



News About Town

A Message From Our Town Manager

Hello Citizens and Friends of Gray,

As we start 2023, I am excited to share with Gray residents the final report from The Principle Group, the team of professional designers and planners who worked with the Town and residents on the Gray Village Visioning project. This report outlines a potential plan for working toward the goals of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan for the Village and making it more welcoming and safer for residents. The bold vision in the report would not have been possible without the ideas and engagement of the community this summer over several days of meetings and plan review. I encourage everyone to visit our website to read the full report (the report's introduction is included in this newsletter), to learn more about the Gray Village Visioning project, to read the positive media coverage, and see previous reports.



Nate Rudy, Town Manager

I also want to extend congratulations to the Gray Historical Society for surpassing their goal for their Coming Home '33 project. You can read more about this important part of Gray's history on page four.

Thank you for your involvement in shaping the future of our Village.

Happy New Year,
Nate



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The Principle Group Delivers Final Report, Potential Roadmap for Gray Village Revitalization



The Town of Gray has an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to radically change Gray

The Principle Group, the consulting agency the Town of Gray collaborated with to help with the Gray Village Visioning Work last summer, has delivered their final report to the Town Council.

This report, presented at the December 14 Town Council workshop, lays out a new framework for the Gray Village. We encourage all Gray residents to read the Principle Group's report, as it will inform the Town's decisions regarding Gray Village in the coming years. The introduction to the report is reprinted here for your viewing convenience.

"In November of 2020, Gray voted to approve a new Comprehensive Plan. That Plan calls for focused growth and development in Gray Village, with a denser and more walkable pattern focused on human comfort and quality of life. Gray's streets are not and should not continue to be treated like highway on-ramps. Today's cars and trucks move through the Village at speeds often in excess of the posted speed of 30 miles per hour. Gray should become a stopping place rather than a place you drive through - with slow, safe streets that demand civilized behavior from drivers.

There will be a short transitional period - but Gray is fortunate that funding has already been allocated by the Maine Department of Transportation to fix key intersections and streets. And Gray, knowing infrastructure investments are

Upcoming Events

Every Weds. And Friday

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

January 3

6 p.m.: Gray Town Council
Workshop/Meeting—24
Main Street and Zoom

January 10

4:30 p.m.: Gray Town
Council Workshop—24
Main Street and Zoom

January 12

3:30 p.m.: Family Board
Game Time (ages 8 and
up)—Gray Public Library

January 14

11 a.m.: Kids Snowflake
Craft Day—Gray Public
Library

January 14

1 p.m.: Pat Barter Speaker
Series: Saving Money on
Home Energy Bills—Gray
Public Library

January 17

5:30 p.m.: Gray Town
Council Workshop—24
Main Street and Zoom

January 21

1 p.m.: Maine Author Anne
Gass Presents "We
Demand: The Suffrage
Road Trip"— Gray Public
Library



The Principle Group Delivers Final Report, Potential Roadmap for Gray Village Revitalization

coming, has been actively engaging in capital improvement planning. The Town Council committed to hosting a public engagement effort and hiring Principle Group and its project partners to draw plans and renderings to articulate what Gray's vision is for Gray Corner. This plan is a culmination of years of planning, passion, and dedication on the part of many people.

With infrastructure improvements on the horizon, this is Gray's generational opportunity to establish a new identity and framework for daily life - one in which walking, bicycling, strolling, supporting and growing businesses, age-unlimited independence and housing choice could be transformed. This will leave behind a different legacy to Gray's children while making an indelible mark on older people who wish to age in place rather than be forced to leave their community for lack of safe streets and available housing in the Village.

For landowners and business owners, this work deeply considers how the project will impact business. Where in the plan you may see existing parking lots replaced by buildings, parking shifts to the street. Street parking is one of Gray's untapped assets. With slower, safer and more inviting streets outside the doors of businesses and residences, more people will want to be in Gray Village. A 30-second delay might force drivers (particularly trucks) to seek alternatives. The tradeoff: the people of Gray get to have beautiful, safe streets, outdoor cafes and restaurants and thriving shop fronts. Gray, in a short few years, could become a destination, a 1 - 2 hour resting stop before continuing to the mountains or lakes, and an even better place to live."

