



News About Town

Gray, Maine - December 2019

Closures:

Christmas Eve
Tuesday, December 24th
Closing at Noon

Christmas Day
Wednesday, December 25th

New Years Day
Wednesday January, 1st

All Municipal Offices Closed



Town of Gray Commemorates 50 Years of Service from Public Works Director



Oh, what a difference you have made...

Have you ever crossed the town line into Gray during the winter and sighed with relief at how clear the roads were? You are not be alone, as the Town of Gray has some of the best kept roads in the state thanks to our dedicated Public Works Department. The department's safety goals, and service have been shaped largely by one person, it's longtime director of 26 years; Steve Lavallee.

Steve is entering retirement in January after nearly 50 total years of service to the Town of Gray. His tenure was honored at a retirement event at Spring Meadows on December 10th with a turnout of approximately 150 people in attendance to give thanks.

The night was full of adoration for Steve's work ethic, and above and beyond care he had for the safety of the citizens of Gray. Town officials, family and friends, all took turns recalling stories of Steve, both humorous and inspiring of his long-standing history in public service.

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Following in his father's footsteps, Steve started plowing roads in Gray in 1969 while also working for the Public Safety Department in many different capacities including dispatcher. In 1994 he was promoted to the position of Director of Public Works. He is only the second Public Works director in Town history, following his father who held the position before him. Steve has remained in the position for 26 years and has worked with six Town Managers and several Town Council Members during his time.

Tales were told of early morning calls, either happy or "holy hell" during storms when Steve would update the Town Manager, Ms. Cabana on road conditions. It was mentioned that Steve and "his guys" would not rest until they could sleep soundly knowing that the road conditions would not result in an accident for anyone driving in Gray. His humble nature was commemorated as Steve would always deflect praise to his staff, making sure credit was due to their countless efforts over the years and never himself.

The night was capped by an awe-inspiring surprise when Council Chair, Sandra Carder gave the final thanks and unveiled the large

sign: **LaVallee Public Works Garage** and announced that the building would henceforth be named for him (and his father before him).

Steve, normally the stoic face with a duty to accomplish, was full of emotion and tears at the honor he was bestowed. While he was repeatedly congratulated, hugged and thanked throughout the night, he could be heard saying "never in my wildest dreams could I have imagined this" or "it's all my guys, they deserve the thanks."

It is an understatement to say he will be missed. His presence will forever be ingrained in the newly named LaVallee Public Works Garage, in the Public Works Staff, and the roads that shape the Town of Gray.



Thank you for
your 50 years of
Service Steve!

There will be an all-day open house at the Lavallee Public Works Garage on January 9th which is Steve's last day. All are welcome to stop in and say farewell and have a warm drink with Steve.



TOWN OF GRAY VOLUNTEER NOMINATIONS



As 2019 comes to a close we want to encourage nomination submissions for the 2019 Volunteer Awards:

Nominations can be completed @ <https://www.graymaine.org/nominate>

The annual award ceremony & thank you event will be held in April 2020.

Maine Snowmobile Trail Maps

[View the updated Maine Snowmobile Map](#) which provides snowmobilers general information about snowmobiling in Maine.

[The Maine Snowmobile Association \(MSA\)](#) is an organization of approximately 28,000 family members and 2100+ business members supporting over 285 affiliated non profit snowmobile clubs throughout the state.

The Trails depicted on this map were derived from the Maine Snowmobile Association. The trail information is for reference purposes only, may change frequently, and may not always be shown in the correct location. Please contact the local snowmobiling clubs for more detailed information about trail systems in that region.

You can also [View the List of Regional and Local Snowmobile Maps.](#)



GNG ATV TRAILS CLOSED

Please be advised that the GNG ATV Trails are now CLOSED for the season. The trails will only open for snowmobiling once there is adequate ground cover.

Please respect the landowners and club members who maintain the trails.

Any questions can be directed to: gngatvclub@gmail.com

Thank you.



NOW THROUGH MID-APRIL IS THE TIME TO ELIMINATE BROWNTAIL CATERPILLARS

Helpful tips from State of Maine Entomologists

Entomologists from the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry are reminding everyone that now is the best time to remove browntail caterpillars from trees. Browntail caterpillars cause a poison ivy-like rash and they are impacting a broad swath of Maine. Contact with this caterpillar's hairs can cause severe reactions for some individuals.

Browntail caterpillars spend the winter webbed in silken wrapped leaves on the tips of hardwood branches, especially oak and fruit trees. Now through mid-April is when to look for the bright white silk tying a few leaves to the tips of oak and fruit tree branches.

If you see a web, clip it out and destroy it by dropping it in a bucket of soapy water and soaking it overnight; do not leave it on the ground. The caterpillars become active as soon as warmer weather arrives, so do this task as soon as possible. It is also important to clip webs before mid-April because of the increased risk of toxic hair exposure.

Browntail caterpillar webs are found in Maine from the New Hampshire border to Deer Isle, and inland to Raymond, Turner, Rome, Smithfield, Burnham and Eddington. The moths have been seen as far west to Kingfield, north to Ashland and east to Topsfield, on the New Brunswick border.

For more than 100 years, Maine people have known that "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," when it comes to browntail moths. Learn how to recognize browntail moth webs by visiting the websites below, then go and check your trees for their presence. If you find them and can reach them, clip and destroy them. If they are out of reach, now is the time to call and schedule professional help.

Survey a public space in your town: If you think you have found webs, but are not sure, contact the Maine Forest Service for help. Additional advice may be obtained from your nearest [Cooperative Extension office](#) or [Soil & Water Conservation District](#).

