

Town of Gordonsville
Community Meeting Input Compilation

	Union Baptist Church	GVFC Meeting Hall	Town Hall
Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats			
Strengths			
<i>Neighborhood</i>			
Pretty	X		
Quiet	X		
Peaceful	X		
Low crime area	X		
<i>Town</i>			
The people - everyone knows each other; friendly community; sense of community	X	X	X
Good-looking town; lovely little town; Town looks pretty	X		X
More shops than other small towns	X		
The residents love their town	X		
Responsive police/fire & rescue (P.D. now 24 hrs.)	X		X
Rich history, neat (freight) depot		X	X
Great place to raise children; attractive to small families		X	X
Racially diverse yet cohesive community		X	
Safe place to walk		X	
Location in the region; convenient to Washington, DC; Richmond, Charlottesville		X	X
Nice park area (Verling Park) - easily accessible		X	
Government openness		X	
Awesome Public Works Department and Police Department		X	
Businesses (Exchange Hotel, BBQ Exchange, Pomme, other shops on Main Street)		X	
Dedicated and progressive Town Council		X	
The Town is unique			X

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The train coming through Town is valuable			X
Many of the businesses in town are world-class (restaurants, shops, etc.)		X	X
Much is offered to the urbane traveler, such as natural beauty, shopping, etc.			X
Good traffic that brings a lot of visitors to Town			X
Significant private investment in Town			X
Small population keeps Town Charming			X
Affordable housing and properties			X
Don't really need to travel out of Town to get groceries, go to library			X
Have a very unique pharmacy/butcher shop			X
Town is on the Wine Trail			X
Town offers a true Virginia experience			X
Town has something that is lacking in other localities			X
Weaknesses			
<i>Neighborhood</i>			
Not enough sidewalks	X		
Trucks in areas of town where they shouldn't be	X		
<i>Town</i>			
Nothing for residents to buy here; loss of mid-retail businesses downtown	X	X	X
Young people don't stay and they also don't come back	X		
Nothing for young people (young adults) to do, no jobs	X	X	X
No competition for groceries	X		
No jobs/losing jobs	X		
Truck signage not clear	X		

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Need to work on being a more blended community		X	
25% high school dropout rate - need technical education center		X	
Not enough sidewalks in Town (or crosswalks across major streets); some areas of Town are not pedestrian-friendly		X	X
Lack of involvement from Town citizens		X	
Not enough parking downtown			X
No place for bus tours to stop or park			X
Cost of public water may be cost-prohibitive			X
No Town recycling program			X
Opportunities			
<i>Neighborhood</i>			
Vacant parcels that could be used for parks or other community functions (staff added this)	X		
<i>Town</i>			
Senior center or youth center (like the Betty Queen Center in Louisa)	X		X
Boys & Girls Club	X		
Vacant industrial and commercial buildings that are available for new business	X		X
Another or expanded commercial area in Town - focusing retail on long-term sustainable businesses		X	
Next generation of e-commerce		X	
Grants for developing high-speed internet and developing hot-spots at various convenient locations in Town		X	
Creating a telecommuting community		X	
Segment of population that could benefit from a technical education center (like one proposed for Orange County Schools)		X	

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Town is centrally located in the region for technical education center and other similar facilities, such as a central business center for telecommuting (use vacant American Press building?)		X	
Train stop in Town for passenger rail		X	X
Rebuilding significant historic structures		X	
Bring in more diverse dining opportunities			X
Bring in a Laundromat/cleaners			X
Have a Town festival 4 times a year			X
Have more cultural events (artists, etc., "fruitcake toss" in January)			X
Develop a farmer's market			X
Create/enhance the Town's identity through events			X
Town is located in an equestrian area-need to take advantage of it			X
More parades/festivals			X
Create a business alliance to enhance business opportunities and create a business development master plan			X
Town has communities in Albemarle, Louisa and Orange			X
Community garden/art center			X
Fitness center and classes			X
Develop school credit program for volunteers			X
Threats			
None were identified	X		
Truck traffic in Town		X	X
Losing our history/identity/significant historic structures		X	
Traffic on Main Street (volume and speed)		X	
Lack of a truck route		X	
No rescue squad station in Town		X	X
Lack of young people moving to Town - no opportunities for young people in Town		X	

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High pregnancy rate in secondary schools		X	
Lack of our own water source		X	
Losing the post office			X
Losing Perrigo or other businesses			X
The safety of the train overpass			X
Development that does not support Town initiatives/goals			X
Route 29 bypass			X
Potential loss of old tree growth			X

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Goals and Objectives			
<i>Housing</i>			
Need more affordable housing; starter homes for young families	X	X	
Need senior citizen's complex or retirement village, which will provide jobs for youth/young adults	X		
Need more townhomes	X		
Need to control/limit development to make use of existing housing stock		X	
Require/encourage % of new development to be affordable housing		X	
Encourage above-retail housing downtown - which is attractive for young singles/couples		X	X
Encourage mixed-use development/walkable communities		X	
Data should drive decisions regarding development of new housing		X	
Work with property owners to clean up abandoned properties and to keep properties nice in general	X		X
Promote the creation of affordable housing and explore the use of tax credits as incentives for development of affordable housing	X		X
Promote the town as a great place to live for those who work at the new Martha Jefferson Hospital, etc.			X
Promote housing development/infill within Town			X
<i>Recreation and Open Space</i>			
Need a playground and recreation for older children such as a basketball court	X		
Need to update the play equipment at Verling Park	X		
Need to work with owners of vacant properties to find available park land	X		
Need to bring the carnival back to Town	X	X	
Develop link to regional trail network (equestrian)		X	
Set aside park land in new development		X	
Establish movie nights at Verling Park or other suitable areas in Town; develop Verling Park as a venue for cultural events		X	X
Renovate Dix Memorial Pool (offer Mommy & Me swim lessons)	X	X	

