



News About Town

Gray, Maine – February 2021

We are extending the deadline for Gray's Mural Design Contest



We have our 1st winner . . . and looking for three more designs.

- Gray's Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) will be awarding up to three additional winning entries to be painted on heavy boards, placed on sections of the wooden fence at Town Hall (shown above) and/or other locations in town, TBA.
- **Suggested themes include: lakes/loons, Maine Wildlife Park animals, pollinators, Pennell Clock, Libby Hill Forest Trails, seasonal image of Gray e.g. ice fishing.**
- We invite residents/students to submit their original designs or conceptual artwork. (Submissions using copyrighted photos, images, or slogans will be disqualified).
- You may submit more than one entry; we look forward to receiving as many entries as possible!!
- **2020/2021 Mural Contest has been extended. New entries will be accepted until May 1, 2021.**
- Winning design(s) will receive **\$100 cash prize**, awarded by the end of May 2021.
- Murals will be painted summer 2021 by winning artist(s) with technical assistance by CEDC and/or other interested community members. CEDC will provide exterior color paint and supplies.
- Please send a **.jpeg image*** of your design to **cedc@graymaine.org** and include your: first and last name, parent/guardian contact information (if applicable), town, and include (if applicable) your grade level: elementary, middle school, high school, college. *Contest is open to all ages!!*
- All submissions become property of the Town of Gray CEDC.

* 1) If your artwork is hand drawn or painted, please keep the original artwork and send us an electronic photo, submitted electronically as a .jpeg file.

2) If your artwork is one of the winning designs, you will need to mail/drop off your original artwork before the prize can be awarded.

Thank you for being part of this CEDC
community beautification project.



Infrastructure Updates



Successful infrastructure projects start their planning years in advance. This gives the Town time to involve residents and businesses in the planning process, to envision a future that may be different – in all kinds of ways- from where we are now, to complete engineering work, and to obtain other funding in order to reduce costs for Gray taxpayers.

The projects below are examples of this. [Note: While the planning for them pre-dates completion of our new Comprehensive Plan, approved in 2020, all three support its implementation.]

North Raymond Rd/Shaker Rd Intersection project:

The construction phase of this MDOT project is complete! The control box for the lights has arrived and awaits installation with Central Maine Power on 2/13 (projected date). Once the box is installed, MDOT will update the striping and set up temporary signs to warn drivers of the ‘new traffic pattern’. The lights will be phased in starting with: (1) flashing only; (2) progressing to fully operational during the week and flashing on the weekend; and finally (3) fully operational. The Town has replaced the “congested intersection” signs with new “new traffic pattern” signs which will remain for approximately one year. Even without working lights the traffic flow and sight lines are much improved from what they were previously!

Shaker Road (Village) Stormwater/Sidewalk project:

This is an exciting project that will improve both walkability in the village and replace the crumbling stormwater drainage system. We will upgrade the existing narrow, broken sidewalks to make them ADA compliant, and extend the sidewalk on one side to Chipman Farms, adding another crosswalk at that point to make it safer for people to cross Shaker Road. We will move some utility poles out of the middle of the sidewalk and create new esplanades (grassy borders) in some sections. Unfortunately, this project will require us to remove some trees (some of which had reached the end of their life anyway), but the Town will replant strategically to replace the lost canopy. The Council sought resident and business input through public forums. All impacted property owners were contacted and are working with Town Staff to mitigate individual impacts. The project was placed out to bid in December 2020 and bids will be reviewed at the Feb 2nd Town Council meeting. Costs will be covered through a combination of MDOT funding and the bond Gray voters approved in 2018. As a result, there will be no impact to the mil rate!

GRAY Birdhouse Project



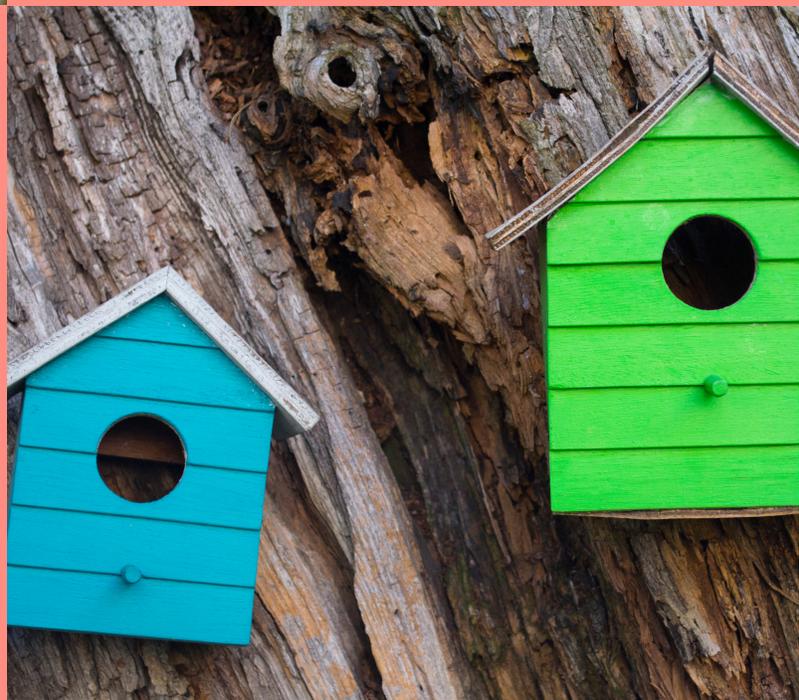
A community art and bird habitat installation to celebrate our community.

