



News About Town

A Message From Our Town Manager

Dear Gray Friends and Neighbors,

On behalf of the Town staff, our congratulations go to the Gray-New Gloucester/Raymond baseball team for showcasing extraordinary talent in making it to the Little League World Series! Their last game was a testament to their hard work and dedication. You'll be able to read more about this historic team in this newsletter.

Moreover, my heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated in and supported the Wild Blueberry Festival this year. Your enthusiasm made it a roaring success, and the largest festival ever. The Wild Blueberry Festival Committee continues to organize a fantastic event year after year; I can't wait to see what they do in 2024!

Looking ahead, I'd like to remind everyone about the upcoming Town Meeting at 10:30 a.m. on September 9, 2023, at the Gray-New Gloucester High School. Gray residents **who attend this meeting in person will vote on the revised FY24 budget.** It's vital for the future of our community. Please learn more about the revised budget on our [website](#).

Finally, friends, my time as Town Manager at the Town of Gray is ending sooner than expected. I have accepted a position with the U.S. Department of State, and my last day in Gray is September 8. I'm grateful for the relationships I have cultivated and experiences I have gained in this wonderful town. You can read more about this announcement [here](#).

Warm Regards,
Nate



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- G-NG/R Little League**..... 2
- Gray Celebrates Blueberry Festival... 3
- Upcoming Town Meeting** 5
- Library Generator Construction..... 6
- Village Cemetery Gravestones** 6
- Volunteers Wanted for Committees** 5

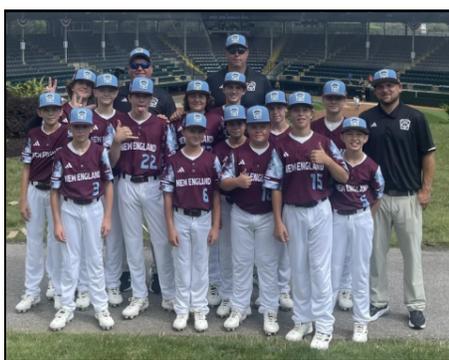


Gray-New Gloucester/Raymond Plays in Little League World Series



The G-NG/R team during their parade on August 27. Credit: Karla Desorcy.

For the first time since 2005, a Maine Little League team has played in the Little League World Series. The Gray-New Gloucester/Raymond team played two games before being knocked out—the first against Seattle on August 17, and then Media, Pennsylvania on August 19.



The G-NG/R team | Courtesy: [G-NG/R](#)

The Maine team fought a good fight against Media, a highlight of which was an impressive double play in the first inning that rallied G-NG/R to score two runs in the next inning.

Ultimately, Gray lost to Media 5-3, but the Little League team found more than just baseball on the field as they competed in the legendary tournament; they found friendship with their peers from Pennsylvania.

“They’re a great team,” said G-NG/R Assistant Coach Mike Amergian to the *Portland Press Herald*. “We got to bunk with them and stay with them and watch them play in Connecticut. It was like a game against your buddies. I’m glad to see them move on and we’ll be cheering for them.”

Maine was last in the Little League World Series when the team from Westbrook made its way there in 2005, and before that it was East Augusta in 1971.

Upcoming Events

September 5

6 p.m.: Town Council Workshop/Meeting—24 Main Street and Zoom

September 9

9:30 a.m.: Town Council Budget Presentation

10:30 a.m.: Town Meeting on FY24 Budget—G-NG High School, 10 Libby Hill, Gray

September 14

6 p.m.: Planning Board Workshop/Meeting —24 Main Street and Zoom

Wednesdays + Fridays

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

Saturdays

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

Thursdays

10:30 a.m.: Baby Lap Sit Time—Gray Public Library

Tuesdays and Thursdays

1 p.m.: Movie Time—Gray Public Library



Gray Celebrates Another Popular Wild Blueberry Festival

On Saturday, August 12, 2023, Gray hosted its 7th annual Gray Wild Blueberry Festival. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., more than 3,200 residents and friends of Gray enjoyed a day full of all things wild blueberry at the Henry Pennell Municipal Complex. This attendance was a 30 percent increase from last year.

The festival's mission is to promote local businesses, community and school groups, and the Town of Gray by building and promoting public-private partnerships; creating childhood memories for 'kids' of all ages; and offering educational opportunities.

