

Town of St Johnsville New York

Town Survey 2001 Results

Conducted by : The Town of St. Johnsville Planning Board

The town of St. Johnsville sent out a town survey entitled " The Future of Our Community " in the spring of 2001. The purpose of this survey was to solicit the views of every property owner in the town in regard to planning, economic development and opportunity , overall general appearance, agriculture/farming, and school /fire/ambulance/ police performance. The results of this survey are as follows:

Population

According to the survey 77% of the respondents thought there should be an increase in the population while 23 % thought it should remain the same.

General Appearance

The general appearance of the town was thought to be good 40%, fair 49%, poor 11%.

General Characteristics

The survey asked landowners to rate the following services and characteristics of the town: appearance of properties, job opportunities, adequacy of day care, road repair and maintenance, snow and ice removal, school system, ambulance service, police protection, fire protection, garbage collection, recyclable collection, and bi annual trash disposal.

Perhaps the most telling answers came from the job opportunity and day care questions. Only 1% thought job opportunities were good while 86% rated them as poor. As day care is linked to job opportunities it is not surprising that only 5% rated it as good while 59 % thought it was poor. There were many comments on this topic (see comment pages for the various age groups at the back of this report).

General road repair and maintenance was rated good by 50% while 40 % thought it fair and 10% thought it poor.

Snow and ice removal was somewhat better with a 77% good response and only 4% poor.

The school system received a good grade with 81% of the respondents giving the school a good to fair rating while only 19% gave it a poor rating.

Ambulance, fire, police, and trash /recyclable collection all received high marks as less than 10 % responded with a poor rating and more than 68% responded with good.

Recreational opportunities

Recreational opportunities received mixed reviews as natural opportunities scored well while man made facilities and opportunities scored much lower.

Agriculture

Agriculture scored exceedingly high with 91% of the landowners saying that land suitable for agriculture should be protected.

Subsidized and Low income Housing

People were in favor (63%) of building housing for senior citizens while enthusiasm was less for building low income general housing. There seems to be a concern that the quality of life would deteriorate and the wrong message would be given if low income housing were encouraged. People seem to be more inclined to wanting moderately priced single family units.

Retail Environment and Development

When asked about shopping habits and where most residents did the bulk of their shopping the comments were quite intense. The most telling figure is that 95% of the survey respondents shop elsewhere. When asked if they shop locally comments like " Where" were written. (see comment pages at the end of this report) When asked if a small shopping mall should be built in St. Johnsville 60 % responded favorably with many commenting that they wanted a grocery store in town.

Commercial And Industrial Development

Both categories scored very high as 85% responded in favor of both commercial and industrial development. 87% responded favorably to having specific business / commercial/ industrial areas targeted for development.

Codes Enforcement

When asked if Building Codes and Local Land Use Laws were being adequately enforced 57% and 59% respectively responded yes.

Most Attractive

When asked what was the most attractive about living in St. Johnsville the responses were very similar. There is a great deal of satisfaction to living in a small, quiet, low crime community with natural beauty. The thing people like the most is the small town charm.

Least Attractive

When asked what was the least attractive about living in St. Johnsville low job opportunities and run down properties were reoccurring themes.

Services/Programs Needed

The comments in this section were centered around things to do and somehow to get there. More programs for the youth and the elderly were suggested while transportation and shopping opportunities were also a major concern.

Summary

When taken as a whole the survey shows us that people think St. Johnsville is a good place to live and perhaps we ought to take the time to make some improvements so as to insure a bright future for generations to come. There does not seem to be a consensus for huge changes but for slow, steady, planned growth and the creation of development friendly laws and enforcement of those laws. The creation of a master plan that reflects the views expressed in this survey would be of great benefit to the town and its inhabitants.

Town of St. Johnsville, New York

Town Survey

The Future of Our Community

Conducted by : The Town of St. Johnsville Planning Board

Page One of Four

The purpose of this survey is to help our community analyze and plan action to improve the economic climate and quality of life for our citizens. The information you provide on this questionnaire will be kept strictly confidential. For each question, please check the appropriate blank and / or provide a written response.

1. According to the 2000 Census, our town population, excluding the village, is 880. What size would you like it to be 10 years from now ?

- a. Stay the Same
- b. Slight Increase
- c. Moderate Increase
- d. Significant Increase

Comments _____

2. Please rate the following services and characteristics of our town ?

	Good	Fair	Poor
a. Overall Appearance of Properties.....	_____	_____	_____
b. Job Opportunities.....	_____	_____	_____
c. Adequacy of Day-Care.....	_____	_____	_____
d. Road Repair and Maintenance.....	_____	_____	_____
e. Snow and Ice Removal.....	_____	_____	_____
f. School System.....	_____	_____	_____
g. Ambulance Service.....	_____	_____	_____
h. Police Protection.....	_____	_____	_____
i. Fire Protection.....	_____	_____	_____
j. Garbage Collection.....	_____	_____	_____
k. Recyclable Collection.....	_____	_____	_____
l. Bi-Annual Trash Disposal.....	_____	_____	_____

Comments

3. Please evaluate the availability of the following recreational opportunities in our area.

	Good	Fair	Poor
a. Parks.....	_____	_____	_____
b. Nature Preserve.....	_____	_____	_____
c. Outdoor Athletic Facilities.....	_____	_____	_____
d. Indoor Athletic Facilities.....	_____	_____	_____
e. Other, Please Specify _____	_____	_____	_____

Comments _____

4. Do you believe the following developements should be encouraged in our town.

	Yes	No
a. Protect land suitable for agriculture use.....	_____	_____
b. Build subsidized housing for senior citizens.....	_____	_____
c. Construct a small shopping mall or retail plaza.....	_____	_____
d. Build low and moderate priced housing.....	_____	_____
e. Identify specific areas for business development.....	_____	_____

Comments _____

5. Where do you do most of your retail shopping ?

	Yes	No
a. Your Local Community.....	_____	_____
b. Other Towns / Communities.....	_____	_____
c. Mail Order Catalogs.....	_____	_____
d. On Line.....	_____	_____

