



News About Town

A Message From Our Town Manager

Greetings Gray Friends and Neighbors,

The word august means “marked by grandeur” and August is, aptly, a significant month for Gray. As you’ll read in this newsletter, the Town Council is working on a revised FY24 budget in a series of public workshops. These workshops will hone a new budget proposal for Gray that residents will vote on at an in-person Town Meeting expected to be held in September. Please read about the revised budget process and remember: **you must be present at the meeting to vote on the revised FY24 budget.** More information is available on our [website](#).

August also brings the joy and vibrancy of our beloved [Wild Blueberry Festival](#), scheduled for August 12th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This endearing event continues to attract thousands from around Maine and beyond and celebrates the richness of community and camaraderie in Gray--I hope you'll join us for this delightful festival.

We're also excited to announce another enriching community event hosted by Gray Community Television: “Capturing and Creating Community Storytelling in Gray.” If you're fascinated by the untold stories within our community, or if you're an amateur photographer or videographer looking to hone your skills, this event is for you! It offers an opportunity to contribute to our community’s collective narrative using the power of Gray’s community television station and YouTube channel.

My heartfelt thanks goes to all those who are organizing and promoting these events and helping share Gray’s story across generations.

Thanks again,
Nate



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Town Government Prepares Revised FY24 Budget for September Vote

The Gray Town Council and Town staff have been working to present a new FY24 budget to voters following the rejected proposed budget in the June election.

Approximately one thousand residents voted in June. While some budget articles passed, the municipal budget appropriation and the property tax levy limit override failed to pass, resulting in necessary budget revisions and a re-vote. You can view all June referendum results on our [website](#).

To revise the budget to meet residents' needs and the needs of our growing community, the Town Council is holding workshops to discuss how the budget can be reconsidered. Like with the originally proposed FY24 budget, the Town Council prioritizes transparency in the budget creation process; therefore, you can watch any of the revised FY24 budget workshops, and view any related documentation, on a [webpage](#) created specifically for this revision process.

The process for revising the FY24 budget is as follows:

- The first revised budget workshop was held on **July 13**. You can watch that video [here](#).
- The second workshop was held on **July 20**, and is watchable [here](#).
- A third budget workshop will be held on **August 3** at 6 p.m. in the Henry Pennell Municipal Complex and on Zoom.
- A fourth workshop will be held on **August 7** at 5 p.m. in the Henry Pennell Municipal Complex and on Zoom.
- The Town Council will then hold a **special meeting in August** (date TBD) to approve revised warrant articles. You can view those warrant articles on the aforementioned webpage when they are available.

After the warrant article meeting, the revised budget will go to an in-person Town Meeting in September. This Town Meeting will follow rules set by [state statute](#).

(continued on next page)

Upcoming Events

August 3 and 7

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

August 15

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

August 23

7 p.m.: Zoning Board of Appeals—24 Main Street

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



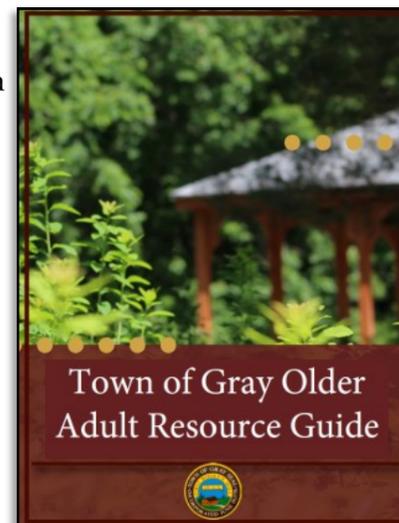
"I would strongly encourage all voters to stay engaged during this unusual budget season and to mark their calendars for a formal Town Meeting," said Gray Town Council Chair Krista Chappell. "Town Meetings typically have far fewer individuals casting votes than a referendum. We need a diversity of voices in September to accurately represent Gray's interests for the coming fiscal year."