Read the full report, and other material related to the Gray Village project, on our [website](#).



From the Principle Group's report: a potential new look for the Village that makes it more people-friendly.

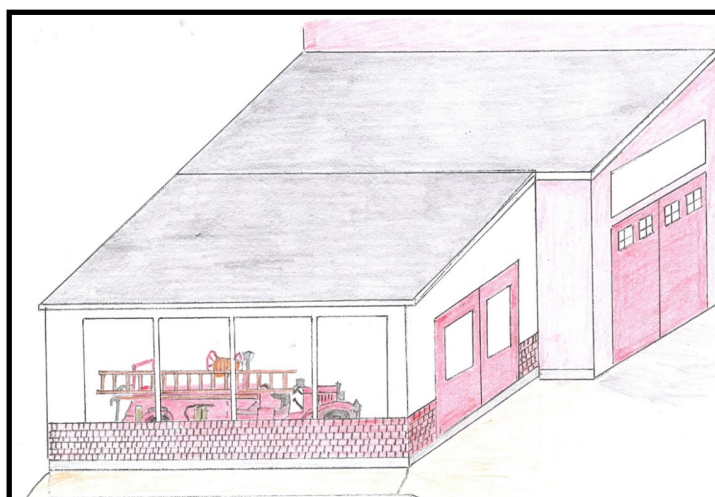


Coming Home '33 Campaign Surpasses Fundraising Goal

The Gray Historical Society (GHS) is thrilled beyond words to report that they have reached and surpassed the goal for the [Coming Home '33](#) capital campaign! This fundraising campaign was to ensure Gray's famous 1933 Chevrolet fire truck could be displayed in an extension on the GHS's building at One Main Street.

The amazing Gray community has clearly demonstrated their unwavering support of this important project, and the GHS now fully expects project completion in early 2023.

GHS will now turn their attention to planning the finishing touches during the cold winter months, which includes exterior signage and landscaping, interior wall display areas, and so much more.



A concept drawing for the One Main Street extension.

Ice Rink Behind Newbegin Gym Ready for Fun

Thanks to the hard work of the Town of Gray Buildings and Grounds staff and the Gray Recreation Department, the awesome little ice rink behind Newbegin Gym at 20 Main Street in Gray is now available for use!

Feel free to use the rink during daylight hours. A few rules we'd like skaters to follow:

- Skate at your own risk
- No one on ice without skates (unless parent with young child)
- Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult

View the full list of limitations on our [website](#).





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.
- **MSAD15 School Board**: Shapes the functioning of the Gray-New Gloucester school system.
- **Recreation Committee**: advise and recommend to the Town Council on recreational and public parks matters, such as: programs, policies, development, planning, or leisure time activities.



Mary volunteers on the Recreation Committee, and leads a walking group she started.

"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! We are currently hiring for Town Clerk, Fire-fighters, and Snow Plow Divers, just to name a few.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

- Thanks to the generosity of Gray residents, we collected 78 shoeboxes full of new toys in the Town Office and delivered them to GNG Caring Communities, who will now disburse them to families in need.
- Effective January 5, 2023, the Gray Town Hall will have new hours. On Thursdays only, Town Hall will open to the public at 11 a.m. This new opening time is intended to accommodate records management, professional development, and various staff administrative tasks that require uninterrupted time and attention.
- The Town Clerk's office is temporarily operating on a modified schedule due to staffing limitations. Effective November 28, 2022, the hours below temporarily replace any other published hours.
 - Monday - Wednesday: 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. / 2:00-4:00 p.m.
 - Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. / 3:00 - 6:30 p.m.
 - Friday: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- As we enter the coldest months of the year, please review best steps on how to prepare for winter. This [guide from the Governor's Office](#) features resources and tips about heating your home, among other things.

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

Questions can be directed to:
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