Comments _____

Yes No

6. Would you like to see more commercial developement in the town ? _____

7. Would you like to see more industrial developement in the town ? _____

Comments

8. Do you think the Building Codes are being adequately enforced? _____ Yes _____ No

9. Do you think the Local Land Use Laws are being adequately enforced? _____ Yes _____ No

Comments _____

10. Please state what you think is **Most** attractive about living in our town :

11. Please state what you think is **Least** attractive about living in our town :

12. Please state any services or programs which you believe the **Elderly** in our town need :

13. Please state any services or programs which you believe **Young People** in our town need :

To help us analyze the results of this survey, we need some general information about the people who completed this questionnaire. Please answer the following :

14. How many years have you lived in our town ? _____ Yrs

15. How many children under the age of 19 are living at home with you ? _____

16. What is your age ?

- a. Under 18 _____
- b. 19 - 24 _____
- c. 25 - 44 _____
- d. 45 - 54 _____
- e. 55 - 65 _____
- f. over 65 _____

Additional Comments

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. Once the results are compiled, they will be shared with the community and used to help plan the future of our town.

Please return the completed survey in the self-addressed stamped envelope **Before August 15, 2001** to The Town Clerk, In c/o The Town Planning Board PO Box 28 St Hwy 5, St. Johnsville, NY 13452

It is not necessary to sign this survey, however you may if you wish

Signature Optional

Town Of St. Johnsville 2001 Survey Results

1. According to the 2000 Census, our town population , excluding the village , is 880.
 What size would you like it to be 10 years. from now?

a. Stay the same	23%
b. Slight increase	28%
c. Moderate increase	34%
d. Significant increase	15%

2. Please rate the following services and characteristics of our town?

	Good	Fair	Poor
a. Overall appearance of properties	40%	49%	11%
b. Job opportunities	1 %	13%	86%
c. Adequacy of day care	5%	36%	59%
d. Road Repair and Maintenance	50%	40%	10%
e. Snow and Ice Removal	77%	19%	4 %
f. School System	44%	37%	19%
g. Ambulance Service	75%	23%	2 %
h. Police Protection	68%	26%	6 %
i. Fire Protection	88%	11%	1 %
j. Garbage Collection	85%	12%	3 %
k. Recyclable Collection	75%	17%	8 %
l. Bi Annual Trash Disposal	79%	17%	4 %

3. Please evaluate the availability of the following recreational opportunities in our area.

	Good	Fair	Poor
a. Parks	54%	38%	8 %
b. Nature Preserve	28%	37%	35%
c. Outdoor Athletic Facilities	36%	46%	18%
d. Indoor Athletic Facilities	39%	32%	29%

4. Do you believe the following developments should be encouraged in our town?

	Yes	No
a. Protect land suitable for agricultural use	91%	9%
b. Build subsidized housing for senior citizens	63%	37%
c. Construct a small shopping mall or retail plaza	60%	40%
d. Build low and moderate priced housing	51%	49%
e. Identify specific areas for business development	87%	13%

5. Where do you do most of your retail shopping? (which of the following do you use)

	Yes	No
a. Your local community	32%	68%
b. Other Towns/ Communities	95%	5%
c. Mail order	38%	62%
d. On Line	14%	86%

6. Would you like to see more commercial development in town?

Yes	No
85%	15%

7. Would you like to see more industrial development in town ?

Yes	No
85%	15%

8. Do you think the Building codes are being adequately enforced?

Yes	No
57%	43%

9. Do you think the local land use laws are being adequately enforced?

Yes	No
59%	41%

No Age Listed (7 responses)

Comments:

1. According to the 2000 census, our town population, excluding the village, is 880. What size would you like it to be 10 years from now?
"No cause to stay"
2.rate the services and characteristics of our town:
"There is no day-care.
There isn't enough children in the school system to support programs & teachers that are there. High school should have closed before that money spent on new construction."

2.d. "Town = fair to good; county = fair to poor. Takes time to get the deputies or troopers."
5. Where do you do most of your retail shopping?
"There isn't much a person can buy in local community."
6. Would you like to see more commercial development in the town?
"Needed for years!"
7. Would you like to see more industrial development in the town?
"Needed for years!!!"
9. Do you think the local land use laws are being adequately enforced?
"Violations all through the town."

"There seems to be some discrimination and politics."
- 10....what you think is most attractive about living in our town:
"It is going down main street".

"The size of the opulation, traffic on roads, most people care about another person."

"Clean atmosphere"

"General a well kept up town. Good public works depts. Very good fire and police, ambulance services."

"It's home!"

11.....what you think is least attractive about living in our town:

"A couple of houses going out of St. Johnsville heading east. Bushes grown up and too close to the road."

"Some of the properties in town."

"Old feed mill, run down junk shops and buildings on main street. Very high taxes for educational reform. Need to work closer with school officials."

"Not enough stores and industry."

"Too many slum landlords and absentee owners."

12. Please state any services or programs which you believe the elderly in our town need:

"Whatever they need to make life easier."

13. Please state any services or programs which you believe young people in our town need:

"Improved youth center, tutoring service, town highway department maintenance, cut brush, fill potholes, etc. with supervised help."

"More transportation available to take them places."

13. Please state any services or programs which you believe young people in our town need:

"The youth center should be open all year around and every day with longer hours."

"More encouragement to stay or come back!"

14. How many years have you lived in our town?

"46 years"

"30 years"

"22 years"

"All my life"

15. How many children under age of 19 are living at home with you?

"none".

“0”

“0”

“0”

16. What is your age?

“I think the village needs to clean up a couple of old houses at least coming in and going on the main roads. Example: two houses on rte. 5 east entering village ready to fall on to the road. They look terrible to any body entering the village.”

geTown of St. Johnsville Planning Board Survey Results

Age Group Under 18

One Response

Question #10: ...what is most attractive about living in our town:

“Quietness.”

Question #11: ...what is least attractive about living in our town:

“Not many good paying jobs.”

Question #13: ...services or programs which you believe young people in our town need.

“Find jobs for them.”

Question #14: How many years have you lived in our town:

“24 yrs.” *And this person is under 18 yrs. Of age?*

Question #15: How many children under the age of 19 are living at home with you?