**GET A BIRDHOUSE TO
DECORATE NOW!**

**VISIT GRAYMAINE.ORG FOR
DETAILS**

40 birdhouses will adorn a new park at Gray Corner.

Residents and business are welcome to decorate the birdhouses for display in the park in Spring 2021. Purchase the houses through the Community and Economic Development Committee.



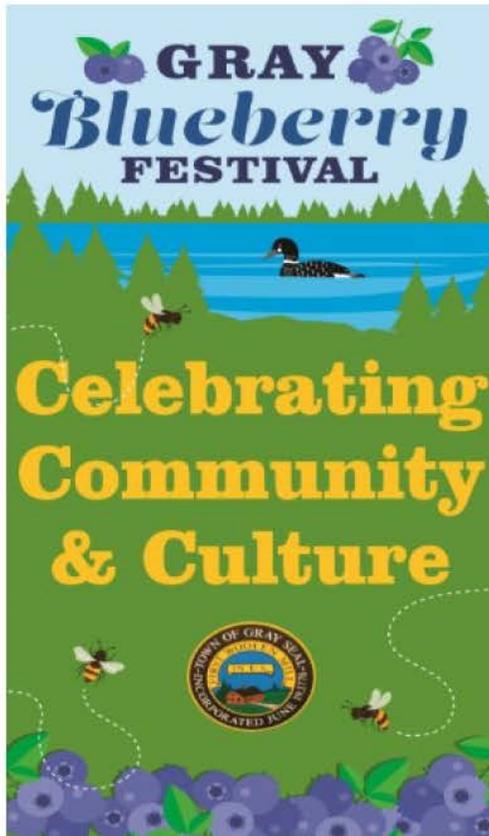
The Birdhouse Project is a community building program meant to stimulate a feeling of community wellbeing in the time of pandemic-scary and social distancing. The project will culminate in a participatory art installation that will engage the community in celebrating community life by building a local bird habitat, in a new urban garden.



The park is designed for sustainability with permaculture. It uses regenerative agriculture and ecological system restoration technology such as permeable parking, intensive soil building and carbon farming to grow a resilient garden and bird habitat for the community to visit, or stumble upon. Eventually, trees, shrubs and other botanicals will define the space, but in the near term the public space will gain its sense of place from the birdhouse installation.

The birdhouses are well-built, appropriate for birds. Some will have whimsical embellishment on them, some will have establishment dates and logos, and some will have messages of love for community. The Birdhouse Project is being initiated by the Community and Economic Development Committee (CEDC) to adorn the new garden with artfully designed, locally made, functional bird birdhouses symbolic of our community spirit and connection in Covid-times. The project engages the public at large in the decoration of the birdhouses. The birdhouses will be produced both by Gray-New Gloucester High School STEM Students and by a local craftsman.

The community can order one plain house to be delivered for them to decorate or order a custom house. All the houses will be collected and the installation will be completed in May 2021. Contact cedc@graymaine.org for more information.



We're looking for a few more new faces to help brainstorm & plan '6-foot socially distanced' event(s) in/for/about Gray.

We'll start meeting online the end of February.

To see what our Gray volunteers and local businesses have accomplished together over the past 5 years, visit

GrayBlueberryFestival on Facebook.

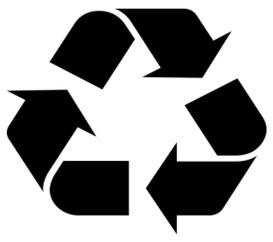
Questions? Suggestions?

Message us on Facebook,

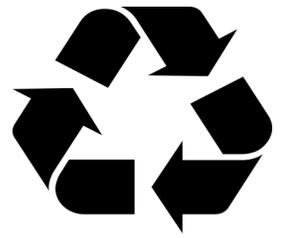
Email BlueberryFestival@graymaine.org

Gray residents, students, and company employees are invited to join. To apply, submit the online Community Volunteer Application found at

<https://www.graymaine.org/volunteer>



February Recycling Corner!



TRANSFER STATION PASSES

Get your New Gray Transfer Station passes at Town Hall now. We are asking that you not go to the Transfer Station to pick them up because the clerk's office at Town Hall is set up for safe transactions.