Any registered Gray voter can vote in this special Town Meeting. Please know only registered voters in attendance can cast a vote on the revised budget. When they are available, details about the Town Meeting can be found on our [website](#).

Town of Gray Releases Comprehensive Older Adult Resource

To provide essential support and assistance to the older adult population within our community, the Town of Gray has published a comprehensive [Older Adult Resource Guide](#). This guide serves as a valuable tool for older adults and their families, offering a wide range of resources and services that may be beneficial to their well-being. The Town of Gray does not endorse any of the entities mentioned in the guide, but rather provides this resource for informational purposes only.

If you have any questions about this guide, please contact the [Town of Gray](#). Physical copies of this guide are available in the Clerk's Office in Town Hall.



Capturing and Creating Community Storytelling in Gray

Join Gray Community Television, the Gray Communications and IT Department, and your neighbors and friends for an exciting event dedicated to the art of capturing and creating community storytelling in Gray! This event, held at the Gray Public Library on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 10 a.m. aims to connect our community through the power of visual storytelling. Whether you're an amateur videographer or photographer, experienced professional, interested in learning new skills or non-technical ways to contribute to our community, this event is for you!

Learn more about this event [here](#).

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Gray Community Television Station Manager Kyle Hadyniak at khadyniak@graymaine.org.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection on August 19

Gray residents and property owners can bring their hazardous household materials to the Town of Gray Sand and Salt Shed on Seagull Drive in Gray on Saturday, August 19, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Proof of residency will be required. Acceptable materials include, but are not limited to:

- Acids (Muriatic, Sulfuric)
- Ammonia
- Automobile cleaners
- Bleach
- Boat and automobile paints
- Carburetor cleaner
- Chrome polish
- ...And many more!

Please view the full list of acceptable and unacceptable materials on our [website](#). Learn more about this collection event on our website. If you have questions pertaining to this collection, or any other waste issue, contact Recycling Station Director Randy Cookson at 657-2343, or rcookson@graymaine.org.

Town of Gray Hiring for Multiple Positions

The Town of Gray is currently seeking dedicated and enthusiastic individuals to fill multiple positions within our growing team. We're dedicated to serving our community with passion and professionalism. This is your chance to make a tangible difference, contributing to the development and enrichment of our town. Here are some of the key opportunities available:

- **Deputy Town Clerk**— Involves the day-to-day activities of the Clerk's Office area, operations including but not limited to cash management, recording of receipts, and the processing of various licenses and permits and assuring the ongoing recording and reporting of all activity.
- **Code Enforcement Office Administrative Assistant**— Involves all aspects of the code enforcement process.
- **Gray Public Library Circulation Clerk Assistant**— Involves performing circulation and circulation-related activities at an increasingly busy front desk.

Visit our [Employment](#) page to learn more about these positions and apply! The Town of Gray is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



7th Annual GRAY August 12th

Wild Blueberry FESTIVAL

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



Gray's biggest outdoor summer festival!



WILDLY BETT



Fun for Everyone!

Thanks to All Our Sponsors:

Presenting Sponsors




Major Sponsors







Supporting Sponsors









Like or Follow us at: www.facebook.com/GrayWildBlueberryFestival/
 For more information, contact us at: BlueberryFestival@Graymaine.org
 Visit our website for Festival updates: wildblueberries.me/grayfestival/
 or scan the QR code at right



Gray Wild Blueberry Festival August 12, 2023 • 9:00 am – 3:00 pm 2023 SCHEDULE as of 7/21/23 subject to change www.wildblueberries.me/grayfestival/																																			
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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.



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 Fire Rescue has their annual chicken BBQ on August 5 at 12 p.m. at 125 Shaker Road in Gray.
- One of our valued residents, Mary Sweeney Underwood, recently received the prestigious Spirit of America award for outstanding community service. Read more [here](#).
- Select Town of Gray public meeting videos are now available to view on [YouTube](#).

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

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