“3”

Town Of St. Johnsville Planning Board Survey, 2001
Results for the age group 19-24
(Two Responses)

Question #1: According to the 2000 census, our town population excluding the village is 880. What size would you like it to be 10 years from now?

"If you separate the town and village, growth should increase in the village, but not the town."

Question #2: Please rate (a selection of) services and characteristics of our town:

"Recyclable collection could be increased to two times a month on my (Klock) road."

Question #3: ..evaluate availability of recreational opportunities in our area:

"Unsure of any athletic facilities."

Question #4: Do you believe (various types) of development should be encouraged in our town?

"Must maintain small town charm."

Question #5: Where do you do most of your retail shopping

"There isn't any good places to shop. Maybe Kinney's but need more shops."

Question #7: Would you like to see more industrial development in the town?

"As long as the appearance is not ruined."

Question #10: ...what is most attractive about our town?"

"Low taxes for homes is what I like about living here. But the park is nice and it is local."

Question #11: ...what is least attractive about living in our town.

"The run down homes and abandoned factories." Confused - Village.

"All the young people (adults) age high school and a little older have no place to hang except on the streets. It looks that way when I come into town." Village

Question #12: Please state any services or programs which you believe the elderly in our town need:

"They seem well cared for."

"Not sure."

Question #13: Please state any services or programs which you believe young people in our town need:

"Employment."

"A place to do stuff. I think a young is - 2s mothers group is needed."

Question #14: How many years have you lived in our town?

“1 ½ yrs.”

Question #15: How many children under the age of 19 are living at home with you?

“one”

Additional Comments:

“I don't spend much time in downtown (main st.) of our town. But it seems nice. I think more people on the outskirts need to be notified of more things going on.”

Age Group 25 - 44

Question 1

Hopefully we won't be here 10 years from now

Jobs needed

A somewhat increase to maintain a good school system

Would like to see more jobs and industry in the town

I would like to see the town stay small but make it more attractive for people to visit and spend money here

New house construction would benefit tax base

Safe environment for families

Retain agricultural emphasis is essential, but planned single family residential areas (no more trailer parks) would bring in a population that enjoys country living

Question 2

Unkempt properties are an eyesore to the town

Just a "new addition" on the high school will not sell this community! You must garner results.

The fire dept. thinks they are in a big city. They have more equipment than they need. They spend way too much money on new stuff, that the old works fine

Bi annual trash disposal seems like a good thing

Recyclables could stand to be picked up 2x per month

For people living outside the village monthly pickup is not sufficient(recyclables) , bi monthly would be better

In prior years trash disposal was opened for at least a week. This year only a few days. Which was not sufficient time for many who work different hours

It is a disgrace that the neighboring school systems offer pre k and transportation for their residents and St. Johnsville offers only to the poor and disabled. If it wasn't for the rest of us taxpayer residents where would this community be

Question 3

Children could benefit from a track field

Would be nice if there was a YWCA/ YWCA type facility in town

Soldiers and Sailors field should continue to be improved and used more (tournaments, leagues, sectionals)

I do not use any of these things

Keep going on bike path project

Not enough youth activities to occupy them

Our school could really use a second gym for school functions assemblies and for teams school practices so kids do not have to practice late hours

The town and the county should work together on joint recreational ventures- development of the bike trail and snowmobile trails to hook into Herkimer and Fulton counties

Question 4

Low income housing- why encourage more welfare? There is already too much in the county. These units would use more town services and don't pay any individual taxes on property.

Protect land for agriculture only if benefit is not extremely great to the community. I.e. industrial park expansion is a good idea even though it uses farm land.

We have housing for seniors and low priced housing. What there is needs to be fixed up.

Seems like the area could use a small shopping mall or retail plaza of some sort

No low income housing. It brings nothing but crime and trouble into the schools and community

a clothing store

Senior housing will be needed. We have an aging population and not many younger families moving in

Thruway exit would be great

I believe people who live outside the village do so in the hopes of continuing to enjoy the countryside and not have businesses pop up around your home

Question 5

I do whatever shopping I can in the community but most large shopping I am forced to go elsewhere to find what I need

Our town has nothing to offer

It is too expensive to shop in St. Johnsville with little or no variety where?

It is very hard to do retail shopping in the community - not available

There is no where to shop in our community

Wal Mart We need one

Retail services too limited

It is really discouraging to have to leave this town/village to make even the smallest of purchases. There is nothing here.

Question 7

It is very upsetting to walk down our ghostown mainstreet where all you see is bars and restaurants. We need businesses

ABSOLUTELY! Commercial / industrial with regulation generates income - offsets taxes!

With less restrictive town regulations

Something to attract more jobs for the young people to encourage them to stay in town

I would like to see more jobs/ more industry

Question 9

Without the local land use laws businesses would spring up on ones backfield or across the road

Still damage on west end of town due to blasting at the mine. Too many junk cars unkempt properties eyesores

Too many loopholes

Not adequate for our county Current law is suitable for Otsego county not Montgomery

It depends on who you are whether or not it gets enforced

We need to make people clean their places up

Question 10

Landscape of Mohawk Valley

Low crime

Safe area to bring up children

Quiet peaceful

Quality of life

Benefit club Beardslee lake area

small

Small town Country living

Small attractive town Small problems

Small community Safer

Mohawk valley is a very beautiful place to live in -very low crime rate. We fell very safe here

Small town atmosphere and natural beauty of the area

The library park and people

Not a lot of crime

Close knit community / friendly people and not many downstaters who want to regulate everything.

