



# News About Town

*A Message from our Interim Town Manager*

Greetings friends,

I feel uniquely unqualified to fill in this blank space at the front of our newsletter. My mind is still in shocked silence and my body numb from the tragic events in Lewiston last week. Words like “my heart breaks,” “thoughts and prayers,” “close-knit community,” and “shattered” seem lacking in depth to capture this moment.

By trade, I am a Librarian and have been for over twenty years. What this means to me, on the most basic level, is that I am a part of an institution that has inherent trust in anyone and everyone – until proven otherwise. In my normal line of work, we believe the vast majority of people are good, trustworthy, and deserving of respect and dignity. A library exists to support individuals as they seek the resources, tools, and lessons from art to endure and thrive in this world of ours.

So, in these moments where the events of the world (and the events in our neighborhood) make us question the goodness of humanity, struggle to comprehend the violence that can break worlds in a matter of moments, and feel a sense of fear touch every nerve ending we have, what can you do?

Being a temporary Interim Town Manager and professional librarian, I go looking for the words of those who I admire to find strength, hope, and cheer during the darkest of times. And who better to quote during times like this than our old friend Mister Rogers. At one time, Mister Rogers told us all: “When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, ‘Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.’”

Be well, and I’ll see you next month,

Josh Tiffany  
Interim Town Manager



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Message from Interim Manager....** 1
- Prepare for Election Day ..... 2
- Sample Ballots .....** 3
- VALT Expansion .... 5
- Thanksgiving Assistance .....** 3
- Gray Practices Disaster Planning ... 6
- Volunteers Wanted for Committees.....** 7
- In Case You Missed It ..... 7

## Prepare for the November 7 Election with Sample Ballots, Citizen's Guide

Voting at Newbegin Gym in Gray on Election Day, November 7, 2023, is open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. You can view a [sample ballot](#) on the next pages of this newsletter. You can check out the [Maine Citizen's Guide to the Referendum Election](#), a document issued by Maine Secretary of State Shenna Bellows and other State agencies that aims to help voters understand the issues presented on the ballot.

Inside the Citizen's Guide, you will find:

- the referendum questions;
- the legislation each question represents;
- a summary of the intent and content of the legislation;
- an explanation of the significance of a "yes" or "no" vote;
- an estimate of the fiscal impact of each referendum question on state revenues, appropriations, and allocations; and
- public comments filed in support of or in opposition to each ballot measure

Voting results will appear on the Town of Gray's [Facebook page](#) and [website](#) as soon as they are available after the polls close.

Please don't forget that the Gray Assessing Department is joining others across Maine in holding an Election Day "Thanks for Giving" food drive. Donations received will support the Gray Community Food Pantry. Please bring non-perishable food items and/or monetary donations to the polls on Election Day. More information about this food drive can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions about the upcoming election, please [email](#) or call the Town of Gray at 207-657-3339.

## Upcoming Events

### November 3

9 a.m.: VALT Expansion  
Opening — 24 Main Street

### November 6

6 p.m.: Recreation  
Committee Meeting —  
Zoom

### November 8

6 p.m.: Open Space  
Committee Meeting — 24  
Main Street

### November 14

7 p.m.: Town Council  
Meeting — 24 Main Street  
and Zoom

### November 29

7 p.m.: Zoning Board of  
Appeals Meeting — 24  
Main Street

### Wednesdays + Fridays

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

### Tuesdays and Saturdays

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

Style No. 1

## State of Maine Sample Ballot Referendum Election, November 7, 2023

### Instructions to Voters

To vote for a question, fill in the oval to the right of the "Yes" or "No" choice, like this: ●

To have your vote count, do not erase or cross out your choice.

If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

### Question 1: Citizen Initiative

Do you want to bar some quasi-governmental entities and all consumer-owned electric utilities from taking on more than \$1 billion in debt unless they get statewide voter approval?

A "Yes" vote is to enact the initiated legislation.

A "No" vote opposes the initiated legislation.

Yes   
No

### Question 2: Citizen Initiative

Do you want to ban foreign governments and entities that they own, control, or influence from making campaign contributions or financing communications for or against candidates or ballot questions?

A "Yes" vote is to enact the initiated legislation.

A "No" vote opposes the initiated legislation.

Yes   
No

### Question 3: Citizen Initiative

Do you want to create a new power company governed by an elected board to acquire and operate existing for-profit electricity transmission and distribution facilities in Maine?

A "Yes" vote is to enact the initiated legislation.

A "No" vote opposes the initiated legislation.

Yes   
No

### Question 4: Citizen Initiative

Do you want to require vehicle manufacturers to standardize on-board diagnostic systems and provide remote access to those systems and mechanical data to owners and independent repair facilities?

A "Yes" vote is to enact the initiated legislation.

A "No" vote opposes the initiated legislation.