COMPLIANCE AUDIT

The Recycling Committee did an informal audit at the Hazardous Waste Disposal Day in October 2020. Our audit focused on three things:

1. Do people have a 2020 Transfer Station Pass on their windshield or not
2. Do they have one in their vehicle
3. If they do not, do they have proof of address

What we found is that out of the 71 participants audited

- 31 had stickers on their car window
- 22 had it in their vehicle
- 15 had no sticker and of those 14 had no proof of residency
- 1 had no sticker and proof of address

While none of this is conclusive it does make us want to get more data. It appears that 75% of people coming to hazardous waste day are holding the pass and 25% are not. The sample size is small, and not representative of quantitative significance. The special service day could have inflated the amount of people depositing waste in Gray that day too. However inconclusive, we know that we want more information and to estimate the cost to the taxpayers for non-compliance.

Randy Cookson, the Manager of the Transfer Station confirms that compliance is a big issue, and that people come from other towns and use our facility, but also, he reports people are mean about it when confronted. We don't think that that is cool at all.

Therefore, the Recycling Committee has a new goal to increase compliance and we have been doing our homework. This Spring we are going to do an audit at the gate of the Transfer Station. We have already looked into the sticker fees in surrounding towns, the volume of stickers sold at both the Clerk's Office and Transfer Station. We are now considering several scenarios for changing how and where we sell them, how we sanction non-compliance, and how we can reach 95% compliance. Ideas on the table are hiring a gatekeeper, sending tax payers a pass with their tax bill, doing random audits and raising the sticker fee.

What you can do is get curious. Look for the red stickers (2021) on cars. If you are interested in change management projects, generally or this one specifically, join the recycling committee. There is room for you. We want to make a difference for our community with you. In

In the meantime, get your stickers and put them on your windshield.

GLASS SORTING HEADS UP

The director is working on a new glass market, until then, reducing glass waste is appreciated. It is likely that a new glass opportunity will have slightly different parameters. That means that it could end up being clear glass only that we take at the transfer station. We would need to sort-out brown, green, blue glass material out. We'll keep you posted.

Fostering Positive Connections to Support Your Teen

TIPS

- Connect in a genuine way by getting to know their world (music, culture, friends)
- Be curious about their interests asking questions to show you care
- Strive for 5 positive interactions to every 1 negative one
- Pay attention to the “vibe” you are setting in your home
- Make home a safe haven so teens can put their minds in park and take a breather
- When they return home, positively greet them and let them see you light up

Tip of the Month



Casco Bay CAN

CREATE AWARENESS NOW
TOGETHER, PREVENTING YOUTH SUBSTANCE USE

www.cascobaycan.org

Tips from *Parenting the New Teen in the Age of Anxiety*, by Dr. John Duffy

Maine
Cumberland County
A grant funded project sponsored by
Cumberland County Government

GRAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Curbside Pickup Only, FMI Call: 657-4114

Dog Licenses - Register Now!

Late Fees have been waived until 30 days after the State of Emergency Ends.

Register online @ graymaine.org or in-person at the Town Hall/ Clerks Office.



Sample Vaccination Questions Answered by Vaccine Consult Line

1-866-962-6062

1. When and where can I receive a COVID-19 vaccine?
2. When and where can my employees receive COVID-19 vaccines?
3. Which State of Maine COVID-19 vaccination phase do I fall under?
4. Which State of Maine COVID-19 vaccination phase do my employees fall under?
5. Why is (*insert occupation*) receiving the COVID-19 vaccine ahead of my occupation?
6. Why are individuals younger and/or in better health than myself receiving the COVID-19 vaccine before I am?
7. What are the high-risk medical conditions that deem an individual eligible for Phase 1b of the State of Maine's COVID-19 vaccination plan?
8. I am allergic to _____. Is it safe for me to receive a COVID-19 vaccine?
9. I had an adverse reaction to the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Is it safe for me to receive the second vaccine dose?
10. I received my first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine from another state. Can I receive my second dose in Maine?
11. I am not a Maine resident. Can I receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Maine?
12. I had/have COVID-19. Can I still receive a COVID-19 vaccine?
13. How do I know if I successfully pre-registered for a COVID-19 vaccination appointment?
14. I received a phone call from (*insert phone number*) to schedule a COVID-19 vaccination appointment. How do I know if the call was from a legitimate vaccine provider?
15. Questions from health care professionals regarding COVID-19 vaccination of their staff or patients (*we will forward these questions to the Maine Immunization Program or pharmacy partnership program as indicated*).
16. Questions regarding COVID-19 vaccination data in Maine.
17. Suggestions, concerns, and complaints regarding the COVID-19 vaccination plan in Maine.
18. Advocacy for inclusion of a particular occupation or high-risk medical condition in Phase 1b of the State of Maine's vaccination plan.

*Along with the above list, we are happy to answer any additional COVID-19 vaccine-related questions that your group is not equipped to answer or does not have time to answer.