The restaurants and friendly people

The elevation

Small friendly people

small population and small school

The valley

The park Marina the fall foliage

The location the park the library

The park

Very quiet friendly people mostly neat and attractive homes

The view - easy access to the thruway at Canjo- However we still need an exit here to facilitate commercial and residential development

When walking the fact that you know everyone you see. The town is very personable

The small town feel rural farming community

It is well maintained in winter and summer

Question 11

Prejudice because of color , race or just because you are an out of townner

The emptiness of no industry or business

TAXES school and county Poor self image of the town lack of foresight in getting involved with recreational opportunities that could generate income for the town. Town and village must change attitude and work together

No job opportunities

Run down houses and sidewalks

Too many mobile homes and properties that are not well maintained

Run down real estate

no jobs no malls

messy homeowners

High taxes

Trash along roadways

So many young children hanging out on mainstreet and many of them have baby carriages

No jobs no clear set of steps for building too many hoops to jump through and too restrictive

upkeep on properties

No growth commercial / industrial This town wont survive with its aging population and no new people with a stake in this town

no jobs

no new jobs / growth

clock hill area

over taxation for the services provided

Blasting at the quarry

no jobs

The way people keep their property Junk all over There is no excuse for sloppiness

Littered roads town politics

Question 12

Cultural

They already have many services

none

transportation

local clothing retailer

none

US post office handicap accessible

meals on wheels

grants for housing rehab

exercise program self defense

assisted living facility retirement community

more community involvement

Day care and day activities

golf course

Our village has a good program that includes the town

bus transportation

more local merchants it is very difficult for them to leave town to shop

transportation

Transportation and activities

Question 13

Track field pool job opportunities

pre k programs and programs that show young people that having children at young age can hurt their future

The youth center is great we need more places for the youth to go

Access to cultural activities

Roller skating rink Community pool

Jobs school to work programs

More educational programs

Indoor recreational facilities Racquetball and tennis etc.

more community involvement

more activities to keep youth involved in productive things more adults helping in the youth center and other activities

work programs

Jobs summer and part time Currently have a town rec commission with ideas in progress to enhance youth recreation

Volunteer /intern programs to enhance education and experience and foster a sense of responsibility

more recreation activities

recreation

afterschool programs encourage to participate in the community

more sports

more kid oriented activities

drama arts program

jobs

bowling alley movies something to do other than party

entertainment jobs

more cultural exposure

Additional Comments

Would love to have bike path extended through St. Johnsville

Everyone must work together in a small town like St. Johnsville the politicians and school system

It would be very nice to see our town cleaned up and looking attractive best of luck

Build a community center out of logs

It is very enjoyable living in such a small town very nice to raise a family however they have to leave to seek employment we need more job opportunities

I personally feel St. Johnsville is a very nice place to live my children got a good education and liked the small personalized classrooms better to achieve one on one but for careers for our young adults you have to leave our area to survive. We have limited job opportunities But St. Johnsville is here to come back to and always will be ?

It is difficult to raise children here because there is not much to do for them especially if their not driving There really are not any youth programs except for the summer park program which is great for small children but not for teens. What are the teens to do except find an older driver and head for the mall or the movies out of town. There are always the main St. benches to sit on and watch traffic

To create a "package" to sell to businesses /residential single home development, the town must work with the village. That includes a global attitude rather than parochial, a clean and well kept up environment and a school that actively promotes achievement and supports existing business including agriculture. Positive community events would be a plus such as continuance of concert series Ft Klock craft fair etc. Both town and village must combine efforts and be open to innovative thinking.

45 to 54 Year Old Respondents

Town of St Johnsville Planning Board Survey

Question # 1

According to the 2000 census, our town population, excluding the village, is 880. What

What would you like it to be 10 years from now?

By having more people moving in, real estate price would increase.

More stores more industries natural gas for industries to come in.

200=300

with a significant increase 20=25 years from now

We need 5x growth to put us back on the map

Bring industry & tourism

Our family resides in the district because it is peaceful and relatively safe

If there is a chance of bringing good paying jobs to the area go for it

A decrease to make it a smaller town, more neighborly friendly than it is now.

There used to be people here, but there was also industry or work

More stores

We need to get some industry to keep the younger generation here

Depends on who moves in

By having more people moving in Real estate price would increase

Question # 2

Please rate the following services and characteristics of our town.

Would like to see recycling - twice a month pick up trash disposal would be nice even if only twice a year

Tire disposal Mont Co. road bad look at other county

High School teachers care less about kids e elementary school is excellent

Some questions do not apply

Trash pickup should be at residence like other towns

I reside out of state and do not utilize most services

Garbage/Recyclable Excellent-finally getting something for the dollar. Bi-Annual trash good also keep these services

Some of the sidewalks are not cleaned in the winter. Job opportunities are poor Don't care about school no children in school Taxes too high

I don't occupy my residence so 'm not able to rate these services

How do you recycle newspapers in bad weather without bagging them

Although we have lived here for 9 years we are now looking at sending the shildren to a different school system

Question #3 Please evaluate the availability of the following opportunities in our area.

The bike path stopped in Fort Plain! Why?

Not enough things around here for kids. Summer program isn't even run by capable adults. They are a bunch of teenagers that sit around

Would be nice to have a public place to swim and better tennis facilities

Great town / village parks & Klock Park, but should allow Klocks trail use. Advertise, get teenage volunteers to help with upkeep.

Would like to see a YMCA for all ages.

Need improvement athletic facilities and make boat marina bigger

A swimming pool would help those with arthritis and the elderly with low impact exercising. No more basketball courts.

Needs more activities for young people to do. Young people have nothing to do other than hang out on the street corner of the village.

We need places for teens to interact besides the street The Youth Center is only open certain times.

Question # 4 Do you believe the following developments should be encouraged in our town

Develop land for industry use.

Bring in business - no more low income housing something that will help pay taxes

Build near town barn to river all east side to Helments.

We have concerns about types of business.

Need more commercial properties

Should protect our wetland from being destroyed by well-meaning neighbors who have no regard for wet-lands or wildlife on them. We need grants or loans to build new homes or fix up older homes or purchase mobile homes for burn out victims

Allow any business in town whether or not it lines board members pockets

Need more job opportunities for young people so they don't have to drive far

Question #5 Where do you do most of your shopping ?

I would like to shop local - Big M is a very undesirable store in every aspect.

Only have a small grocery store here that is over-priced & can't afford to shop here

I shop local when possible but it is not always possible

Get that Thruway exit to attract people

We usually have purchases repairs done in our community or close area

Not much to buy here good food store is needed here

Need more grocery stores & clothing store near by ALDIS>

You have no stores at all in your town

As much as possible limited variety

I would do more shopping locally if I could

Question # 6&7 Would you like to see more commercial and industrial development in town?

Leave Hanson's alone . They pay taxes don't they?

More development means more jobs.

