



News About Town

Gray, Maine ~ September 2016

CREATING COMMUNITY EVENT

The Gray Community Economic Development Committee will be holding another **Creating Community Gathering** on **Wednesday, September 14th at 6 pm** hosted by :



1 Libby Hill Rd, Gray, ME (Across from Hannaford)

*** Meet other Gray Business Owners ***

The CEDC would like to hear your thoughts and suggestions for the improvement and expansion of established businesses in the community, attracting new businesses and the general economic and social welfare of the Town of Gray.

This event is open to the entire Gray Community: Business Owners and Residents alike.

FMI or to be placed on an e-mail list of future events, please forward your questions/comments and your contact information to the Gray Community Economic Development Committee via email at: CEDC@Graymaine.org or contact Kathy Tombarelli of the Gray Economic Development & Planning Department at 207-657-3112

OFFICES CLOSED

Labor Day

Monday, September 5

Town Office, Transfer Station,
Public Works, Library

WWW.GRAYMAINE.ORG/JOBS

JOB OPENINGS

Support local business!

Visit the [Gray Business Directory](#) and [Interactive Map](#) online. **Add your business** at no cost today!



Dining



Medical



Professional Services

Ever thought about joining the fire department?

Find the Fighter in You!



0:45 / 2:30

Gray Public Library

Story Time

September 14, 16, 23, 28, 30—10:30 AM

Afternoon Book Group

September 15—1:00 PM

Evening Book Group

September 21—6:45 PM

Gray Public Library Trustees

September 27—6:30 PM

Author Talk!

Sponsored by the Pat Barter Speaker Series

- **Tuesday, September 13**
John Ford
Mark Nickerson

John Ford Sr., retired Maine Warden (author of *Suddenly the Cider Didn't Taste So Good* and *This Cider Still Tastes Funny*) and Mark Nickerson, retired Maine State Trooper (author of *Blue Lights in the Night* and *Behind the Blue Lights*), return to the Library with more of their delightful and humorous stories. Sponsored by the Pat Barter Speaker Series.

- **Thursday, September 22**
Donnell Carroll

The Gray Public Library is pleased to present Executive Director of the Maine Narrow Gauge Railroad Donnell Carroll. Thursday, September 22nd at 6:30PM, Mr. Carroll will present *Preserving Yesterday's Era, for Tomorrow's Generations*.

- **Thursday, September 30**
Ron Romano

Ron Romano will make his third appearance at the Gray Public Library. Romano is an expert on Cumberland County stonecutter Bartlett Adams (1776-1828). Romano will be reading from and signing copies of his long-awaited book on the life and work of Bartlett Adams, *Early Gravestones in Southern Maine: The Genius of Bartlett Adams*.

Gray Public Library Movie Time!

All showings free and open to the public with snacks and drinks served. For more information visit **Movie Time** online.



- Sept 1 @2PM
The Commitments
- Sept 3 @10:30AM
The Jungle Book (2016)
- Sept 3 @1PM
Soul Surfer
- Sept 6 @2PM
The Man Who Shot Liberty Valence
- Sept 6 @6:30PM
Money Monster
- Sept 8 @2PM
Eddie The Eagle
- Sept 10 @1PM
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
- Sept 13 @2PM
East of Eden
- Sept 15 @2PM
Young Messiah
- Sept 17 @10:30AM
Transformers: The Movie (1986)
- Sept 17 @1PM
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
- Sept 20 @2PM
Duck Soup
- Sept 20 @6:30PM
The Free State of Jones
- Sept 22 @2PM
Harvey
- Sept 24 @1PM
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
- Sept 27 @2pm
Network
- Sept 24 @10:30AM
Disney's Beauty and the Beast (1991)
- Sept 27 @6:30PM
TBD
- Sept 29 @2PM
Blazing Saddles

Movie Time!

Seeing a movie at your library used to mean squeezing around a small TV screen with scratchy sound to watch a well-worn VHS tape. But at the Gray Public Library, we do things a little differently. Thanks to the vision of the Gray Public Library Trustees, the Gray Public Library Association, and the in-kind donations of AV Systems of Maine, we are pleased to provide a truly engrossing audio/visual experience. Our high-def projector displays crystal clear images on our 100-inch screen, while our 11-surround speakers and 2 subwoofers immerse you in the action. So if you are a fan of current blockbusters, remastered classics, or movies for families, come on down. **All showings are free and open to the public and tasty snacks are provided.**

Community Planning

Town-wide Survey for Comprehensive Plan coming in October

This October, the Town's Community Development Department will be conducting a survey of all property owners in Gray. The purpose is to update the transportation and land use sections of the 2003 Comprehensive Plan that was written before the Rt. 26A, also known as the By-Pass, was built. The Comprehensive Plan provides the long-range vision for the Town for the next 10 to 15 years and functions as the "blueprint" for guiding policy decisions such as future zoning districts, transportation policies, recreation options, and economic development.

