



# News About Town

## A Message From Our Town Manager

Greetings Gray Friends and Neighbors,

I would like to begin this *News About Town* issue by thanking you for your participation in last month’s election. Although the Town’s FY24 budget was not approved, it’s important to recognize the hard work and dedication of our Gray residents, staff members, and all those who played a role in ensuring the success of the election.



Nate Rudy, Town Manager

Our main goal moving forward is honing a budget that serves the needs of Gray residents and represents the true cost of your Town Government, responsibly and transparently. Gray handled a similar budget revision process in 2020, so I am confident we will approach the upcoming budget revision process efficiently – more to come on the schedule for Town Council workshops and presentation of a revised budget. In accordance with the Town Charter, the Town will host a Town Meeting this summer to review a budget proposal that will be submitted by the Town Council.

If you want to share your thoughts on the revised budget or learn more about the budget process, we encourage you to review the revised Town Council budget and attend the Town Meeting. You can find the relevant budget schedule and documents on our website when they are published.

Thanks again for your time and interest,

Nate



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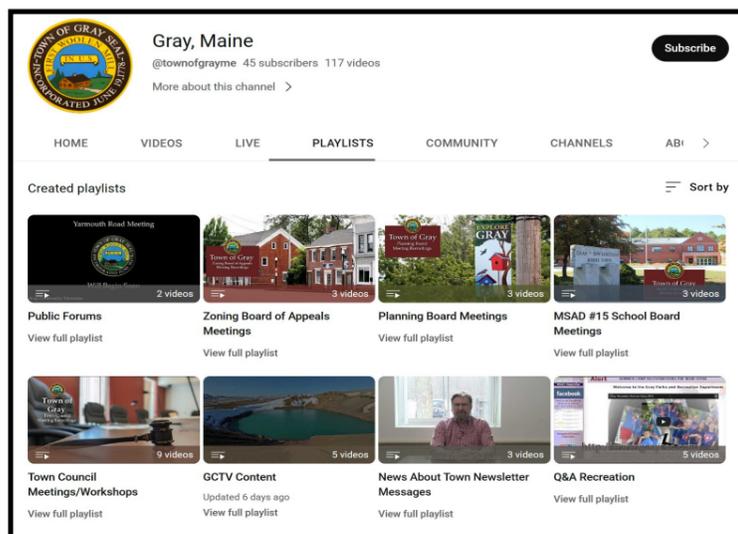
## Town of Gray Meeting Videos and Other Public Content Now Available on YouTube

The Town of Gray has made recordings of municipal meetings public on our website’s Meeting Portal for years, but we are constantly exploring ways to make our recordings more accessible to interested citizens. We’re thrilled to announce we have revitalized the Town of Gray [YouTube channel](#). The channel is now a home for meeting recordings of the Town Council, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, select School Board meetings, Gray Community Television content, and public forums.

Some videos, like Town Council meetings, have timestamps in the video’s description, which means you can view the agenda for meetings and jump right to topics that interest you.

You can catch our channel on any smart device that supports YouTube. We have created playlists for each video category, so you can easily find the content you are looking for.

If you have any questions about YouTube or Gray Community Television, please contact the GCTV Station Manager at 207-657-3339 x116 or email [gctv2@graymaine.org](mailto:gctv2@graymaine.org).



The Town of Gray’s YouTube page now contains public content on demand.

### Upcoming Events

#### July 13 and July 20

*5 p.m.:* Town Council FY24 Budget Workshop—24 Main Street and Zoom

#### July 18

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

#### July 13

*7 p.m.:* Planning Board Meeting—24 Main Street and Zoom

#### Wednesdays + Fridays

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

#### Wednesdays

*1 p.m.:* Kids Summer Movie Time! — Gray Public Library

#### Saturdays

*10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.:* Movie Time—Gray Public Library



## Gravestone Preservation Workshop at Gray Village Cemetery

A Gravestone Preservation Workshop is scheduled for Gray Village Cemetery from July 21-July 24, 2023.

Joe Ferrannini of Grave Stone Matters in Hoosick Falls, NY, will lead the workshop. This intensive beginner four-day workshop is hands-on, but you can also attend as an observer.