The local people need jobs. Since I lived in St. Johnsville the big business just keeps closing. We can't do it alone. We need help from outside of our local gov't We have rail, river, for big commercial business.

Jobs.

Big development would be wonderful. Bring businesses

Development but of the right kind Non-polluting development and tourist based development are much preferred Under no circumstances should quarry operations/gravel mines be allowed to expand or new ones develop.

With a Thruway exit more may be encouraged to invest here

Increase tax base & employment opportunities.

Depends on what kind of industry.

we are against Nuclear Waste Plants that harms the environment

Need to encourage commercial/industrial development

We need to leave the little town of St. Johnsville the way it is a sleepy, quaint old town not commercial it.

You need natural gas to help promote industry to come here Other towns have it.

Get out of the old days of keeping it like it used to be.

I am afraid our town is geographically too small to accommodate commercial or industrial development.

Need more better paying jobs

Questions #8 & 9 Do you think the Building Codes and Local Land Use laws are being adequately enforced ?

Government should keep their nose out of peoples homes and business.

Some homes need grass cutting.

Wetlands are being destroyed and wildlife run off in the village. Because of them being filled in by well-meaning neighbors. Barns are being built next to homeowners wells contaminating them with E-Coli

Neither land use or building codes have a program that is adequate. Develop one in the near future.

Have personal concerns in this area.

Lack of enforcement & knowledge of existing codes by officer.

Laws need to be simple, but evenly and vigourously enforced.

The gravel pits.

Question #10 What do you think is most attractive about living in our town ?

Low crime rate Scenic area

Local zone

Taxes somewhat reasonable

Quiet. Most peoples property kept up.

View Clean air

Small population

Park is kept up.beautiful. Marina is kept up nice most houses & land do not have a lot of junk around Land around the lake is kept up pretty good.

Friendly people. Quiet town. Clean town.

The people & The Mohawk River is a gem.

Neat small towness is great and safe.

Low crime generally friendly and helpful people; a great library; not far from Saratoga, Cooperstown and the Adirondacks; near the Erie Canal and a lot of historical sites. St. Johnsville is on the whole a good place to live.

River front, Beautiful lake, village park surrounding hills.

Cleanliness of properties; Well-kept roads; Great water.

We enjoy the rural quiet setting. The area is beautiful and a good place to raise a family. Relatively safe.

Rural atmosphere - Natural undeveloped area - Don't want to be overdeveloped for future generations.

No traffic & Low crime rate.

The Montgomery County sunsets wildlife and views of neighboring farms in the distance. The Amish people who provide much to enrich our community. People feeling like your family.

Quiet, little traffic slow paced friendly

Low crime it's quiet.

Quiet Peaceful

I live out of town.

Location

It's the center of the state equal distance to go in any direction for job, shopping or rec.

It's a great place to raise a family

Scenic views

The fact that it is a small town with friendly and caring people.

The way people decorate for the Holidays.

The spectacular views of the Mohawk Valley. Low crime rate.

Basically quiet.

Peace and quiet.

Question # 11 Please state what you think is the least attractive about living in our town.

Poor enforcement of codes and land use.

There is nowhere to work for a living wage.

Gossip.

Lack of activities, Having to travel to other areas to shop. Lack of quality job opportunities in the immediate area, resulting in the loss of our better educated young people.

The poor economy, lack of coding & zone enforcement Removal of condemned buildings.

Run down houses/neighborhoods Division St. Thumb Rd.
Gravel pit (Quarry) dust and blasting shaking the houses.

Once the children is grown there is nothing to keep them here

To my down state people buying in area cheap they want everybody to pay for the same luxury they have downstate.

Driving away business thus driving away good people and tax base.
Trashy property.

Bars

Undeveloped.

Homes where rubbish is left in yards.

Getting all these Gung-Ho Brats fresh out of the Police Academy to bully ticket our residents and making our insurance go up.

No work.

We would like a larger grocery store. There is a need for everyday hardware and household supply.

Some trailer homes not maintained or skirted with junk lying around.

Run down houses.

Visible decay unlicensed autos, Buildings needing a face lift.

The quarry blasting and dust and ugliness; the ugly gravel mines. Lack of job opportunities/ Could use a store or two. Properties that are not kept up.

Low income housing

The houses that are boarded up & others need a lot of work & high taxes School.

Too many barking dogs & cats running around. Farmers (like on Thumb Rd. leaving manure on the road.

No jobs.

No job opportunities.

Poorly kept residences No industry or not enough.

County roads.

No new commercial or industrial development going on.

Outsiders coming in and taking over from families who have lived for years and raised their children here in our community. We're letting outsiders take over our small sleepy town instead of protesting the takeover. Let's take our town back.

Question #12 Please state any services or programs that you believe the Elderly need.

Lower taxes More transportation, Better Doctors eyeglass and Dentist that take insurance nearby. More Senior Citizen Centers.

Transportation.

Free transportation to stores, medical appointments.

More low cost housing & senior citizen programs for the elderly.

Transportation

Facilities for the elderly are adequate. Senior citizen club has more money than it knows what to do with.

Weekly Van or Bus pickup for local shopping or Dr. visits/

Health care and housing for the elderly. Perhaps a community center for all ages with many different programs.

A Senior Center

Swimming pool Low key volunteer work force for those of us who want to be busy. Maybe a group of volunteers to help shovel snow and run errands for the elderly.

Home bound need visitation by town officials so they can find out for themselves what the elderly need/ .

Less government, less paper work, less taxes, lower prices for food,

drugs everything in general.

Public transportation

Rides to Dr. app'ts grocery stores etc. Better Dr. Dentist availability.

Transportation.

Transportation to& from shopping and Dr. etc.

Question #13 Please state any services or programs that you believe Young People need.

More caring and involved teachers. Summer camp. More activities to do.
Better Doctors & Dentists nearby. Better administrator and principal of school.

A better Youth Center Program catering to the girls not just boys.

Skateboard/Rollerblade park

More positive activities with positive thinking towards future goals of building our town up not down.

Social activities Somewhere (supervised) for them to "hang-out" greater access to Youth ctr. (hour-wise) with maybe a computer room small library sound room etc.

Better academic programs in the schools.