As a property owner in Gray, the survey is *your opportunity to express your opinion about the Town* including aspects you like, and perhaps changes that you believe should be undertaken. The survey will be conducted electronically via any computer with internet service. The survey link will be active to fill out **from September 30th until October 28th**. If you do not have a computer with internet service, there are several computers available for public use at the Gray Public Library during their regular business hours.

This notice has been included in your tax bill to encourage you to sign up on the Town's website so that when the survey is available in late September, the Town will send you a reminder and a link for the survey directly to your computer. There are 5 easy steps to sign up for the direct notification of the survey:

Subscribe

1. Go to www.graymaine.org/subscribe on your computer
2. Enter your e-mail (2x) in the boxes provided
3. Click on the "Community Development" box under Urgent Alert
4. Fill in the Captcha (red box at bottom of page) by typing in number in the white box
5. Click on "Subscribe me"

The Town encourages you to sign up your e-mail to ensure you receive the survey later next month. If you have follow-up questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Community Development Department at 657-3112.

Select one or more lists from the section below—

Urgent Alert:

Community Development

Town Alerts

News or Announcement:

Gray News and Announcements



Maine Wildlife Park

FREE ADMISSION

Thursday, September 1 5PM—8PM

If you've wanted to visit the Maine Wildlife Park on Route 26 in Gray, but haven't had the time to do so, you'll have a great opportunity to visit for **FREE on Thursday evening, September 1st, from 5:00pm-8:00pm!**

Stroll around the park after hours to enjoy our gardens & our wildlife.

Volunteers maintain all of our beautiful & popular flower baskets, barrels

& gardens; & they are in full bloom right now! Meet the Gems of Route 26 including Shaker Village, Poland Spring Resort, Preservation Park, Maine State Building & McLaughlin Garden. There will **FREE ADMISSION** today, from 5PM-8PM only!

Admission to the wildlife park will be FREE from 5pm to 8pm only on this day, so visitors can stroll around the park on a lovely summer evening, viewing our wildlife, enjoying our grounds and gardens.

For more information about any of these programs, please call the Maine Wildlife Park at 207-657-4977; or visit us online at www.mainewildlifepark.com, www.mefishwildlife.com or on Facebook!





Dispose of Pesticides Properly

Free Disposal of Banned, Unusable Pesticides Available to Maine Residents

This October, the **Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry's (DACF)** Board of Pesticides Control (BPC) and the **Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)** will help Mainers dispose of banned or unusable pesticides. The Maine Obsolete Pesticides Collection Program is a free annual program for homeowners, family-owned farms, and greenhouses. The program has collected almost 100 tons of pesticides since its inception.

Collections will occur at sites in Presque Isle, Bangor, Augusta, and Portland. Participants must register by September 23, 2016.

The collected chemicals go to out-of-state disposal facilities licensed by the federal **Environmental Protection Agency**, where they are incinerated or reprocessed.

Registration by September 23, 2016, is mandatory—drop-ins are not permitted. To register, get details, and learn important information about the temporary storage and transportation of obsolete pesticides, go to the **BPC Web site** or call (207) 287-2731.

