News About Town

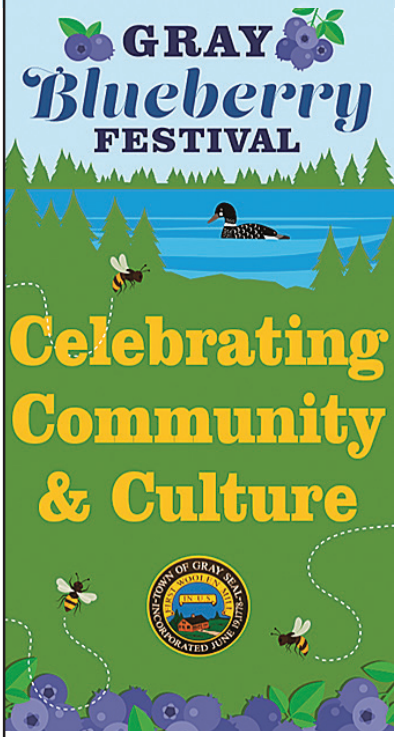
Gray, Maine – June 2021

MEET ANTHONY DAHMS, OUR NEW REC. DIRECTOR

Contact him at adahms@graymaine.org or (207) 657-3339 x118

Please welcome Anthony Dahms, our new Recreation Director, who officially starts on Tuesday (6/1). He comes to us from the City of Westbrook, where he has coordinated children's programs, including before/after school and summer camps, and adult recreational programs since 2012. Anthony also served on various boards and committees and oversaw execution of two 21st Century Community Learning Center grants from the DOE, in partnership with the Westbrook School Department. If you see him around, please join us in welcoming him to Gray!

Save the Date! *5th Annual Blueberry Festival August 14*



Saturday, August 14

9:30 AM - 6:00 PM

24 Main Street, Gray

Festival will follow Maine's CDC guidelines for outdoor gatherings

Blueberry Bake-off Blueberry Pie Eating Contests Food Trucks & Blueberry Items Crafters, Artisans & Vendors Community Expo & Fun'raisers Exhibits & Master Beekeeper Corn Hole & Lawn Games Fun Run Dash & Diaper Derby Horse-drawn Wagon Rides Sand Volleyball Courts And a 'Spelling Bee'

Find us on

LIVE MUSIC

9:30 AM – Relative Obscurity
11:30 AM – The Northern Grey
1:30 PM – Sofa Kings
4:00 PM – Onward

RECYCLING CORNER

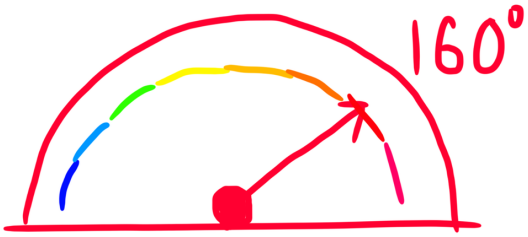
Thank you for sorting your waste and displaying your pass prominetely on your windshield.

CURRENTLY MEETING 2ND MONDAYS @ 6:30PM

REDUCING WET WASTE

One of the best ways to reduce cost of operating the transfer station is to reduce wet waste. It is the most expensive form of waste our community makes. This summer, watch your waste with composting, portion awareness and meal planning. You can also reduce waste by labeling your left overs with a date.

GNG COMPOST PROGRAM



GHG High School seniors finished their compost summative assignments. They learned about thermophilic composting as part of their Green House Program. They learned how to manage the nutrient cycle by regenerating beneficial microorganisms and apply it to food production, pest reduction, soil repair and carbon sequestration.

Compost Recipe: 30% / 60% / 10%

Green:

1 bucket food scraps

1 bucket grass clippings

1 bucket old compost

Brown:

2 buckets pine needles

2 buckets shredded leaves

1 bucket wood chips

1 bucket wood shavings

High Nitrogen:

1 bucket goat manure

(we added 1 bucket of alfalfa pellets halfway through)

Samples

May 13

May 17

May 24

CEDC 2021 Mural Contest Winners

In 2019, the CEDC started to gear up for Beautification projects around Town. One area of beautification (besides gateway landscape treatments) was the idea of installing murals in/around the Town of Gray. Items to consider were: cost, location, artist, themes, etc. Starting with the 2020/2021 CEDC Budget, the Committee allocated $1,000 for small murals to be painted on boards, installed on the picket fence surrounding the A/C unit at Town Hall.