Movie theater Skate Park

After school programs Things for them to do on weekend Skate park

Jobs lower taxes

Jobs.

A place for kids to go and learn things, not the youth center (pool hall is not working)

More summer and after school activities

A public YMCA or similar facility would be helpful.

Business apprenticeships or jobs for pay. Community work for law-breakers
Volunteers to help town workers & get school credit or resume help for college.

A place to work after they graduate from high school and college that will provide a good living for them and their families. Other improvements would follow.

A place to gather to hear music or hang out with no alcohol.

We need social after school programs (in school at parks) School should be access to children after hours.

Recreation

Job fairs

A recreation center & Day Care Center that is run by someone who can enforce rules so that kids won't be on the streets.

More activities to keep them busy so they will stay out of trouble.

How to get along with people

Additional comments

We would still be living in your town if an arsonist hadn't burned our home to the ground Feb. 14, 2001. No one was held accountable for it. Unable to return home, because we need a new home. Any help available for us to return home.

It is very upsetting when the small incline off Rte 5 on Clay Hill is not plowed.

Work with the youth while you still can, they will decide our future later.

School curriculum needs drastic improvement attract people to this area in addition to good jobs. The valley needs to find quality people for local government positions that will fight for and find employees to locate here that will enhance the quality of life. If I didn't have family here, there is nothing to keep me here.

I think this is a good survey and glad to know an effort is being made toward improving the town.

I may live out of town but I work here.

NAFTA and GATT help put feet shoes out of here. I oppose these 2 things I think it was a shame that so many jobs were lost and will never be regained.

We need town board run by residents of the town, not by village mentality Supervisor s or Board members

Both Vincent and I like this area and would like to remain here/ We both have concerns about land usage in this area and would like to see it remain rural.

A shopping mall or plaza might succeed if you attract new types of stores which wouldn't harm existing ones. Wholesale outlets with a Thruway exit,

lots of advertising & some trendy recreation ideas ,maybe a water park with paddle boats slides trampolines mini golf target games fast food ski trails canoe rentals . Advertising along the Thruway accenting highlites of St. Johnsville.

A Thruway exit would be nice not just for economic development but it would encourage those who work from Utica to Albany to live in St. J. Town government should cooperate with village government and share equipment, facilities, services as much as possible. Cooperation with neighboring towns is also essential.

When I first came to St. Johnsville jobs were there, taxes were fair, the houses were kept up. But now Western N. Y. has been forgotten by the Governors Taxes are too high. No work. It's a shame. You folks have a tough job. God Bless you keep up the good work.

Most people look for a good school system when they have children. We have an excellent elementary school because of the good teachers there. Our high school is very poorly run Most of the teachers don't care about the kids only their paychecks/ If we had a better high school people would be more likely to stay in the area.

In order for the town to survive in the future, new industry must be brought in. We have the new school now we need the people. Build it and they will come (industry) and so will the people and the new houses and more tax money.

55-65 Year Old Respondents

Town of St. Johnsville Planning Board Survey

Comments:

Question #1:

According to the 2000 census, our town population , excluding the village, is 880. What size would you like it to be 10 years from now?

-“It should remain a rural character! Open greenery, not a strip of houses, etc.”

‘Attract young families.’”

-“We must attract new residents to increase tax base/tax payers.”

-Don’t want to misplace the ambience, but growth is needed.”

-“We need cautious growth.”

-“Our village is at crisis and if not something done soon it will be a retirement town.”

Question #2:

....rate the services and characteristics of our town:

-“Could use more trash removal, school is too small, should be in a larger system! Should be more evidence of police in the rural areas.”

“Another time to deposit trash.”

-“no idea...” regarding option c., day care.

-“snow and ice removal”....drawing indicates that the cross road between the Old State Road (Rte. 5) and present Rte. 5, needs to be plowed.

-“Don’t use schools or day care. (Police Protection) Depend on Sherrif’s patrol.”

-“More zoning is needed to eliminate poorly maintained properties.”

-“We need more for our school tax dollars. I believe there is too much waste.”

-“Some people seem to have no idea of personal and community pride.” We need civic education beginning with kindergarten”

-“There should be trash disposal 4 times a year. Job opportunities are very poor.”

Question #3:

...evaluate recreational opportunities in our area:

-“Need bike path! A nature preserve area along the river.”

-“Pool in park needed again. Summer evening supervision in park.”

-“We need a bigger marina to have better docking for visiting boaters so we get more business.”

Question #4: Do you believe (list of) development should be encouraged in our town?

-“You have a small mall that is a zoo to get in and out of. Continue refurbishing downtown.”

-“These should all be monitored for property appearances.”

-“We did not need a new school for a graduating class of 20 or less. We need new teachers that are not town residents to give the children a chance other than biased people.”

Question #5:

Where do you do most of your retail shopping?

-“Service and availability are lacking – so travel is necessary to obtain them.”

-“There is no opportunity to shop in town – There are not businesses!”

-“Do not live there”.

-“Local stores need to improve housekeeping.”

-“We have no place to shop not even to buy one piece of clothing must less a bolt or screw.”

Question #6;

Would you like to see more commercial development in the town?

Question #7:

Would you like to see more industrial development in the town?

-“Development is the line to services, tourism, etc.”

-“Jobs, tax base”.

-“Again, any development must be carefully planned but not discouraged!”

-“Commercial development will follow industrial development.”

-“We have a dying town, there is nothing left but senior citizens, and if something isn't done soon we will all be leaving, and all there will be is a caution light. The taxes are going to be so high due to the new school and no industry.”

Question #9:

Do you think local land use laws are being adequately enforced?

-“They have to be empowered to do so.”

-“I believe they are adequately enforced.”

-“Yes, and we don't need any more laws.”

-“We need to concentrate on eyesore properties.”

-“The cemetery should not be sold to the school, if needed lease until the cemetery needs it, put a soccer field elsewhere. The cemetery was donated by the Thumb family and should not be touched. They also donated the school grounds and this is disrespectful to the family to sell.”

Question #10.

Please state what you think is most attractive about living in our town:

- “It's half way to major shopping area.”

-“Most places look nice, some very nice.”

-“Small town atmosphere.”