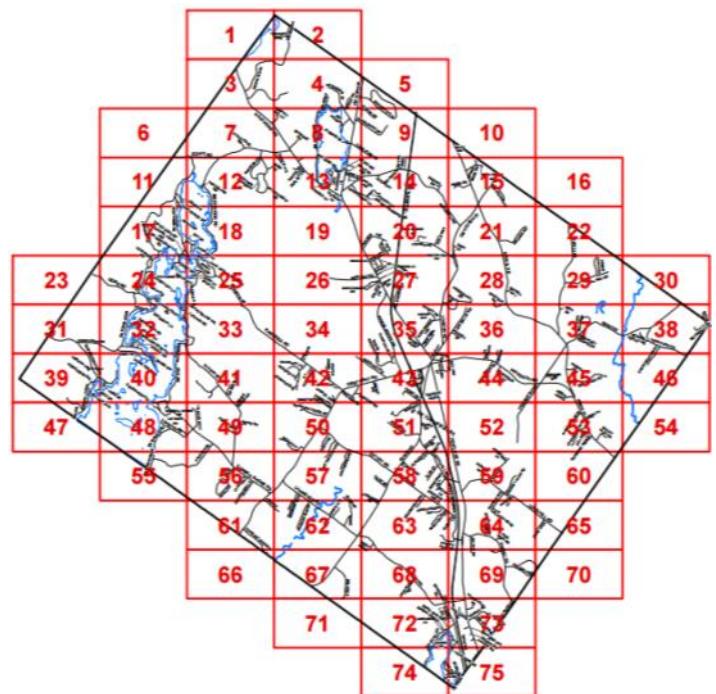
The **Maine Obsolete Pesticides Collection Program**, jointly sponsored by the BPC and DEP, and paid for entirely through pesticide product registration fees, has kept more than 97 tons of pesticides out of the waste stream since its start in 1982.

Equalization Update

The first phase of the equalization project was completed in January of 2016. All properties in Gray have been visited and the buildings measured. Interior inspections were made where property owners were present. Anyone that did not have an interior inspection may call the Assessor's office and request an inspection. The data collection that took place resulted in a significant number of changes (the discovery of additions, decks, and outbuildings previously not assessed, and in some cases the removal of structures that were assessed but no longer existed) to assessment records throughout the Town. As a result, those changes were made for the current tax year. Taxpayers that have an increase or decrease as a result in the 2016-2017 tax year can check with the assessor's office to find out what caused their valuation change. Any changes that were made cannot be taxed retroactively.

The sales analysis and valuation schedule development phase of the equalization will take place over the course of the fall and winter of 2016. After the schedules have been completed in the spring of 2017, the new assessments will be calculated. A field review will take place in April-May before completed preliminary assessments are mailed to taxpayers. Taxpayers will then have the ability to schedule an informal hearing to review assessment information and present any information that is relevant to the property value. After any changes resulting from hearings have been made, the 2018 tax bills will be issued. Taxpayers who believe their assessment is over-valued after the bills have been issued will then have the ability to file formal appeals in accordance with State Statute.

Lastly, the general rule of thumb for an equalization program is that one third will see an increase in taxes after equalization, one third will see a decrease in taxes, and one third will remain relatively the same. Virtually all property assessments will increase. Currently, the Town of Gray has an average ratio of 84% which means that, **on average**, assessments are 84% of what they would sell for at fair market value. The goal of the equalization project is to assess all properties at 100% of fair market value in order to assure that all taxpayers are being treated equally.



Assessment/Tax Bill Quick Links

- **2017 Tax Bills**—Enter street number + street name to search
- **Assessment Database**—Enter surname or street name to search
- **Tax Maps**—Click on number within appropriate grid to zoom in



Dealing with Drought?

About half the state's population is currently **dealing with drought conditions**. More than 1 million Mainers are living in regions of the state designated as "abnormally dry" or worse, with vast swaths of Southern Maine classified as suffering from moderate to severe drought.

If you're unfamiliar with dealing with drought, you're in good company. Maine's abundant water supply means droughts are fairly uncommon. But if your area is affected, here are some tips from the **Maine Emergency Management Agency**:

If you get your water from a utility company and have been asked to save water, please do so.

If you get your water from a private well, make sure you protect your pump. Low water levels can lead to damage to your system if you run the well dry. Spread out your water usage by timing showers, laundry and other large uses of water. And *do not* have water dumped in your well. Doing so can pose serious health risks.

Click [here](#) for more detailed tips around sensible water use.

Join Us for This Year's Annual



Saturday, September 17th
from 11 am to 2 pm

In the Gray Plaza Parking Lot
Rain or Shine!

A Hands-On Fair for Kids of All Ages

Families can explore multiple types of vehicles and modes of transportation!