In the fall, the Committee created the contest rules, possible themes, and voted to award up to four winning designs and that the local (student) artists would each receive $100. We then invited SAD-15 and Fiddlehead School students, as well as Gray residents, to participate.

The first deadline was December 31, 2020; there were two entries submitted by the same artist: 1) a single chickadee on a white background and 2) moose silhouette at sunset. In January, the CEDC voted to award Gray resident Haley Carson $100 for her moose-sunset design. The second deadline was May 1, 2021; there were six designs submitted: 1) an outdoor scene by an elementary school student, 2) Maine Wildlife Park motif, 3) lobsters & blueberry design, 4) a design with a collection of "Welcome to Gray" and local vendors' storefront signs, 5) a close up of two loons, and 6) the silhouette of a kayaker at sunrise/sunset. In May, the CEDC voted to award Gray Resident Zi Li Prinz $100 for her two loons design, plus award Gray Resident Alex Hutchings $100 for her kayaker at sunset design. The Committee agreed to limit this current mural project to these 3 winning murals and to consider other murals in/around Town in the 2021/2022 CEDC budget, currently set at $850. CEDC will also apply for state art grants to help supplement the cost to paint a larger mural, consider other locations, and possible theme(s) suited for the location.

Work on the three winning 'fence post murals' will be completed by the student artists this summer overseen with technical support by the CEDC Committee, and with paint supplies purchased by the CEDC.

Pocket Park Update

GRAY'S NEW PUBLIC COMMONS AREA.

OFFICIALLY NAMED " VILLAGE GREEN" AS OF JUNE 1.

Conceptual Plan with Narrative – Completed April 22

Permablitz Day – May 8

- INTERGENERATIONAL ENGAGEMENT: 40+ COMMUNITY MEMBERS ATTENDED THE EVENT – YOUNG AND OLD, FROM GRAY AND THE REGIONAL PERMACULTURE NETWORK
- 7 TEAM LEADERS: REAL-TIME COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND QUALITY ASSURANCE
- CO-HOSTED BY CEDC, RESILIENCE HUB, CUMBERLAND COUNTY SOIL & WATER DISTRICT
- EVERYTHING WE SET OUT TO DO WAS COMPLETED EXCEPT THE PERMEABLE SURFACE WHICH IS ONGOING.

CEDC would like to Thank:

Public Works
Transfer Station
Planning Department
Gray Fire & Rescue
Grounds and Maintainence
The Planning Board
Town Council
Terradyn Consultants
Mark Cenci
The Resilience Hub
Whitney Tree Services
Clark Tree

207Permaculture
Garbage to Gardens
HORTresource
Fedco Trees
Johnny's Seed and Supply
Birdhouses from Maine
Gulf of Maine Seaweed
Old Crow Ranch
Machino's Lumber
E.L.K. Construction
Advantage Reality
Home Depot

Cumberland County Community Development Block Grant
Localcentric
Genest
North Yarmouth Blue Seal
Cumberland County Soil & Water District

...and dozens of volunteers!

We appreciate your leadership, support, services, materials, and labor!
Please join us in thanking them too!

Projects Completed by the Community

- Raised beams
- Built willow fence
- Installed 39 birdhouses
- Spread mulch
- Broadcasted seed
- Sheet mulched
- Planted 100 plants

Imported organic materials:

- seaweed, compost, leaves, grass clippings, manure, cardboard, woodchips and straw.

Planted:

- Fruit trees, edible bushes, herbaceous plants, vines, ground covers, and one canopy tree.

Biological Amendments:

- Liquid soil amendments, mycorrhizae, mushroom spawn, rhizosphere inoculants

Surfacing – May 22

- MEMBERS OF 4 GRAY FAMILIES TURNED OUT TO WORK ON THIS PROJECT. EVEN KIDS WERE CARRYING PAVING STONES!
- 30’ X 30’ AREA WAS SCREED AND PAVING STONES LAID.

Remaining work in this phase

- Finish Surfacing Project
- Fencing and boulder placement
- Spread the remaining compost and chips
- Finish info kiosk – shingle and corkboard, plus posters
- Plant remaining trees and shrubs
- Add Engine 45 Birdhouse
- Build platform and install rain barrels (June 16th)

IN THE NEXT PHASE:

- Install welcome sign with park name
- Construct road apron and install Parking signs
- Program public engagement with the space though Rec. Dept and Community Partners