Festival-goers found pleasure in live music, 'Made in Maine' arts and crafts, inflatables, fire trucks, a model train exhibit, lawn games, and a kids tent. Food trucks served blueberry pancakes and participants devoured a pie eating contest. Additional entertainment included a Master Beekeeper, chainsaw woodcarving and blacksmithing demonstrations, and visits from Wyman's Bee Wild Mobile and Norway Savings Bank's mascot, Barnabee. Overall, 42 booths populated the Henry Pennell Municipal Complex.



Wild blueberry juice popsicles were a big hit! | [Gray Wild Blueberry Festival Facebook](#)

Thank you to all the members of Gray's [Wild Blueberry Festival Committee](#) for another fantastic event! The committee includes: Lisa Lehne-Gilmore, Aamee Tatom, Deb McKew, Adrienne Nardini, Bernice Corcoran, Karl Schatz, Lacy Antonson, Town Staff Liaison Mo Russo, and Town Council Liaison Marty Meaney.

Check out the next page for photos from the event!



There were plenty of activities at the Gray Wild Blueberry Festival. Thousands of people showed up at the Henry Pennell Municipal Complex to celebrate community, wild blueberries, and local businesses and organizations.



Town Council Revising FY24 Budget Ahead of Town Meeting



L-R: Councilor Anne Gass, Councilor Dan Maguire, Town Manager Nate Rudy, Council Chair Krista Chappell, Councilor Martin Meany, and Councilor Matthew Hight.

The Town Meeting to vote on a revised FY24 budget will be on Saturday, September 9, 2023, at the Gray-New Gloucester High School. The Town Council will hold a special meeting at 9:30 a.m. at the high school to discuss the warrant articles, which you can view [here](#), and then the Town Meeting will start at 10:30 a.m. and will last no later than 5 p.m.

Only voters who attend the September 9 Town Meeting in person can vote. There is no option for absentee ballots.

There will be childcare offered for this event via the Gray Recreation Department. Visit their [website](#) for registration details. Please do register your child(ren) before the meeting, as no drop-ins will be allowed due to limited staff.

The Gray Town Council encourages residents to stay informed of the budget revision process in preparation for the vote. The Town Council hosted workshops to discuss the FY24 budget, which are listed on our [Revised FY24 Budget](#) page. You can also view all budget-related documentation on that page.

The Town Council hosted a public hearing on the FY24 budget on August 28, 2023. You can view that video [here](#) to see what Gray residents had to say about the budget.



Bids Open for Gray Public Library Generator Electrical Construction

The Town of Gray is seeking proposals from qualified Electrical Contractors to furnish, install, and terminate connections to a Kohler 100kw LP Generator and install the supplied 400-amp automatic transfer switch. Submissions are due by September 7 at 12 p.m.

The scope of work includes:

- Install and connect supplied Automatic Transfer Switch (coordinate with Central Maine Power to make connections between the meter enclosure and the transfer switch. This work must be scheduled on a Monday as the Library is closed).
- Furnish and install all conduit and conductors from transfer switch to generator pad including communication wires and charging circuit. (Generator pad is approximately 135' from meter.)
- Install any applicable circuits into main electrical panel.
- Attend start up with Mid Maine Generator.
- Pull State Permit.

Questions and requests for clarification regarding this RFP must be directed via email to mrusso@graymaine.org. A site walk can be scheduled Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The full RFP can be found [here](#).

Gray Village Cemetery Benefits From Gravestone Workshop

The Gray Village Cemetery “unveiled” in August some of the gravestones at the cemetery that had been enshrined in plastic while various workshop treatments “cured” from the Maine Old Cemetery Association’s Beginner’s Workshop in July.

At least a dozen markers received special care under the tutelage of Joe Ferrannini, his crew of skilled volunteers, and workshop members. This care included pouring new bases, resetting, reassembling, and infilling.

View photos from this workshop [here](#).

Any Gray resident with an interest in the Gray Village Cemetery and the Gray Cemetery Association’s mission is encouraged to learn more at gca-maine.org/board or by contacting gray.maine.cemeteries@gmail.com.



Numerous gravestones received clean-up care thanks to the July workshop.



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 a couple committees 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...

- Select Town of Gray public meeting videos are now available to view on [YouTube](#).
- The Gray Historical Society invites residents to attend an open house on Sunday, October 1, 2023, from 2-4 p.m. to celebrate the return of the classic 1933 Chevrolet fire truck to its original 1 Main Street location.
- The Town of Gray is requesting proposals for municipal audit services for financial statements from 2023 to 2025. 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
207-657-3339 x116