Face Painting, Raffles, Food, & Fun
Hot dogs, cookies, treats, and drinks

Free event with donations gratefully accepted for the

Gray Community Food Pantry

Event Proudly Sponsored by:



September 2016
Tip of the
Month

Ease Back to School Stress



Encourage healthy habits:

- Create routines
- Promote sleep and exercise

Stay connected:

- Ask about their day
- Get to know the parents of your (pre)teens friends

Keep talking, keep listening,
keep learning:

- Have ongoing conversations with youth about the risks of drugs and alcohol at every age



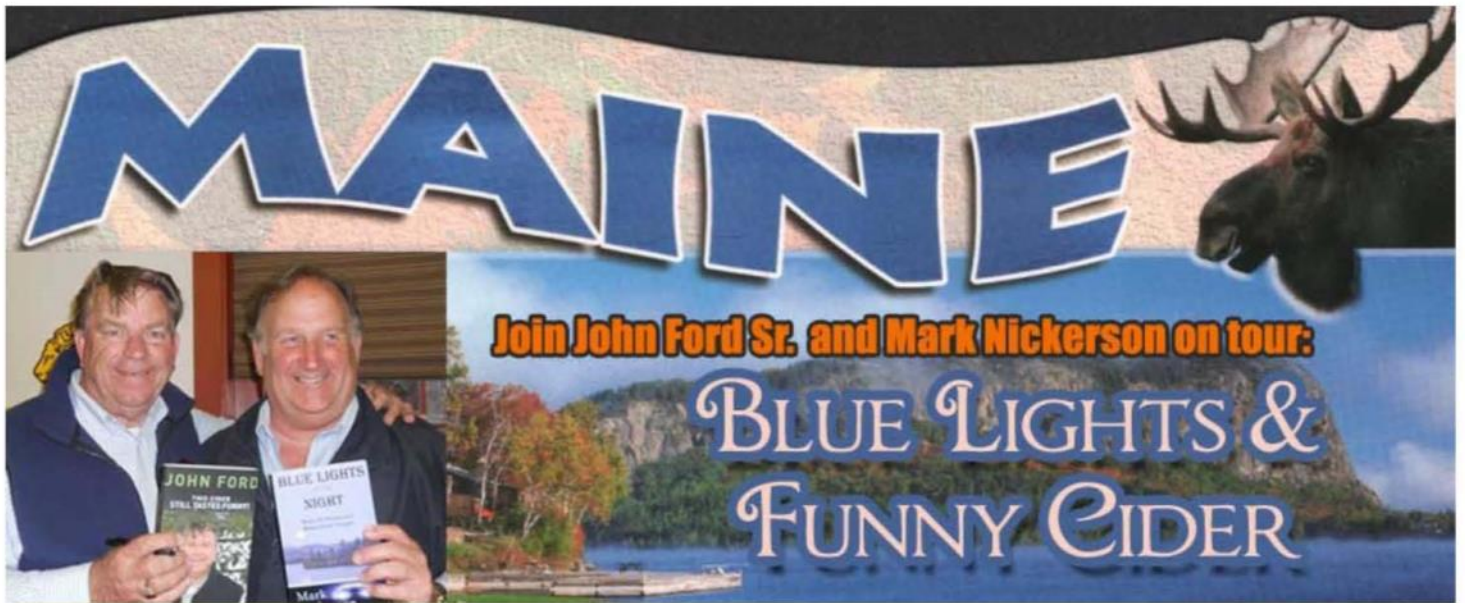
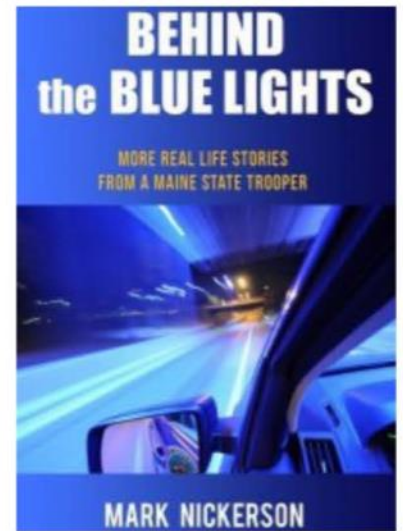
Maine
Cumberland County

A grant funded project sponsored by Cumberland County Government www.cumberlandcounty.org SAMHSA #1H79SP016497

Casco Bay CAN
CREATE AWARENESS NOW
TOGETHER, WE CAN SAVE THE WORLD



Gray Public Library
Welcomes
Maine authors
**John Ford &
Mark Nickerson**



John Ford, Sr., retired Maine Game Warden, and
Mark Nickerson, retired Maine State Trooper, are back by
popular demand with their delightful stories of law enforcement
"back in the day".

Tuesday, September 13th at 6:30 pm

Sponsored by The Pat Barter Speaker Series
Books will be available for purchase & signing.

5 Hancock Street, Gray, ME

FMI 657-4110