



News About Town

A Message From Our Town Manager

Hello Citizens and Friends of Gray,

Greetings! For many of us, this is the month of March Madness, Mardi Gras, wondering when the last snow storm will fall, and looking forward to spring. At Town Hall, this is budget preparation season and my colleagues and I are working to assemble and propose the FY23 budget request for Gray Town Council’s consideration, and for citizen vote in June. There are several new projects and proposals that would continue ongoing gains in Gray’s economic development plan and implement goals of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan. I encourage you to read more about this process on our [website](#).



With warmer weather on its way, we encourage you to consider the many recreation opportunities Gray offers in the spring and summertime. For kids, we have summer camp programs hosted by Gray-New Gloucester recreation departments— registration opens soon! For other Gray residents, the Libby Hill Trail system offers outdoor recreation that varies from season to season. Thanks to all the staff and volunteers who have been maintaining the trails, there’s still time for great Nordic skiing and snowshoeing, but mud season is upon us, so don’t wait!

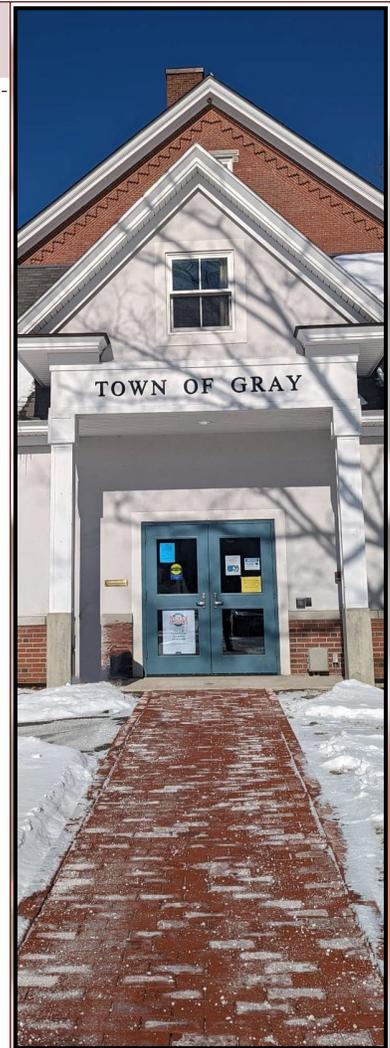
While you are out and about later in 2022, you might also see some great new artwork brightening our town, courtesy of Gray’s local artists and coordination by the volunteer members of Gray’s Community Economic Development Committee.

You can read all about these exciting events in this newsletter.

All the best,

Nate Rudy

Town Manager



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Upcoming Events**2
- Blueberry Festival
- Changes2
- MSAD 15 Pre-K and Kindergarten**3
- 2022 Mural Design Contest.....3
- Summer Camp Registration**4
- Weight Restrictions on Gray Roads5
- Building GCTV**5
- Committee Members Wanted!6

Upcoming Events

March 4 and 18:

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

March 8:

4 p.m.: Town
Council Budget
Workshop—Zoom

March 10:

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

March 10:

7 p.m.: Planning
Board - Zoom

Every Weds. And Friday:

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

March 23:

7 p.m.: Zoning
Board of
Appeals—Zoom

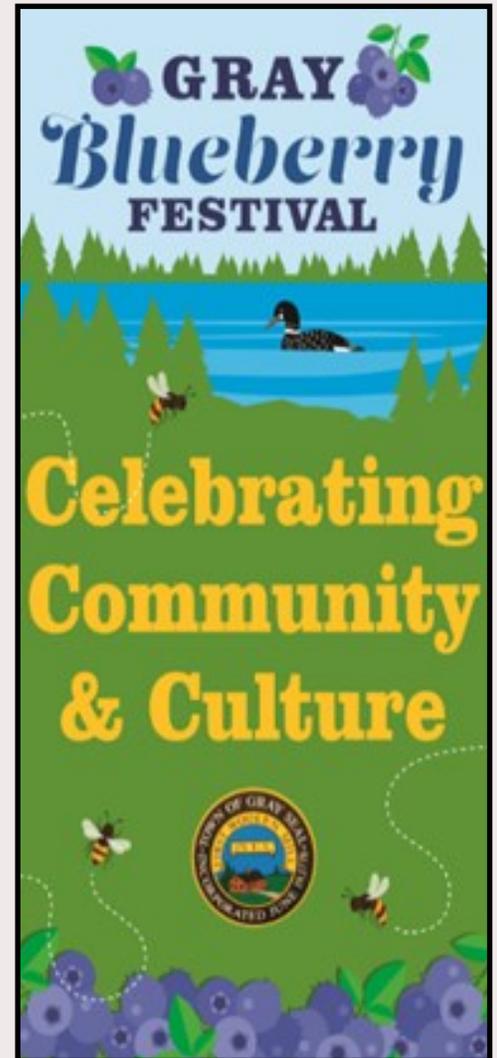
Gray Blueberry Festival Gets Renamed, Seeks Graphic Designers

The Gray Blueberry Festival is one of the most prominent and well-attended events in the Gray-New Gloucester community, and now the festival organizers are evolving the event in a major way.

Starting with the 2022 event, the festival will now be called “Gray Wild Blueberry Festival,” to help spotlight the fact that the event uses Maine wild blueberries. In light of the name change, organizers are looking for a graphic designer to help create a new logo. If you are one, or know someone who might be interested in helping, please [contact](#) the festival’s organizers.

Organizers are also seeking new & returning sponsors, which make this event possible every summer.

The Town of Gray’s Wild Blueberry Festival brings together more than 2,500 people and helps raise more than \$5,000 for the G-NG community, and promotes the health benefits of eating wild Maine blueberries. Learn more via their [Facebook page](#).



MSAD 15 Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Registration Now Open

Children living in Gray or New Gloucester who will be five years old on or before October 15, 2022, or children who will be four years old on October 15, 2022, can now pre-register for MSAD 15's pre-k and kindergarten. Registration is open until July 1.

Russell and Memorial schools are currently accepting kindergarten pre-registration for all students for the fall. Children living in Gray should register with [Russell School](#), and children living in New Gloucester should register with [Memorial School](#).

MSAD 15 also offers a voluntary, half-day pre-K program at Dunn School in New Gloucester. They can enroll up to 90 students each year. If more than 90 students apply, they will hold a lottery in the summer. To be eligible for that lottery, students must be pre-registered prior to screening dates in June. Please complete the [pre-registration process](#) or by calling Dunn School at 207-657-5050.

Submissions Open for Mural Contest

YOU can help the Town showcase art works by entering the 2022 Mural Design Contest. Gray's Community Economic Development Committee will award up to three winning entries.

One mural will be 3 feet by 4 feet, and the two other murals will be larger. All will be displayed in the Village Center.

Your design or conceptual sketch must be original (submissions using copyrighted photos, images, or slogans will be disqualified). Suggested outdoor themes include Libby Hill Forest Trails, seasonal images of Gray (e.g., ice fishing), The Blueberry Festival, soccer tournaments, pollinators, and the CEDC's birdhouse project.

The contest is open to all ages. You may submit more than one entry. Learn more on our [website](#)!

Beware Browntail Moth Caterpillars

Browntail moth caterpillars are insects with tiny poisonous hairs that can cause skin reactions similar to poison ivy and other more severe reactions. Now is the time of year to assess your potential risk from these insects in the spring and summer.

To learn more about browntail moth caterpillars, visit the Maine CDC's [fact sheet](#). Also, check out how to [lessen the impact](#) of these caterpillars and how to take care of nests you may find on your property.

Registration Opens APRIL 4th

Summer DAY CAMPS

Summer Day Camps for students entering K to 6th Grade Fall 2022
Information On LIT Camps for ages 12-15 coming soon

\$1800 Full Summer June 21-August 12 Weekly rate \$275
10% discount for 2nd sibling and each additional child



OUTDOOR GAMES AND ACTIVITIES
SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS ARTS AND CRAFTS
LIBRARY VISITS
WEEKLY YOGA
FIELD TRIPS AND MORE!