Background information: A video showing how to clip the webs, a list of arborists who can prune webs out of your reach and a list of licensed pesticide applicators can be found at https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/invasive_threats/browntail_moth_info.htm

For More Information: Call 211 (or 1-866-811-5695) or text your zip code to 898-211.



Photos and information from maine.gov/dhhs



Gray Public Library Holiday Movies

All free and open to the public with snacks and drinks served.

There are still a few holiday movies left to view at the Library!

Dec 19th @ 1PM – Holiday Inn

1942 – Rated Passed – 1h 40 minutes

- At an inn which is only open on holidays, a crooner and a hooper vie for the affections of a beautiful up-and-coming performer. Stars Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire, and Marjorie Reynolds.

Dec 21st @ 10:30AM – The Muppet Christmas Carol

1992 – Rated G – 1h 25 minutes

- The Muppet characters tell their version of the classic tale of an old and bitter miser's redemption on Christmas Eve. Stars Michael Caine as Scrooge.

Dec 21st 1PM – A Christmas Story

1983 – Rated PG – 1h 34minutes

- In the 1940s, a young boy named Ralphie attempts to convince his parents, his teacher and Santa that a Red Ryder BB gun really is the perfect Christmas gift. See the holiday classic without commercial interruptions!

Dog Licenses Due Dec 31st!

Register Now

At the Town Hall

or @ www.graymaine.org

Library Closures:

***Tues Dec 24th –
Close at 12pm***

Dec 25th – CLOSED

Jan 1st – CLOSED

Tip of the Month

Spending Time Together is the Best Gift



Wishing you a safe and healthy holiday season!

- Have fun with outside activities
- Include youth in holiday preparations
- Play games together
- Volunteer at a local organization

Casco Bay CAN
CREATE AWARENESS NOW
www.cascobaycan.org

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



Stay Safe This Holiday Season ... from Gray Fire & Rescue

With the holiday season upon us, many people travel to loved ones, decorate their homes and places of work, and cook a family feast! As you prepare for any upcoming events, be sure you know what to do to stay safe. Then, share ways to prepare for the holidays with your family, friends, and community.

Traveling by car? If you're heading somewhere cold, prepare your car for winter weather and pack an emergency supply kit that includes essentials like jumper cables, a car cell phone charger, a blanket, and a map.

Cooking a big meal? Prevent home fires and keep an eye on what you fry! Many cooking fires start when frying food. Stay in your kitchen and be aware of what's going on. If you leave the kitchen, turn off the stove.

Decorating your home? Keep all candles 12 inches away from things that can burn. Three of every five home candle fires occurred when some form of combustible material was left or came too close to the candle. Consider using battery-operated flameless candles.

Other tips for holiday and travel safety include:

- Stay off the road during and after inclement weather. Sign up for alerts and warnings for your travel destinations.
- Turn off holiday lights at night or when you leave the house.
- When you shop online for holiday gifts, ensure your personal information is secure.
- Establish and maintain communications with your family while away.

The first person at your house to help your family in an emergency... is You!

MAINE PREPARES: www.maine.gov/mema/maine-prepares

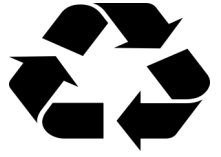
Winter Storms Can Be Deceptive Killers

The NWS refers to winter storms as “deceptive killers” because most deaths and injuries are indirectly related to the storms. The majority of deaths caused by winter storms are from vehicle accidents due to ice and snow. Heart attacks brought on by over-exertion from shoveling or clearing snow also increase during and after storms. Finally, individuals also suffer dangerous injuries (e.g., frostbite and hypothermia) because of exposure and lack of protection from the wind and cold.

Another significant danger is sickness or death from carbon monoxide poisoning. Carbon monoxide poisoning can occur when using portable generators indoors, in attached garages, too close to the house, or when starting a vehicle without clearing snow and ice from the tailpipe. Generators should be used only outdoors and should be located at least 20 feet away from doors, windows, and vents.



Welcome to the December Recycling Corner!



Tis the season to Jolly!

What is more jolly than reducing waste? We at the Recycling Committee what to wish you a wonderful Holiday Season. If your season would be merrier and brighter with less cutter, we have some ideas for how you can reduce waste without losing any of the magic of Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa!

35 Clutter Free Gifts:



<p style="text-align: center;">Experiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concert tickets • Sporting event • Zip line • Movie passes • Theater tickets • Golf 	<p style="text-align: center;">Memberships</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children’s Museum • Wildlife Park • Theme Park • Trampoline Park • Any “of the month” club 	<p style="text-align: center;">Classes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooking • Dance • Swimming • Art • Music • Pottery • Painting/Art
<p style="text-align: center;">Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Babysitter • House cleaner • Dinner out • Professional Organizer • Car detailing • Massage • Mani/Pedi 	<p style="text-align: center;">Memories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Photobook • Family cookbook • Scrapbook • Grandparents Book • Photo calendar 	<p style="text-align: center;">Consumables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fruit basket • Wine • Homemade cookies • Dinner Club • Restaurant gift cards • Coffee gift cards

Catalogues Tip:

You can **reduce your catalogue pile** by calling the customer service number on the back and asking to be removed. If you want to receive them, please sort them from the rest of your mixed paper.

Sort magazines and catalogs into the newspaper bin. This material sells at a higher rate than mixed paper. Staff is sorting when they can but a lot goes under the radar.

