



News About Town

A Message From Our Town Manager

Hello Citizens and Friends of Gray,
 December generally marks moving from one year to another, as the days start getting longer after the winter equinox. That change could be thought of as moving from fall to winter outdoor activities, youth sports, and recipes shifting towards chowders and roasts. In Town government, we're also moving on from election season and this year I'm thankful that Gray held a successful, secure, and well-attended election. I want to thank our Town Clerk and celebrate the contributions of Town staff and poll workers who helped make Election Day run so smoothly.



Nate Rudy, Town Manager

This newsletter issue is special to me because it highlights notable events that happened in Gray this year. I hope you'll enjoy looking back over what a successful year our town had as much as I have. I'm looking forward to how much we can accomplish as a community together in 2023.

I hope you and your family have a merry holiday season.

Thank you,

Nate Rudy



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Town of Gray Year in Review

A lot can happen in a town in 12 months, and Gray is no exception. This year was filled with notable achievements we want to remember as we prepare to turn the page on 2022. Here are a few highlights you might remember.

January: The Pennell Clock Face Finds a New Home

Thanks to the efforts of Town staff and volunteers, visitors to the Town Office have been enjoying looks at the landmark Pennell Clock Face, which is located on the second floor of the Town Office. The clock face underwent a years-long restoration which now allows it to tick inexorably.



Planner Doug Webster with the clock face

February: Libby Hills Trails System Gets a Promising Future Thanks to MOU

This trail system in Gray is a highly utilized recreational gem, and earlier this year the Town of Gray, MSAD 15, and the Gray Community Endowment announced a Memorandum of Understanding that cements a partnership to update the system's Forestry Management Plan, maintenance plan, and investment plan.



April: Gray Celebrated its First Full-Time Female Officer

As spotlighted in our [April 2022 newsletter](#), Hannah Bewsey (pictured left), a seven-year veteran of the Gray Fire Rescue (GFR), became the town's first full-time female officer. Fire Chief Kurt Elkanich called Hannah "a fantastic addition" to GFR, and that they are "fortunate to have her here."

May: Gray Becomes Home to 147-acre Conservation Space

Thanks to the Royal River Conservation Trust, Gray is home to the [Thayer Brook Preserve](#). The project, endorsed by the Gray Town Council, contains six beaver dams, mountain biking and hiking trails, a babbling brook, and more. This preserve is supported by the Town's 2020 Comprehensive Plan and the 2022 Open Space Plan.

Upcoming Events

Every Weds. And Friday

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

Tues., Thurs., Sat.

1 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. (Sat.):

Movie Time! — Gray
Public Library

December 3

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

December 6

7 p.m.: Gray Town Council
Meeting—24 Main Street
and Zoom

December 10

10:30 a.m.: *Frozen*
Screening (Sing-a-Long
Version) — GNG
Community Service Club

December 14

5:30 p.m.: Gray Town
Council Workshop— 24
Main Street and Zoom

December 17

10:30 a.m.—12 p.m.: Winter
Arts and Crafts—Gray
Public Library

December 27-31

*Morning, Afternoon, and
Evening:* Winter Break
Mega-Movie Week—Gray
Public Library



Town of Gray Year in Review

June: Gray Elects Town Councilor and Approves New Budget

Two men ran for the open Town Council seat in July, and ultimately Michael Curtis of 27 Marsh View Drive won at the ballot box. In the same election, Gray voters approved a [FY2023 budget](#) that targets substantial community development and infrastructure improvements.



Main Street in Gray

July: Community Visioning Begins for the Gray Village

Gray residents began a once-in-a-generation project revolving around the Village. With help from outside consultants, the Town of Gray coordinated a visioning week that saw residents offer their ideas about how the Village should change in the coming years. The result of that feedback was a report that details possible improvements and paths forward for Town leadership. You can learn about this project, and read the final report, [here](#).

August: Wild Blueberry Festival Exceeds Expectations

As chronicled in our [September newsletter](#), this year's Wild Blueberry Festival was an enormous success, with thousands of people descending on Gray to celebrate community, local business, and Maine's natural resources.