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Create a park at Cedar Run		X	
Develop a walking/hiking (multi-use) trail in town and link neighborhoods	X	X	X
Promote the development of a community center that provides programs for all age groups		X	X
Develop a community garden where residents may grow and harvest their own fruits, vegetables and flowers			X
Partner with churches in town for community event space (Boys & Girls club, etc.)			X
Partner with the Police Department or the volunteer fire company to develop a mentoring/recreational activities program for community youth			X
Develop a career mentoring program for youth to demonstrate what future job opportunities could be			X
Beautification			
Town is beautiful during the holidays and many people come to Town just to see the lights	X		
Work with owners of vacant property to keep lots nice looking	X		X
Ensure that Power Company keeps electric lines clear	X		
Encourage underground utilities	X		
Pursue streetscape plan and lighting		X	
Develop a tree-replacement program (using street trees-not ornamentals) to maintain/establish the tree canopy in Town			X
Put arm-posts on street lights for hanging flower baskets			X
Encourage the placement of more window flower boxes			X
More decoration of Main Street			X
Maintain attractive rear-view of buildings on Main Street			X
Institute a "Beautiful Gordonsville" contest			X
Mural painting under the train bridge			X

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Public Facilities - Capital Improvement Projects			
Need more sidewalks and wider streets in certain areas of Town	X		
Renovate the pool	X		
Develop an independent Town water source	X	X	X
Provide for stormwater management/improved drainage		X	
Develop additional public restrooms (comfort stations) in Town, including Verling Park		X	X
Develop a sidewalk maintenance/construction plan			X
Historical			
Maintain historic properties	X		
Promote Town's history	X		
Compile historical information about the Town to provide a record for future generations.	X		
Continue to seek grants/funding for historic preservation		X	
Work to expand the boundaries of the Historic Overlay District		X	
Explore re-construction of significant historic structures (Gordon Inn, Passenger depot, etc.)		X	X
Promote the African-American history in Town			X
Provide/develop an architectural record of the structures in Town			X
Put historic markers or plaques on historic buildings in the Historic Overlay District			X
Consider the adaptive reuse of the switching station along the railroad			X

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Boundary Adjustment (land use)			
Provide for responsible land use		X	
Continue to work to expand the Town's boundaries to provide for mixed use development and an additional commercial center	X	X	X
Public Safety			
Bring a rescue squad station back to Town	X	X	X
Have paid fire/rescue staff in Town (encourage cross-training with the Police Department)	X		
Update the 911 system to ensure correct addresses for timely, accurate response	X		
Bring back Police Department bike patrol/community policing	X		
Create higher wages for police officers		X	
Put brighter lights on emergency vehicles		X	
Make public safety a priority			X
Economic Development			
Bring in more fast-food restaurants (McDonalds, Taco Bell, mobile hot dog vendors) and an ice cream store	X		
Fill the vacant commercial/industrial buildings with businesses that will in turn create other supportive business opportunities	X	X	X
Provide for laundry/dry cleaning services	X		
Bring middle-retail back to downtown within walking distance or convenient to residents	X		
Provide for more restaurant opportunities	X		
Provide for festivals or movie events within Town (another street festival; bring carnival back to town)	X	X	
Bring in electronic industries (e-commerce)		X	
Create more cohesiveness between Town businesses and Town Council		X	

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Create a farmer's market in Town and work to promote development of other cultural events and festivals - create a venue for same		X	
Develop center for telecommuting or center business center		X	
Work with providers to expand bandwidth for internet in Town		X	
Increase visitor opportunities (promote the Town)			X
Tourism, tourism, tourism			X
Encourage development of a Bed & Breakfast within Town			X
Develop a country club or golf course in Town			X
Get Amtrak to stop in Town on weekends			X
New economic development should be compatible with existing businesses - not in competition			X
Develop a plan of incentives for business attraction			X
Promote the history of the Town as an economic development tool			X
Develop a good relationship with the Orange County Tourism department to promote the Town through advertisements, etc.			X
Work with the Journey Through Hallowed Ground initiative to promote the Town as a gateway to the Journey			X
Promote the Town tagline "a Town at the Crossroads of History" on internet search engines and work to get the Town's website better linked through various search engines			X
Transportation			
Bring TOOT (Town of Orange Transit) to Gordonsville on weekends; promote/expand usage of TOOT	X		X
Better traffic signage in Town	X		
Develop truck route around Town to take trucks out of Town and away from sensitive areas such as the elementary school and the at-grade railroad crossing	X	X	
Improve the northern and southern intersections of High Street - maybe consider the development of a round-about at southern end of High Street	X	X	
Encourage TOOT link with Town of Charlottesville		X	

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Airport runway is insufficient - extend to better accommodate general aviation		X	
Rebuild runway at the airport		X	
Work to develop multi-modal trails through Town and to connect to the region	X	X	
Work to improve sight-distance at key intersections in Town (determine where those are)		X	
Environment			
Clean out storm drains and control storm water runoff in Town; work with VDOT to improve street drainage	X	X	
Promote clean industry	X		
Work to establish a recycling program in Town	X	X	X
Develop floodplain protections in Town ordinances			
Examine areas in Town prone to flooding to determine potential drainage solutions or improvements			