



News About Town

A Message From Our Town Manager

Hello Citizens and Friends of Gray,

This month's newsletter spotlights community service and the important contributions of our Town employees and residents.

First, I'd like to congratulate Hannah Bewsey, a valued member of Gray's Public Safety Department, on her recent promotion to lieutenant. This new leadership position is fitting recognition of Hannah's years of exemplary service to our community. You can read more about Hannah in this newsletter.



Second, we are now accepting nominations for the Town of Gray Volunteer Awards held in August. With these awards, we celebrate the many ways in which our residents dedicate their time and energy to improving Gray. Award categories include Volunteer of the Year, Committee of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement Award, and others. These awards reflect our town's unity and spirit of volunteerism, so I urge you to nominate someone by visiting our [website](#) today. The award nomination deadline is May 30, 2022.

Thanks,

Nate Rudy

Town Manager



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Upcoming Events

April 5:

6 p.m.: Gray Town Council Meeting – Zoom and in-person

April 14:

7 p.m.: Planning Board Meeting – Henry Pennell Municipal Complex

Every Weds. And Friday:

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

April 15:

1 p.m.: Gray Food Pantry – Gray Congregational Church Parish House

April 27:

7 p.m.: Zoning Board of Appeals – Henry Pennell Municipal Complex

Gray Fire and Rescue Celebrates First Full-Time Female Officer

Gray Fire Rescue is pleased to announce the promotion of Hannah Bewsey to the rank of lieutenant and shift officer for B shift, making her the first full-time female officer at Gray Fire Rescue.

“I feel like a valued member of Gray Fire Rescue,” said Hannah. “It’s really nice to have that positive environment and it makes it easy to honestly tell others in the fire service, hey, come to Gray.”

Hannah is in her fifth year with GFR, working per diem and full time since 2017. Prior to working in Gray, Hannah received her BA in Biology and Spanish from Claremont McKenna College in California before starting her career as an EMT for Freeport Fire Rescue in 2015. She completed her Firefighter I/II certification in 2016 and received her Paramedic license in 2018. Hannah has also completed Critical Care Paramedicine and is certified as a flight paramedic.

“Hannah has been a fantastic addition to Gray Fire Rescue,” says Fire Chief Kurt Elkanich. “Her knowledge and skills have increased at an exponential rate since she began working with us. She is always willing to help new people in the service and does a lot of in-house training for our members. We are very fortunate to have her here!”

Please join us in congratulating Hannah on her new position and rank as the first full-time female officer at Gray Fire Rescue.



Lt. Hannah Bewsey, GFR

Nominations Open For Volunteerism Awards

Each year, Gray recognizes and celebrates the folks who are the backbone of the community: our dedicated volunteers.



Volunteers form the backbone of our community!

The Gray Town Council encourages and welcomes

nominations from Gray citizens who wish to recognize other community members for their volunteer contributions as they relate to the five categories of awards. An awards reception in the summer will honor the winners. The award categories available for nominations are:

- **Volunteer of the Year:** A person who during the last year has gone above and beyond to improve our community through volunteerism.
- **Committee of the Year:** A [Town Council-appointed committee](#) that has provided exemplary community service through its activities throughout the year.
- **Organization of the Year:** An organization serving the citizens of Gray that has made a substantial positive impact in the community in the last year.
- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** A citizen who has displayed a lifetime of volunteer service to Gray.
- **Evelyn Morrill Durgin Award:** Evelyn Durgin was a tireless volunteer for the upkeep of Gray's Civil War Monument. The recipient of this award should exemplify the essence of Evelyn's humility, dedication to, and love for Gray.

Visit our [website](#) to submit your nominations! Nomination forms are also available at the Town Office or in [PDF](#) format. The deadline for nominations is May 30, 2022.

MSAD 15 To Destroy Special Education Records

MSAD 15 will be destroying special education records of students born in 1996. Students/guardians who would like to pick up these records must contact Connie Holland at 207-657-9602 or [email her](#) prior to June 14, 2022.

Town of Gray Requests Proposals for Legal Services

Gray is requesting proposals for professional legal services in accordance with the [Town Charter](#) and [fiscal policy](#) of the Town of Gray. Learn more [here](#). Proposals are due by April 15, 2022.

APRIL 23RD HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

PARTICIPATE IN EARTH DAY

EVERYONE CAN DO
SOMETHING
TOGETHER WE CAN DO
ALOT!

Things you can
do to make a
difference:

- Clean up litter
- Plant a seed
- Recycle
- Ride your bike or carpool
- Use less water
- Unplug unused electronics
- Eat local
- Donate Clothes



Annual Wild Blueberry Festival Organizers Accepting Vendor Applications Soon

Vendor applications for the 6th Annual Wild Maine Blueberry Festival are open starting April 8, 2022, by [emailing](#) the festival's organizers. New vendors must send photos of their product to minimize duplication of items being sold.

The market at the festival will showcase "Made in Maine" arts, crafts, and housewares; products from brick-and-mortar Gray businesses; and Gray-New Gloucester community and school groups.

To stay posted on updates about the festival, follow the event on [Facebook](#).



The Blueberry Festival spotlights local products and celebrates the diverse uses of Maine's blueberries.

Gray's 6th annual Wild Blueberry Festival will be held rain or shine on Saturday, August 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. outdoors behind Town Hall, 24 Main Street, Gray.

Emerald Ash Borer Threatens Maine Trees

The emerald ash borer is one of the most serious invasive species threatening forests here in Maine. All species of ash trees are susceptible to injury or death by these beetles, so it's important you know how to recognize these.

Potential costs associated with emerald ash borers include:

- Costs to remove/replace/treat infested trees
- Loss of landscaping and community character
- Increased heating/cooling costs
- Reduction in property value
- Potential property damage/personal injury suits

Learn more about identifying and dealing with the emerald ash borer through the Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry's [website](#).



Emerald ash borer

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.

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 influences the path our community will take toward climate resilience, energy efficiency, waste management and renewable energy.

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...

- Nomination papers are available for the following offices: Gray Town Councilor, MSAD 15 School Board of Directors, and Water District Trustee. Learn more [here](#).
- The Gray Town Council has returned to conducting meetings in the Council Chambers at the Henry Pennell Municipal Complex, and anyone is welcome to participate either remotely via Zoom or in-person. Zoom information is posted on the Town's website the day of meetings.
- You can view Town meeting videos, minutes, and agendas via the [Meeting Portal](#). It's a great place to start if you want to be more informed about Town government!

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

Questions can be directed to:

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