The Wild Blueberry Festival was fun for all ages!

September: Environmental Protection Agency Delists Gray Waste Site

Following a proposed delisting of the former McKin Company Superfund Site located in Gray from the National Priorities List (NPL), the EPA formally removed the site from the NPL. Deleting a site from the NPL signals to communities that remedial activities on the site are complete, and allows them to move forward in reusing and/or redeveloping the land as appropriate - although some restrictions remain.

November: Yarmouth Road Infrastructure Work Gets Public Workshop

A busy road in Gray, Yarmouth Road, is getting major infrastructure improvements in the coming months, and the Town met with residents who live on that road to get their feedback on the planned construction. You can read more about this work in this newsletter.

Here's to a successful and happy 2023!



Yarmouth Road Infrastructure Improvements Detailed in Public Forum

Sidewalks, crossings, and other infrastructure improvements are coming to Yarmouth Road in Gray. Check out [this video](#) of a public forum hosted by the Town of Gray that explains to residents what changes are in store for the road.

If you have any questions about this project, the Community Development Office is happy to meet one-on-one with you and address your input about the proposed changes. You can call them at 207-657-3339. You can also find in the Town Office a display that captures the extent of the planned work, as pictured to the right.



This display in the Town Office captures the project's extent.

Honor Fallen Heroes at the Gray Village Cemetery on Wreaths Day



Wreath Day will honor our town's fallen heroes.

On December 17, 2022 at 12:00 p.m., American Legion Post 86 (ME0103) will help Gray Village Cemetery remember and honor our veterans by laying remembrance wreaths on the graves of our country's fallen heroes. Please help honor and remember as many fallen heroes as possible by sponsoring remembrance wreaths, volunteering on Wreaths Day, or inviting your family and friends to attend with you.

You can sponsor wreaths by visiting the Wreaths Across America [website](#). You can also use the website to track how many of the 620 veteran graves still need wreaths. For those who prefer, checks made payable to Wreaths Across America may be mailed to Gray Historical Society, PO Box 544, Gray, ME 04039.



Donate to the Gray Fire Rescue Association Via Hannaford

If you are looking to buy flowers at the Hannaford on Shaker Road in Gray, you have an opportunity to donate to the Gray Fire Rescue Association thanks to the Bloomin' 4 Good program!

This program operates similarly to Hannaford's bag program, but with bouquets of flowers instead of reusable bags. For every Bloomin' 4 Good bouquet sold in December at the Gray Hannaford, \$1 will be donated to Gray Fire Rescue Association. These bouquets are marked with a big red circle sticker on the front, to differentiate them from the regular bouquets for sale.



Bouquets with this sticker will benefit the Gray Fire Rescue Association.

Welcome Claire Zimmerman, the Planning Department's New Administrative Assistant!

There's a new face in the Community Development section of the Town Office. Claire Zimmerman is joining Town staff as the Planning Department's administrative assistant. Claire is a Mainer who "boomeranged back after living in Maryland" for several years after college. She previously worked in administrative support for medical offices.

If you need to contact the Planning Department for any matter, you can use planning@graymaine.org or call 207-657-3339.



Welcome, Claire!



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 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



Mary volunteers on the Recreation Committee, and leads a walking group she started.

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...

- Youth Basketball starts on December 3rd and runs through January 21th. Boys and girls pre-K to 2nd grade are welcome. The registration fee is \$65 per child. Visit the program's [webpage](#) for more information.
- Gingerbread House Take-and-Make Kits – Kits can be picked up at the Gray Public Library from Thursday, December 8th to Saturday, December 10th. Kits can be reserved starting Tuesday, November 29th.
- For the Christmas holiday, the Gray Public Library will be closed on Friday, December 23rd and Saturday, December 24th. Normal hours of operation will resume Tuesday, December 27th.
- Gray welcomes two new businesses: [Urgent Care](#), opening on December 12, and a new [Maine State Credit Union branch](#), which is open now.

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

Questions can be directed to:
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