



News About Town

A Message From Our Town Manager

Hello Citizens and Friends of Gray,

Thanks to all those who voted in the June election! The next big event for our town is already underway, and it's a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Gray residents: community visioning for the Gray Village.



As part of implementing the [Comprehensive Plan](#) passed in 2020, we are now ready to begin envisioning what Gray Village will look like in the decades to come. This process will be led by you! We have partnered with the Principle Group and Greater Portland Council of Governments to host community visioning days on July 27-30. These meetings are a chance for you to express your big ideas for the Gray Village. If you can't make it in person, I encourage you to visit the project's [website](#) and use the [interactive map](#) to record your ideas.

Your voice is invaluable, so I hope you participate in this process. You can learn more about this visioning project in this newsletter and [online](#).

Thank you,

Nate Rudy

Town Manager



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Upcoming Events

July 5:

7 *p.m.*: Town
Council Meeting—24
Main Street, Gray

Every Weds. And Friday:

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

July 14:

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

July 27:

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

July 27-30:

Various Times: [Gray
Village Visioning](#)—
Henry Pennell
Municipal Complex,
24 Main Street, Gray

Community Visioning for Gray Village Continues in July

The Town of Gray is excited to kick off implementation of its [Comprehensive Plan](#), which was approved by voters in 2020. We'll be doing visioning for Gray Village, with a focus on streets and public spaces.



Main Street in Gray Village

With coming improvements to some of our village streets, Gray has an opportunity to create design plans to make downtown walkable, beautiful, traffic-calmed, safe for people of all ages and abilities, and local-business friendly.

A **visioning week from July 27 to July 30** will spotlight various aspects of the visioning process, including mobility and walkability, multigenerational living designs, street design, and much more! Visit our [website](#) for a complete schedule.

The Principle Group and Greater Portland Council of Governments have partnered to provide planning and urban design services, lead a public design process, and create an action-oriented vision plan that the Town can use to guide decision-making.

Gray's leadership has committed to an **open and dynamic public process** that will be facilitated by a team of planners and designers, but it will be **led by your voices and the ideas you bring**. At every step, information will be shared via the project's interactive [website](#). In addition to the in-person engagement, you can use this website to share your ideas and provide feedback throughout the process.

All events will be held at the Henry Pennell Municipal Complex at 24 Main Street in Gray. For more information, please contact the Town of Gray Planning Department at 207-657-3339 or visit the project's [website](#).

Gray Voters Approve Proposed FY23 Budget, Elect New Town Councilor

776 Gray residents voted in the election on June 14. This election saw voters approve the proposed FY2023 budget, and elect Michael Curtis as the newest Town Councilor. Key highlights from the results:

- Curtis beat Michael Bailey 336 to 264 votes.
- Article 3 (the budget question) was approved 539 to 206.
- Article 10 (the LD1 question) was approved 392 to 304. Both articles 3 and 10 needed to pass to approve the budget.
- The MSAD 15 School Budget was approved 536 to 207.

You can check out the full election results on our [website](#).

New Nordic Walking Group Gets Major Community Support, Engagement

Nordic Walking with the "Woman Who Walks," a program supported via the Gray Recreation Department, the Gray Economic and Community Development Committee, and the Gray Birdhouse Project, is off to a fantastic start after months of planning and fundraising!

About 20 committed walkers are walking several times a week. The group meets at the Henry Pennell Municipal Complex on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9 a.m.

Those interested may join this group at any time by emailing [Mary Sweeney Underwood](#). The Nordic poles are loaned to you to try for at least a month. These poles have all been donated and stay with the program.

The Nordic Walking Group sends their sincere thanks to Live Edge Barber Shop for their donation of \$600 worth of poles, and to CleanTap Energy for donating \$1000 for the Town to buy benches to put along Gray sidewalks so the walkers have more rest stops! The group is also grateful for the Gray Recreation Department's support.



Here Comes the Nordic Walking Group!

Gray Village Park Birdhouse Sales Benefit Local Walking Program

The Gray Community Economic Development Committee (CEDC) has partnered with local artist Mary Sweeney Underwood and LocalCentric, a retail shop in Gray Village, on a new phase of the Gray Birdhouse Project in the Gray Village Park.

Next door to the park, LocalCentric had numerous visitors asking whether the park's hand-painted birdhouses were for sale. Because of this interest, the CEDC is partnering with Underwood to paint unfinished birdhouses that will be sold at LocalCentric.

Mary, known around Gray as the "Woman Who Walks," has painted 15 gorgeous birdhouses. 100 percent of profits are going to a cause close to Mary's heart: the Nordic Walking Pole Program for Seniors.

The CEDC is thrilled to partner with Mary and LocalCentric to feature these amazing birdhouses, and to help a great program that benefits the health and wellness of local seniors.



Birdhouses in the Gray Village park.

Farmers Market Comes to Gray Village

The Gray Farmers Market, which was previously held in the Gray Plaza, is now going to be located in the Village Green park at 4 Main Street in Gray. The market will run from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Sunday from July 3 to October 2, 2022.

You can expect to find veggies, flowers, pasture-raised meats, fresh eggs, milk and cheese, baked goods, handmade products, and even live music at the market. Don't forget to bring your favorite tote bag!

You can learn more about the Gray Farmers Market on their [Facebook page](#) or their [website](#).



The Gray Farmers Market is coming to Gray Village!

Join us in
**CELEBRATING
COMMUNITY
& CULTURE**
at our 6th
Annual



Saturday, August 13, 2022

9 AM - 3 PM

24 Main Street, Gray, ME

**Live Music ~ Food Trucks ~ Fire Trucks ~ Caricatures ~ Contests
Art & Craft Market ~ Community Expo ~ 'Wild Blue' Mascot
Model Trains ~ Lawn Games ~ Master Beekeeper**

Find us on



Hosted by the TOWN OF GRAY

Special thanks to our 2022

PRESENTING SPONSOR: **ENERCON**
TECHNOLOGIES

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

9:00 Relative Obscurity (band)
10:10 SLU'kes (ukulele group)
10:15 Diaper Derby (free)*
10:30 Wagon Rides (free)
10:45 Kids Fun Run (free)*
11:00 Pie Eating Contests (\$)*
11:30 Onward (band)
12:00 Corn Hole Tournament (\$)*
12:00 Spelling Bee (free)*
1:00 Bake-off Judging (free)*
1:30 Pie Eating Contests (\$)*
1:50 The Northern Grey Band

* Registration Required

MAJOR SPONSORS:



SUPPORTING SPONSORS:



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.

MSAD 15 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

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 eligibility age for the Senior Property Tax Assistance Program has been reduced to sixty-five years of age, and the application period has been changed to January 1, 2023, through February 15, 2023. The maximum payment is \$500. Learn more [here](#).
- You can check out the Gray Public Library's Movie Time if you want to experience recent movie releases on a massive 150-inch screen! The Movie Time schedule can be found [here](#).
- The Gray FY21 Annual Report is [now available online](#). The report details how various Town departments, committees, and boards operated between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, among other things.
- The Royal River Conservation Trust is celebrating their [latest conservation project](#) with a community meet-and-greet event on July 9 at 9:30 a.m. Learn more on their website's [events page](#).

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

Questions can be directed to:

Kyle Hadyniak, Digital Media Coordinator

Gray Town Office

207-899-7656