If you have ancestors buried here and **DO NOT** wish their memorial to be cleaned and/or repaired, notify the Gray Cemetery Association at [gray.maine.cemeteries@gmail.com](mailto:gray.maine.cemeteries@gmail.com) or leave a phone message with Gray Historical Society at (207) 657-4476. You can learn more about this event [here](#).



The Gray Village Cemetery

## Gray Council Chair Featured in Conversation About Local Journalism, Local Government

Gray Town Council Chair Krista Chappell recently joined Bill Nemitz of the Maine Journalism Foundation (pictured) and Jarrod Maxfield of the Windham Town Council in a conversation about the future of local news in Maine. This discussion was hosted by the Greater Portland Council of Governments.

You can check out this fascinating conversation on [YouTube](#), or listen to the podcast episode on [Spotify](#).



Gray Town Council Chair Krista Chappell with Bill Nemitz.



## Nordic Walking for Seniors Meet in July

Outside the Gray Town Office during the summer, there will be beginner Nordic Walking classes every Monday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. when it is not raining or very hot. Participants should meet at the white picnic table at the beginning of the Pennell Walking Path.

The instructor, Mary Sweeney Underwood, will conduct one-to-one instruction at your own pace and show you exercises you can do at home. Walkers of all ages and abilities are welcome. Mary will walk with you from bench to bench along the Pennell path. Come sit at the picnic table with other walkers and hear about what others have experienced from Nordic Walking!



Nordic walkers using the trail near the Gray Town Office.

Nordic walking involves walking with two poles, the use of which help exercise many more muscles than regular walking. The poles are not canes or leaned on; instead, they are pushed at a 45-degree angle behind the walker. This propels the person forward and strengthens the neck and upper shoulders. Nordic walkers are taught to belly breathe, which strengthens the diaphragm, which in turn supports the back. Nordic poles take pressure off the hips, knees, and joints. Mary herself has found the exercise life-changing for her physical health, and many of her fellow walkers have improved dexterity, blood pressure, stability, weight, and muscle strength.

The group has captured the attention of many town professionals and leaders. Local physical therapists and doctors have referred their patients to the Nordic Walking Group, and community leaders have financially and socially supported the ever-growing club.

On March 21, 2023, Town of Gray Recreation Director Anthony Dahms and Mary Sweeney Underwood gave a presentation to the Maine Recreation and Park Association about the Gray Nordic Walking Group. You can view that presentation [here](#).

For more information, contact Mary at [mary@sweeneyridge.com](mailto:mary@sweeneyridge.com).



7<sup>th</sup> Annual  GRAY August 12<sup>th</sup>

Henry Pennell Complex  
24 Main Street, Gray  
9:00 – 3:00

Wild Blueberry  
FESTIVAL



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For more information, contact us at: [BlueberryFestival@Graymaine.org](mailto:BlueberryFestival@Graymaine.org)  
Visit our website for Festival updates: [wildblueberries.me/grayfestival/](http://wildblueberries.me/grayfestival/)  
or scan the QR code at right





## Gray is Looking for Committee Members

*Serve your town by volunteering for these committees!*

- **Wild 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.
- **MSAD #15 School Board:** Shapes the functioning of the Gray-New Gloucester school system.
- **Recreation Committee:** Advises and recommends to the Town Council on recreational and public parks matters, such as: programs, policies, development, and leisure time activities.



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

*"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](http://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! We are currently hiring for Firefighter/EMTs, seasonal positions, and more.

## **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...**

- The Town of Gray Planning Board will review two applications and host public hearings on Thursday, July 13 at 7 p.m., at the Henry Pennell Municipal Complex, 24 Main Street, Gray. First is a request by A.H. Grover, Inc. for Planning Board plan review of a proposal to create Phase II of the Stillwater Pines Residential Open Space subdivision off Woodcock Road. The second is a request by Avesta Housing Development Corporation, Avesta Meadowview II LP and Gray Senior Housing, Inc., for review of an amendment to an approved site plan and subdivision plan, for a multi-family 26-unit senior housing development located near 16 Hancock Street.
- We recently added a page to our website dedicated to public notices. You can check out the page [here](#). Please note this page only includes notices published in 2023. If you are interested in viewing older public notices, please search our website or email [admin@graymaine.org](mailto:admin@graymaine.org).

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

Questions can be directed to:  
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Digital Media Coordinator  
207-657-3339 x116