-“Open rural character, not misshapenly developed and filled in (like Nelliston).”

-“Woods and landscape.”

-“Scenic”

-“The openness, the quietness, the privacy.”

-“Rural setting.”

-“The peace and quiet! The natural beauty.”

-“Beauty of river and valley, library services, minimal traffic, lack of minority conflicts, friendly folk.”

-“Friendly people.”

-“Do not live there.”

-“People know each other.”

-“Rural area, nice people.”

-“Small town, clean, neat, good water.”

-“Margaret Reaney Library and our cemetery.” *Village Revere town*

Question #11.

Please state what you think is least attractive about living in our town:

- “High taxes and shopping convenience”.

-“Low income housing provided by welfare.”

-“Need more young families.”

-“The places that look bad – stay bad. No one enforces clean up – or speak up – of a few places.”

-“Upkeep of homes.”

-“The homes uncared for. The farms uncared for. The trash around some places.”

-“Pleasant environment, friendly people, low crime rate.”

-“The attitude of the majority of the people.”

-“Rural; setting.”

-“No Jobs! Poor school system; no shopping stores; little to do for young people; no industrial tax base, etc.! etc.!”

-“Not enough activities for teens, or pre-teens – school facilities not totally utilized for adult education and teen sports.” Youth center inadequate.”

-“The house on right side as you enter town from east propped up by 2’x6”.

-“Good jobs.”

-“Poor job opportunities.”

-“Busy-bodies-“ “Small town”.

-“Unrented dumpy houses.”

Question #12:

Please state any services or programs which you believe the elderly in our town need:

-“Better health facilities.”

-“Busline to other areas if they can’t drive.”-

-“Senior r citizen organization.”

-“Transportation for medical services, grocery shopping and entertainment. No busses, no taxi.”

-“None”

-“Housing.”

-“Something to do – senior center.”

-“There should be transportation to the stores, ^{we} they need a recreational center to do crafts and visit.”

Question #13:

...any services or programs which you believe young people in our town need:

-“Well supervised and organized youth center.”

-“Job training.”

-“None – It’s time for parents to do their share.:

-“Anything that allows both outdoor and indoor athletic activities!”

-“Better organized youth center.” Village

-“Activities, opportunities.”

-“There parents to keep more of an eye on them – stop so much loitering on main street.” Village

-“They need a place to go other than on main street youth center. Village
Something for them to do, other than only certain kids less fortunate.”

Question #14:

How many years have you lived in our town?

-“31”

-“40”

“30”

-“10”

-“30”

- “14”
- “58”
- “50”
- “30”
- “19”
- “Own a camp – live in another township.”
- “20”
- “20”
- “39”
- “37”
- “35”
- “none”
- “40”
- “6”
- “35+”
- “59”

Question #15:

How many children under the age of 19 are living at home with you?

- “0”
- “0”
- “0”
- “0”
- “none”
- “0”
- “0”
- “0”
- “1”
- “none”
- “0”
- “0”
- 0”
- “0”
- “0”
- “0”
- “none”
- “0”
- “0”
- “0”

Additional Comments:

-“The town has beauty, open spaces that haven’t been developed mishappently, and small town characteristics - that if developed as a total package toward tourism, with services supporting the effort – could provide growth to the area.”

-“We need industry. There’s nothing here. All our children move away. Taxes are driving people away. No employment. I live in the country, so I really don’t know what goes on in town. Village

-“An enforced curfew is needed to keep kids off the streets. More activities for adults and kids. Bring in some stores and merchants. Village

-“As taxes increase without increase in tax base, need for a town & village –wide reassessment program is becoming more and more necessary. Cannot ensure fairness without vote. Takes three years to implement after go-ahead decision is reached.”

-“At the risk of contradicting myself, close the St. Johnsville quarry, that business is not acting in the interests of our community. It does not benefit any of the people of the town; rather an environmental hazard is obvious!”

The Future of Our Community...Town of St. Johnsville ~~55~~ and older

1 Question; According to the 2000 Census, our town population, excluding the village is 880. What size would you like it to be 10 years from now?

Comments:

1. 20 years ago we had about 1200. Now we are down and have a lot of empty houses for sale and bad industries.
2. When a town is too small-business etc., are not usually good enough because of small population.
3. The size is not that important, it is the quality of the people and their actions.
4. The are is high taxes and no growth opportunity because of elderly and welfare.

2 Question: Please rate the following services and characteristics of our town.

Comments:

1. Can't comment at all because of only summer stay here.
2. Living in the country we have to depend on 911 or Sheriff Dept and they are spread thin. We had 3 robberies on our road in less than a year in broad day light, so its kind of scary.
3. It is disturbing to see carefully saved recyclables thrown in trash.
4. I really appreciate the garbage pick up in the country.
5. For those of us who don't have a truck or means for Bi-Annual Trash Disposal, Maybe someone could pick up the trash and take to the town barn.
6. J K L A very nice service
7. I live outside the village so several questions do not apply to me
8. Recycle should be more than once a month
9. If the school system continues to address issues of improving quality of education and preparation of students for college. It won't take much slipping back to put the X in the fair, and then the poor.
10. Should be a place at the Town Barn for garbage daily .Also recyclables.
11. All marked good have much need for improvement.
12. I might be biased about the school system(because all schools are run by government standards) However, when you cannot say a prayer out loud, but can teach "safe sex" in school, what other conclusion is there but, POOR.
13. Ambulance and fire trucks cannot get in our road because of fence blocking a radius turn. Road and maintenance are kept up poorly around our area.
14. Unable to answer c,f,g,h,I,l as we have not required these services and will not require c, f.
15. It could be a beautiful bedroom community with stricter enforcement on Corporate America I.E. Hansons which proceed to disregard the fact of damages it does with blasting, air misuse(people with breathing problems.) Others don't want to buy in because they say it is trashy.

3 Question

Please evaluate the availability of the following recreational opportunities in our area.

Comments

1. Unable to respond regarding b,c,d,and e.
2. Marina is quite attractive. Need more recreational parks, bike paths.

Question 4 Do you believe the following developments should be encouraged in our town.

