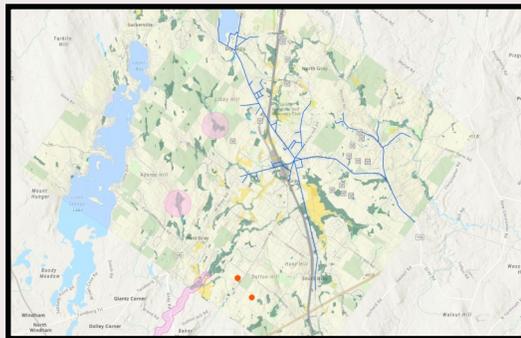


Gray Public Library Provides Gingerbread Kits

The Gray Public Library will be providing take-and-make gingerbread kits (in place of their normal Gingerbread House Day) on the first and second Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in December. Parents are asked to pre-register for a kit, which can be done at the library's [website](#) or by emailing gingerbread@gray.lib.me.us.

New Geographic Information System (GIS) Map Layers Available Online

Our online [GIS maps](#) are a great way to learn about Gray's geography, and now you can view more layers than ever, including:



Gray, as it appears on our GIS maps

- DEP Mining Sites
- Gray Water System
- Gray Trails
- Endangered Threatened and Special Concern Wildlife
- Vernal Pools
- Aquifers
- Deer Wintering Areas
- FEMA Flood Zones
- Overlay Zones
- Contours
- Conserved Lands
- NWI Wetlands
- USDA Soils Data (categorized by slope)
- Shoreland Zoning

The Town of Gray is Looking for Committee Members

Serve your town by volunteering for these committees!

Blueberry Festival Committee: Celebrates and promotes local businesses, community and school organizations, and the Pennell Complex.

Community Economic Development Committee: Promotes community and cultural connections in Gray and supports established businesses.

Community Television and Communications Advisory Committee: Makes recommendations regarding broadcast options for Gray, and recommends improvements to public, educational, and governmental programming.

Dry Mills School House Committee: Preserves the rich history of the Dry Mills School House.

Library Trustees: Adopts policies related to the library's operation and planning.

Open Space Committee: Makes recommendations to the Town Council to help secure access to land/corridors through acquisitions, easements, land swaps, and other forms of agreements.

Planning Board: Reviews and approves subdivision plans, site plans, conditional uses, and Shoreland Zoning applications in accordance with State Statutes and Town Ordinances.

Resiliency Committee: Promotes climate action planning and related actionable items.

Zoning Board of Appeals Committee: Hears and decides administrative appeals where it is alleged there is an error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination by the Code Enforcement Officer.

MSAD15 School Board: Shapes the functioning of the Gray-New Gloucester school system.



To apply to any of these committees, go to graymaine.org/volunteer.

The Town of Gray is Hiring!

We hire great people from a variety of backgrounds to do the town's important work. If you are looking for a career opportunity, check out our [Employment page](#) to see if there's an opening that's right for you!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

- The Gray Public Library has added the ComicsPlus service to their offerings, allowing readers to access more than 20,000 comics for free. Visit the library's [website](#) for more information.
- Gray Recreation is accepting gift donations until December 14 as part of their Shoebox Giving Time project. You can either use a shoebox (picked up at Town Hall) or your own gift bag to fill with items. Learn more on the [Gray Recreation Facebook page](#).
- You can register for a Red Cross Babysitting Course, held on December 3 and 10, where you'll learn about injury prevention, basic childcare, decision making, and leadership skills. Visit [gngrec.com](#) to register.

If you have an idea for a newsletter submission, please fill out this [form](#).

Questions can be directed to:

Kyle Hadyniak, Digital Media Coordinator

Gray Town Office

207-899-7656