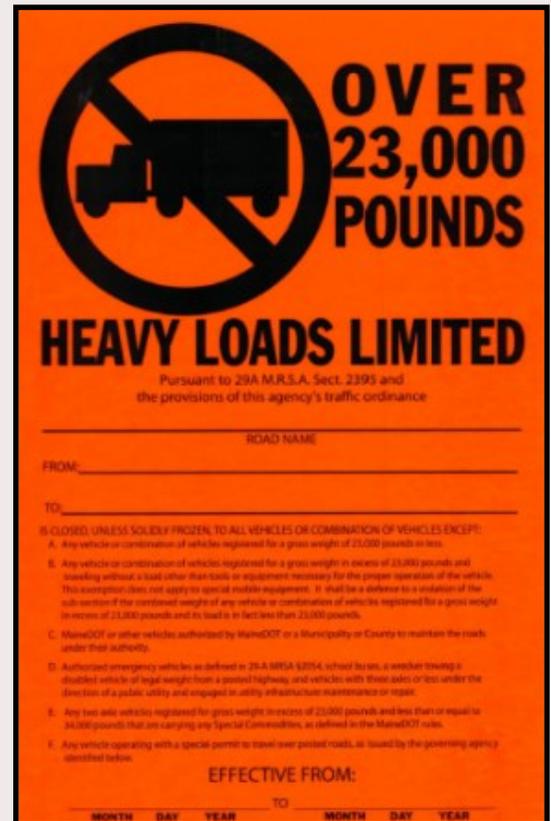
Locations in both Gray and New Gloucester FMI call Nellie 657-6762

Weight Restrictions Impact 39 Gray Roads

Pursuant to [Maine law](#), vehicles over 23,000 pounds will be banned between February 25 and April 29, 2022, from certain roads in Gray to help protect the roads during the spring thaw. The roads in question will have orange signs (seen right) placed on them to alert drivers to the restriction.

The weight restriction does not apply when the road is "solidly frozen," which is defined as when both the air temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit and there is no water showing in the cracks of the road. Some vehicles are exempted from these restrictions or have special privilege, like emergency vehicles, public utilities, and heating fuel delivery vehicles, among others.

Visit our [website](#) to view a complete list of the impacted roads. If you have questions about these restrictions, please call Gray Public Works at 207-657-3381.



Help Build Gray's TV Channel!

Did you know YOU have a say in what content airs on Gray Community Television? This channel, viewable via our [website](#) or on cable channel 2, is a community-based public, educational, and governmental video portal operated by the Town of Gray, Maine, and serves to entertain, disseminate information, ensure freedom of speech, and improve quality of life while connecting the citizens of Gray.



Any Gray resident can sponsor content on this channel as long as it adheres to our [policies](#). In addition to sponsoring programming, you can submit bulletin board requests (the bulletin board is what plays on the channel when there is no scheduled programming). You can submit that request [here](#). If you have any questions about GCTV, please contact the GCTV station manager, at 207-657-3339 x116.

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.



“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”

- Sue Premo, Volunteer Coordinator, Green Bay, WI

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 Association (GPLA) has been selected by the Hannaford on Shaker Road for the Community Bag Program. GPLA will receive a \$1 donation from each purchase at that Hannaford in March of the \$2.50 reusable community bag. If you want to participate in this program, ask the Customer Service Desk at Hannaford for where these bags can be found.
- Nomination papers are now available for the following positions:
 - Gray Town Councilor (One three-year term to expire June 2025)
 - MSAD 15 Board of Directors (Two three-year terms to expire June 2025, and one two-year term to expire June 2024)
 - Water District Trustee (One five-year term to expire June 2027)

Gray residents can obtain papers from the Town Office. Learn more [here](#).

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