Comments:

1. We don't need more welfare people in this community with low income housing.
 3. Except for one drug store and a couple of grocery stores, you need to go out of town for everything.
 4. Across from Marina, West side of Bridge Street
 5. b & d, undecided at this time
 6. I'd very much like to see a larger Big M, and bring back a hardware store.
 7. We already have a Main Street and Park place. We need bright clean neat improved shopping area—Customer Friendly.
 8. Because of the appearance of new junk car etc., sits, we feel these business should be kept at a minimum.
 9. The people would need transportation—Someone should buy the Felt Shoe for housing like they did in Augusta Maine—Great!!!
 10. Encourage better upkeep of existing housing. Use existing buildings.

Question 5- Where do you do most of your retail shopping?

Comments:

1. Only one grocery store and one drug store to use.
2. Local grocery store that's it. We have nothing, no hardware auto or clothing.
3. Down sizing the local super market was not a good move. Stocking only basics forces consumers to shop elsewhere.
4. We do what we can here.
5. Because of the limit of some items used in our everyday living and the inability of the local grocery store, it is necessary to also go outside and shop.
6. Need to go out of town for everything except groceries and drugs.

Question 6: and Question 7

Would you like to see more commercial development in the town

Would you like to see more industrial development in the town/

Comments:

Answer to 7.. The reason I answered no is because of Corporate America abuse to the people of this town. I> E. Hansons...I. E. Tessero's on W. Main Street.

2. Some more development is good.
3. The future of my grandchildren is at stake
4. Very similar ideas
5. First and foremost we need a clean up! Take pride in our home and community. SOAP and WATER are inexpensive.
7. Depends on type of Commercial business refer to ans. Quest 4
8. But not on prime Agricultural Land

The Future of our Community Survey 65 and older page 3

Question # 9 Do you think the Local Land Use Laws are adequately enforced?

Comments: No.

- 1.Hansons total disregard for the neighborhood. They are ugly neighbors and do not live here so they just don't care.
2. Unable to answer this at this time.
- 3.Some people can not go with change. Think before you make the change. Watch for the radical people. But you do need change!
4. Not sure of where it has been enforced and why # 9 cannot be answered.
5. What are they?
- 6.Don't know. Please don't over regulate private property.
7. Too many burnt out buildings
- 8.It is not in my realm of daily living to come in contact with issues such as the above.
9. People are building w/o permits, or perk test. Illegal burning reported. Nothing done about I

Question 10 Please state what you think is the Most attractive about living in our town.

- 1.Our very nice Mohawk Valley and Local park and Marina all these are second to none anywhere.
2. Service
- 3.It is clean most homes are well kept, the people are friendly and the store clerks are helpful and friendly.
- 4.For us, -Location-Comparable freedom
5. Most people keep their home nice- the Marina
- 6.Small- you know your neighbor-pretty crime free.
- 7.small stores-CHIC Medical Centre-banks with parking. See horse and buggies.Friends who come, can't believe it..Hitching posts.
- 8.Small town atmosphere and friendly people
- 9.Basically crime free-people are friendly-and excellent library.
10. Friendly and uncongested
11. It still has a small town character.
- 12.The rural small town atmosphere
- 13.Privacy
- 14.The location good weather-climate protected from serious storms, beautiful scenery, and near ro small cities.
15. Rural beauty
- 16.Low crime rate-friendly people-Parkside Drive In- historic sites-museum at the library- marina
- 17.Rural area yet close to everything-good events-lovely marina good people
- 18.Current tax rate(but would have to be raised to encourage development)
19. The rural atmosphere
- 20.wild life-woods- and green fields.
21. The Mohawk Valley location
22. We like the quieter serenity atmosphere.
23. We live on the outskirts
24. Religious awarness-people knowing and caring for one another
- 25.The location

26. A few well kept properties in our town

page 4

27. The people, location and safeness.

Question 11:

What do you think is least attractive about living in our town?

1. Some buildings
2. Run down homes and trailers
3. No job growth-Not much hope for younger generation- a greater percentage go to college and have no reason to come back.
4. Not enough development
5. too many junk yards of parked cars-car parts exposed all over the countryside.
6. Hansons spilling dust and destroying homes in the area with blasting. Our home each year replaces windows at our cost!
7. few run down trailers
8. so far, there is not Least Attractive
9. Lack of job opportunities
10. No real shopping stores are here, but that is a plus.
11. no jobs-run down property-no stores
12. Properties in disrepair, junk scattered around farms, barns in need of paint
13. Being too far from the services that we need
14. Apathy of the people-poor appearance of the homes and land as you enter and leave.
JUNK JUNK JUNK!
15. taxes
16. the run down dwellings
17. the lack of a better ACO, or better ACO or cruelty investigator
18. The "loser attitude " of many of the residents. The reputation of St. J. of being a tough town.
19. The properties that are not kept up
20. No industry-taxes way too high on farms.
21. Buildings empty and run down on Main Street
22. Dirty Politicians
23. High Taxes
24. See questions 8 and 9 above
25. People that don't keep property in shape
26. High Taxes
27. Nothing

Question 12

Please state services or programs which you believe the Elderly in our town need.

Comments

- 1.help when needed
- 2 An affordable means to be able to get to the Doctors and other necessary appointments
- 3.Park Programs-Finish walking trail to Little Falls.Elderly people would also like walking and riding in safety.
- 4.housing(affordable for elderly) Elderly meal site in town-Autos available Buses free for out of the way residents to do shopping,

Additional comments:

3. We need regional co-operation-regional government

If you travel and visit other states countries-area- you will find they sell themselves by friendliness and knowledge of their particular place, town country etc.,

4. As long as the town remains Democratic controlled, we will always be poverty oriented. A good example was when M. Como was Gov. all we did was get in debt with high taxes. Now that the state is growing in the Albany area, having broken the democratic control.

5. One little item that takes away from the beauty of the area is the number of junked cars tucked away under trees and in back yards left to rust away. There are a few sites on Rte 5 both east and west of the village that detract from the beauty of the area.

6. We have a nice little town and village and only wish the citizens themselves would express more pride in it.

7. The town has to be cleaned up more, as far as cars in the yards, property owners picking up more. Gravel pit are not attractive going west out of village.

8 St. J. is a great place to retire.

9