



News About Town

A Message From Our Town Manager

Hello Citizens and Friends of Gray,

There's always a lot going on in Gray, but there are two new happenings I'm particularly excited about.

The Town will host a State House/Senate Candidate Forum on October 11th at the Henry Pennell Municipal Complex, located at 24 Main Street. These events provide opportunities for citizen engagement in government in the purest form, and I'm looking forward to hearing from the candidates as they share with voters why they feel they should have a seat in the State House. We have a fantastic moderator for the forum – former Gray Town Manager Mitch Berkowitz, who I know and respect deeply for his years of civil service. I'm confident he will conduct an informative, civil, and educational forum that will provide voters with a solid understanding of the candidates' positions. I hope you join us for the event either in person or by watching it live on Gray Community Television.



Nate Rudy, Town Manager

I'm also excited that The Principle Group, our consulting partners in the Gray Village visioning process, have delivered their report to Gray's leadership. There is a host of design information in this report, so I hope you, as a Gray resident with a valuable voice in this process, take time to review their ideas and let us know if they captured the spirit of the goals and vision you shared with them during the summer design studio.

You'll read more about these subjects in this newsletter.

Thanks,
Nate Rudy



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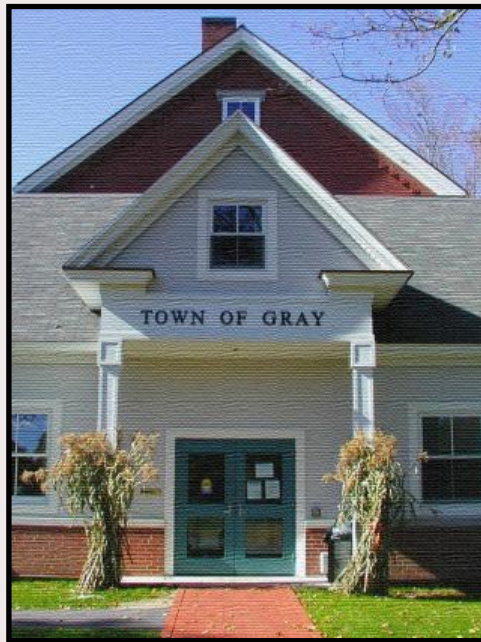
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Town of Gray to Host State House/ Senate Candidate Forum on October 11

Ahead of Election Day on November 8, the Town of Gray is hosting a forum for State House and Senate candidates who represent parts of Gray.

This forum will take place on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. in the Henry Pennell Municipal Complex at 24 Main Street in Gray. This event is a chance for Gray residents to get to know the people who might represent them in Augusta.



The candidates include:

- **House District 104:** Amy Arata (R) and Anne Gass (Independent)
- **House District 105:** Annie Graham (D) and David Reed (R)
- **Senate District 25:** Jennifer White (R) and Teresa Pierce (D)

To determine which House District represents your part of Gray, click [here](#).

This forum will be moderated by Mitch Berkowitz, one of Gray’s former town managers and current member of the Gray Water District.

Residents are encouraged to submit questions to the candidates before the event via [email](#). The candidates will then answer those questions during the forum. You can attend the forum in person or via [Zoom](#).

This forum will be broadcast live on Gray Community Television, will be replayed on GCTV regularly until the election, and posted to Gray’s Facebook page. You can watch GCTV on our [website](#), on cable channel 2, or on smart devices via the Cablecast Screenweave app.

If you have any questions about this event, please email the [Town of Gray](#).

Upcoming Events

October 4

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

October 4, 6, 11, 18, 20

2 p.m.: [Movie Time](#) — Gray Public Library

October 8

1 p.m.: Maine Author Mac Smith — Gray Public Library

October 13

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

October 20

6:30 p.m.: Author Marianne O’Connor — Gray Public Library

October 26

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

October 29

1–3 p.m.: Trunk or Treat — New Gloucester Fairgrounds



The Principle Group Submits Village Visioning Report To Gray Leadership

This summer, the Town of Gray hired consultants to work with Town leadership and its residents on the [Village visioning project](#). The Principle Group is a nationally known consulting firm, and they have used residents' valuable input to craft a starting point for future Village development. As their report notes, "Gray wants to reclaim its roads from cars and give them back to the people. This plan lays out a strategy to do just that."

You can read their report through the links below:

- [Gray Design Report](#)
- [Gray Design Report \(Two-Page Spread Version\)](#)
- [Gray Proposed Plan Map](#) (This map is also available on the next page of this newsletter)

You can watch The Principle Group's presentation to the Town Council on September 20, 2022, [here](#). This presentation covered much of what is in this report.

The Town Council also discussed the Village Visioning work at their workshop with the Maine Department of Transportation on September 15, 2022. You can view that meeting [here](#).

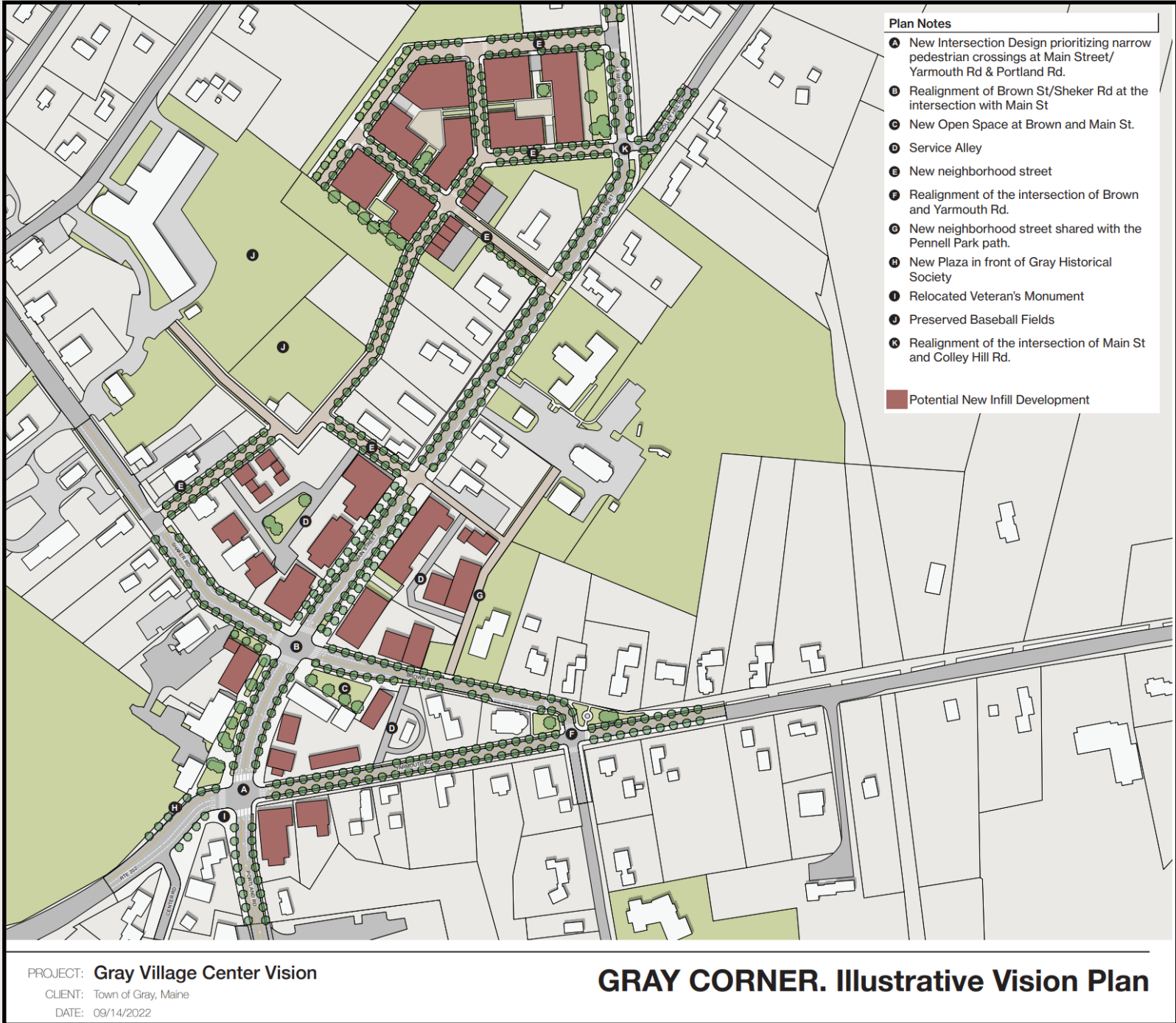
The report describes how Gray can accomplish various goals related to the Village. These goals include: reclaiming the Village Center for People; fostering a multi-generational community; strengthening and connecting neighborhoods; building up the local economy; and creating an overlapping network of paths, streets, and trails. The report also details possible next steps for Town leadership to follow. These next steps include:

- Engaging the community at key touch points
- Advancing zoning discussions
- Adopting a quick-build spirit
- Keep building partnerships and leveraging relationships
- Considering creating a District Committee that would be tasked with seeking grants, planning, and working with local businesses to help lift Gray Village.

If you have questions about this report, please email the [Town of Gray](#).



The Principle Group's report focuses on how Gray can change its Village to make it more people-friendly.



This proposed design map by The Principle Group showcases the changes that could be made to Gray Village.



A VERY GNG HALLOWEEN



Trunk or Treat

Saturday, Oct. 29th
From 1 to 3 PM



**COSTUMES - DECORATED CARS - CANDY
BRING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!**

Registration for this event is encouraged at gngrec.com
Volunteering- Sign up to decorate a trunk at GNGREC.com

**Candy Donations being accepted at
both Recreation Offices.**

New Gloucester Fairgrounds
www.GNGREC.com



Gray Historical Society Gets Closer to Preserving Vintage Firetruck

The Gray Historical Society Coming Home '33 capital campaign just received a major donation of \$5,000, putting the total raised thus far at \$27,000, well over the halfway mark.

The Coming Home '33 project aims to preserve a key piece of Gray history. By building an addition to the original firehouse at One Main Street in Gray, the town's vintage 1933 Chevrolet fire truck, which was based in One Main Street for 25 years, can be displayed where it originally "lived."

Work has started on the foundation of the new addition, with more construction phases to come. If you would like to support this project, visit its [website](#).



With the community's help, this fire truck can soon find a permanent home in Gray.

Gray Public Library Says "So Long" to Longtime Children's Librarian.

July 1999 saw many changes in the world. J.K. Rowling published *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, John Kennedy Jr. was killed in a plane crash off Martha's Vineyard, Lance Armstrong won his first Tour de France title, and the Gray Public Library welcomed new Children's Librarian Kathy George.

For the next twenty-three years, Kathy was a cornerstone for the Gray community. She greeted generations of children with her infectious smile, infused a love of libraries and reading to everyone she encountered, worked in statewide initiatives to improve the collections and resources for youth librarians across Maine, and, in her personal time, constantly worked to better the entire Gray community.

Kathy George is now retired from the library field, but her contributions will live on forever.



Happy retirement, Kathy!



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.



Mary volunteers on the Recreation Committee, leads a walking group she started, and is one of the most visible faces in Gray. Be like Mary!

“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



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 Gray Assessing Department is joining others across the State 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 or during absentee voting. For more information, please visit this [website](#) or contact the Gray Assessor's office at (207) 657-3339 ext.112.

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

Questions can be directed to:

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