

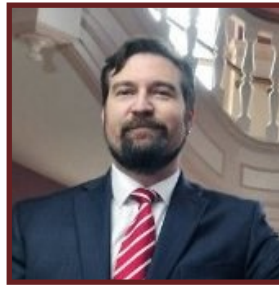


News About Town

A Message From Our Town Manager

Dear Gray Residents,

Happy New Year! 2021 held many challenges, not the least of which was the continued impact of COVID-19, and I want to thank you all for helping to keep Gray as safe and healthy as possible. Precautions that we took at a town government level, such as holding remote meetings and instituting a masking policy for municipal facilities, helped to reduce the spread and ensure that we could maintain in-person services.



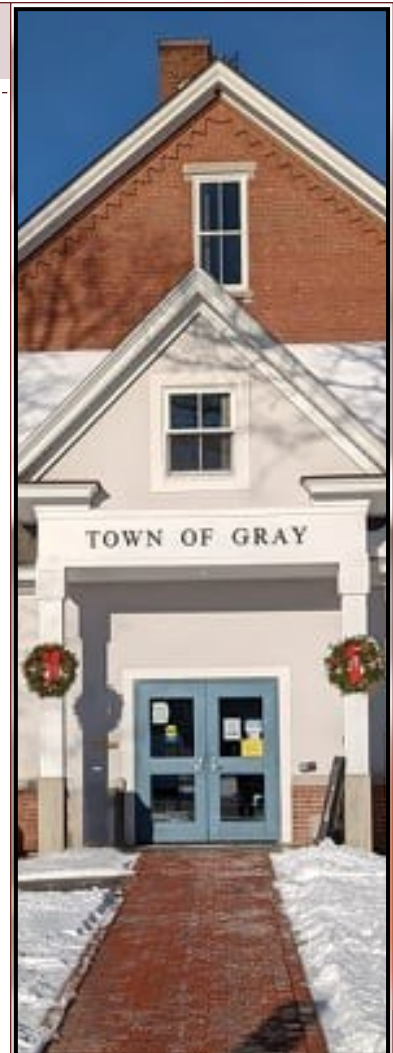
Heading into 2022, we are also instituting a COVID-19 Vaccination, Testing, and Masking Policy for Town employees. This policy is intended to comply with state and federal requirements for public employers with 100 or more employees, and to help safeguard the health of our employees and their families as well as the community at large from COVID-19.

Thank you for your patience and for trusting us to deliver the civic services you need. I'm excited for the promise of this new year, and you can read why throughout the rest of this newsletter..

Warm wishes,

Nate Rudy

Town Manager



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Upcoming Events

Jan. 1:

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

Jan. 4:

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

7 p.m.: Town Council
Meeting - Zoom

Every Friday:

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

Jan. 7:

2-5 p.m.: [COVID-19
Walk-in Vaccination
Clinic](#)—611
Lewiston Road, New
Gloucester

Jan. 13:

7 p.m.: Planning
Board—Zoom

Jan. 26:

7 p.m.: Zoning Board
of Appeals—Zoom

Town Leadership Publishes 2022 Tasks and Goals

The Town Council and Town Manager have recently published their goals and task for 2022. The information below is only a partial list; you can view the full document [online](#).

1. Improve traffic and infrastructure in the Village area, including Main Street, stormwater/water, bike/ped investments with potential funding from American Rescue Plan Act and Municipal Partnership Initiative (MPI).

- Finalize engineering plans for Route 115/Yarmouth Rd, begin easement work and submit MPI application by engaging stakeholders and residents.

2. Create a master plan for the Village including a plan for the newly acquired Village Gateway Property which includes a plan to implement the new Comprehensive Plan.

- Develop a Comprehensive Plan implementation framework to, among other things, develop protections for the Critical Rural areas via a growth management and zoning update plan.

3. Work to retain existing businesses and attract new businesses.

- Identify critical needs of businesses such as sewer, natural gas, long-term water access, and lay groundwork for long term solutions.

4. Create an inspiring place to work with professional, motivated, and trained Town staff.

- Provide compensation sufficient to attract trained and experienced staff and retain high-performing staff.
- Set clear vision and goals empowering staff to implement by providing proper training opportunities and policies to assist with work/life balance.
- Reorganize or update staffing/departments to provide better aligned services and efficiencies.

Playground Installed Behind Newbegin Gym



In January 2020, Gray was granted a Cumberland County Community Development Block Grant for \$67,000 for a community playground to be built behind Newbegin Gym.

The playground, which was built by Ultiplay Parks & Playgrounds, was recently installed behind the outdoor basketball court at Newbegin. In the spring of 2022, finishing touches, such as filling the playground area with wood chips, compacting a stone dust path (to be paved at a later date), installing a

slide and swings, and adding benches will be completed. If you're at Newbegin, feel free to check it out!

We Want to Hear YOUR Ideas for Gray Community Television!



The [Community Television and Communications Advisory Committee](#) is ready and able to help YOU contribute programming on our [town's television channel](#). If you have an idea for a show—like a gardening segment, video of a public function, spotlighting a part of the community, or anything else—let us know by filling out this [application](#). We have some equipment to help you get started, if needed.

We believe community television is one of the best resources we have to help increase public engagement within our town!

If you don't want to sponsor a show but still want to get information out to the public, you can also suggest ideas for the channel's bulletin board—the rotating slideshow of information that plays when there isn't a show on the air. You can submit that request [here](#).



Presented by the Gray/New Gloucester Middle School Drama Club

Mark your calendars for 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 7th and Friday, April 8th, 2022, for the performances of *Flapper!* at the Gray/New Gloucester Middle School. *Flapper!* is set in the “roaring ’20s” and full of fun characters, great choreography, and an exciting storyline. The show takes the audience through some of the iconic cultural thoughts and things that made the 1920s a decade of change in American history. See you there!

A View From Above, Below



The Pennell Clock Tower is one of our town’s most prized landmarks. You might know that one of its clock faces was the subject of a years-long restoration project that recently saw one of the original tower clock faces mounted on the second floor of the Town Hall.

Thanks to the efforts of Town staff, Town Hall visitors will soon be able to view a real-time feed of the clock face on the lobby television when they walk into the building. Hopefully, Gray residents can now appreciate the

historical importance of the clock face as they conduct business at the Town Hall.

Dog License Late Fee Starts in February

If you are a Gray citizen and haven’t registered your dog yet, please know that a \$25 late fee will begin on February 1, 2022. You can go to our [website](#) to register your pet, or go to the Town Office.

It’s \$6 per year for neutered/spayed dogs, and \$11 for non-neutered/non-spayed dogs.

To register your dog, you will need to show a current rabies certificate. If you have received a court summons regarding an unlicensed dog, you may not register online at this time.

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...

- Gray residents can now purchase \$5 Transfer Station permits either at the Town Hall or the Transfer Station. These permits are required for station use. Please call the Town Hall at 207-657-3339 if you have any questions.
- Gray Parks and Recreation has published their activity list for the new year. Check it out via their [Facebook post](#).

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

