



# Grand Haven Centertown Vision Update Public Outreach Press Release

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## City of Grand Haven Launches Community Engagement for Centertown Vision Update

Grand Haven/ January 2, 2026 – The City of Grand Haven is embarking on an update to the 2014 Centertown Vision Plan to have a strategic, actionable roadmap which will be responsive to the needs of residents, businesses, and future generations. The process will kick off this winter and will include several community engagement opportunities through spring/early summer of 2026.

On January 16, 2026, the City of Grand Haven will be launching the first public outreach activities to understand what the community would like to see in this unique neighborhood node, how it can be enhanced, and how Centertown could potentially look and feel in the future.

**All community members are welcome to participate and share their ideas in an Open House on January 16 (Friday), 3:30PM to 7PM, at 707 Centertown (707 Washington Ave, Grand Haven, MI 49417), where light refreshments will be served.**

- A family-friendly Open House will be held from 3:30PM to 5PM.
- This will be followed by an Open House together with Wine About Winter from 5PM to 7PM, for participants aged 21+.

Additionally, feedback can be provided via a brief online survey from January 16 to February 6. **More information on the survey and the Centertown Vision Update process can be found at:** [\[https://mckenna.mysocialpinpoint.com/centertownvisionplan\]](https://mckenna.mysocialpinpoint.com/centertownvisionplan).

**Chandi Pape**, Main Street Director for the City of Grand Haven, shared: “Centertown is a special gateway to Grand Haven. One of our Downtown Development Authority goals is to improve connectivity through thoughtful placemaking efforts that create links between key areas, foster community interaction, and strengthen the overall flow between districts. We are excited to have this updated vision plan process lay the groundwork for the future.”

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Centertown is a neighborhood commercial district which emerged in the 1890s with the Monroe & Harris addition on what was then the outskirts of the City of Grand Haven. From its beginnings with a mix of local neighborhood services (grocers, tailor, cobbler, meat, feed and grain stores), industrial uses (lumber, planing mill, basket weaving), civic institutions (German Lutheran Church), and housing, Centertown has evolved as the greater Tri-Cities area developed over the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Today, Centertown is part of the Grand Haven Main Street DDA. It is an active neighborhood node home to local businesses and hosts major community events such as Chowdown Centertown, Santa in Centertown, Chalk the Walk, and Wine About Winter.

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