Yes   
No

### Question 5: Constitutional Amendment

Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to change the time period for judicial review of the validity of written petitions from within 100 days from the date of filing to within 100 business days from the date of filing of a written petition in the office of the Secretary of State, with an exception for petitions filed within 30 calendar days before or after a general election?

A "Yes" vote is to amend the Maine Constitution to allow more time for review of citizens' initiative and people's veto petitions.

A "No" vote opposes this change to the Maine Constitution.

Yes   
No

### Question 6: Constitutional Amendment

Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to require that all of the provisions of the Constitution be included in the official printed copies of the Constitution prepared by the Secretary of State?

A "Yes" vote is to amend the Maine Constitution to remove restrictions on printing some of its provisions.

A "No" vote opposes this change to the Maine Constitution.

Yes   
No

**Please Turn Over - Questions on Both Sides**

Style No. 1

### State of Maine Sample Ballot Referendum Election, November 7, 2023

**Question 7: Constitutional Amendment**

**Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to remove a provision requiring a circulator of a citizen's initiative or people's veto petition to be a resident of Maine and a registered voter in Maine, requirements that have been ruled unconstitutional in federal court?**

A **"Yes"** vote is to remove the residency and registration requirements for petition circulators from the Maine Constitution.

A **"No"** vote opposes this change to the Maine Constitution.

- Yes
- No

**Question 8: Constitutional Amendment**

**Do you favor amending the Constitution of Maine to remove a provision prohibiting a person under guardianship for reasons of mental illness from voting for Governor, Senators and Representatives, which the United States District Court for the District of Maine found violates the United States Constitution and federal law?**

A **"Yes"** vote is to remove the provision making people under guardianship for reasons of mental illness ineligible to vote.

A **"No"** vote opposes this change to the Maine Constitution.

- Yes
- No

**Please Turn Over - Questions on Both Sides**

## Town of Gray to Mark Village Area Loop Trail Expansion with Ceremony

The Town of Gray invites the public to celebrate the expansion of the Village Area Loop Trail with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, November 3, 2023, at 9 a.m.

This event will recognize the parties involved in making the new “gateway segment” of the trail possible, and help spread the word that it’s now open for the public to enjoy.

The Town will host the ribbon-cutting ceremony at the entrance to the new trail segment, just north of the crosswalk in front of the Pennell Municipal Complex. Participants will be invited to walk the trail together following brief remarks.

Learn more [here](#).

## Community Group Offering Thanksgiving Assistance



Caring Community of Gray-New Gloucester is offering holiday assistance again this year. Use this [Google form](#) to apply for the Thanksgiving meal program. Please be prepared to provide proof of residency, as this program is only able to serve the G-NG community. The due date for applications is November 10, 2023.

If you have questions, please email [gngcaring@gmail.com](mailto:gngcaring@gmail.com) or call Christina at 207-233-082

## Town of Gray Practices Disaster Planning with Tabletop Simulation

On October 10, 2023, Town of Gray department heads and other relevant personnel conducted a tabletop training session, where the attendees tested the Town's ability to respond to a major weather event.



Town staffers conduct a tabletop disaster planning session on October 10.

The scenario involved a microburst hitting Gray, with

power outages rampant in town and buildings unusable for the near future. The goal of this tabletop exercise was to learn how Town departments would react to such an event, and plan relevant contingency services.

This was a fruitful exercise, in that the Town identified what its strengths would be in such a scenario, and where it could improve. The ability to methodically contact Town staff, have some employees work from home, and have Public Works, the Transfer Station, and Public Safety operations continue uninterrupted were some of the strengths identified by this exercise.

Expanding the Town's remote work capability and developing understandings with outside agencies were two of the major takeaways from this exercise, as was digitizing older records that may otherwise be lost in an emergency situation.

# Gray is Looking for Committee Members

*Serve your town by volunteering for these committees!*



Various committee/board members meet for a Leadership Academy in 2022.

- **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.

To apply to any of these committees, go to [graymaine.org/volunteer](https://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...

- Please spare a few minutes to complete the [Town of Gray Community News Survey](#). Your responses will help the Town improve the ways in which we reach the community and provide clear, relevant, and timely information.
- The Gray Fire Rescue, in partnership with the Red Cross, can install smoke alarms in your home on November 12. They can also check your existing alarms to make sure they work. Learn more [here](#).
- The Town of Gray is seeking proposals from qualified Certified Public Accounting Firms to audit its financial statements for the fiscal year ending June 30 for three years from 2023 through 2025. Proposals are due November 21, 2023. Learn more [here](#).
- The Town of Gray recently hosted a public meeting where residents could express their feedback about what qualities a new permanent Town Manager should possess. You can watch a recording of this meeting [here](#).

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

Questions can be directed to:  
Kyle Hadyniak  
Interim Director of Comm. and Information  
207-657-3339 x116

Find us on:

